



Integrated Pest Management

Public and First Nations Engagement Report

January 13, 2026

1.0

Nelson Hydro

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Revision History

Revision #	Date	Status	Revision Description	Author
1.0	December 15, 2025	DRAFT	Initial Document Creation	JM

1. Context

Nelson Hydro is a municipally-owned electric utility providing generation, transmission, distribution of residential and commercial electric service to customers in the City of Nelson and surrounding communities. As part of its vegetation management program for maintenance of its facilities, poles and rights-of-way, Nelson Hydro uses a Pest Management Plan (PMP) in accordance with the *Integrated Pest Management Act (BC)* and accompanying regulations. The current five-year PMPs expired in July 2025. The renewal of Nelson Hydro PMPs are in three volumes: Wood Pole, Right-of-Way, and Facilities from 2025-2030.

2. Requirement

Section 27 of the Integrated Pest Management Regulation [B.C. Reg235/2015 July 1, 2016] requires that renewal of Pest Management Plans be supported by public and first nation consultation. This includes consultation with First Nations who assert aboriginal rights and title that could be affected by the activities proposed in the Pest Management Plan.

Section 61 of the Integrated Pest Management Regulation [B.C. Reg235/2015 July 1, 2016] describes the consultation requirements.

3. Activities

3.1 Public

Nelson Hydro published three notices in the Nelson Star physical newspaper on October 23, 2025 and October 30, 2025 and November 6th 2025. A digital advertisement was completed in Castanet on October 16, 2025. Castanet has a reach of 12,892 unique visitors.¹

The Nelson Star is a Black Press newspaper with local journalists and free circulation in the City of Nelson and throughout all surrounding communities (circulation of 8,854 papers weekly) that are subject to the PMP (Blewett, Taghum, the North Shore, Harrop, Procter, Balfour and Queen's Bay).

The notices were 40 cm² in size and included each of the elements of detail required by Section 61 of the regulation. This notice is included in Appendix A.

Nelson Hydro made the three volumes of the draft 2025-2030 PMPs available for public review on its website, and advertised on its website the availability of the PMP for review. A physical copy of the draft PMP documents were available at the Nelson Hydro offices from October 15 to December 31st 2025.

3.2 First Nations

Nelson Hydro extracted contacts for First Nations consultation from the Spatial Overlay Engine (SOE) <https://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/cadb/> to determine which First Nations have asserted aboriginal title or

¹ <https://www.castanet.net/advertise/images/MediaKit2025.pdf>

interest is the Nelson Hydro service territory. Of the thirteen identified, ten letters were sent to those First Nations that provided email or online means of communication. They are as follows:

1. Ktunaxa Nation Council
2. Lower Similkameen Indian Band
3. snpink'tn Indian Band
4. ?aq?am
5. yaqan nu?kiy
6. Yaq?it ?a•knuq?i 'it First Nation
7. Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA)
8. Shuswap Band
9. Sinixt Confederacy
10. Okanagan Indian Band

4. Response

4.1 Public

The following is a summary of the public response received:

- 96 emails of concern were received
- More than 20 phone calls were received expressing concern
- An online petition was created with more than 1420 online signatures but not delivered
- Multiple negative social media posts and comments were raised about the PMPs
- One person came to the Nelson Hydro office to review the PMP documents in person
- One letter with 7 signatures was received opposing pesticide use

