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 Manitoba 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:

**Northern recruitment and retention**

- Labour shortages in the North persist, owing to challenges around retaining youth in their communities and recruiting people from outside the region.
- Long commutes and limited opportunities for education, training, and work in the North are the norm, and disproportionately impact youth.

**Employer responsiveness**

- Existing industries in the region need to change, adapt, and get more agile to better recruit and retain talent.
- Employers also identified that they need to be more agile in their training practices and more involved in experiential learning programs at secondary and post-secondary institutions.

**Indigenous populations**

- Inclusive and responsive solutions (wraparound supports, flexible work and training, etc.) are needed by Indigenous community members who are at risk of, or who have already been, left behind in education and the workforce.
- Participants discussed the need to respect cultural commitments, traditions, and responsibilities when helping Indigenous youth explore opportunities.

**Flexible solutions**

- The region needs creative solutions to accommodate geographically dispersed talent in the workplace, including increasing remote working options and access to broadband Internet.
- Flexible and remote learning options were also considered critical to increasing educational outcomes for vulnerable populations in the North.
Stay tuned for the final report that will synthesize the key findings of all discussions after the Regional Sounding Tour is completed in 2020.