



ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATORS NETWORK [Canada] FORUM 2008:

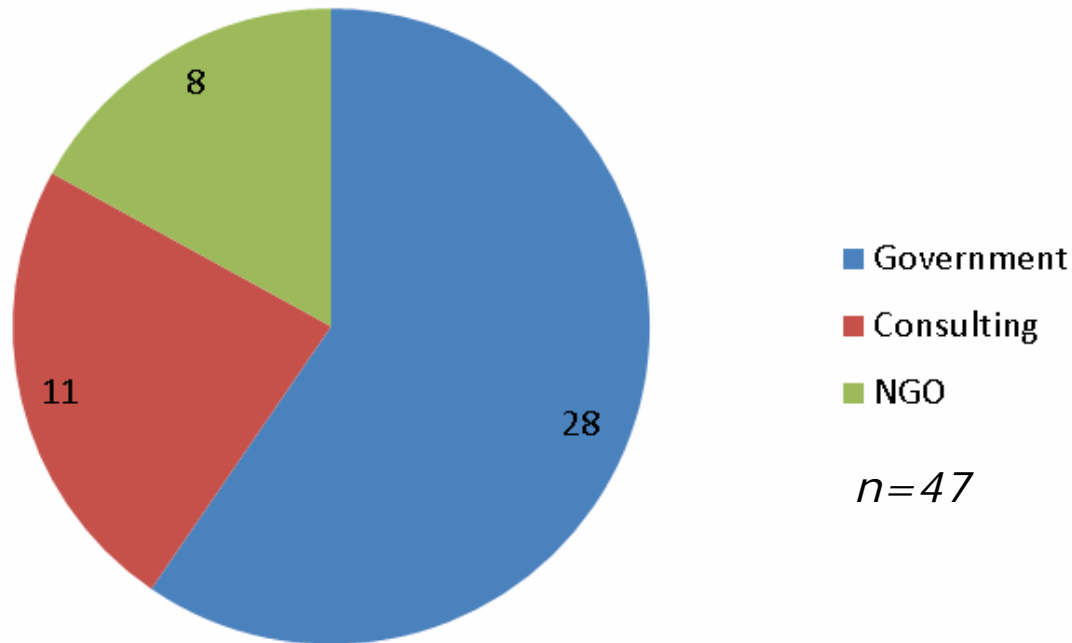
OVERVIEW OF THE PARTICIPANT SURVEY

September 25 & 26, 2008, Government Conference Centre, Ottawa, ON
A presentation by Michael Gullo on behalf of the Forum Organizing Committee

To provide you with an overview of the participants here with us today, including a brief summary of their experience, issues and concerns with respect to evaluation, and expectations for this Forum.

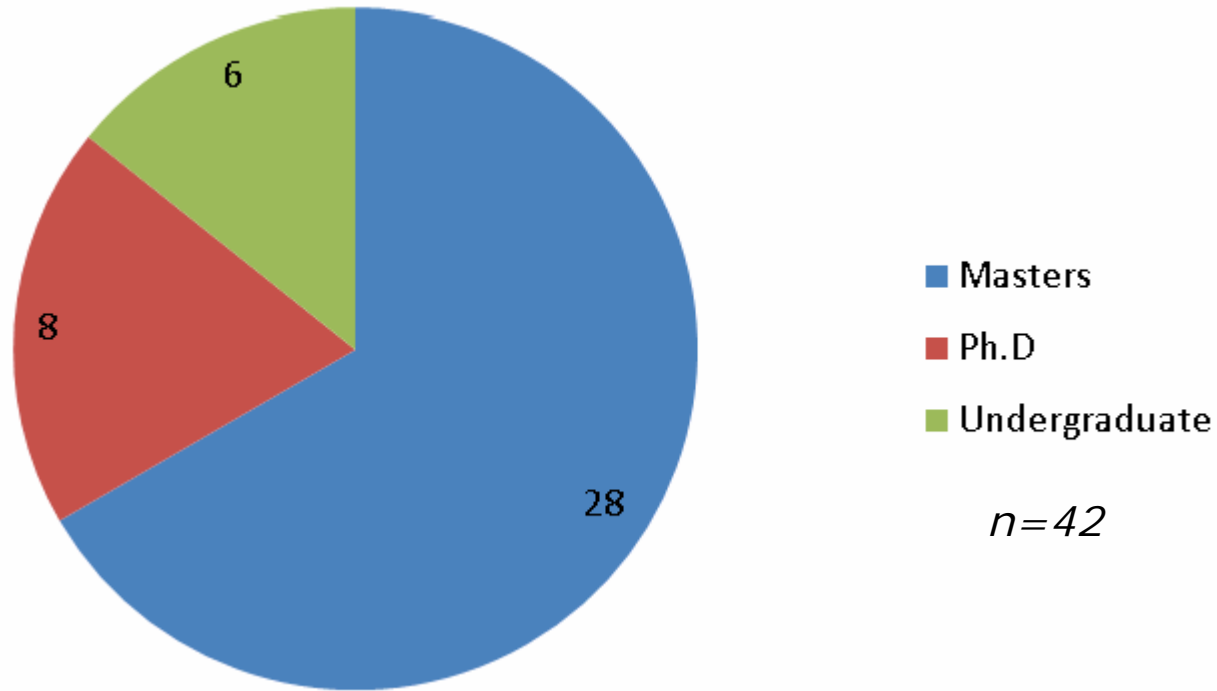
- 47 people are attending this event
- Majority from the NCR, one from Toronto, one from Washington
- Overall average people have worked in evaluation = 8.5 years

