

Life Sciences and ICT in the Toronto Region: R&D, Commercialization and Human Resource Trends

Wednesday, November 24, 2004, 8:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Ontario Heritage Centre, 10 Adelaide Street East

Summary of Responses

1. Speakers and Panelists:

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

COMPARATIVE CLUSTER STUDY – Graham Sibthorpe CLUSTERS: VIEW OF THE CITY – Kyle Benham	Response Average	Total Number of Responses
The speakers provided us with new and important information	3.8	10
WHAT THE LABOUR MARKET SURVEY TELLS US – Marie Gravel THE WAY FORWARD: VIEW OF INDUSTRY – Geoff Mitchinson		
The speakers provided us with new and important information	3.9	10
Kenneth W. Knox, MaRS Discovery District Joanne E. Harack, Affinium Pharmaceuticals Robert Horwood, Information Technology Association of Canada		
The panelists provided us with new and important information	3.6	9

2. General:

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

	Response Average	Total Number of Responses
Overall, the forum was useful to the work that I do.	3.9	10
The forum stimulated my interest in improving the R&D, commercialization and HR capacity of the Life Sciences and ICT clusters in Toronto.	3.6	10
The forum provided a good networking opportunity.	3.7	10
The forum was well organized overall.	4.2	10
The meeting facilities were comfortable and conducive to learning.	3.2	9

Summary of Comments

Comments and suggestions about the speakers:

- Kyle's presentation was more relevant to my work yet focus would be valuable to address specifics of workforce development in both.
- Use of acronyms by Graham assumed awareness.
- Labour Market sessions was well presented.
- Having handouts in package would be helpful as easier to follow and see tables; the screen was hard to see.
- Keep on doing these – creates positive energy, keeps us all talking – thanks. Keep up the good work!
- Mr. Sibthorpe used many acronyms that I was not familiar with. Speakers need to recognize diversity of audience to ensure presentation informs everyone.
- Sound was not great. Some speakers did not use microphone so it was hard to hear.
- I found Mr. Benham's presentation more relevant but followed well on the first speaker.
- Second speakers were very informative.
- Information was excellent.
- Copies of the slide presentations would have been very useful as it was difficult to see and hear (acoustics were very bad).
- Graham's presentation was difficult to understand as he used too many short forms and jargon. He was speaking as if the understood and knew what he was referring to.

Comments and suggestions about the panelists:

- Interesting presenters and discussion.
- Interesting discussion; more focus on labour market would be more useful to me and serving more disadvantaged people.

General comments and suggestions:

- Facility-sound-echo in room hard to follow at times and the screen was too far from the back of the room.
- Parking was difficult to get in the vicinity.
- Some slides difficult to see due to room setup.
- Having lunch set up in room while presentations ongoing was a distraction.
- When posting the presentations please include notes, not just slides.
- Please advise how to get the Industry Canada studies available by specific request.
- Venue although beautiful not the best. Screen too low / sound not great / hard to see.
- It would have been great to have the presentations ahead of time to allow for notes.
- Poor acoustics, weak microphones, too much noise and distractions from people walking on squeaky floors.
- The presentation slides should be provided to allow the audience to follow and make notes.
- Chairs were very uncomfortable – not conducive to long periods of sitting.
- This forum didn't help in providing suggestions on how to assist people with skills in this area to obtain employment, especially our foreign-trained professionals.

Suggestions for future ICE forums and roundtables:

- Focus on workforce development strategies and gaps.
- Demographic influences on the labour market – David K. Foot, University of Toronto Professor in Economics – excellent speaker and could provide a useful/needed “wake-up call”.