



# CYS Symposium Evaluation

## Evaluation Results, Question 1 - Ratings

	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Fair	Poor
a. Overall satisfaction with the symposium	19	23	1	2	2
89.4%	40.4%	48.9%	2.1%	4.3%	4.3%
b. Overall satisfaction with the geographic location of the facility	18	22	7	2	
81.6%	36.7%	44.9%	14.3%	4.1%	
c. Overall satisfaction with the facility (Best Western, Dart.)	18	24	4		2
87.5%	37.5%	50.0%	8.3%	0.0%	4.2%
d. Leaders of Today (LOT) Facilitation/ Involvement	34	13		2	
95.9%	69.4%	26.5%	0.0%	4.1%	0.0%
e. Promising Practices presentations	18	26	3	2	
89.8%	36.7%	53.1%	6.1%	4.1%	0.0%
f. Discussion on best ways for youth/adults to interact	17	21	2	3	2
84.4%	37.8%	46.7%	4.4%	6.7%	4.4%
g. Youth Keynote presentations about their work/volunteerism/action	24	13	2	2	
90.2%	58.5%	31.7%	4.9%	4.9%	0.0%
h. Socratic Circle on Provincial Strategies	28	12	4	2	1
85.1%	59.6%	25.5%	8.5%	4.3%	2.1%
i. Update on CYS Focus Areas and other provincial CYS work	12	21	8	6	2
67.3%	24.5%	42.9%	16.3%	12.2%	4.1%
j. Graphic Facilitation Symposium review	28	11	7	1	
83.0%	59.6%	23.4%	14.9%	2.1%	0.0%
k. Regional planning discussions	11	27	2	4	2
82.6%	23.9%	58.7%	4.3%	8.7%	4.3%
l. Overall satisfaction with the evening social	13	12	8	1	
73.5%	38.2%	35.3%	23.5%	2.9%	0.0%
m. Overall satisfaction with the Children's welcome	23	14	1	3	1
88.1%	54.8%	33.3%	2.4%	7.1%	2.4%

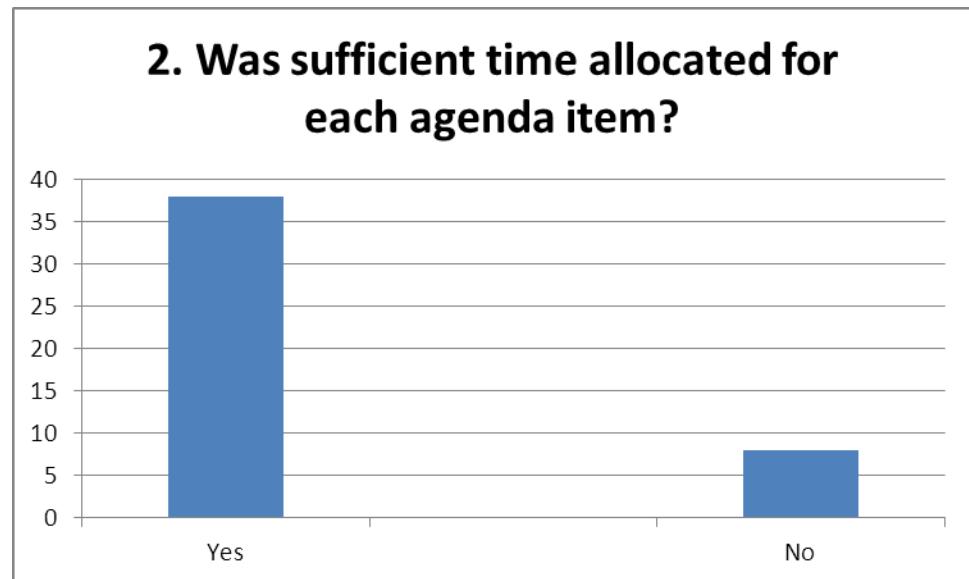
### Analysis

- Overall satisfaction with the symposium is quite high – 89.4 % of 47 respondent's satisfaction was “Excellent” (40.4) or “good” (48.9). It wasn't an overwhelming sentiment since more leaned towards “good” than “excellent”.
- Satisfaction with the LOT youth facilitators had the highest rating – fully 69.4% felt their work was “Excellent” and 95.9% felt it was “excellent” or “good”.
- The youth keynote presentations, the Socratic Circle and the graphic presentation all had very positive ratings.
- The lowest rating (though still favoured by just over 2/3) was the update on provincial CYS work.