Sectors represented today:



Some smart folks!

Level of Education



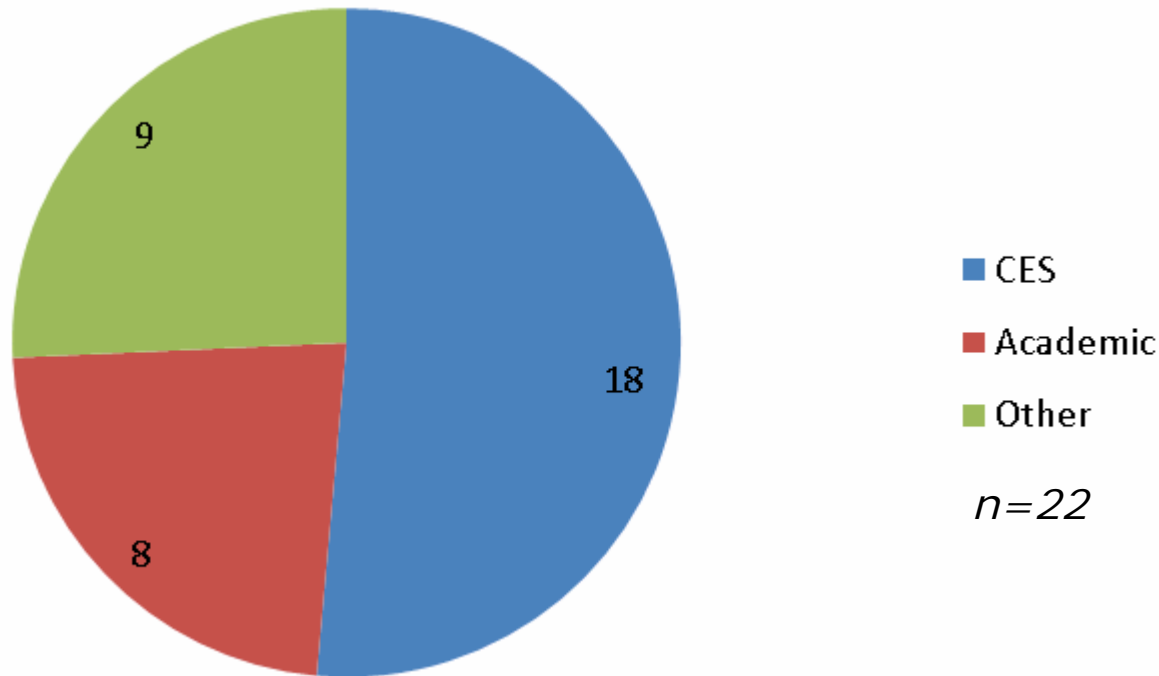
Most common undergraduate degree: Political Science, Environmental Studies, Biology

Most common Masters degree: Public Administration, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Studies