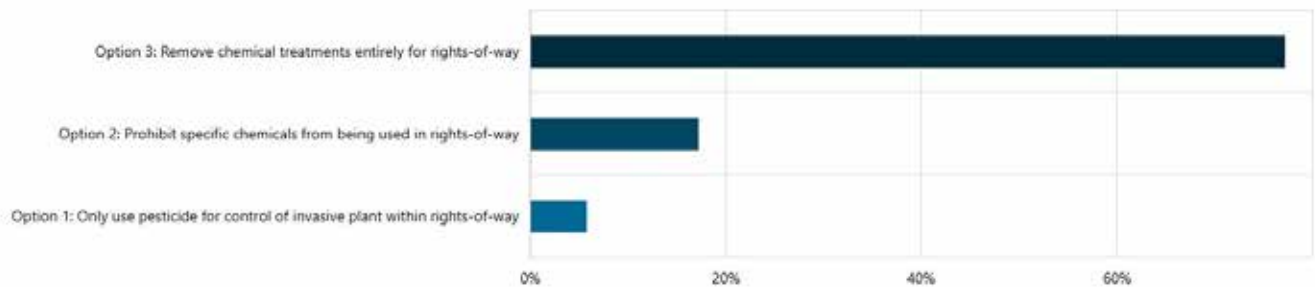
In response, Nelson Hydro initiated a social media campaign to provide accurate information, communicate the public consultation session, and promote the Let's Talk website.

The Nelson Hydro General Manager reached out to several organizations to gather information and seek feedback; Laurie Carr from Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS), Scott Bennet from the Ministry of Environment (MOE), Martin Brazeau from Kootenay Ground Maintenance (KGM), and Steve Boltby from Boltby Environmental (BE).

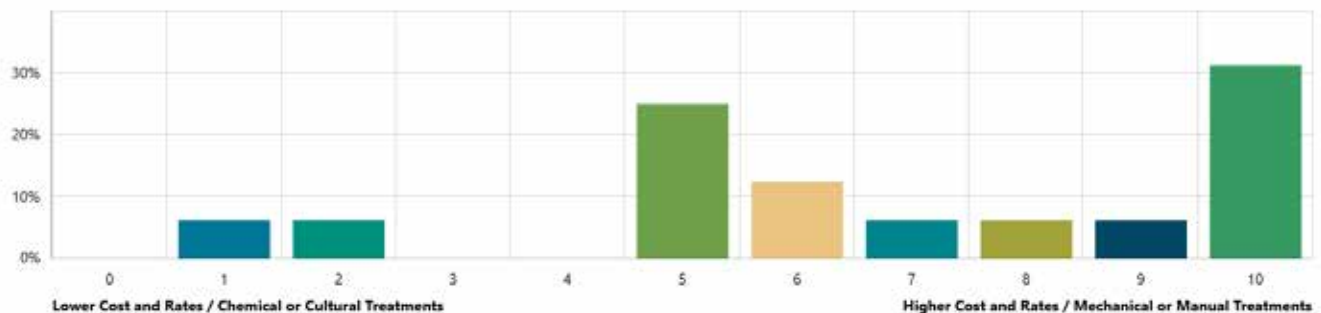
- CKISS: Advised that herbicide is an important tool when managing invasive plant infestations and would be a beneficial component of a PMP. Recommended language changes around invasive plant management; noxious weeds vs invasive plants.
- MOE: Advised that PMPs are not required because we are treating <20 ha of area and <1000 poles. MOE received 7 emails of concern regarding Nelson Hydro PMPs.
- KGM: Advised that PMPs are not required and that pesticides are the only way to control certain vegetation and recommended the addition of another pesticide to the PMPs.
- BE: Advised that PMPs are not required for a municipality of our size and that pesticides are the only way to control certain vegetation.

A public consultation meeting was held on November 25th where 50 people attended (30 in-person and 20 on-line). 67 individual response letters were sent out via email to each person who expressed concern through email. The remaining 29 emails not sent either bounced due to illegible handwriting on paper sign-in sheets, or the email of concern arrived after the 67 response letters were sent out.

A [Let's Talk engagement portal](#) was created whereby 577 visits were made by 381 visitors. The site also provided several tools for the public to provide feedback. The Quick Poll function providing options for moving forward had the most contributions with 112 engagements. Option 3, removing chemical treatments entirely from the PMP was the most popular at 78% or 87 votes. The summary report is provided in Appendix B.



The other engagement tools explained the relationship between rates and vegetation management and then asked where people were on the scale of lower costs/chemical treatments compared with higher costs/manual treatments. The average of all responses was 6.81 out of 10.



The engagement tools used were a Q&A and commenting forums. Fifteen comments were made with 46% of the sentiment expressed were negative in nature towards the use of chemicals, and two questions were asked; one about quantities of chemical treatment performed and one about timing of feedback.

