

C O N F E R E N C E

WHAT'S WORKING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT?

June 23 - 25, 2008

Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada

Conference Evaluation Results Summary

IACD 2008 CONFERENCE EVALUATION RESULTS SUMMARY

Total Number of Surveys Returned – 115

SATISFACTION RATINGS¹

Overall Satisfaction with the Conference (92.1%)²

- Level of information provided in the pre-conference promotional materials (84.9%)
- Use of the online conference registration system (87.9%)³
- Onsite conference registration process (92.7%)
- Overall value for conference registration fees (87.7%)
- Official welcome & conference opening (Monday) (93.2%)
- Opening plenary session: Asset Based Community Development (Monday theatre presentation) (95.3%)
- Plenary session: Setting the Scene (Monday) (87.6%)
- IACD AGM & luncheon (Monday) (44.7%)
- Plenary session: A Brief Update from ABCD Institute (Monday) (84.8%)
- Concurrent sessions (Monday) (78.8%)
- Celebrating community squares exercise (Monday) (59.0%)
- Plenary session: Provocative Futures for Asset Based Community Development (Tuesday) (96.1%)
- Concurrent sessions (Tuesday morning) (77.6%)
- Plenary session: Measuring Genuine Progress (Tuesday) (97.0%)
- Luncheon with Democracy 250 (Tuesday) (72.7%)
- Concurrent sessions (Tuesday afternoon) (75.7%)
- Plenary session: Building Global Networks (Tuesday) (74.6%)
- Conference wrap-up & closing (Tuesday) (84.3%)
- Monday evening social (reception, dinner, & Kitchen Party) (94.6%)

AGREEMENT RATINGS⁴

- The conference was well organized (95.6%)⁵
- The conference schedule worked well (68.4%)
- The conference kit information was helpful (93.9%)
- The conference facilities provided by Acadia University were satisfactory (91.9%)
- The overnight accommodations provided by Acadia University were satisfactory (85.3%)
- There were a good variety of topics covered in the conference sessions (93.8%)
- The topics covered in the conference sessions were relevant to the community development process (95.6%)

¹ Scale of 1-5, with 1 being dissatisfied and 5 being satisfied.

² Rated 4 or 5 on scale.

³ Rated 4 or 5 on scale.

⁴ Scale of 1-5, with 1 being disagree and 5 being agree.

⁵ Rated 4 or 5 on scale.

- The topics covered in the conference sessions were relevant to my paid/volunteer work (87.5%)
- The conference was a good opportunity for professional development (87.6%)
- The conference increased my understanding of the community development process (82.4%)
- The conference provided a good opportunity to learn about recent developments in community development (87.8%)
- The conference increased my understanding of effective practices in community development (86.9%)
- The conference increased my understanding of the challenges in community development (84.2%)
- The conference increased my awareness of community development projects and/or organizations (87.9%)
- The conference provided me with ideas and/or information that are useful to my work (85.9%)
- The conference provided me with useful community development tools and/or resources (89.8%)
- The conference provided me with useful connections to others doing community development work (79.8%)
- The collage exercises helped me feel more connected with other delegates at the conference (53.4%)
- The social events made a positive contribution to the conference (91.4%)
- The social events were a good networking opportunity (87.5%)
- The conference increased my interest in IACD and its work (82.2%)

SUCCESSFUL ELEMENTS (COMMENTS)

- Location and venue (especially the Festival Theatre and KC Irving Centre);
- Casual, comfortable atmosphere;
- Well organized;
- Integration of technology, culture, arts, dance, and theatre (“out-of-the-box” thinking);
- Empowering youth (Heartwood);
- Opening session/welcome;
- Monday night Kitchen Party (J.P. Cormier);
- Ron Colman (GPI) plenary;
- Jody Kretzmann (ABCD Institute) plenary;
- Preferred plenaries over the concurrents;
- Good opportunity to meet new friends and network; and
- Good opportunity to learn new things.

CHALLENGING ELEMENTS (COMMENTS)

- Challenges and/or confusion about online registration system (for some);
- Rushed agenda (tried to do too much – needed ½ - 1 day longer);
- Needed more concurrent session slots (too many to choose from);
- Concurrent sessions were too short (especially with 2 sets of presenters);

- More time for questions, group work, and discussions;
- More emphasis on practical information/tools vs. theory;
- Some presenters were not prepared;
- IACD AGM combined with lunch (too hard to hear speakers and networking difficult);
- Interruption by the Raging Grannies (some liked it and some did not – most wanted to hear the end of Ron Colman’s speech);
- Democracy 250 luncheon (some liked it and some did not – question about relevance/fit with conference and no time for questions/discussion);
- More networking opportunities; and
- Hills (concerns with mobility).

INTEREST IN ATTENDING FUTURE IACD CONFERENCES⁶

- 71.9%⁷ indicated they were interested in attending future conferences – main deterrent/challenge will be to get funding for travel.

FIELD TRIP EVALUATION RESULTS SUMMARY

Total Number of Surveys Returned – 38 (26 Faces of NS; 7 Coffee & the Arts; 5 Coffee & High Tech)

- Overall satisfaction with field trips (100.0% satisfied – for all three field trips)
- This field trip helped me learn about community development work in Nova Scotia (94.4% agreed overall – 92.0% for Faces of NS; 100.0% for both Coffee trips)
- This field trip was a good networking opportunity (97.2% agreed overall – 100.0% for Faces of NS and Coffee & High Tech; 85.4% for Coffee & the Arts)
- Recommend adding field trips to future IACD conferences (100.0% yes – for all three field trips)

COMMENTS

Faces of NS:

- Good networking;
- Great hosts and bus driver;
- Wonderful food (highly satisfied);
- Beautiful scenery;
- Good opportunity for cultural learning/exposure (Acadian and Mi’kmaq); and
- Tough staying on schedule (delays and too much to cover in one trip).

⁶ Scale of 1-5, with 1 being not at all and 5 being very much.

⁷ Rated 4 or 5 on scale.

Coffee & the Arts:

- Good networking;
- Relaxed atmosphere;
- Beautiful scenery; and
- Good opportunity to learning about inspiring projects.

Coffee & High Tech:

- Good learning experience;
- Great presenters and people at the sites; and
- Needed to be more hands on.