Targeted Training in Evaluation

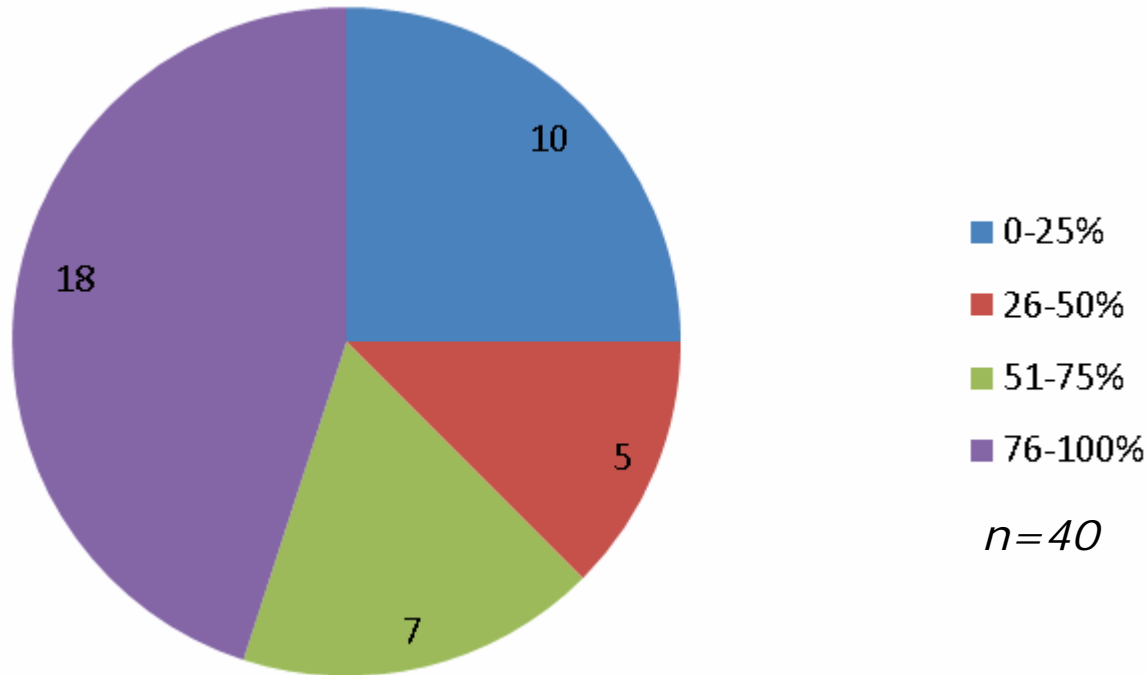
22 respondents have received formal training in evaluation

Sources include:



