CENTRE FOR
COMMUNITY
BASED RESEARCH

Evaluation
Applied Research
Training
Proposal Development
Facilitation and Planning
Community Mobilization

The Power of
Knowledge
to Impact
Change

communitybasedresearch.ca

CU EXPO 2011

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

JUNE 23, 2011

Respondents' distribution

Stakeholder group	Number of responses
Community member	7
Practitioner or service provider	21
Policymaker, planner or funder	5
Academic or other researcher	33
Student	6
Other (community based researcher, university staff, research support, etc)	11
Total	83

Overall conference experience

- Participants had a very positive experience of the conference
  (73% --excellent and good)

- Overall, participants appreciated the support, efforts, commitment and hard work of the conference organizers

Overall conference experience (n=58)

Poor 8%
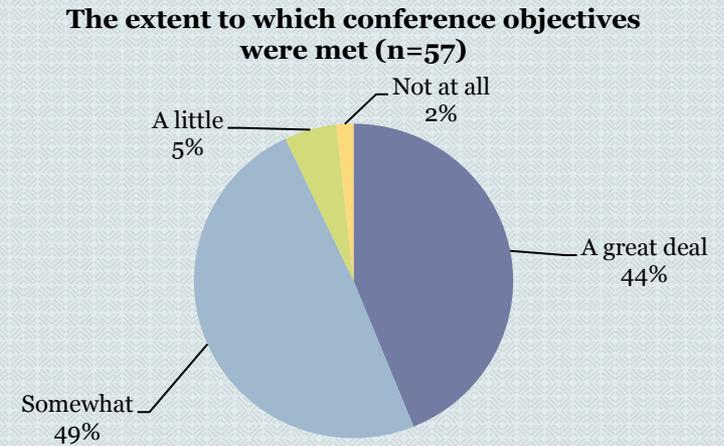
Excellent 21%

Average 19%

Good 52%
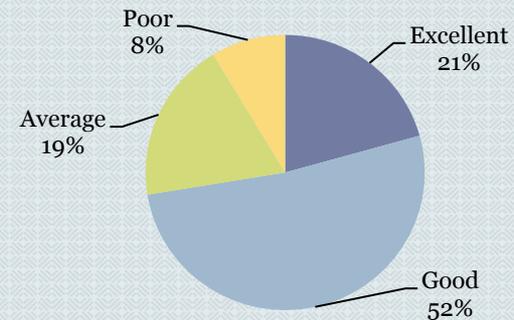
I liked group plenary / guest speakers / banquet - I enjoyed the dynamic & energy of the large group.

As always, it's great to be amongst many who are struggling with similar issues...and to celebrate with one another too. I find it inspiring for when I get back to my community. I also appreciated the efforts that the organizers put into this event - a huge undertaking!

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Conference objectives

- A large majority noted that conference met its objectives
  (93% --a great deal and somewhat)

The extent to which conference objectives were met (n=57)

Not at all 2%
A little 5%
A great deal 44%
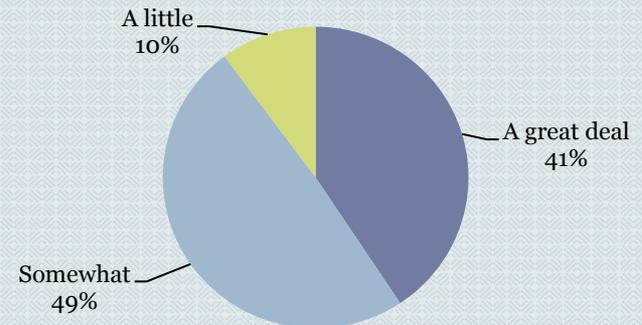Somewhat 49%

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Networking and collaboration

- Conference provided an opportunity for networking (90%--a great deal and somewhat)

- Participants were able to connect with new people and for future exchanges

The extent to which participants connect with new people at the conference (n=59)

- A little 10%
- A great deal 41%
- Somewhat 49%

The networking opportunities to meet both local and international folks. Great opportunities for future collaboration!

The side conversations I had with persons at the conference were the best part of the conference. They allowed me to make some new connections & talk about critical & substantive issues.