4.2 First Nations

Of the ten letters issued, four responses were received.

1. Ktunaxa Nation
2. Lower Similkameen Indian Band
3. Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB)

4. Shuswap Band

Only the Ktunaxa Nation raised concerns and asked questions about fish bearing streams. A response letter was issued with references to the appropriate section and procedure in the PMP to mitigate risk. No follow-up questions or concerns were raised.

5. Outcome and Changes

After December 15th public feedback deadline, Nelson Hydro gathered all feedback and made the following decisions:

1. Not to submit the draft 2025-2030 Integrated Pest Management Plans to Ministry of Environment but keep them as administrative internal documents.
2. Cancel the Integrated Pest Management pesticide/herbicide pilot noted in the 2026-2027 Rates Application to the British Columbia Utilities Commission.
3. Develop an Integrated Vegetation Management Policy that enhances current vegetation management practices based on the following principles:
 - a. Non-Chemical Priority: The primary vegetation control methods be prioritized as manual and mechanical removal (mowing, trimming, and cutting) in Rights-of-Way (ROWs).
 - b. No Widespread Application: Formalize the historical practice of no broadcast or widespread application of pesticides in ROWs.
 - c. Targeted Chemical Use: Any chemical treatment must be designated as a last resort only and applied using precise, targeted methods (e.g., cut-surface, paste, or wand application) to ensure minimal product use and pinpoint accuracy.
 - d. Distinction between permitted vegetation methods within fenced substations versus publicly accessed rights of way.
 - e. More robust public engagement and notification protocols that aligns with the standards set by the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) supporting Vegetation Management within the tools, technology, and budget available to Nelson Hydro.
 - f. Investigate the cost/benefit of improving and expanding the Geographic Information System with datasets that support Integrated Vegetation Management mapping and data collection.
4. Present Integrated Vegetation Management Policy to City Council for approval in March 2026.

Appendices

Appendix A: Advertisement

Template prescribed by Ministry of Environment



DEVELOPMENT OF PEST MANAGEMENT PLANS (PMPs)

Wood Pole PMP 804-0009-2030 | Rights-of-Way PMP 804-0010-2030 | Facilities PMP 804-0011-2030

Applicant: Nelson Hydro, 80 Lakeside Drive, City of Nelson, BC

Contact: Operations and Line Manager, Nelson Hydro. 205-352-8213

Notice is given that draft PMPs have been prepared by the applicant to control pests within Nelson Hydro rights-of-ways, facilities, and on power poles. The use of pesticides is intended within the area to which the Pest Management Plan applies. The pest management activities apply to Nelson, Blewett, Taghum, North Shore, Harrop, Procter, Balfour and Queens Bay in Nelson Hydro rights-of-ways, facilities and on power poles.

The pesticides and application methods proposed for use under this plan include:

- Copper Sodium Tetraborate Decahydrate known as CobraWrap using bandages
- Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate known as CanBor using liquid injection
- Disodium Octaborate Tetrahydrate with Boric Acid known as CobraRod using rods
- Glyphosate known as RoundUp or Weathermax using sprayers or handguns
- Diacamba known as Vanquish and Triclopyr known as Garlon using sprayers or handgun

Other treatment methods include stubbing for poles, mowing or hand-pulling for facilities, and slashing/brushing or pruning for rights-of-ways.

The proposed duration of the PMPs are from Dec 1st 2025 to Dec 1st 2030. Draft copies of the PMPs and map may be reviewed at **80 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC**. A person wishing to contribute information relevant to the development of the PMPs may send copies of the information to the address above within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