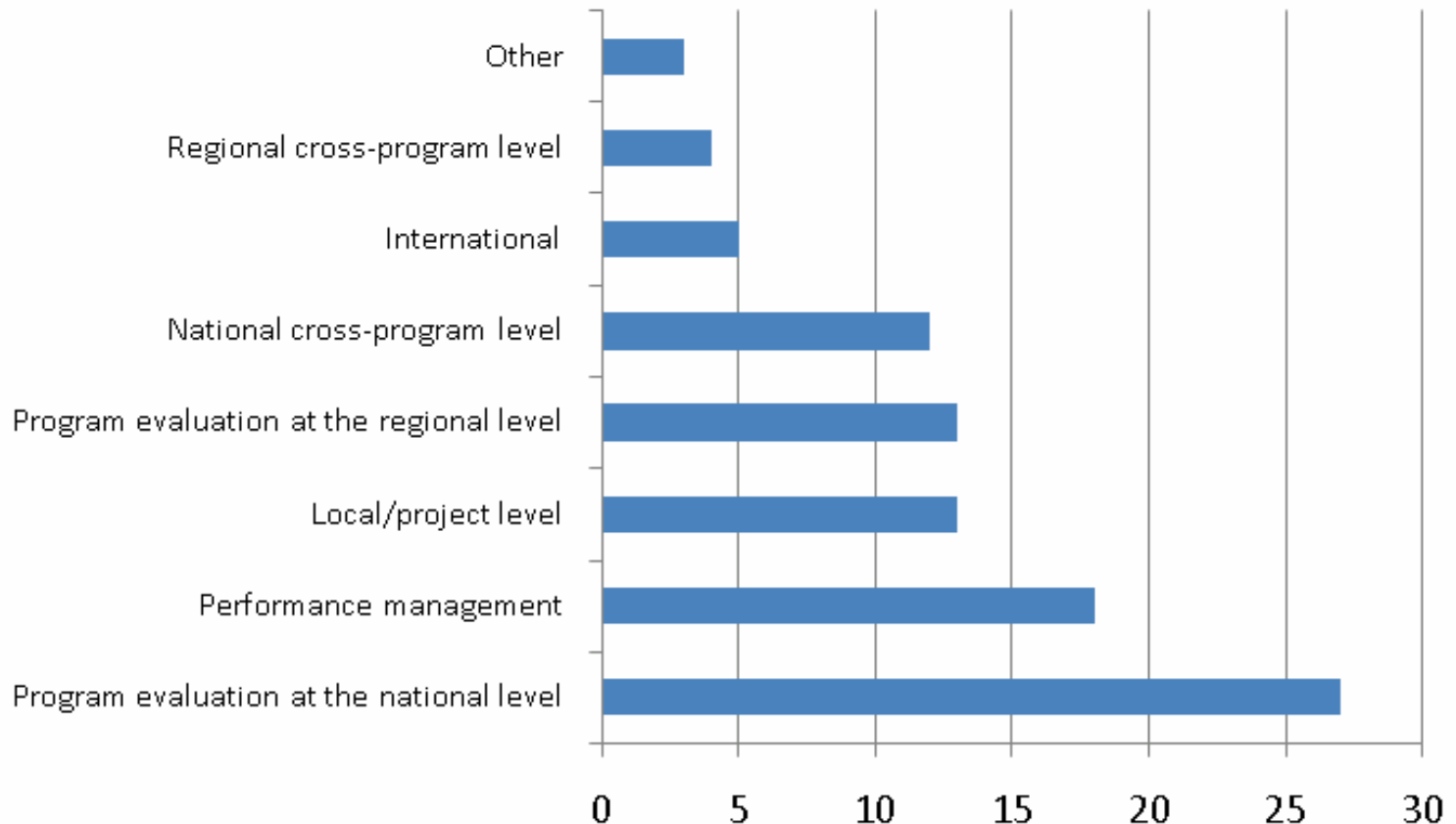
Evaluation in the Workplace

➤ % of time allocated to evaluation over the last 12 months



Involvement with Evaluation

