Future Skills Centre

Presented by
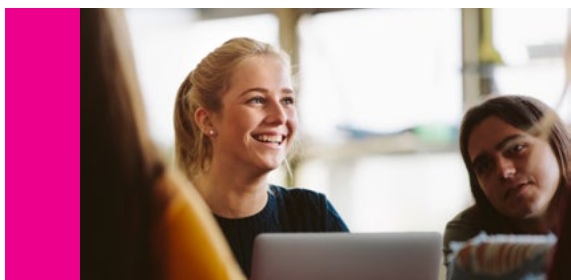**The Conference Board of Canada**

Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Sounding

October 30, 2019 | St. John's

Your voice matters

The Regional Sounding Tour is making stops in every Canadian province and territory to hear from skills stakeholders: What are your toughest skills challenges and how can the Future Skills Centre respond to the diverse needs of your community?

What we heard

The Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Sounding brought together a varied group of participants. In small groups, they talked about the education, employment, training, and skills challenges they face, are concerned about, or are currently tackling. We came to you to listen, and here's what we heard:

Social and emotional skills

- What we need for today's workforce and the workforce of the future: people with sound social and emotional skills.
- Participants mentioned that resilience and interpersonal skills, for example, are critical. Employers want them, but how do we learn them or teach them?

Literacy

- Literacy was identified as a challenge in Newfoundland and Labrador, a province where vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected.
- There is a need to focus on developing literacy skills—from basic to digital—and providing services to newcomers to help them learn English as a second language.

Responsive education and training

- There seems to be a mismatch between training/education and skills demanded in the workforce.
- There is a need for a positive, strengths-based approach to skills development that assesses and recognizes existing skills.

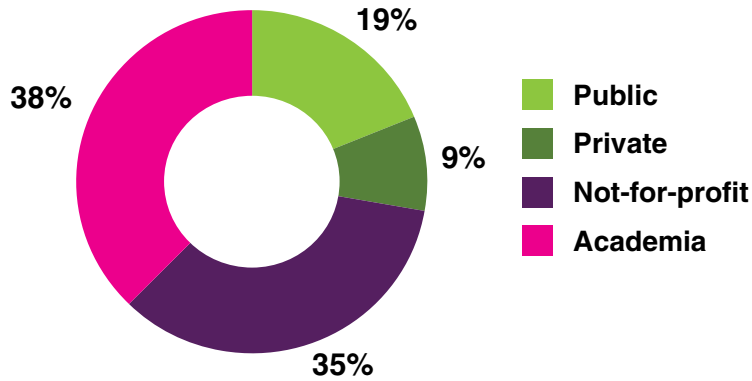### Labour market information

- Clear data and access to information about the labour market can be used to design education and training programs that adapt to the needs of the workforce.
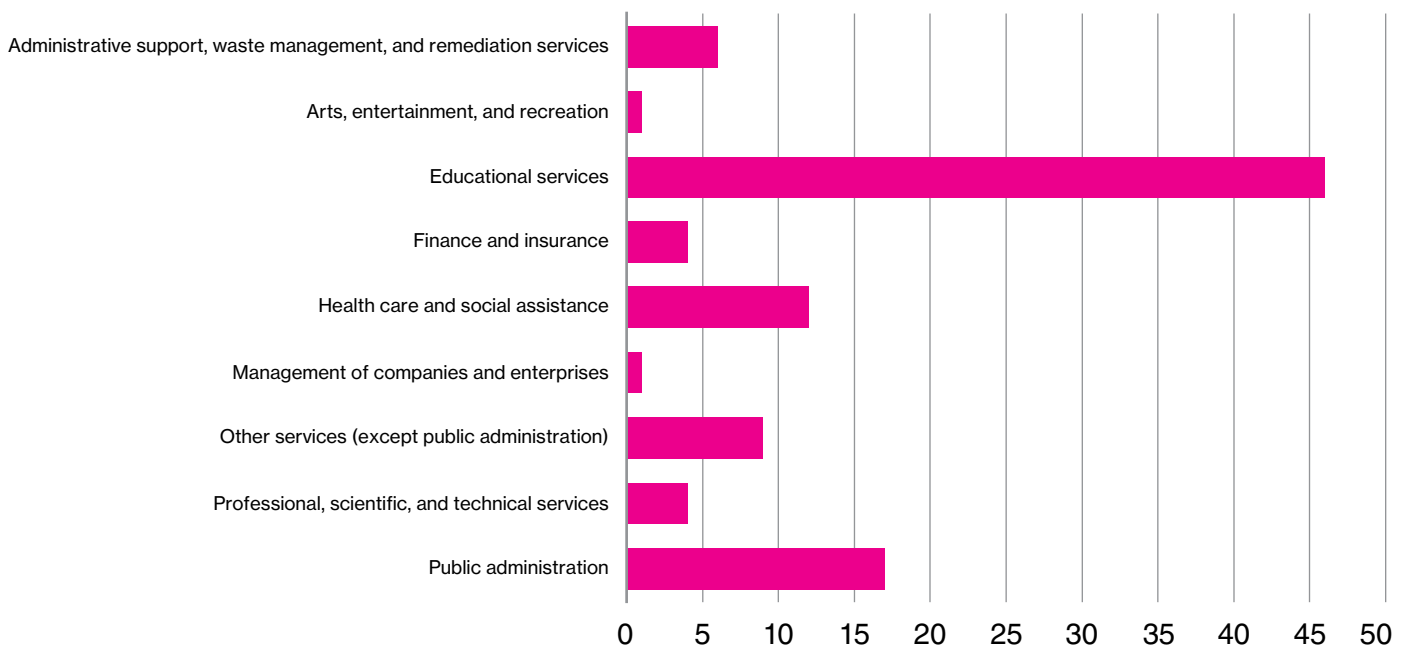- A platform to share methods, ideas, and concerns among labour market stakeholders will be important.

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Total attendance

81

Sector representation

19%

38%

9%

35%

- Public
- Private
- Not-for-profit
- Academia

Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Industry representation (%)

Industry	%
Administrative support, waste management, and remediation services	6
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	1
Educational services	46
Finance and insurance	4
Health care and social assistance	12
Management of companies and enterprises	1
Other services (except public administration)	9
Professional, scientific, and technical services	4
Public administration	17

Stay tuned for the final report that will synthesize the key findings of all discussions after the Regional Sounding Tour is completed in 2020.

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