

Canadian Evaluation Society National Conference 2007

Culture, Community and Social Justice: Do the Pieces Fit?

Background

From **June 3 to 6, 2007** the Manitoba Chapter hosted the 2007 Canadian Evaluation Society Conference at the Hotel Fort Garry in Winnipeg.

Over 250 people attended the Conference. While most delegates were Canadian, participants included Americans and others from abroad.

Conference Program

The themes of culture, community and social justice were reflected throughout the elements of the Conference Program:

- ✓ 8 pre-conference workshops
- ✓ 57 papers
- ✓ 7 panel discussions
- ✓ 2 mini-workshops
- ✓ thematic breakfast
- ✓ poster breakfast
- ✓ 3 keynote addresses

Keynotes

Culture Keynote Panel:

[Dr. Denise Henning](#) (President and Vice-Chancellor, University College of the North and [Mr. Art Miki](#) (Citizenship Court Judge for Manitoba). Discussant: [Susan Rona](#) (consultant in minority education)

Social Justice Keynote Address:

[Dr. Lloyd Axworthy](#) (President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Winnipeg). Follow-up "fireside chat" with Dr. Axworthy facilitated by [David Northcott](#) (Executive Coordinator, Winnipeg Harvest).

Community Keynote Panel:

[Dr. Donna Mertens](#) (Professor, Gallaudet University) and [Dr. Hallie Preskill](#) (Professor, Claremont Graduate University and American Evaluation Association President). Discussant: David Patton (Research Director, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba)

Conference Special Events

Conference delegates had the opportunity to attend a variety of social and networking events included in the Conference registration fees:

- ✓ Orientation for First Time Delegates
- ✓ Opening Reception, including the CESEF Benefit Auction
- ✓ Awards Luncheon
- ✓ Closing Celebration
- ✓ Hospitality Suites
- ✓ Art Gallery Walking Tour
- ✓ Flexible Follies (yoga)
- ✓ Walking Tour to Fort Gibraltar

A few other activities had associated costs:

- ✓ Golf at St. Boniface Golf Club
- ✓ Winnipeg Goldeyes Baseball
- ✓ Fort Gibraltar Banquet

Innovations and Achievements

[A \\$500 donation, plus food items](#) were donated to Winnipeg Harvest by the CES Conference! The cash donation was made in lieu of gifts to presenters in the concurrent sessions.

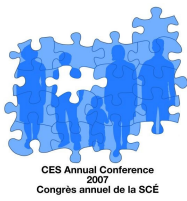
[Over 100 people](#) attended the Closing Celebration, featuring Evans Coffie and the music and dance of West Africa.

[More than \\$20,000](#) was raised in sponsorships, including money from both private companies and public sector organizations.

[Canadian Evaluation Society Education Fund](#) (CESEF) partnered with the Conference, helping to obtain a grant from The Winnipeg Foundation. We hope the profile and membership of CESEF was raised through their visibility at the Conference!

[57%](#) of delegates responded to the web-survey used for Conference evaluation – a record response rate for a CES Conference.

What were the results of the web-survey? →



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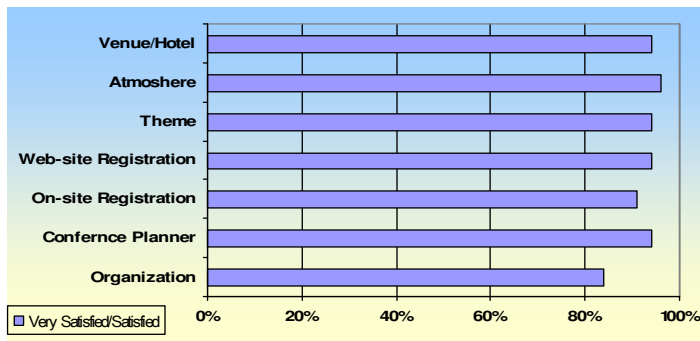
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144 people responded to the web-survey.

45% of people indicated it was their first CES Conference; just over half were from government and other public sector institutions.

The most frequent reason (39%) for attending the Conference was "to access professional development relevant to my work."

Satisfaction with Various Conference Elements



Satisfaction with Conference Sessions

Over 90% of respondents were satisfied with each of the keynote presentations.