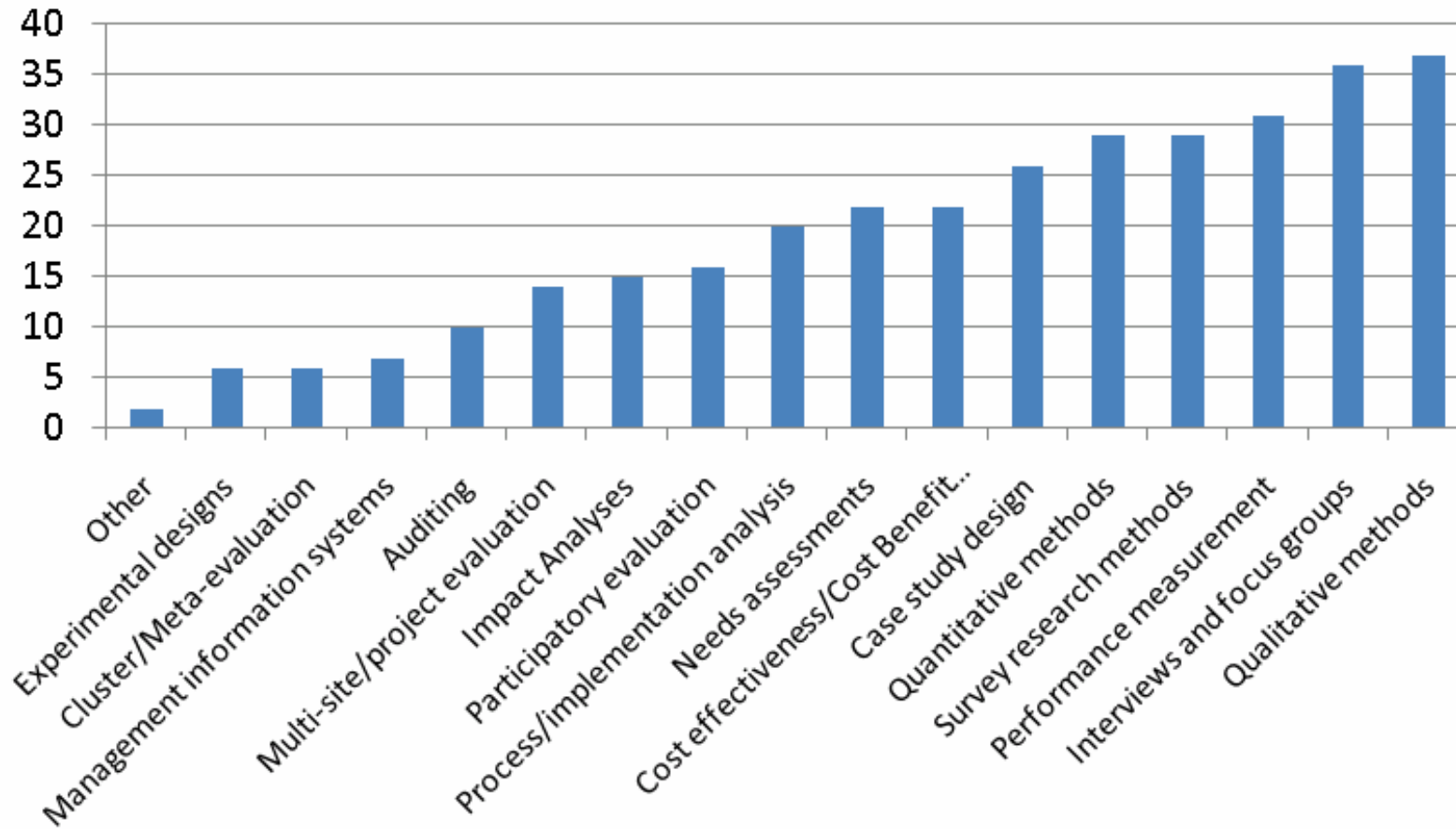
Primary areas of involvement



n=39

Experience Applying Evaluation Approaches

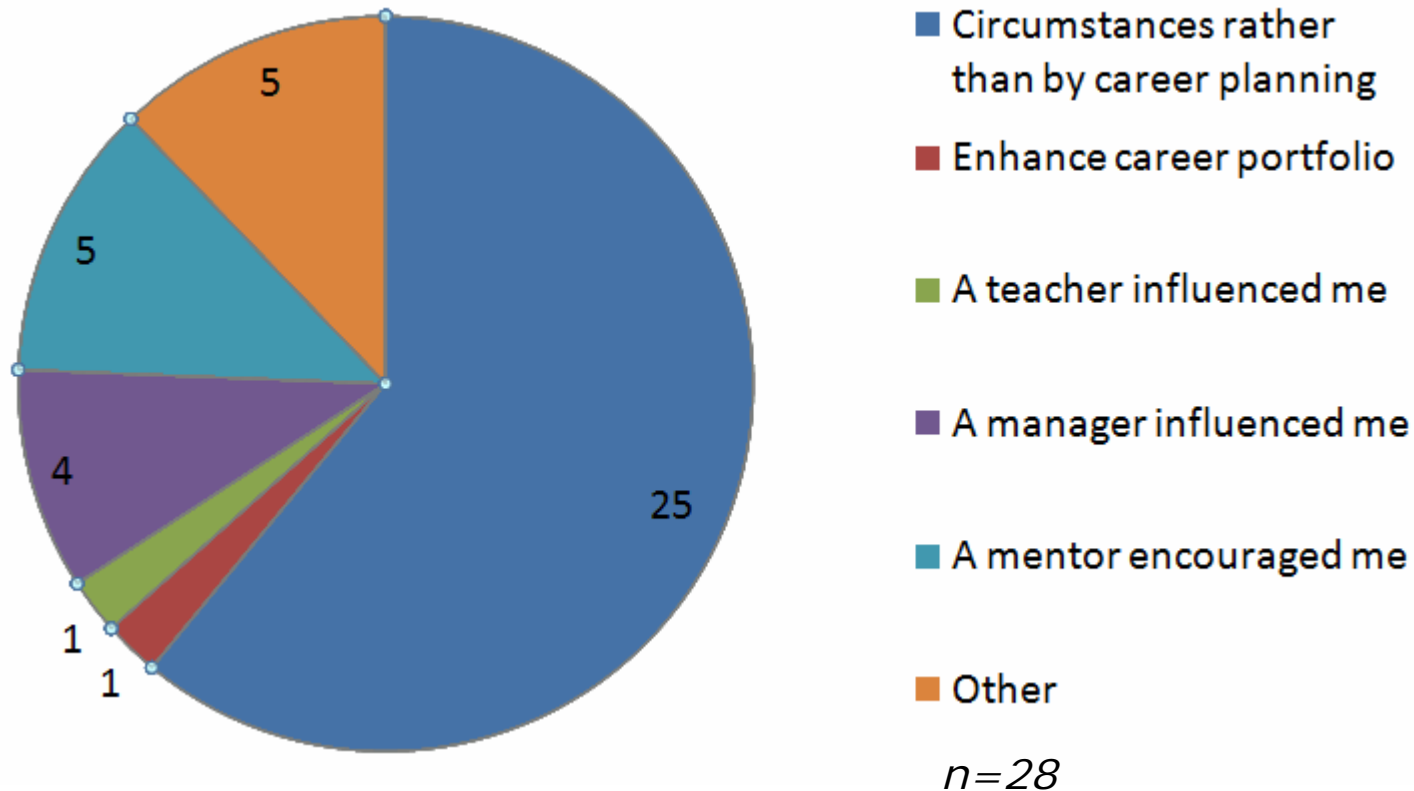
