

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Employment and Training in Hard Times: Ensuring Equity and Access in the Future Economy

Thursday, January 14, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Metro Hall Room 308/309, 55 John Street, Toronto

(1=Strongly Disagree --- 5=Strongly Agree)

Speakers	Response Average	Number of Responses
Arthur Sweetman – Impact of a changing economy on our most vulnerable The speaker provided us with new or important information.	4.36	50
Rahul Bhardwaj – The value of community partnerships The speaker provided us with new or important information.	4.54	37

Panels	Response Average	Number of Responses
Panel 1 – Innovative projects that make a difference The panellists provided us with new or important information.	3.86	49
Panel 2 – Collaborating to address gaps in service The panellists provided us with new or important information.	3.21	48

Additional Comments	Response Average	Number of Responses
Overall, the Network Meeting was useful to the work that I do.	4.08	49
The Network Meeting provided a good networking opportunity.	3.79	48
The Network Meeting was well organized overall.	4.23	48
The meeting facilities were comfortable and conducive to learning.	4.08	49

Comments and suggestions on the speakers and/or panellists:

- Arthur Sweetman’s presentation provided a new way to examine familiar information. It was very enlightening. The latter part of his presentation regarding education and training was most interesting and it’s too bad he ran out of time before further elaboration and exploration.

- Interesting initiatives described by speakers (Panel 1). Disappointing that one of the speakers was a 'no show' (Panel 2).
- Presentations were too basic for most of the people who work in employment and social services field. Would have appreciated higher level/new info.
- The first panel was very interesting and articulate.
- Rahul was an excellent guest speaker – he addressed many concerns and issues; would have enjoyed more time for his presentation.
- I really enjoyed hearing about the innovative projects. Cathy Lewis was very inspiring.
- Rahul Bhardwaj was a great speaker and his comments had a lot of impact.
- I was looking forward to hearing more about issues faced by new immigrants and STATS but guest speaker Raquel Ingram was not available.
- Please follow Denise Campbell's example i.e. talk about what's being done to make change happen. Speakers should be encouraged not to state their ideology.
- Panellists should present with visual presentation tools or handouts whenever possible.
- They should have provided handouts summarizing their data.
- Keynote: PowerPoints difficult to see – charts in general a bad idea. A handout would have been helpful or multiple screens. Material was of great interest – shame we couldn't see it.
- More time should have spent by Rahul Bhardwaj – too short a period. His material was very pertinent.
- Bob Santos was excellent in stating his message of need to accommodate those with disabilities.
- Great Information
- Always helpful to have slides for all speakers when discussing information such as programs panellists were charged to deliver.

General comments and suggestions:

- Lots of great learning – thank you. Suggest enhancing the learning by involving the learners eg. roundtables for participant reflection.
- It's always a pleasure to attend these well organized and well facilitated meetings. Thanks for keeping presenters on time.
- Mic at podium did not work well for taller speakers.
- Not enough 'depth' to some of the information provided and good speaker from Ryerson, but only spoke to program for social workers – need information on IEPs from different sectors.
- The breakfast offered was very impressive in its options offered. It even accommodated my very restricted diet. Unfortunately, the break catering did not offer as much variety.
- Keynote could have been shorter and panel of innovative projects more elaborate.
- More network time!
- Longer break needed for network.
- Copy of presentation with key points in a handout or electronically available on ICE's website
- Room cold and volume of mic low for 1st speaker.
- This forum is informative – please continue!
- Hard to hear in back of room with coffee brewing
- Very timely theme of session
- Great organization – well done! Great setup in room, great choice of agenda.
- There should be more time for presentations and discussions/questions.
- Topics and experts were very interesting and informative to listen to.
- The Q & A piqued my interest.
- Speakers not very audible, specifically early part; seats could be arranged such that it will be easier to see the speaker.
- More recommendations for implementation of studies, statistics, etc.
- More time for networking (breakfast from 8:00-9:00?)

- Seemed condensed into a half-day and a bit rushed.
- The acoustics were bad – the speakers microphones weren't loud enough.
- Good venue to share ideas and trends.
- Post the handouts and the panellists on the ICE website for further contacts whenever necessary.
- Impressive! Good work.
- Gift to speakers – if City staff could not be given a gift of ice wine perhaps something else could have been substituted. Optics are that City speakers not as valued but same effort and time to prepare presentation.
- As a participant I would have appreciated a copy of the participants' contact sheet. I was advised not very many copies were made. I suggest that this be a component of everyone's folder. This is a common element of event and meeting kits and assists in networking which I believe is a goal of this forum. Perhaps an electronic copy could be sent to all registered participants
- Allow more time for Q&A either to the speakers or to the panels themselves.
- Ensure that participants get a copy of PowerPoint prior to the presentations' suggest perhaps an all day meeting.
- Due to time constraints 'equity' issues were not given enough time.
- Quantity came at the cost of quality. Have a longer session or fewer speakers.
- Found the information presented very helpful and useful to the work I do.
- Would have been interesting to have presentations from direct beneficiaries of some of the programs discussed.
- Excellent however better representations from small business sector would be great – too much public sector bias. Thank you for great work.
- Breakout groups and discussion.
- The chair layout could have been more conducive towards integration of the audience.
- I wish there was more time for networking.
- How about some small group audience discussion.
- Not enough time for networking.
- Programming for various groups very interesting but once again the homeless seem to have been overlooked. Their numbers continue to grow without access to employment supports and training.

Suggestions of topics and/or speakers for future forums and roundtables:

- The long-term trends in Toronto's labour market – proactive measures to meet challenges.
- The importance of capacity development.
- Education and training of aboriginal youth (our fastest growing population and labour force).
- IEPs – credential assessment; bridging programs for all IEPs.
- More examples of successful employment/entrepreneurial projects from other parts of the world.
- Ontario and GTA demographic change and workplace changes.
- Workforce skill needs from employers' perspectives.
- Neighbourhood coordinated employment services planning and delivery.
- Issues/barriers faced by immigrants and possible solutions.
- Panel discussion format with Feds/Province/City/NGO on eliminating duplication of services and concentrate on real issues/barriers affecting workers in Toronto.
- Impact of over government regulation on civil liberties. Should individuals have a choice of what to learn and where to learn.
- Focus to be more on what we can do to enact change and looking towards solutions.
- ER's small quiet voices that government needs to hear.