

Work & Learning Network



Members Survey Report 2009

2009



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Thank you to all the members who took the time out of their busy schedules to complete the survey. The information you have provided will help the Work and Learning Network ensure that it is striving to meet the interests of its diverse membership to the best of our ability in these lean economic times.



Introduction

The member survey aimed to gather information about the WLN members, their areas of interest, what aspects of the network they accessed, future events and research interests.

The member survey was sent out to 343 members plus 3 list serves, during a three and half week period. As it was sent out over list serves, some non-members may have responded affecting the response rate and possibly the validity of the results as describing the membership. But as most people do not search out and complete surveys that do not apply to them, the likelihood of many non-members responding is small.

A total of 120 surveys were started and 100 were completed. Based on 120 surveys and 343 members we received a 35% response rate.

Member Profile

In terms of status, just over two thirds of the members are employed (66.7%). The remaining third is comprised of students, self-employed, retired, and unemployed. Those who are working are employed in the public sector - including government (23.9%), non-profit/volunteer sector (17.0%), private industry (12.5%), kinder garden – grade 12 (3.4), other (3.4%), and union/labour organizing

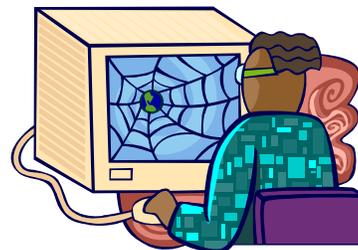
(1.1%). The vast majority work as either manger/administrators (47.6%) or professor/instructors (34.9).

Over half of the members are 35-54 years old (55.5%). The remaining 44.5% of members are split between the 18-34 and 55-74 age grouping. Three quarters (75%) of the members are female. Just slightly more than 80% of the members live in Alberta, 15% are from other provinces, and the remaining live outside of Canada.

In terms of length of time as a WLN member, 33% of respondents have been members for less than one year; 28.3% have been members for 1-2 years; 17.9 % have been members for 3-4 years; and 20.8% have been members for more than 4 years.

Website and Broadcasts

Slightly over two thirds of respondents have accessed the WLN website. The key reasons for not accessing the website for the remaining third of respondents was lack of awareness of content and lack of time.



The three most valuable web pages to respondents who accessed the website were the research page, events page, and resources page. Of the total survey respondents 25% felt that the members' page was useful. Some respondents suggested additional member information should be included, such as, phone numbers, listings by geographical location, and current research activities/interests.



In terms of the monthly broadcasts, slightly over two-thirds of the survey respondents received the broadcast. The top reasons for not subscribing to the broadcast were lack of awareness of content, and lack of time. The three most valuable aspects of the broadcast to respondents were the conferences, online publications, and event notifications.