Participants are familiar with a variety of techniques



n=39

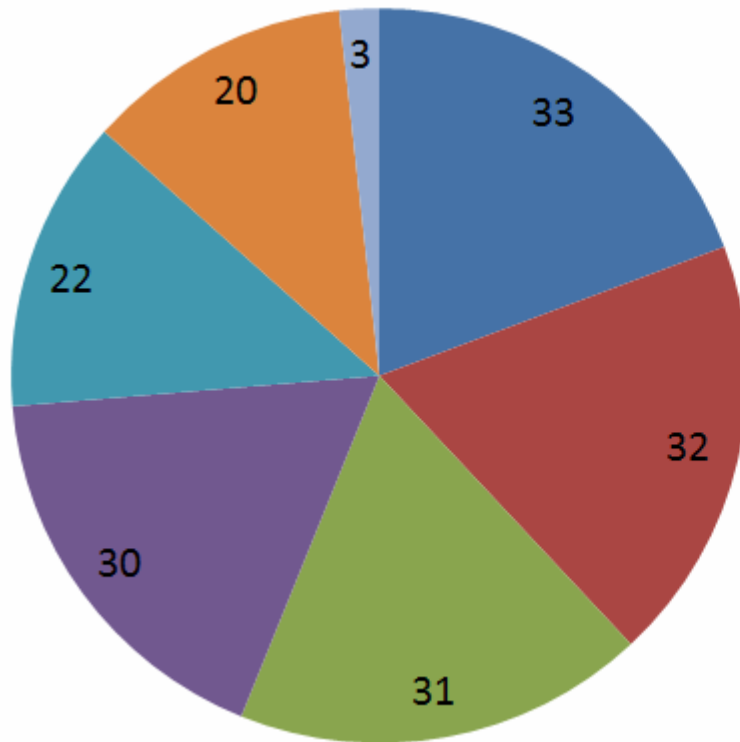
Evaluation: Fate or Virtue?

