

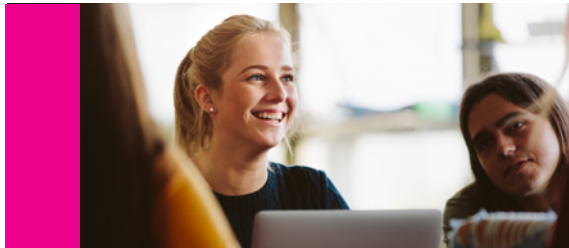
Northwest Territories Regional Sounding

March 6, 2020 | Yellowknife



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 Northwest Territories 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:

Opportunities in the North

- Jobs are few and far between in many areas. In rural and remote communities, conversations focus less on skills, training, or preparing for workplace changes, and more on creating opportunities for meaningful work and steady incomes.
- Participants recognized entrepreneurship, arts, culture, and tourism's potential to create opportunities for Northerners while also upholding their cultures and community connections. But basic infrastructure and start-up costs—particularly around new technology and Internet access—remain barriers.

Basic/foundational skills

- Youth sometimes lack opportunities to develop foundational skills, including computer and financial literacy. It is also difficult for individuals to engage in entrepreneurship if they lack financial literacy (e.g., opening a bank account, applying for a loan).
- Many jobs require applicants to fill out complicated forms, upload documents, and submit well-formatted resumes. But these activities can be challenging even for those with strong computer skills.

Flexible training and education

- Training and education programs are not always responsive to the needs of people who do seasonal activities like hunting, fishing, and harvesting. Most participants felt that short-term programs—ones where individuals can strengthen skills or work toward credentials incrementally—are better suited than longer-term options.
- Those choosing to relocate or pursue training outside their communities may struggle to access housing in urban regions and adapt to life in a new community. Wrap-around supports are needed, as well as education and training opportunities available online (with Internet access) or in rural and remote communities themselves.

Cultural identity among Indigenous youth

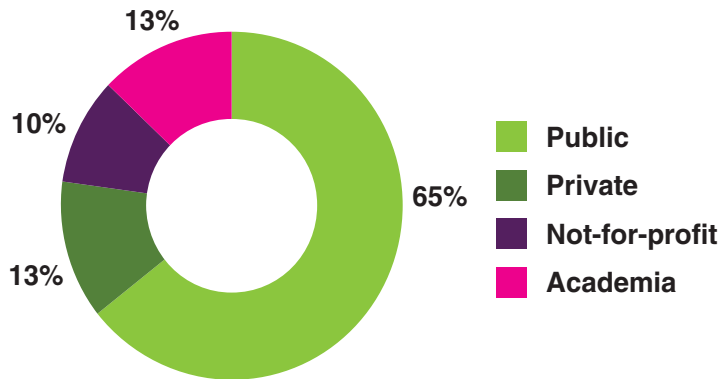
- First Nations, Inuvialuit, and Métis youth may not see clear, viable career pathways as they proceed through K-12. This is partly because professional roles (teachers, nurses, etc.) are often filled by Southerners who have different backgrounds and worldviews. This can lead to feelings of hopelessness about the future, with related mental health issues.
- Participants felt that mentorship activities are critically important. They saw value in engaging Indigenous youth in experiential activities relevant to their cultures and communities (including on-the-land activities with elders, for which they receive credits).

Total attendance

31

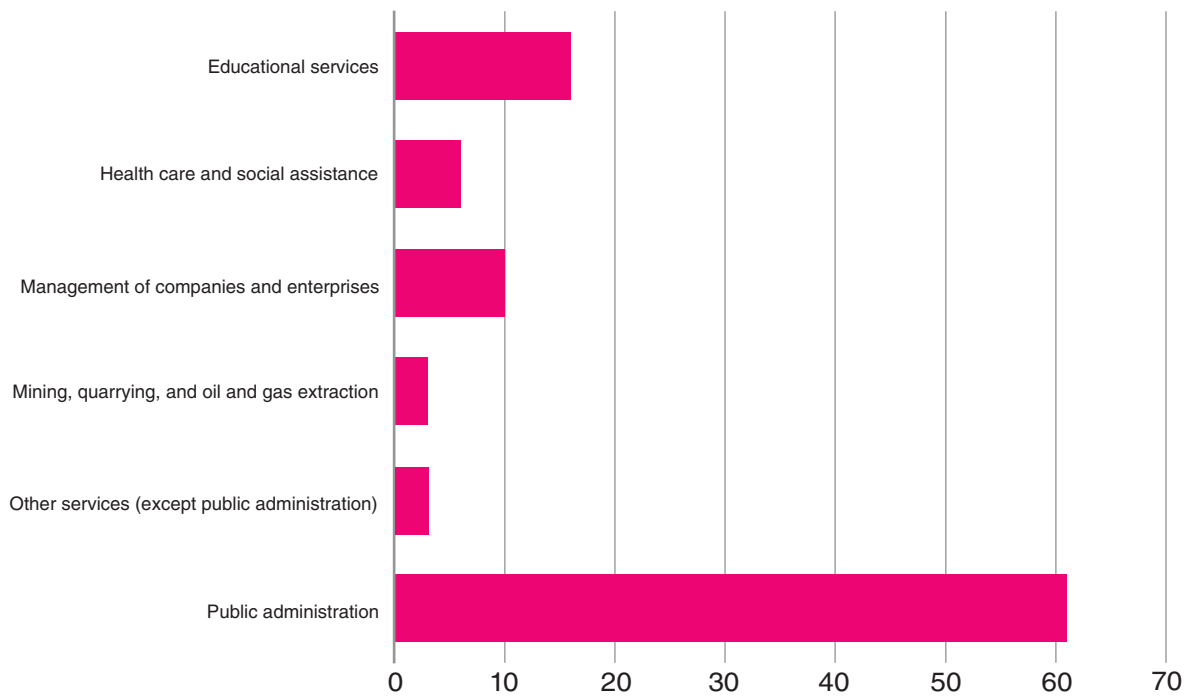


Sector representation



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.