87% expressed overall satisfaction with the concurrent sessions.

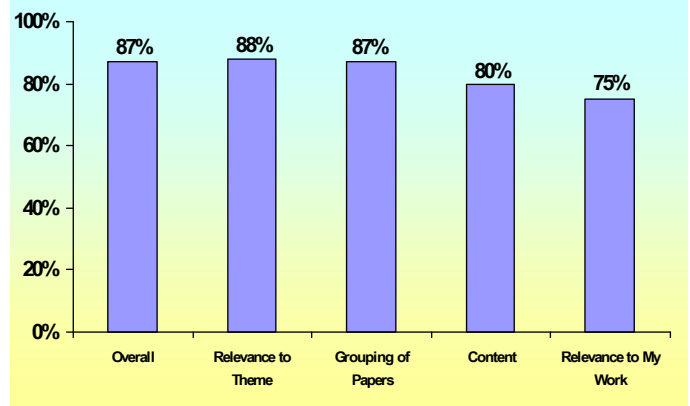
72% expressed satisfaction with the content of the pre-conference workshops. (Workshop presenters were sent the results specific to their own sessions.)

Over 90% indicated that their expectations for networking and socializing opportunities were met or exceeded.

Approximately 30% did not feel their expectations were met regarding learning new content/theory or learning new techniques/practices.

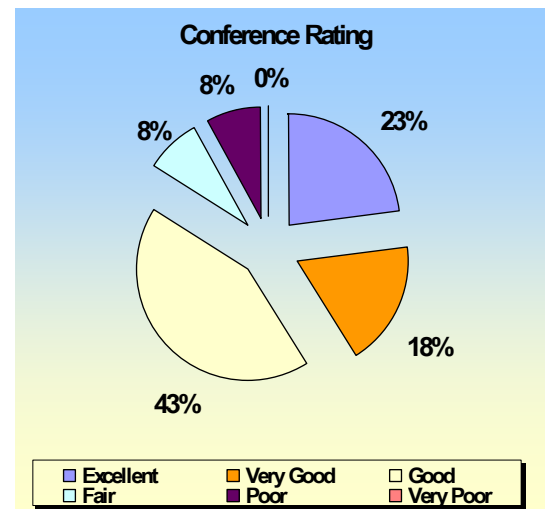
Please see accompanying document that recognizes all those who contributed to making Conference 2007 a success!

Satisfaction with Concurrent Sessions

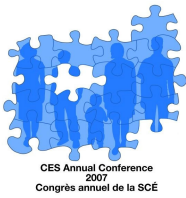


Overall Conference Rating

84% of attendees rated the Conference "excellent/very good/good."



For more information, please contact Denise Belanger (denise@proactive.mb.ca) or Linda E. Lee (linda@proactive.mb.ca).



Canadian Evaluation Society National Conference 2007 Thank you!

Many individuals provided contributions to the organization and implementation of the CES 2007 National Conference. Members of the Conference Organizing Committee, the Program Subcommittee and Social Subcommittee provided countless hours in meetings, research, organization, phone and email contact. Many thanks to **Larry K. Bremner, Rhonda Chorney, Brenda Comaskey, Shannon Leppky, Paula Migliardi, David Patton, Janet Sprout, Jori Thordason, and Barry Warrack** for your time, energy, ideas and insights. In addition, we would like to thank Planners Plus, and particularly **Tara Torchia-Wells** for her assistance and unwavering good humour.

Generous contributions were made by a number of organizations, both public and private, in support of conference events. These contributions allowed delegates from the volunteer and non-profit sector to attend, helped underwrite translation and simultaneous interpretation costs, provided refreshment and networking opportunities, and 'goodies' for conference delegate bags. Thank you to all our sponsors and supporters!

The success of the CES 2007 National Conference is largely due to the contributions of those who provided presentations. To keynote speakers and CES members who conducted workshops, made paper presentations, animated thematic breakfasts and poster sessions, many thanks!

Finally, to all those attended the conference and brought with them their knowledge, energy, diversity, and inquisitiveness, thank you for making the 2007 CES National Conference a success.

Denise Belanger
Conference Co-Chair

Linda E. Lee
Conference Co-Chair

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