

# Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Sounding

October 31, 2019 | Humber Valley



## 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:

### Role of employers

- Participants felt that employers need to be involved in skills development, and engage with the community and post-secondary institutions to identify key skills early on.
- Employers can collaborate with post-secondary institutions and offer work-integrated learning models to help combat unemployment and workplace retention issues.

### Rural challenges

- Individuals in rural areas face unique challenges when looking for meaningful work—challenges compounded by limited local opportunities, seasonal labour, and vast travelling distances.
- Participants debated whether individuals in rural areas should be willing to uproot for education and work opportunities.


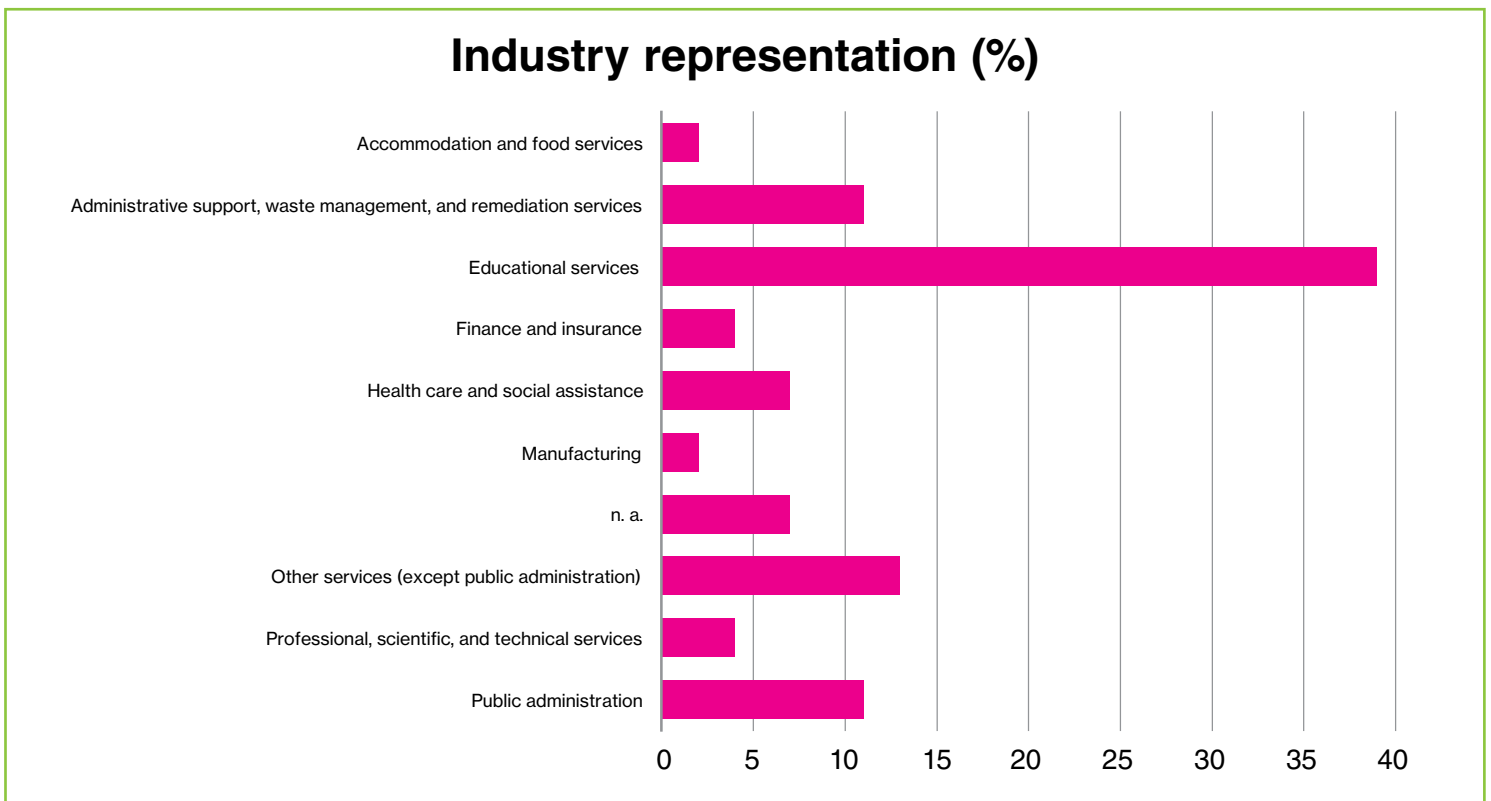
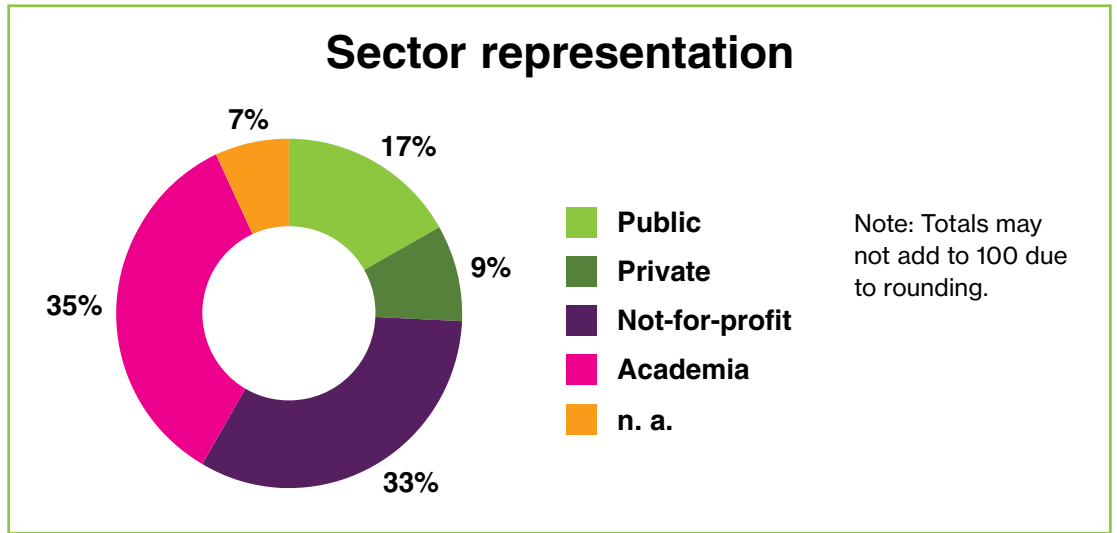
### Aging workforce

- Participants expressed concern about Newfoundland and Labrador's aging population in both urban and rural areas. As workers retire, there may not be enough youth to fill vacancies.
- Some retirees look to re-enter the workforce on a part-time or full-time basis, but need upgraded skills, or have low levels of digital literacy.

### Vulnerable populations

- There is a need to engage and support youth, Indigenous populations, and newcomers to help shape their perceptions around job opportunities and assist them in finding meaningful work.
- Wraparound services (housing, mental health, addiction support, training, etc.) are critical components of programs that connect vulnerable job seekers with opportunities.

Total attendance  
**46**

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