Connecting with some people I don't have a chance to meet on a regular basis. Also, connected with a couple of additional people for potential future exchanges.

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Conference presentations

- Conference presentations were focused and useful
  (87%--a great deal and somewhat)

- Participants appreciated the variety of presentation formats

The extent to which the presentations were useful (n=55)

A little 13%

A great deal 34%

Somewhat 53%
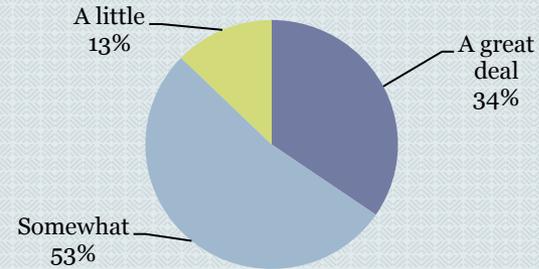
I found the skill building workshops most useful because 1) they ran for the whole timeslot allowing for greater depth in discussion. 2) they involved greater interaction with participants leading to a greater exchange of ideas, and 3) they emphasized tools that we can adapt in our own work.

Variety of types of presentation / methods of management (e.g. Oral, storytelling, workshops) - community site visits.
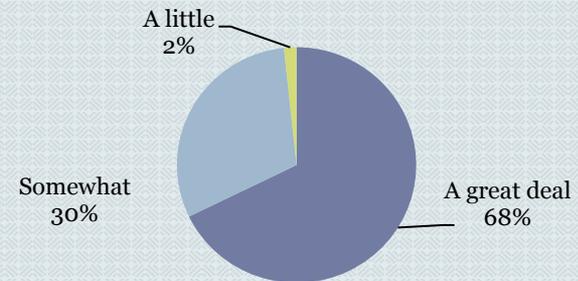
I enjoyed the mix of presentation formats creating an opportunity to learn and reflect on many different levels. The creative format was a wonderful and powerful way to convey findings that have been discovered in these community-university partnerships.

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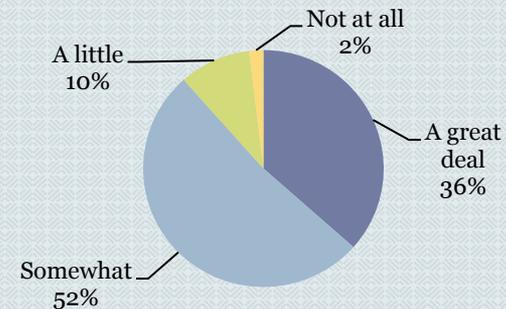
Conference presentations

- Conference presentations demonstrated a commitment to community-university partnerships
  (98%--a great deal and somewhat)

- Many participants found the group discussions useful
  (88%--a great deal and somewhat)

The extent to which the presentations demonstrated a commitment to community-university partnerships (n=59)

A little 2%

Somewhat 30%

A great deal 68%

The extent to which the small and large group discussions were useful (n=52)

Not at all 2%

A little 10%

A great deal 36%

Somewhat 52%

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Stakeholder involvement

- Conference involved range of diverse stakeholders
  (81%--a great deal and somewhat)

The extent to which the conference involved range of diverse stakeholder perspectives (n=58)

A little
19%

A great
deal
52%
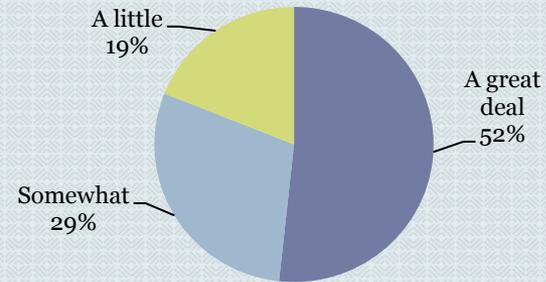
Somewhat
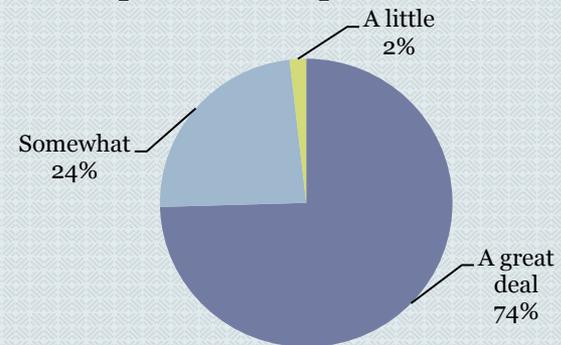29%