Reasons we have chosen evaluation:



Attraction to evaluation

Why we like evaluation:

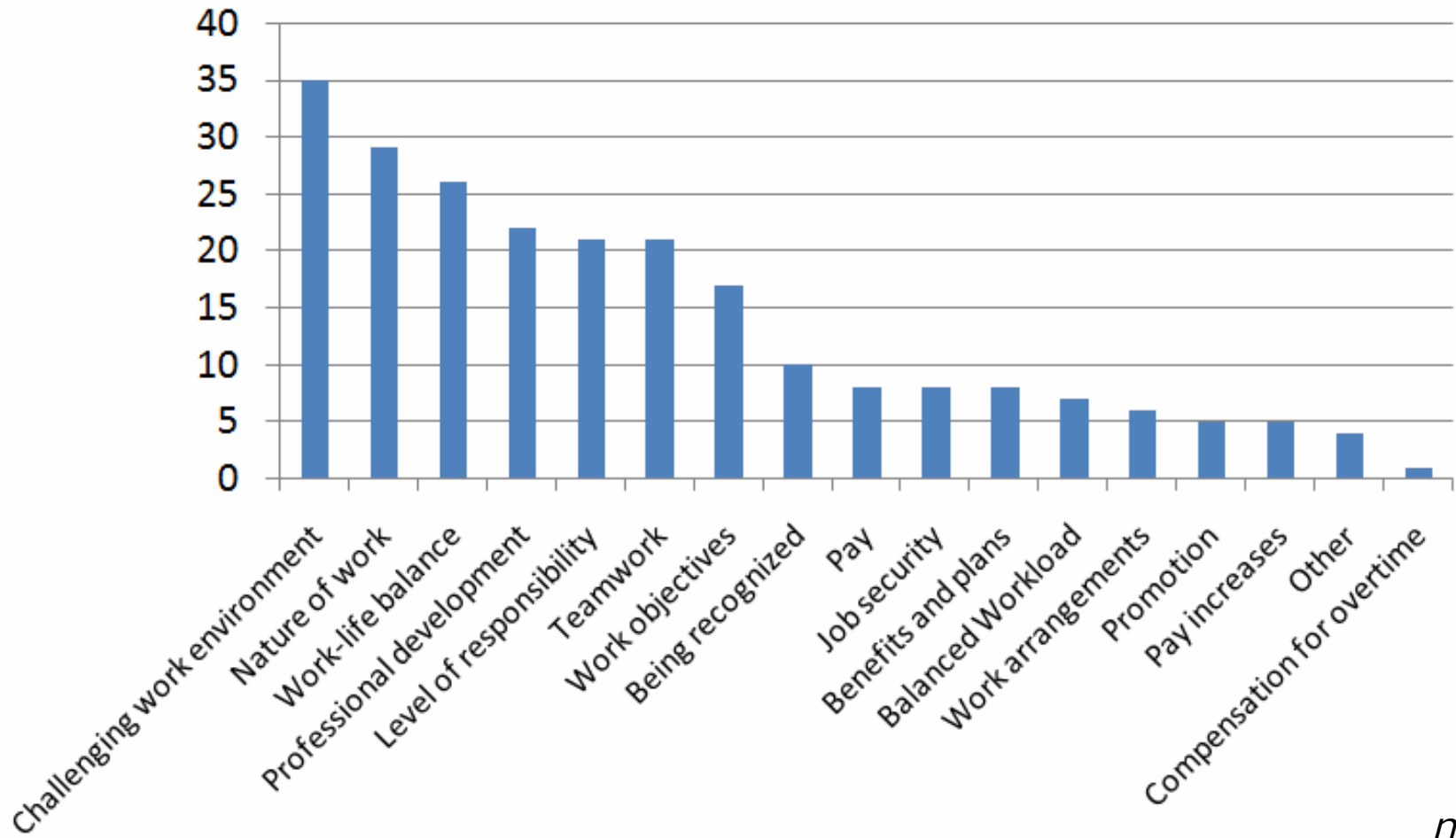


- Opportunity to inform decision-making
- Exposure to a wide variety of projects
- Intellectual challenge
- Ability to influence change
- Independence in the level of work
- Opportunity to inform how resources are used

n=38

Elements of Importance

What we value as important in our workplace:



n=36

Technical/Institutional Environmental Evaluation Issues

Our issues and concerns:

- Ability to measure short and long-term change in the results of environmental programs*
- Ability for evaluation to influence decision-making (performance vs. accountability)
- Accessibility to reliable data for measuring results
- Strategic Policy Evaluation
- Lack of capacity of the profession to meet the future professional resource demands
- Lack of an understanding of the full suite of methodologies
- Inability of the legal system to address evaluation results
- Introducing evaluation as a learning tool as opposed to an add on activity
- Lack of training and guidance materials
- Lack of funding for evaluation

Technical/Institutional Priorities to be addressed

Over the next 2 years, we would like to see:

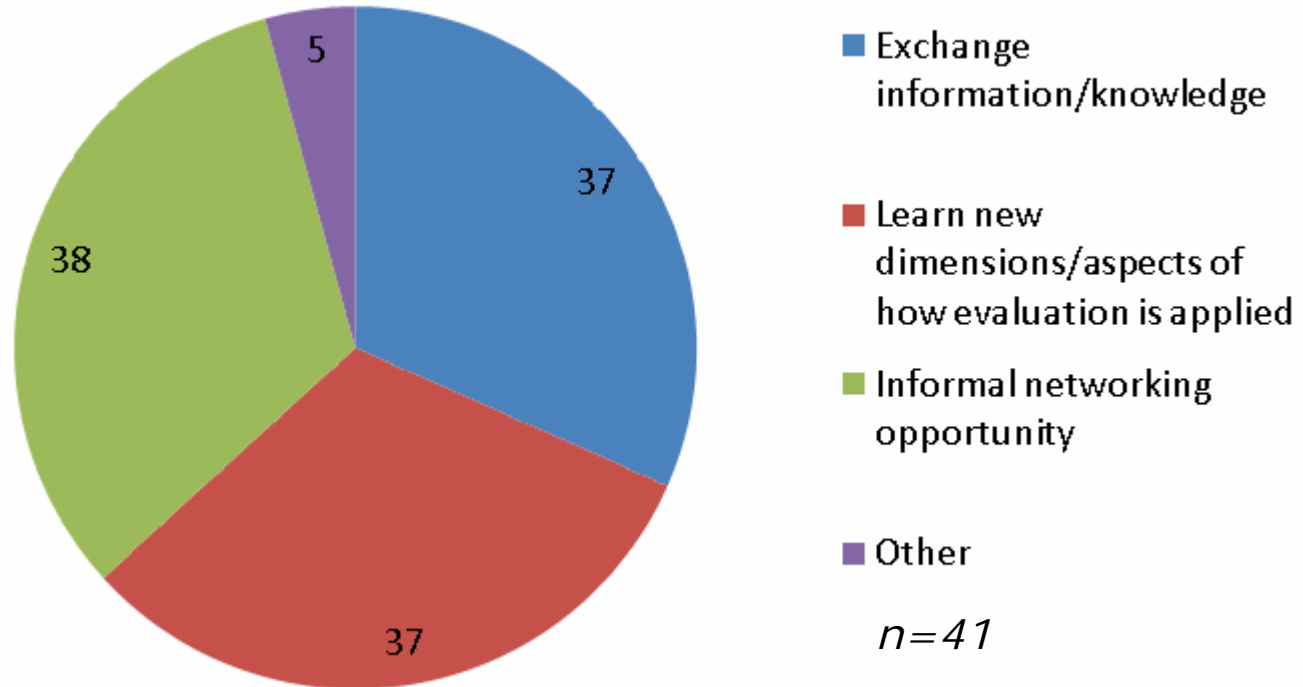
- Greater appreciation of cumulative impacts on natural environments
- More of a learning focus at the program implementation level supported by evaluation
- Greater focus on Value for Money assessments
- Developing performance indicators that are relevant, reliable, and cost-effective to collect
- More coordination between Departments with shared responsibilities
- Ensuring others that evaluation does employ a solid methodological approach
- Monitoring the outcomes and results of SDS

Technical/Institutional Priorities to be addressed

Over the next 2 years, we would like to see:

- Professional accreditation for evaluators
- Focus on our ability to measure impacts of environmental programs
- Including sustainable development as a component of evaluation
- Incorporation of the precautionary principle
- Greater understanding of how decision-making affects climate change and cumulative impacts
- Focussing on the benefits programs achieve relative to their cost and in comparison to alternatives
- Better approaches for demonstrating the links between decision making and true on the ground outcomes

Our expectations for today include:



LUNCH