

# Alberta Regional Sounding

November 12, 2019 | Calgary



## 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 Alberta 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:

### Behavioural change

- To grow and diversify the economy, Albertans need increased awareness of the unique issues of newcomers, mature workers, and youth; Indigenous traumas; and the shift to a low-carbon economy.
- Participants identified the need to reduce Alberta's economic vulnerability by expanding organizational mindsets and sector development.

### Social and emotional skills

- Employers expressed increasing demand for talent with resilience and strong interpersonal, communication, and problem-solving skills.
- While technical skills open doors, social and emotional skills are critical in our volatile labour market, and need to be part of curricula at all levels.

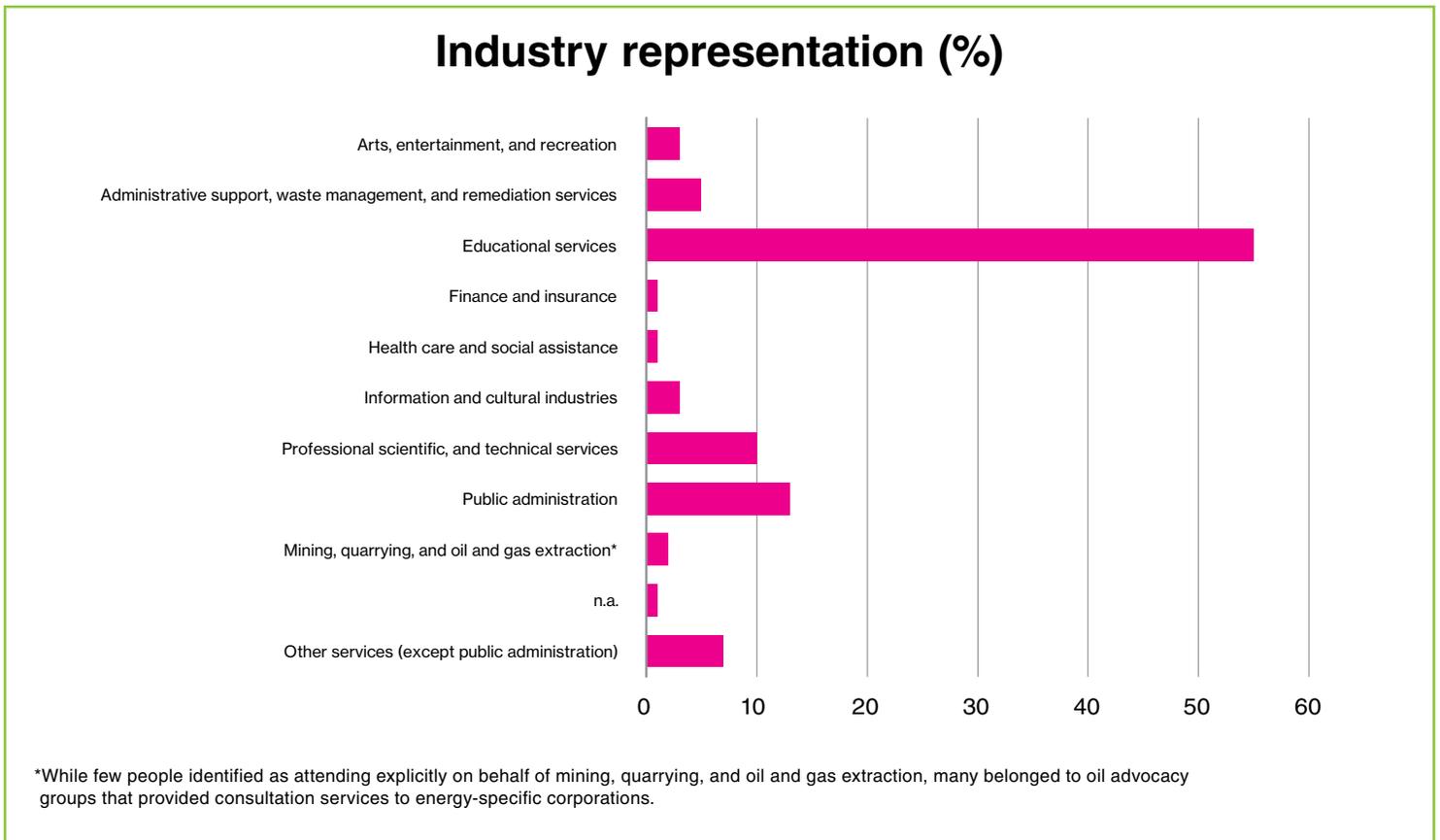
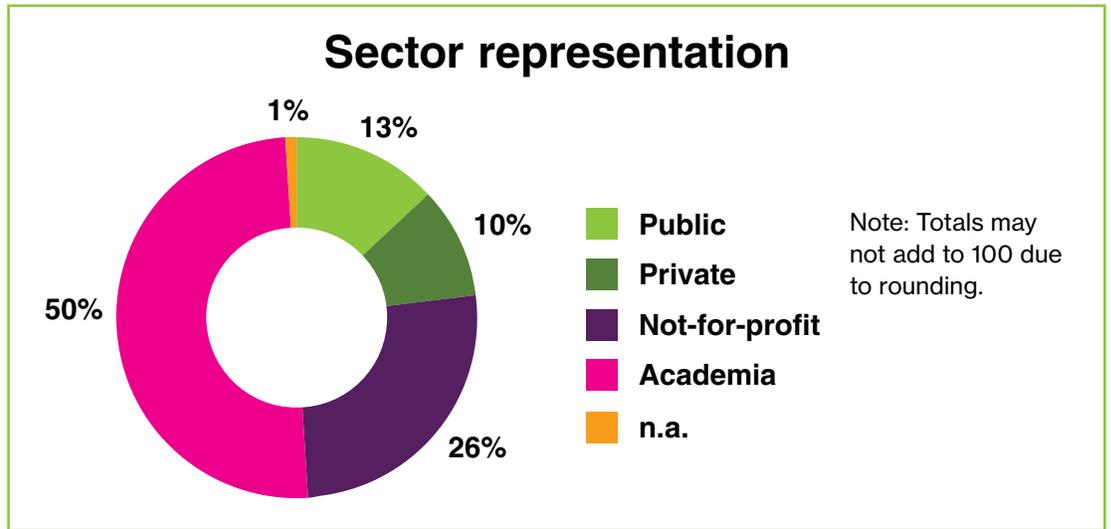
### Collaborative skills ecosystem

- Employers, learners, and educators need to better understand and define their roles, and work together to make effective learning pathways that encourage career success.
- Continuous industry engagement and lifelong learning are critical to building transitions between education and work, as well as diversifying career opportunities.

### Equity and access

- Employers need to create equitable and accessible workplaces at various levels to maximize the labour market participation of Albertans.
- This includes prior experience recognition for mid-career workers, building pathways for people with disabilities, and addressing structural barriers such as child care and the urban/rural divide.

Total attendance  
**105**

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