

# Saskatchewan Regional Sounding

February 27, 2020 | Saskatoon



## 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 Saskatchewan 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:

### Insufficient infrastructure

- Insufficient infrastructure in the province—such as broadband connectivity, housing, transit, and roads—creates inequities between rural and urban areas, as well as barriers to training and educational opportunities.
- Investments in basic infrastructure would increase access to learning, improve student outcomes, and reduce dropout rates, among other benefits.

### Foundational skills

- Students and job seekers have persistent gaps in literacy and numeracy skills, hindering their ability to succeed in post-secondary programs and the workplace.
- Vulnerable groups have the toughest time accessing foundational skills, both in youth and adulthood. For those in rural or remote communities—including on-reserve First Nations—opportunities to gain these skills are more limited, and the overall quality of education for those in rural regions may lag.

### Fostering entrepreneurship

- Participants pointed to the strong spirit of entrepreneurship in the province, given Saskatchewan's history and leadership in agriculture, technological innovation, and the development of social programs.
- There is a need, however, for better training and mentorship options for both aspiring entrepreneurs and mid-career workers impacted by disruption of other industries. These options would help them succeed and thrive in the future of work.

### Indigenous education

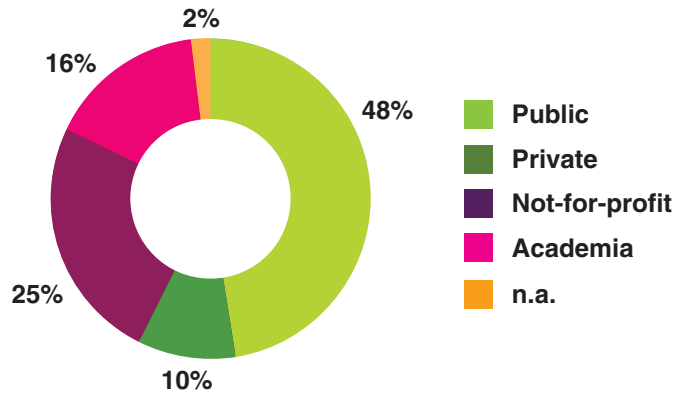
- Education programs and training approaches that are led by, or incorporate, Indigenous ways of knowing, learning, and sharing are critical to setting up Indigenous people for success.
- Many strategies are under way to Indigenize post-secondary and K–12 education, but the quality of federally funded (on-reserve) schools is still suffering. This is creating systemic inequalities for Indigenous learners—it impacts completion rates and post-secondary attainment levels.

Total attendance

63

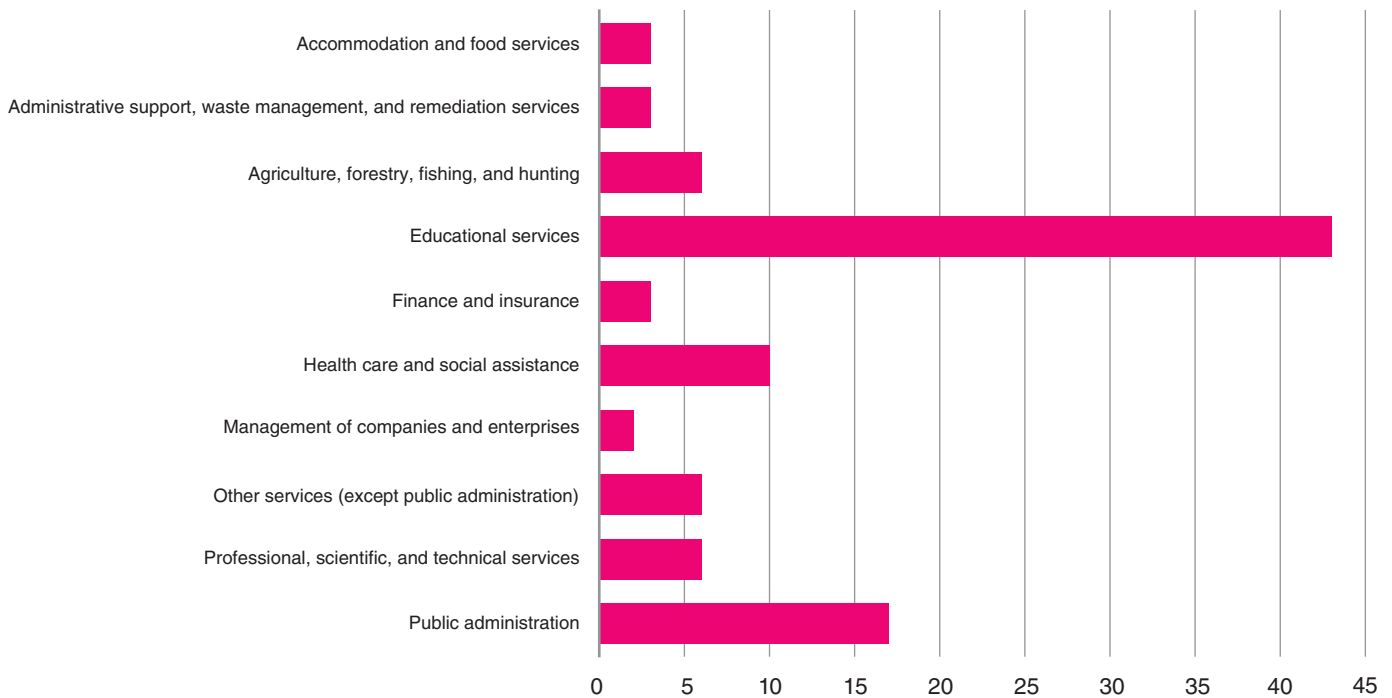


### Sector representation



Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

### Industry representation (%)



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