

Participants' Views on the 2nd Annual Ottawa Immigration Forum:

Thursday, June 27th, 8:00 a.m. -12:10 p.m.

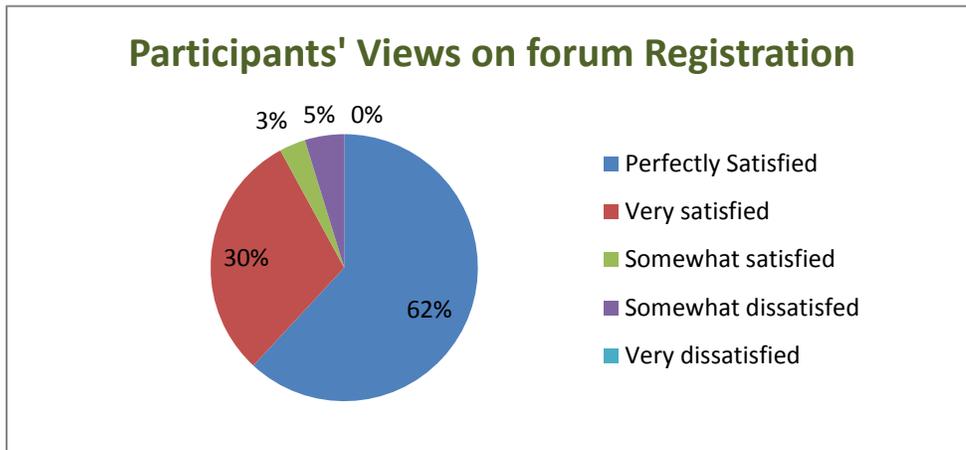
General Observations

- Ottawa Immigration Forum has matured as a key community platform for a broad range of stakeholders to come together periodically to refresh ideas and receive new learning on the current trends and issues in the immigration field. The Ottawa Immigration Forum helps stakeholders to develop new connections; and to continue reflecting and planning on best approaches in local immigrant integration initiatives, in the light of the new learning.
- Bilingual nature of the Forum enabled greater inclusion of partners, bringing more Francophone as well as Anglophone partner organizations on board, thus catering to the needs of both Francophone and Anglophone immigrant populations, and raising the profile of OLIP as a truly inclusive partnership.
- Key value of the OLIP Forums remains to be networking and partnership building opportunities; next events could benefit more from specific time built into the Program for participant interaction, including small discussion sessions on topics of common interest.
- As a leading community event on reflecting and facilitating community-wide planning on local immigration issues the expectation on the choice of Forum themes is very high; for the next Forums it would be important to consult a broader stakeholder group to arrive at a choice of the theme(s) that is deemed as most important, making it a truly community event from the planning stage.
- Forum is a significant vehicle to reinforce OLIP's continued value and legitimacy in the community, insuring high level stakeholder participation throughout its work-cycle. For this, it is important to continue featuring the achievements, as well as clearly communicate how the Forum and OLIP mechanisms at large work to leverage and enhance partners' individual work. Explicit discussion and explanation on the mechanisms, as well as using the Forum itself for more integrative community activities would help maintain traction towards OLIP.