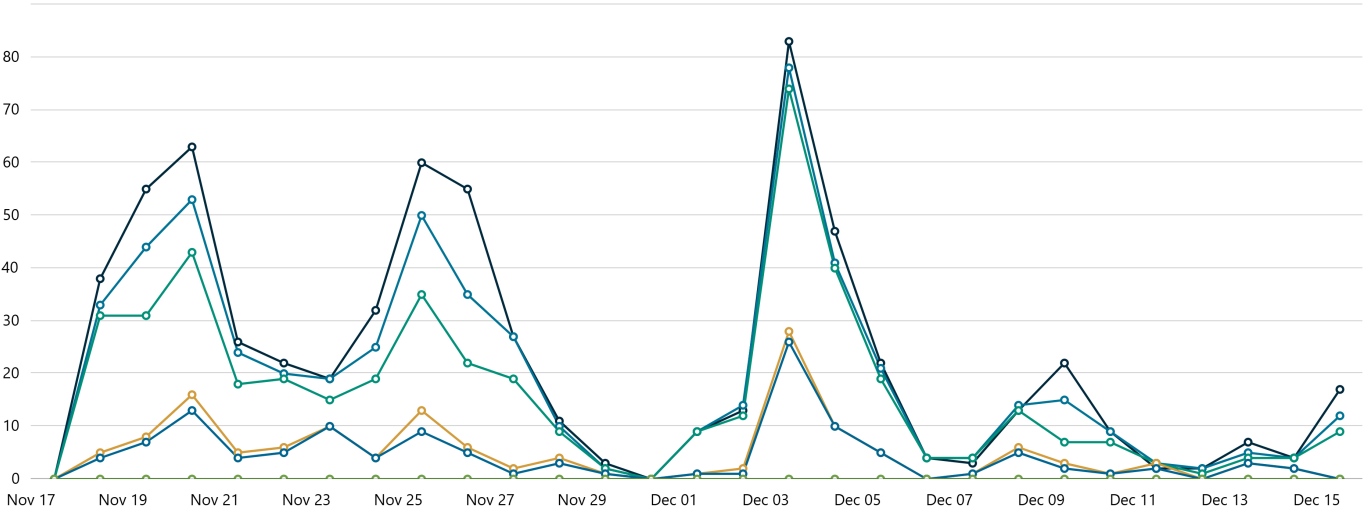
Appendix B: Let's Talk Integrated Pest Management Website Report

Let's Talk Nelson

Report Type: Project
Project Name: Integrated Pest Management
Date Range: 17-11-2025 - 15-12-2025
Exported: 13-01-2026 14:25:22

Performance Summary

Information regarding key visitation and utilisation metrics for your Site or projects.



668

Views

577

Visits

381

Visitors

145

Contributions

122

Contributors

0

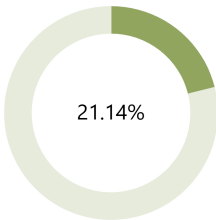
Followers

Views - The number of times a Visitor views any page on a Site.
Visits - The number of end-user sessions associated with a single Visitor.
Visitors - The number of unique public or end-users to a Site. A Visitor is only counted once, even if they visit a Site several times in one day.
Contributions - The total number of responses or feedback collected through the participation tools.
Contributors - The unique number of Visitors who have left feedback or Contributions on a Site through the participation tools.
Followers - The number of Visitors who have 'subscribed' to a project using the 'Follow' button.

Conversions

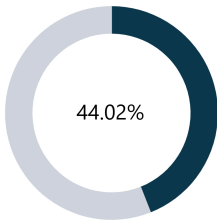
Information regarding how well your engagement websites converted Visitors to perform defined key actions.

Feedback



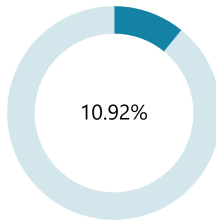
Percentage of visits where at least 1 contribution was made.

Attention



Percentage of visits that lasted at least 1 active minute.





Actions







Percentage of visits where at least 2 actions were performed.

Participation

Information regarding how people have participated in your projects and activities.