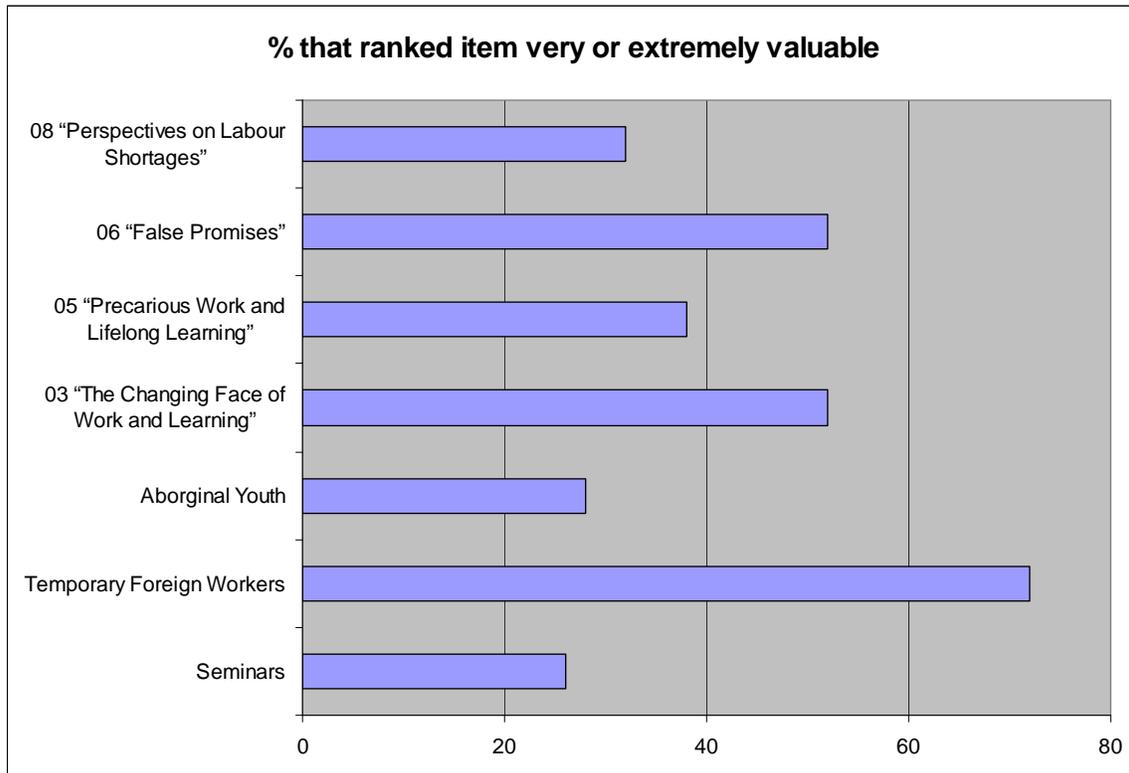
Seminars, Symposia, and Conferences

In terms of seminars, just over half of the responding members have attended seminars. The vast majority of respondents have attended 1-2 seminars (85%). The top three reasons for not attending seminars were inconvenient time of day, lack of awareness, and inconvenient location.

A smaller number of Members who responded to the survey noted attending symposia, only 14% have attended. The top three reasons for not attending symposia were lack of awareness, inconvenient time of day, and inconvenient location.

Regarding conferences, one third of respondents have attended a WLN conference. The top three reasons for not attending are similar to the reasons stated for not attending seminars and symposia: lack of awareness, inconvenient location, and inconvenient time of day.





The event that was ranked very or extremely valuable by the most respondents was the Temporary Foreign Workers Symposium. Seminars received the least percentage of respondent ranking; however they were positioned as very or extremely valuable.



Future Events

Three quarters (75%) of respondents selected seminars as the type of WLN event they would like to attend in the future. 60% would like to attend conferences, 50% selected symposiums and lastly 23% noted an interest in attending an open house.

The top five themes that respondents would like addressed were critical perspectives on work and learning; life long learning; policy development; career development; and equity issues.

The top five sectors respondents indicated an interest in hearing from



were: researchers, educators, employers, government, and non profit/voluntary sector.

Potential Research Areas

In total twenty-four respondents provided suggestions for other research areas that the WLN could explore. From these responses new five research themes emerged.

The **first** deals with examining the workplace – communication and on-the-job training – and employees' perspectives. The **second** raises issues pertaining to new Canadians entering the workforce, having their skills/training recognized and best human resource practices.

The **third** research area suggested was to examine workplace and learning equity issues. The **fourth** area suggested was aging workforce and generational issues, particularly mentoring.



The **fifth** research suggestion was to examine the impact of the current

economic situation on work and learning. Several other research suggestions were given that did not easily group into themes. They addressed issues dealing with distance on line learners, community organizations, and work-life balance.

Concluding Remarks

Once again the Director, the Board and staff of the Work and Learning Network would like to extend a thank you to all the members who took time out of their schedules to provide us with their valuable feedback.

All of the suggestions for future events, research, the website, and broadcast are being considered by the board and many will be acted upon in the up coming year.

