

Ontario Regional Sounding

November 14, 2019 | Sudbury



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 Ontario 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:

Experiential learning

- There is a strong demand for students to have pre-employment experiences that enhance their knowledge and skills.
- Participants discussed the challenges that employers face in offering work-integrated learning and training, and urged different levels of government to support employers with the costs of taking on trainees.

Accessibility

- Limitations around distance, transportation, housing, Internet and/or computer access, and affordability prevent people from taking employment and educational opportunities outside major urban areas.
- Smaller communities need to increase awareness of existing services to attract workers and students, and identify which services and supports need developing.

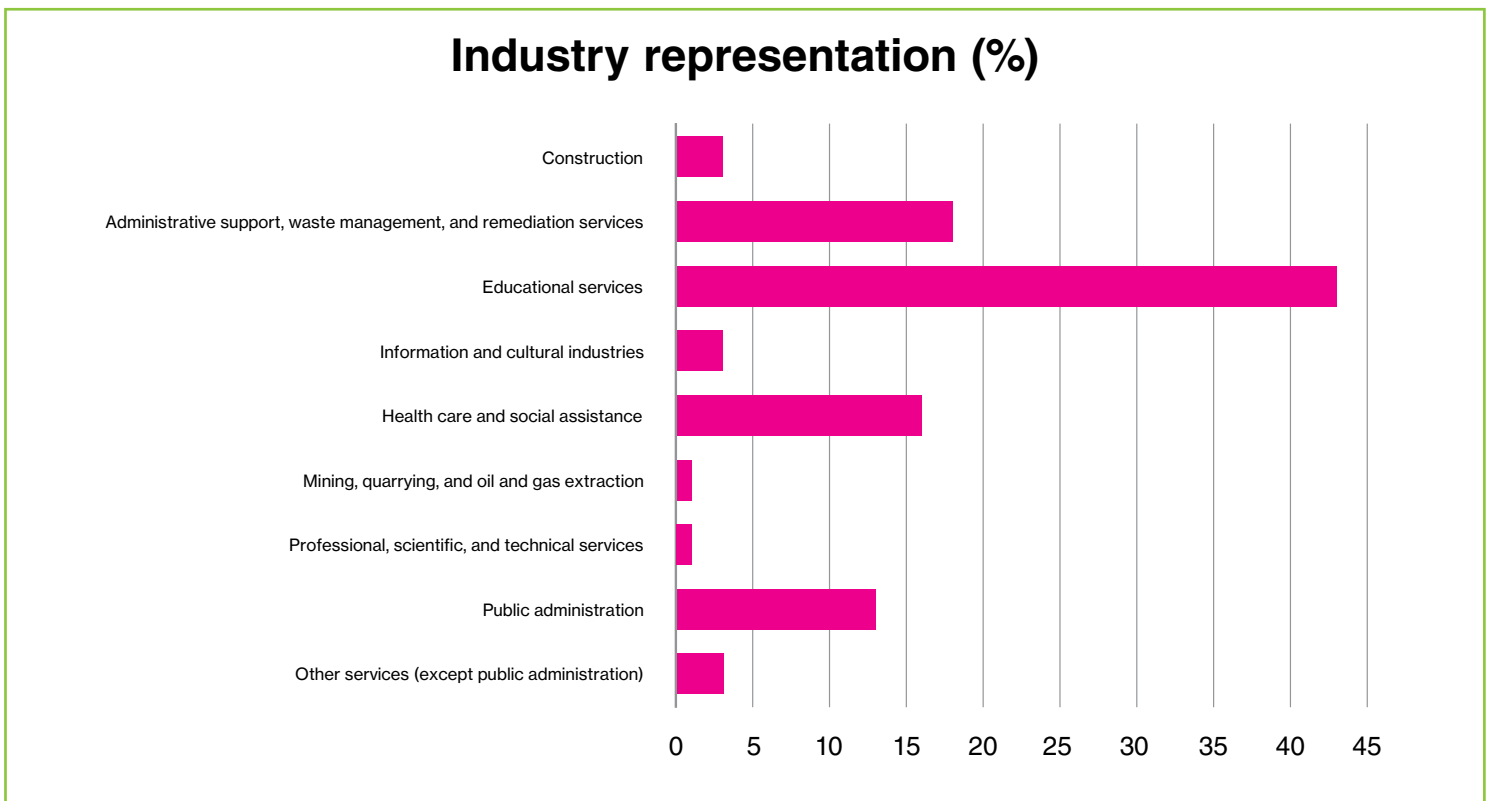
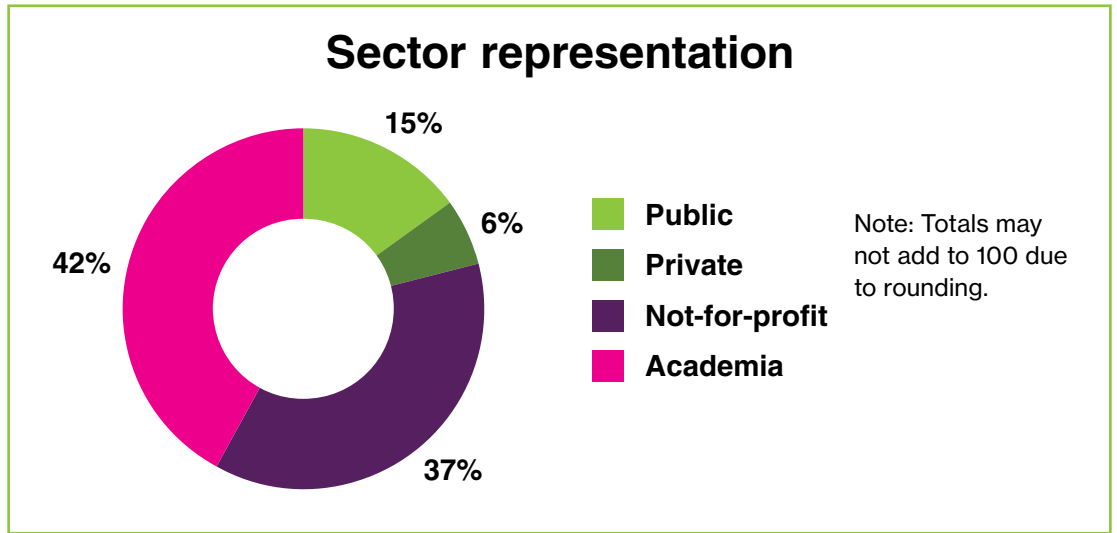

An Indigenous focus

- Participants raised concerns about social and emotional skills development among Indigenous youth, who face higher drop-out rates than non-Indigenous youth.
- Fragmented relationships cause Indigenous communities to view opportunities with skepticism. Reconciliation is necessary to support and address their needs.

Lifelong learning

- The nature of work is changing, and workers need a lifelong learning mindset to sustain longer and more dynamic careers than in previous generations.
- Participants discussed the need to develop this mindset in mid-career and older workers, to address talent shortages and create a sustainable competitive advantage.

Total attendance
79



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