Contributions by Activity				
Contributions by Activity is a breakdown of contributions across each tool				
Activity		Contributions		%
	Quick Poll	112	<div><div></div></div>	77.24%
	Form	16	<div><div></div></div>	11.03%
	Visioner	15	<div><div></div></div>	10.34%
	Q&A	2	<div><div></div></div>	1.38%

Top Activities				
Top Activities is the top 5 tools that received the highest contributions				
Activity	Page Name	Contributions	Contributors	
	Quick Poll	Integrated Pest Management	112	109
	Form	Integrated Pest Management	16	16
	Visioner Input	Integrated Pest Management	15	13
	Question and Answer	Integrated Pest Management	2	2

Projects

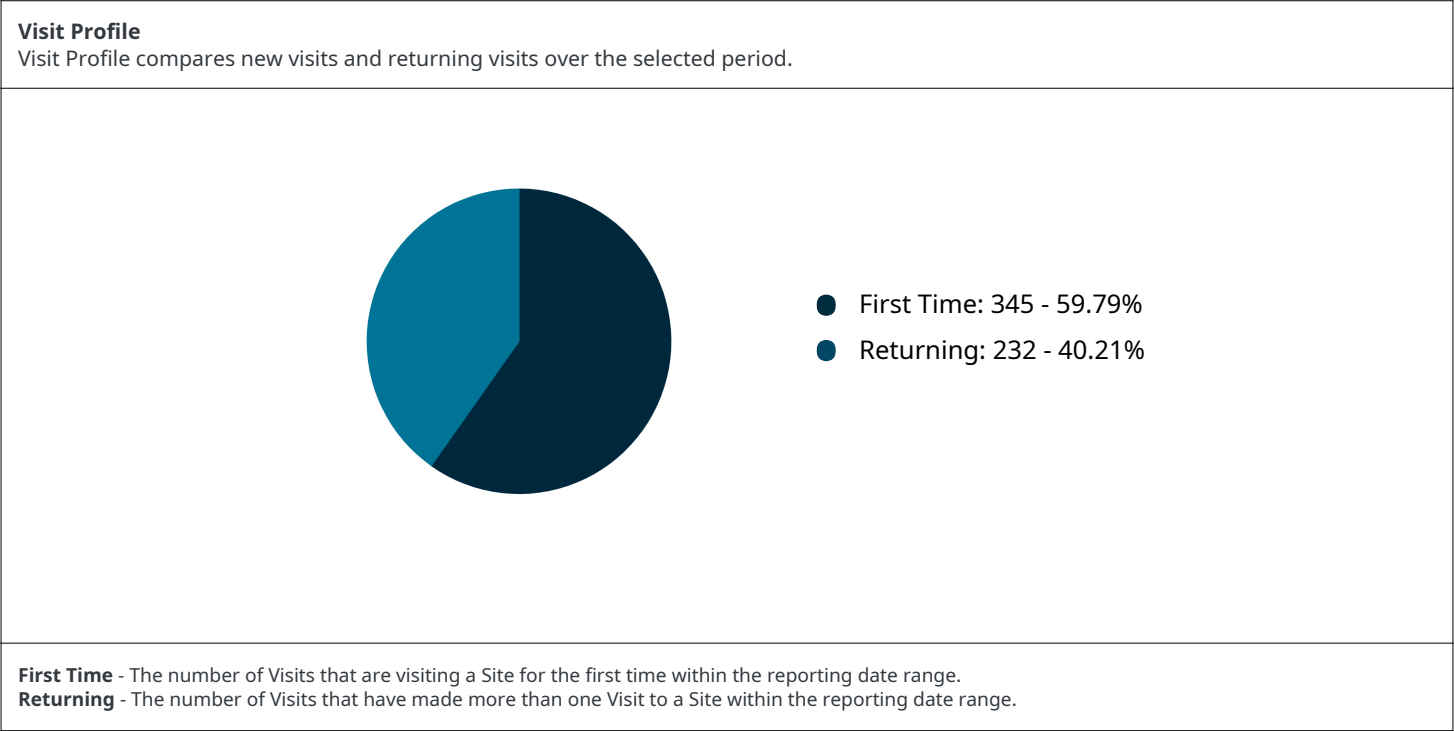
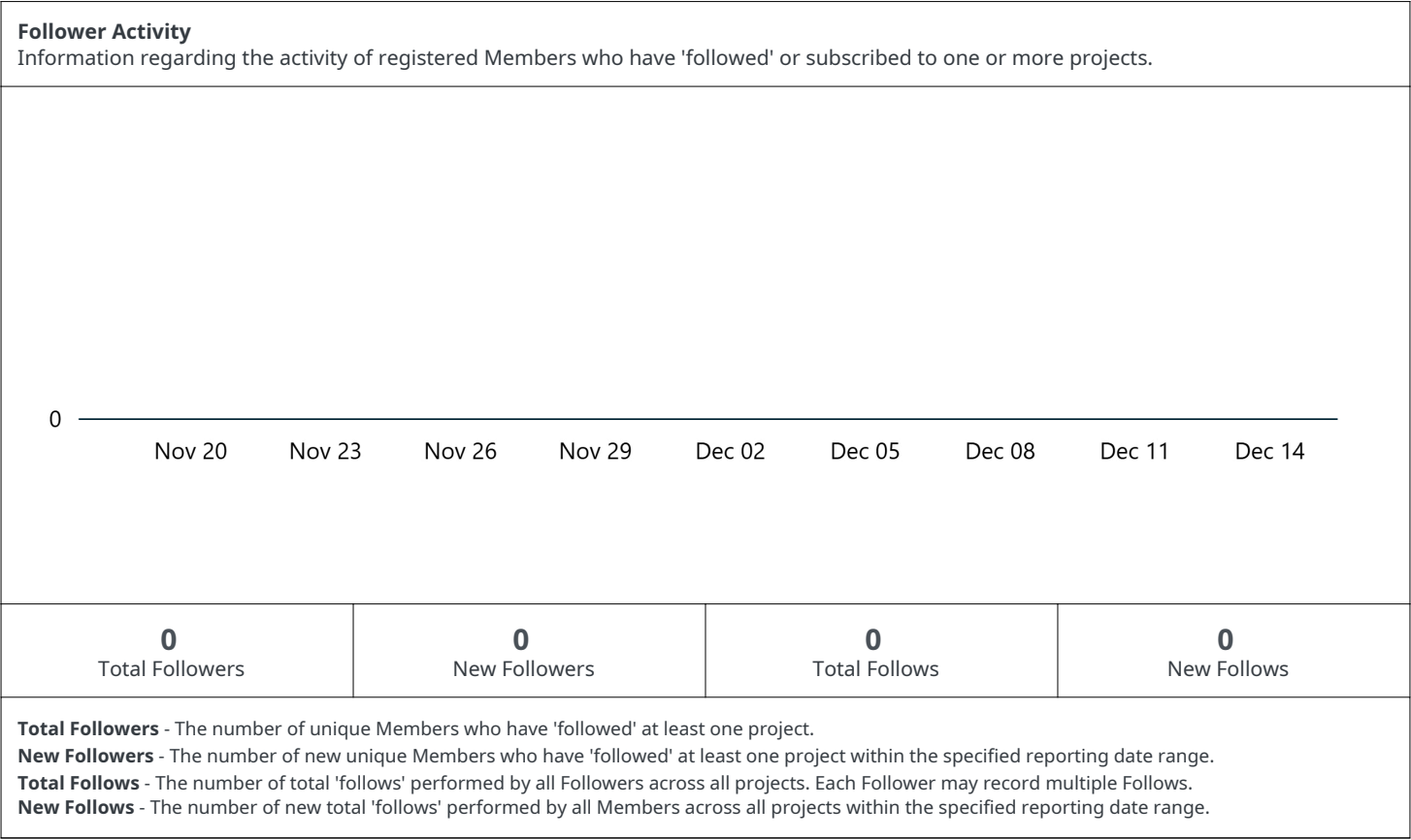
The current number of published projects on your site

Engagement Time		
0	18	2
Days	Hours	Minutes
Nov 25th 2025 Peak Visitation Date		Wednesday Peak Visitation Day

Top Visited Pages			
Summary information for the top five most visited Pages.			
Page Name	Visitation %	Visits	Visitors
Integrated Pest Management	100%	566	370

