

# Prince Edward Island Regional Sounding

February 12, 2020 | Charlottetown



## 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 Prince Edward Island 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:

### Labour shortages

- Participants expressed concern about labour shortages in P.E.I. They perceived this challenge to stem from increasing numbers of Islanders seeking work outside the province.
- Retirement rates and changing demographics—such as an aging population and low immigrant retention rates—were also identified as potential contributors to these shortages.

### Early K–12 career engagement

- Students need to be engaged early in their educational journeys to learn about different career opportunities. This would help them pursue meaningful careers aligned with their interests and strengths.
- Early engagement requires a collaborative approach from parents, teachers, students, and the community to build and sustain learning pathways from early education through to work.


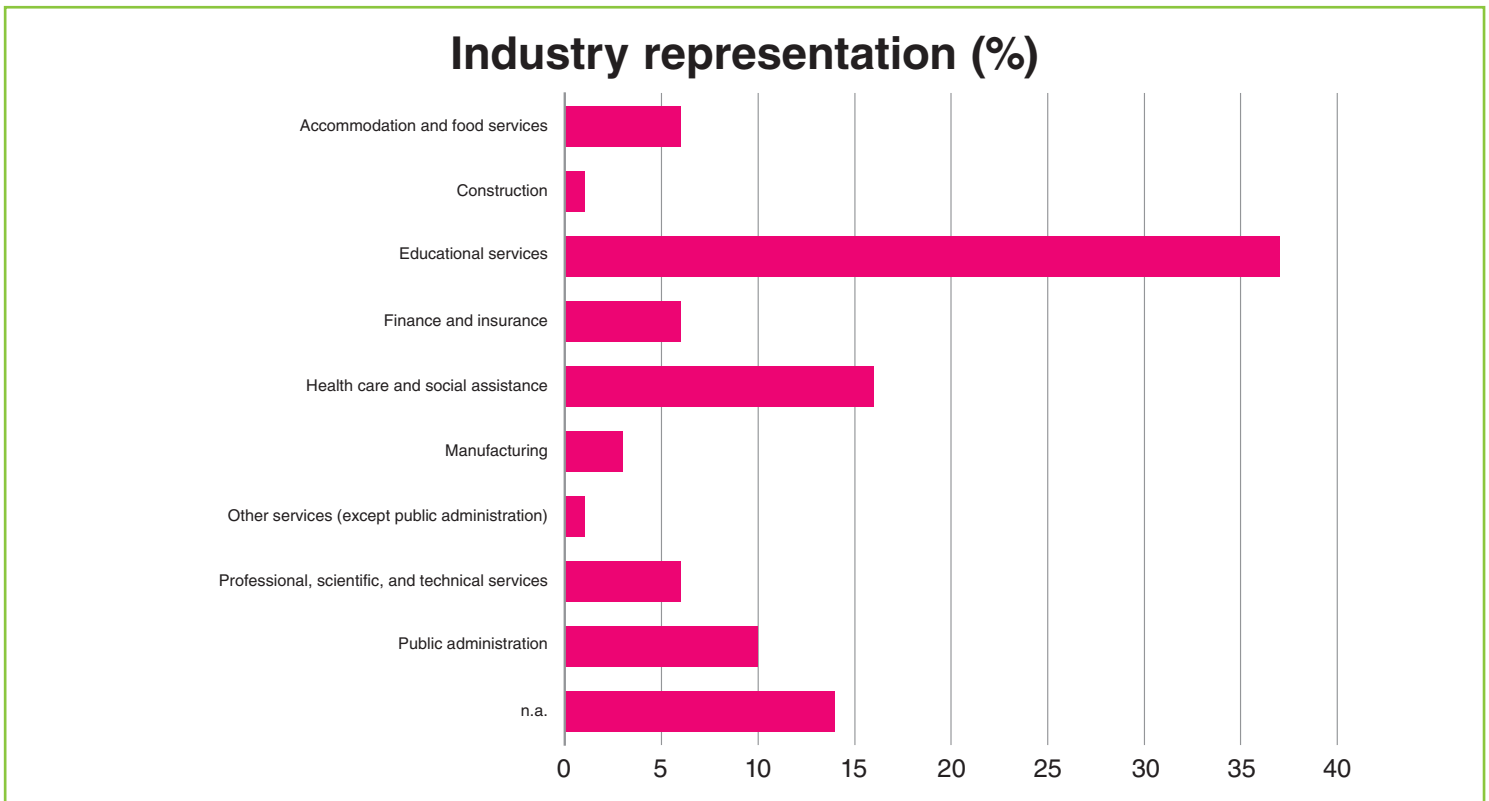
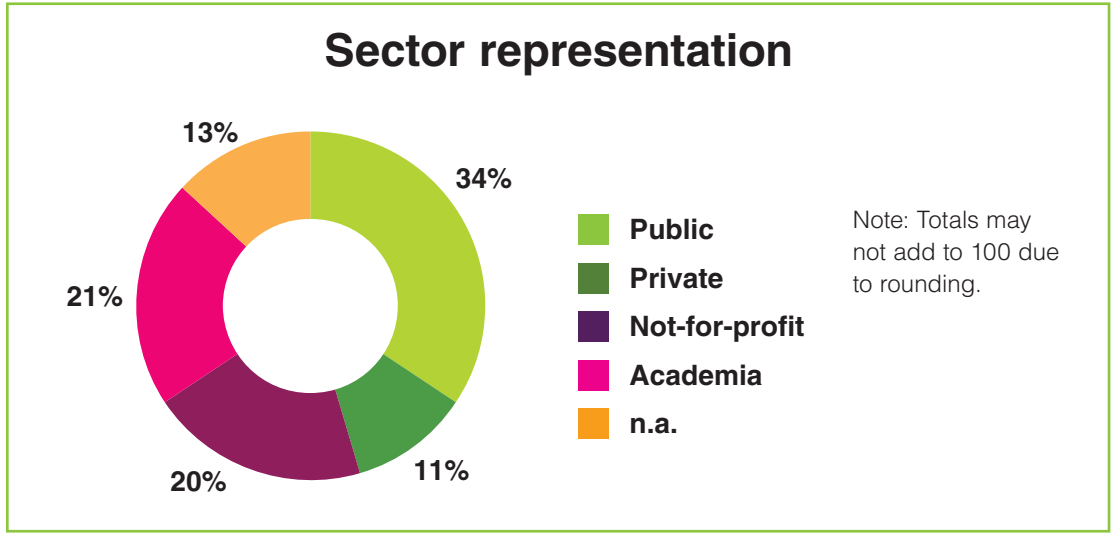
### Limited resources of SMEs

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) recognize their role in providing training and development opportunities for employees, but many lack the infrastructure and resources to provide them.
- SMEs' concerns included access to human resource functions and work-integrated learning programs—especially apprenticeships. These factors contribute to both employee and business development.

### Social and emotional skills

- Social and emotional skills—like resilience, cultural competency, communication, and leadership—are highly valued across all sectors in P.E.I., and were identified as critical to career development.
- Participants discussed how these skills help workers adapt to an evolving labour market. Given recent rapid changes in technology and organizational structures, workers in P.E.I. need to stay flexible, open-minded, and willing to collaborate.

Total attendance  
**70**

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