

Student Evaluation Case Competition

Survey of Past Participants: 1996 - 2015

The Student Evaluation Case Competition celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2016! The competition, sponsored by CES and CESEF, is an event for students to learn evaluation and evaluative thinking. As part of the celebration, a e-survey was conducted with past participants to explore their experiences. This handout highlights the main findings.¹

Methods:



Participants:

83%

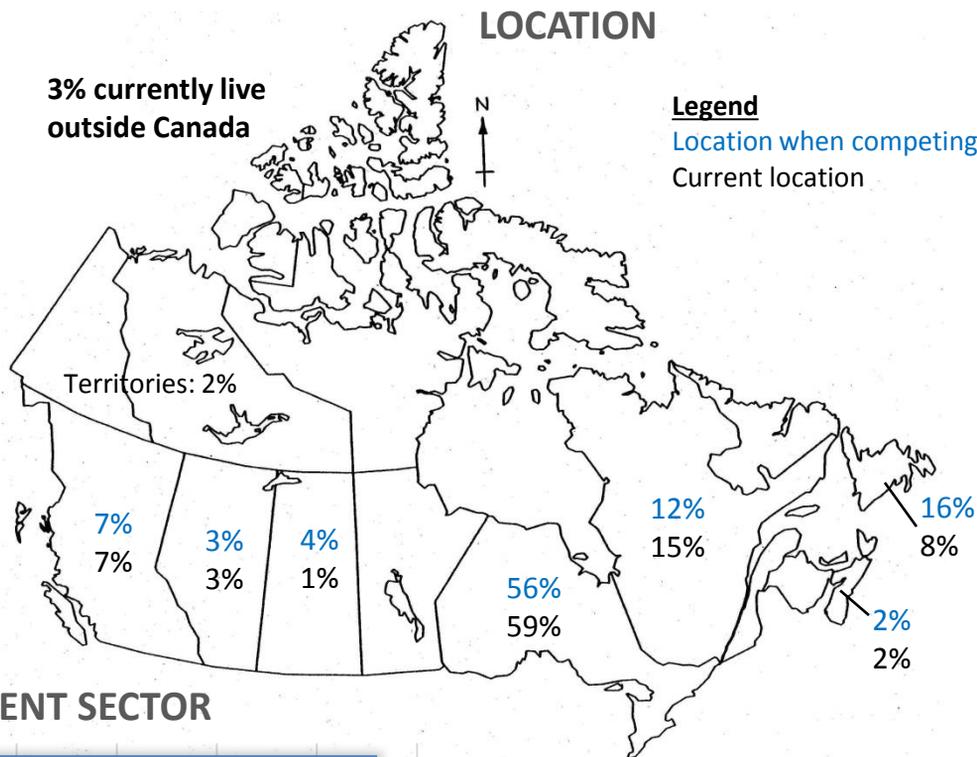
Participated *only once* in the competition

40%

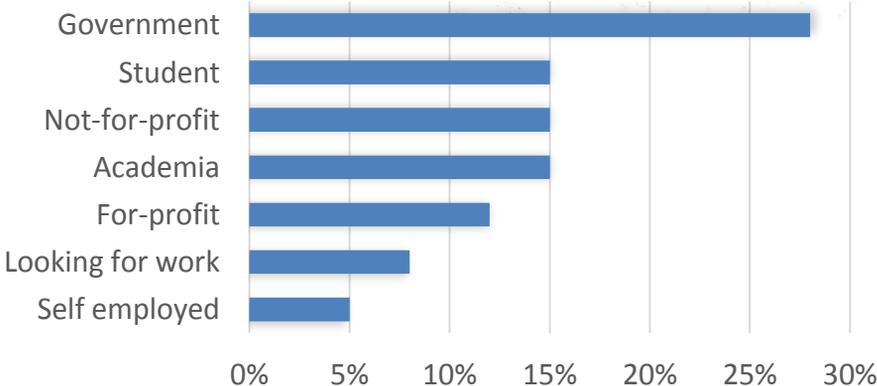
Of survey respondents were *finalists*

48%

Of survey respondents were *CES Members*



EMPLOYMENT SECTOR



39%

currently *spend 50% or more* of work time on evaluation

¹Data was available from only 10% of all case competition participants. CES members were overrepresented and data was weighted to account for this.

Impacts of the Case Competition

Participants were asked to rate their Case Competition experiences (out of 5)², and answer an open-ended question. Of the 112 respondents, 49 provided a narrative.

The competition was a positive experience

"The competition was a very positive experience, although I am not one who enjoys competitions for the most part. I was blessed with wonderful team mates."

83%

Agreed or strongly agreed that they **enjoyed participating in the competition**

Participants gained practical evaluation experience

"...it supplemented the program evaluation experience I received via my academic program. There is no better way to get that than from a hands-on experience with a "real-world" case."

81%

Agreed or strongly agreed that participating **increased their understanding of evaluation**

Many since engaged in evaluation activities

66%

Used the results of a program evaluation

60%

Worked as a program evaluator

53%

Pursued further education in evaluation

"The Case Competition allowed me to learn more about myself, specifically learning to [work] with a team with different ideas and directions of a project. It also enhanced my decision to pursue employment as an evaluator. The Case Competition provided me with the skills and experience to do some level of evaluation in my current position. It definitely was one of my best experiences during my graduate studies and prepared me for employment post-graduation. I encourage students to participate in the Case Competition as it was an invaluable experience for me."

Conclusions: The survey results indicate that the Case Competition had a positive impact on the majority of participants. Feedback indicated that the competition had many benefits for participants and strong effects on their understanding of evaluation.

Acknowledgements: The survey team included Ashley Baker, Christine Sheppard, Petra Lolic and Shilpa Soni. Bea Courtney and Michael Obrecht provided external advice and support.

²The scale used by respondents was as follows: 1 strongly disagree; 2 disagree; 3 neutral opinion; 4 agree; and 5 strongly agree.



Canadian Evaluation Society
Educational Fund

Fonds de la Société canadienne
d'évaluation pour l'éducation