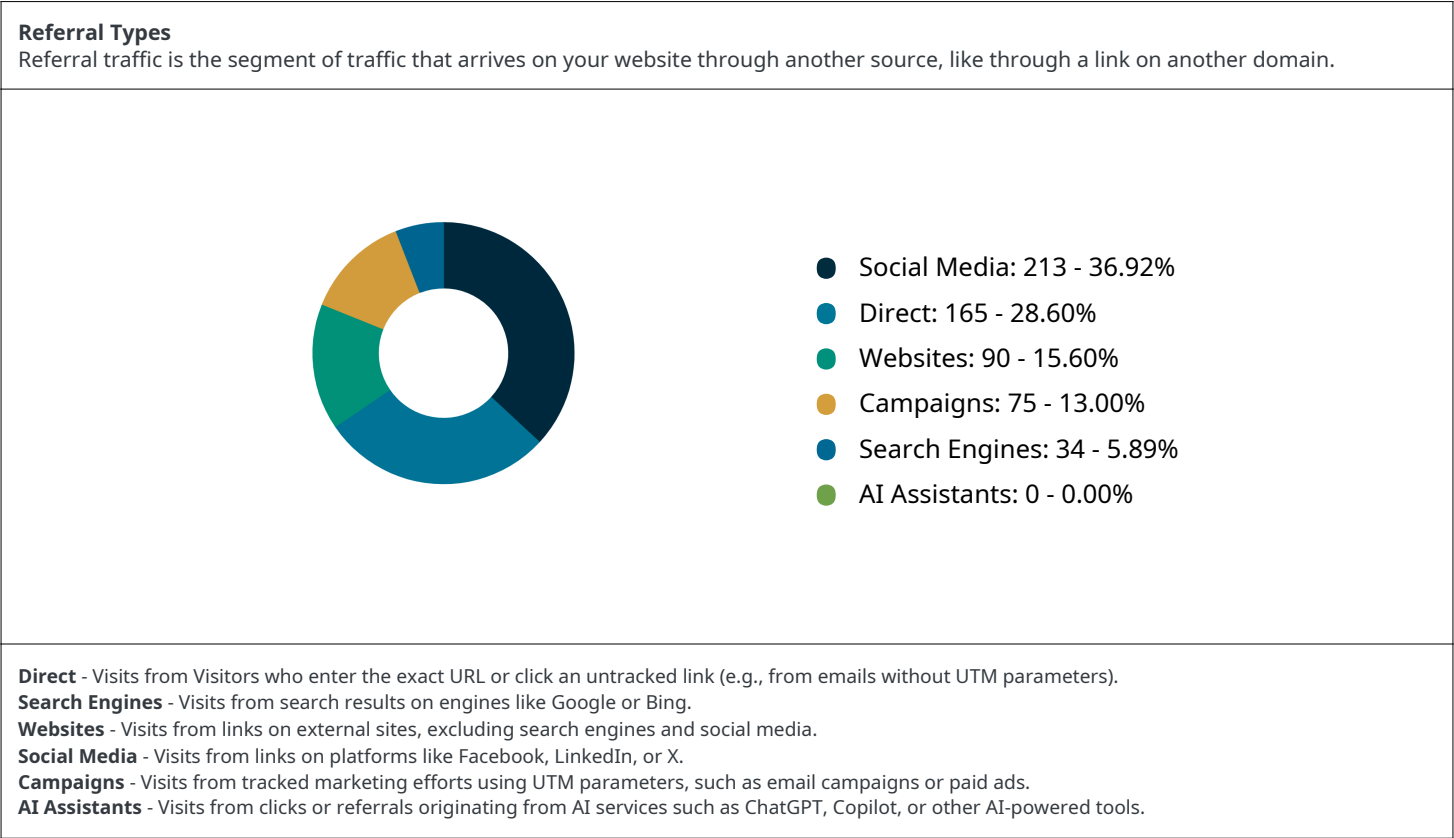
People

Information regarding who has participated in your projects and activities.




Acquisition

Information regarding the method by which Visitors arrived to your Site or projects.