Participant Feedback on Forum Components

1. Forum Registration

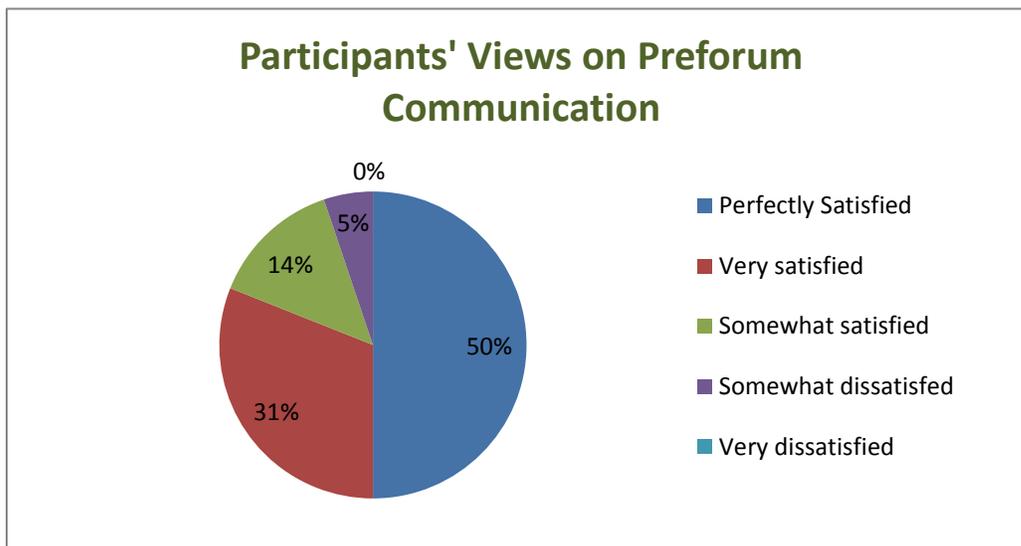
Forum participants expressed a very high level of satisfaction with Forum registration: 92% of respondents were either perfectly satisfied or very satisfied.



2. Pre-Forum Communication

Overall, pre-forum communication was deemed as very satisfactory. However two participants indicated the following concerns:

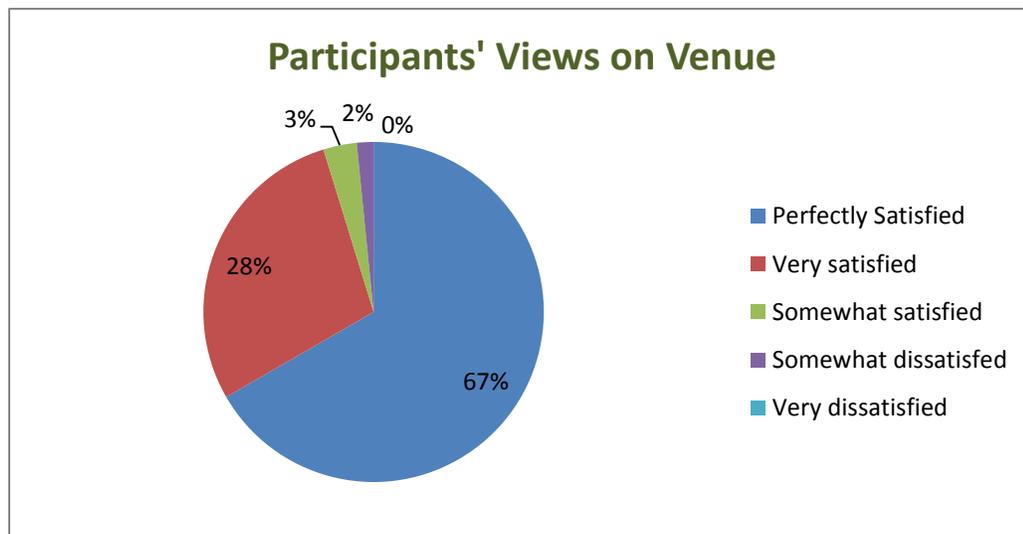
- Google map on the Eventbrite showed a wrong location (although the address was right in all other communication).
- More information on Forum themes and presentations in advance would have further enhanced engagement.



3. Venue

Survey respondents expressed a very high level of satisfaction with the Forum venue. They saw the 2013 Forum venue to be a huge improvement from the 2012 Forum venue. Close and cosy atmosphere helped to focus and engage better, and the acoustics was much better. Still, a few concerns were expressed – these include:

- Proximity to other event held next door (having to walk through their registration area) created confusion and wrong walk-ins to both events.
- Sound isolation from the event next door was not perfect.
- Downtown parking was challenging.

