

Yukon Regional Sounding

March 4, 2020 | Whitehorse



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 Yukon 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:

Skills and housing shortages

- Participants perceived that a high volume of workers are retiring, and that younger workers are being fast-tracked into management without enough experience, support, or training. This is leading to skills gaps in workplaces and burnout risk among younger workers.
- Talent attraction and retention in urban centres like Whitehorse are impacted by affordability issues and housing shortages. These are preventing rural and Southern workers from being able to establish careers in Whitehorse.

Lifelong learning transitions

- Whether they're moving between rural and urban communities, progressing through different levels of education, or going back to school, transitions can be difficult for Yukon learners. This challenge is especially acute for Indigenous learners, where a transition may require them to leave their community and network.
- Demand is strong for flexible and responsive training and education opportunities. The availability of daycare services, housing, and food security would ease the challenges that come with lifelong learning transitions.

Inequitable access

- Participants expressed concern that K–12 students in rural and First Nations communities have inequitable access to education resources, including basics like high schools and science labs. Communities without suitable learning facilities present barriers to achievement and admittance for students seeking post-secondary opportunities.
- Workers in Yukon's service industry—especially those who work irregular hours—may miss out on education and training because of their schedules. These programs need to be more flexible—e.g., training workers where they're located and having the right resources available at the right times.

Community-centred learning

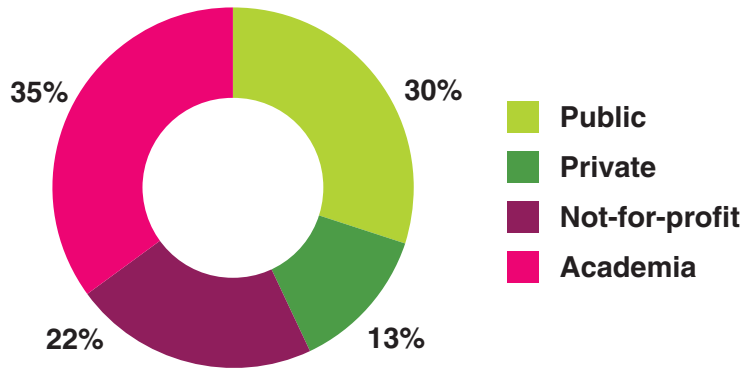
- Recognizing that Indigenous ways of learning and knowing are distinct from western models of education is important. Participants felt there were opportunities to adapt western-education models to be more inclusive of Indigenous learners, while also providing a better learning experience for all students.
- The success of community-centred learning depends on strong relationships and ongoing communication between self-governing First Nations, post-secondary institutions, and employers.

Total attendance

23

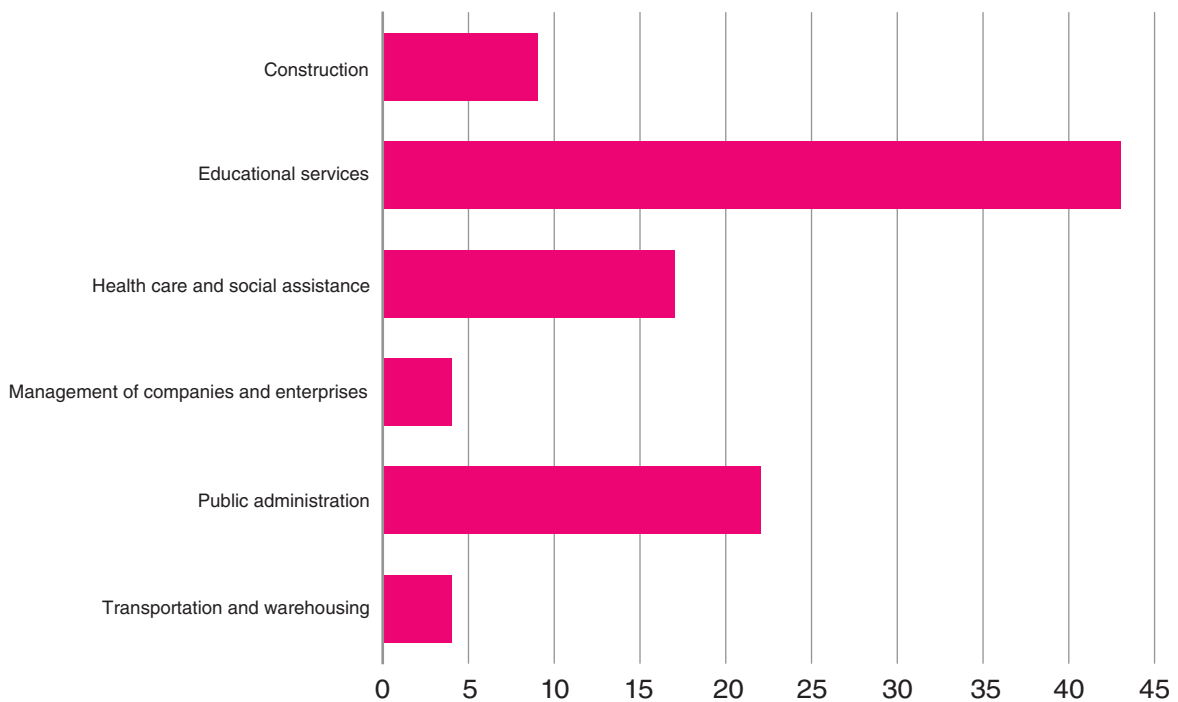


Sector representation



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.