Conference presentations

- Conference provided the participants an opportunity to express their point of view
  (90%--a great deal and somewhat)

- Participants noted that their opinion was respected
  (98%--a great deal and somewhat)

The extent to which participants had the opportunity to express their point of view (n=58)

A little
10%

A great deal
43%
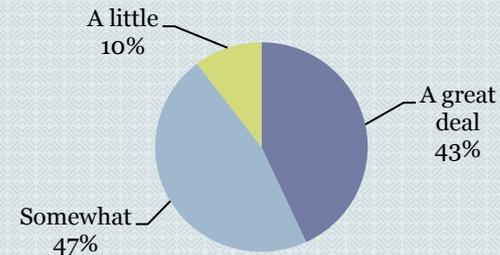
Somewhat
47%

The extent to which participants' opinion was respected (n=55)

A little
2%

Somewhat
24%

A great deal
74%

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Theatre and Night in the Park

- Participants enjoyed the theatre presentation and found it quite useful (76%--a great deal and somewhat)

- Participants enjoyed time with the community members during site visits and at Night in the Park

The extent to which the theatre presentation was useful (n=54)

- Not at all 4%
- A little 20%
- A great deal 41%
- Somewhat 35%
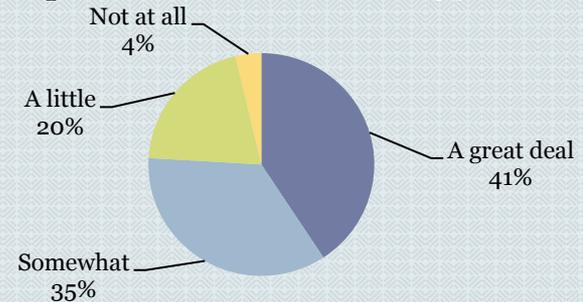
I loved the contribution that the arts made to my enjoyment; it really helps open up (reveal new perspectives)

The MT Space presentation on Tuesday evening - it was very powerful, and demonstrated an effective innovative way to create dialogue and thinking about ethics and challenges of community-university partnerships.

I thought the evening in the park event was a great addition to the programming.

Night in the Park and opportunity and community site visits were great

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Conference schedule

- Many participants found the conference schedule confusing

- Participants wanted more clarity about the schedule:

  - Include all the sessions that were in a room in the same block together

  - Provide session descriptions

  - Provide brief information about author (s)

The schedule was too full + confusing. Filling each slot with social presentations or roundtables meant delegates did not get a reasonable amount of time or info in any session… plus deciding which session to attend was difficult .

The Program document was quite useless - lots of issues with it - no information on presenters or what sessions were about. The way they were listed was very difficult to see what sessions were together in what time schedule, even links to a website if saving paper is an issue would have been useful also opportunity to network on topic or theme areas would have been useful.

Listing concurrent sessions in groupings according to the room where they were taking place

Please list sessions by room number, not alphabetically. Please either publish abstracts in program or warn us to print them out ahead of time - NOT EVERYBODY HAS A LAPTOP.

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Other comments

- Provide list of conference participants

- Provide map of campus/city

- More space for poster presentation

Give a list of attendees so I can look for people I want to meet & talk to.

I would have liked a list of the conference participants for networking

Provide map of building location in program.
directions from U of Waterloo residences were difficult to navigate
Logistical information could have been stronger - maps, bus, lunch info, etc.

Next steps

- Engage more community members and policy makers

- More international networking

We need a demystifying of the research process to increase the interest of communities to participate. Continued work in increasing the participatory element in research projects so that the act of participating in research brings about its own benefits along with the outcomes of each project.

I see the most important next step as continuing with the partnerships that we have already developed. However, we need to start building stronger connections with policy makers. Around the world

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