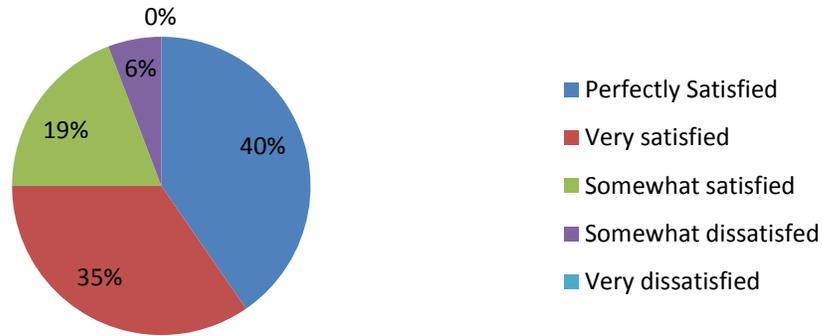


4. Bilingualism

The Forum aimed to be a Bilingual event, with more francophone speakers, simultaneous translation (albeit in limited quantity of headsets), and Forum packages in both official languages. Participants expressed a great satisfaction with the Forum as a Bilingual event. One participant said that the greater attention paid to achieving a Bilingual event raised OLIP's profile as a bilingual entity, satisfied OLIP's francophone partners, and generating higher level of interest. Still, a few concerns were communicated by some participants – these are:

- Simultaneous interpretation was only one way
- One way interpretation disadvantaged the Anglophone participants.

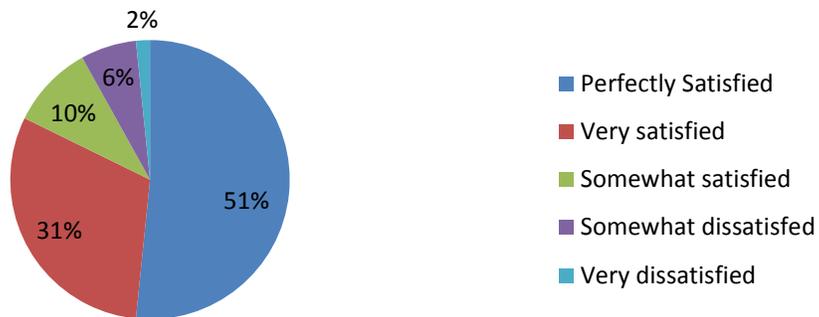
Participants' views on Bilingualism



5. Keynote Speaker

Almost all respondents deemed the Keynote Speech by Gerry Clement, former Assistant Deputy Minister of Manitoba Labour and Immigration- to be the highlight of the Forum. The breadth of the information presented using the examples of Manitoba best practice was highly appreciated. The content of the Keynote speech was seen to have implications for various sectors. The time allotted for Q&A was highly appreciated.

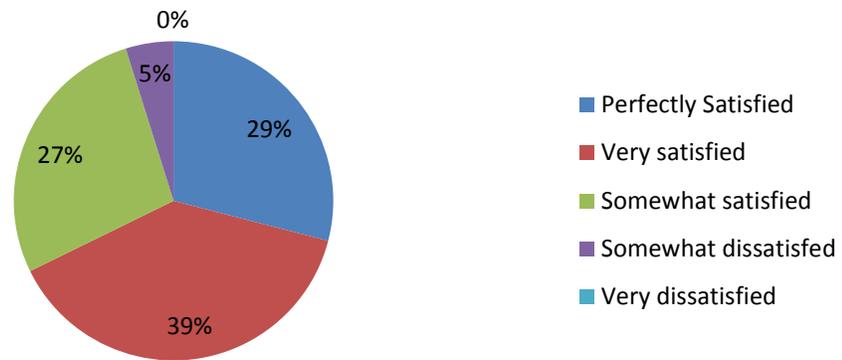
Participants' Views on Keynote Speaker



6. Panel Discussion

The theme of international student attraction and integration was deemed as timely and the discussion – informative. However, a few participants shared that there was a feeling that the session was rushed, with not enough time to thoroughly engage in Q&A.