Downloads

Information regarding your downloads, the total set of unique documents downloaded, total downloads of all files, and your top downloads.




98
Total Downloads


Top Downloads		
Top file downloads in your selection, ordered by the number of downloads.		
File Title	File Type	Downloads
2025-10-05 Nelson Hydro Pole IPMP Draft.pdf	PDF	31
2025-10-01 Nelson Hydro ROW IPMP Draft.pdf	PDF	30
2025-10-05 Nelson Hydro Facilities IPMP Draft.pdf	PDF	25
2025-11-25_NH Pest Mgmt to Public_v1.pdf	PDF	12

Email Campaigns


Information regarding your email campaigns, your total campaigns, the total number of recipients, and your top campaigns by click-through rate (clicks as a percentage of total recipients).



0
Email Campaigns Sent



0
Total Recipients

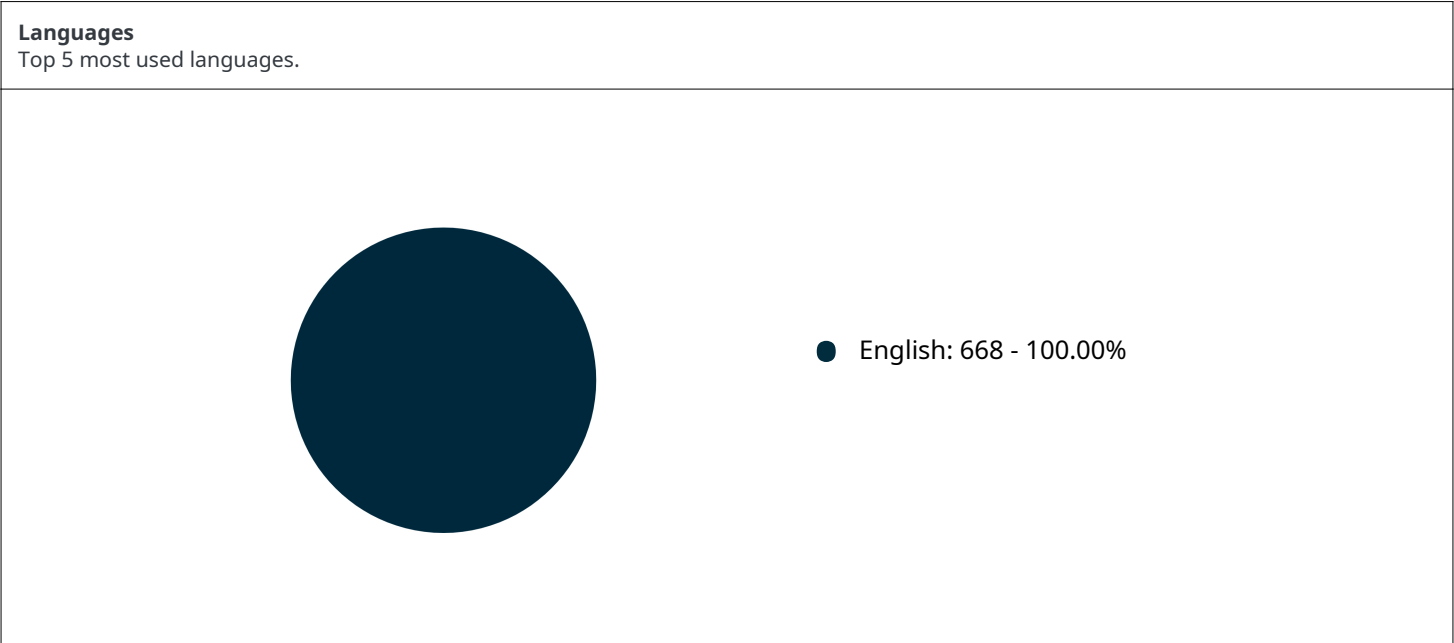


0%
Click-through Rate

No Data Available

Translation

Information regarding the languages used by visitors to your site or projects.



Top Languages	
Top 5 languages with the number of page views	
Language	Page Views
English	668