Participants' views on Panel discussion



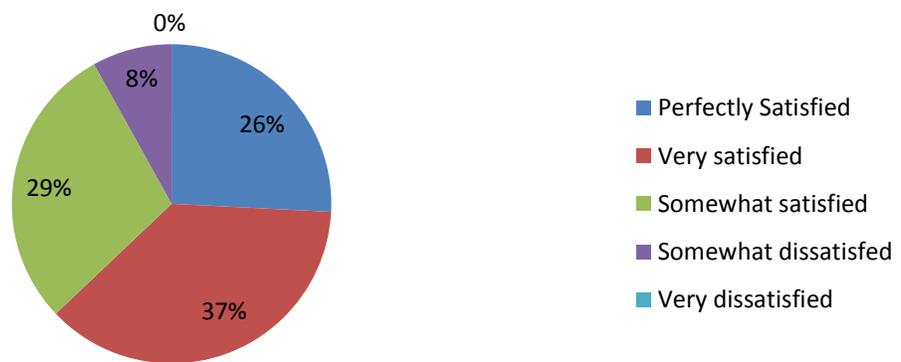
7. Networking Opportunities

Majority of survey respondents were either perfectly satisfied (26%), or very satisfied (37%) with the opportunities provided for networking during the Forum. However, compared to the other components of the Forum, Networking Opportunities were not a major area of satisfaction. Drawing from participant feedback, this could be explained by the fact that the Forum did not include specific sessions designed for participant engagement and round table discussions.

The following suggestions for improvement were offered:

- Ice-breaking initiatives to encourage more participant interaction with each other.
- More booth displays by partner organizations as a way of encouraging interaction.
- More group discussion sessions around the areas of common interest.

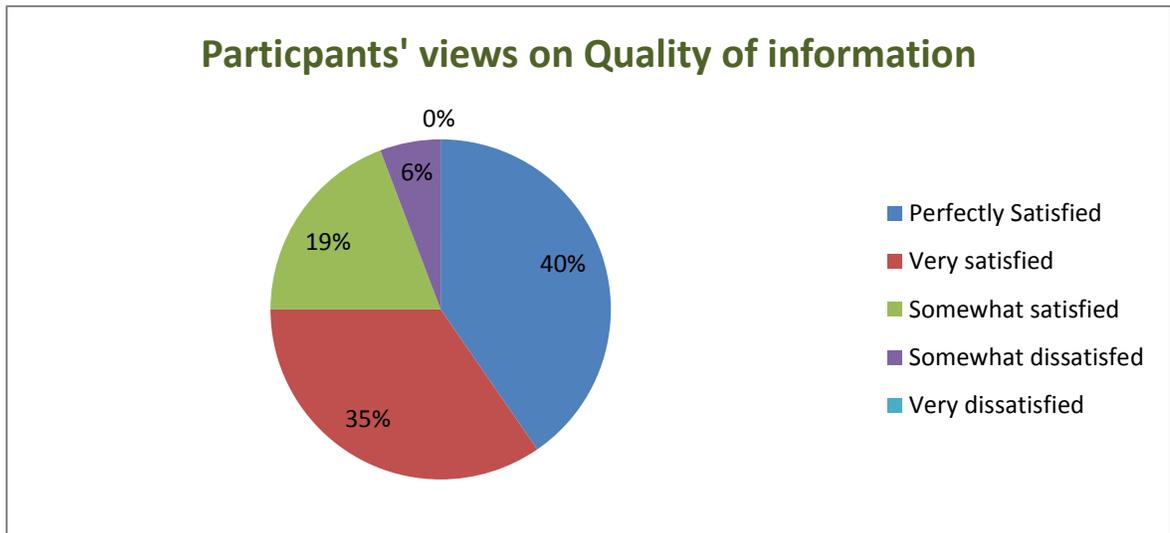
Participants' views on Networking opportunities



8. Quality of information

Overall, Forum participants' feedback reflects a very high level of satisfaction with the caliber of speakers and quality of information provided and presented by speakers. The following suggestions for improvement were provided:

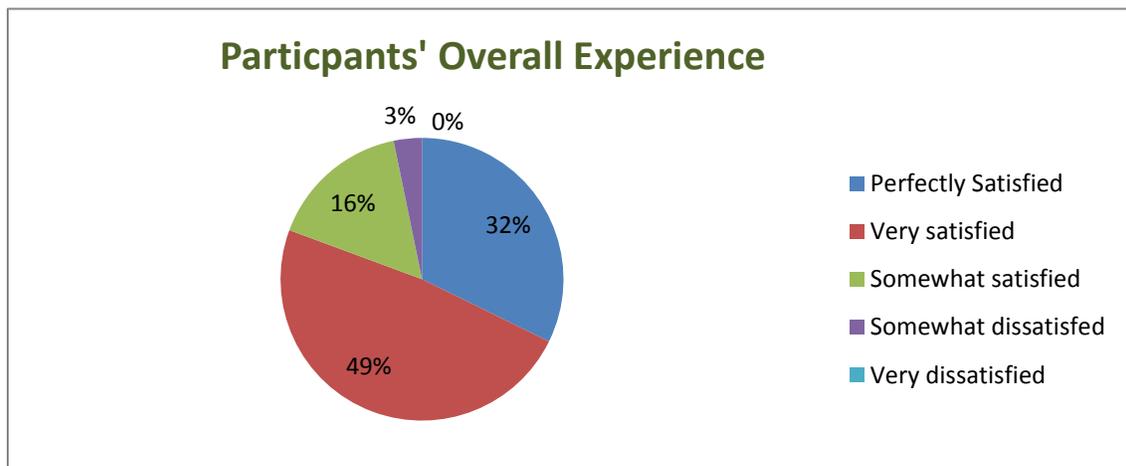
- Involve more stakeholders in the selection of the Forum Theme.
- Ideas Box for participant suggestions of themes and pressing issues to be addressed by OLIP in future events was suggested.



9. Overall Experience

Respondents of the Forum evaluation survey expressed a high level of overall satisfaction with the 2nd Annual Ottawa Immigration Forum. A large majority of respondents (81%) were either perfectly satisfied or very satisfied. Some of the respondents provided the following suggestions for overall improvement:

- More discussion on concrete achievements of OLIP in mobilizing and leading the community around the Ottawa Immigration Strategy; community discussion on what's working well, challenges and how to move forward to promote OLIP vision and strategic objectives.
- A longer event with thorough discussion and engagement opportunities.



Suggestions for further improvement

- Keep the overall Forum planning and implementation process closer to the community, making it truly participatory.
- Constantly improve and communicate the OLIP mechanisms of community engagement; make the Forums advance learning and planning on selected issues in frames of the OIS, as well as consolidating the community integration and collective planning processes.
- Build in more networking, partnership building and discussion opportunities based on thematic interests of participants, as well as to forge inter-sectorial partnerships.
- Maintain and improve the bilingual nature of the Ottawa Immigration Forums for equity and inclusion of all.

About the 2nd Annual Ottawa Immigration Forum Feedback Survey

Response rate: 28 percent - 64 participants provided completed feedback forms (44 English and 20 French) out of 232 participants (26 individuals out of the total of 258 Forum attendees were not asked to fill the feedback form because they were Forum organizers or volunteers)

Survey questions:

1. *Please rate your level of satisfaction with each of the following components of the Forum:*
Pre-Forum Communication; Registration; Venue; Keynote Speaker; Panel Discussion; Networking Opportunities; Bilingualism; Quality of Information; Overall Experience.

Participants were given a scale of five to report their level of satisfaction: Perfectly satisfied; Very satisfied; Somewhat satisfied; Somewhat dissatisfied; Very dissatisfied.
2. *What did you find most valuable about the Forum to advance your work in the field of immigrant attraction and integration?*
3. *What suggestions would you have for the improvement of the next Forums?*

A combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis was performed to arrive at the findings of this summary report.