## Evaluation Results, Questions 2-7 - Ratings

2. Was sufficient time allocated for each agenda item?

Yes	No
38	8
82.6%	17.4%



2. The majority felt there was sufficient time for each agenda items, good representation and ample time to share knowledge. A majority still felt there was enough time to engage in dialogue on complex issues. But, it was a much reduced majority (63.0%).

There were only 2 comments on time allocated:

"A few times I wished we could have let the big group/circle run a little longer but, otherwise fine"

"Regional discussion - not enough time - no time to develop actions and action for who? (CAYS regional table)?"

4. Do you believe there was a good representation from the various sectors?

Yes

35

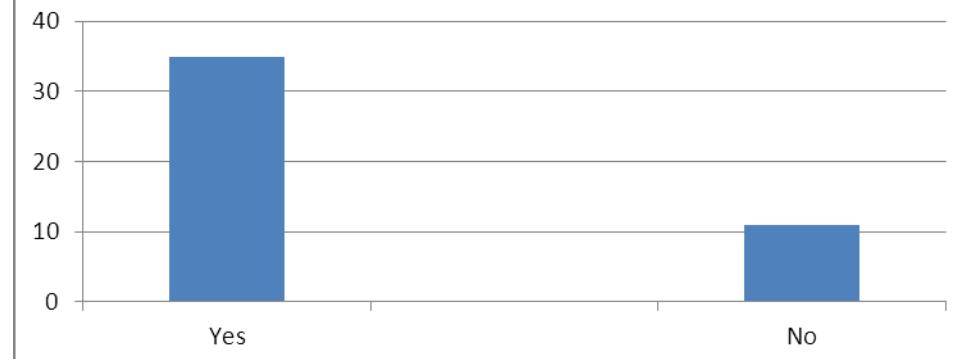
76.1%

No

11

23.9%

**4. Do you believe there was a good representation from the various sectors?**



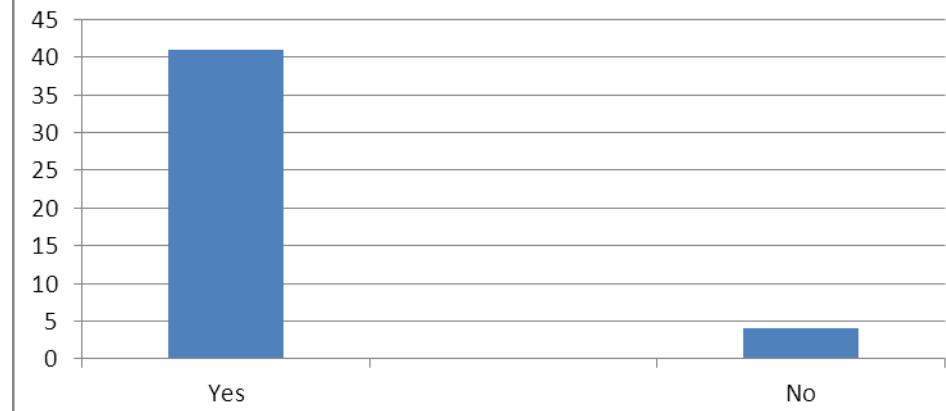
4. 76% felt there was good representation from various sectors. A few respondents suggested there could have been more of the following groups:

- Youth peer groups (3)
- Other government orgs (3)
- Other community orgs (6)
- More youth (2)
- More Diversity (4)
- Front line staff (4)

5. Was there ample opportunity to share knowledge?

	Yes	No
	41	4
	91.1%	8.9%

## 5. Was there ample opportunity to share knowledge?



5. Fully 91% felt there was ample time to share knowledge. There was a few comments:

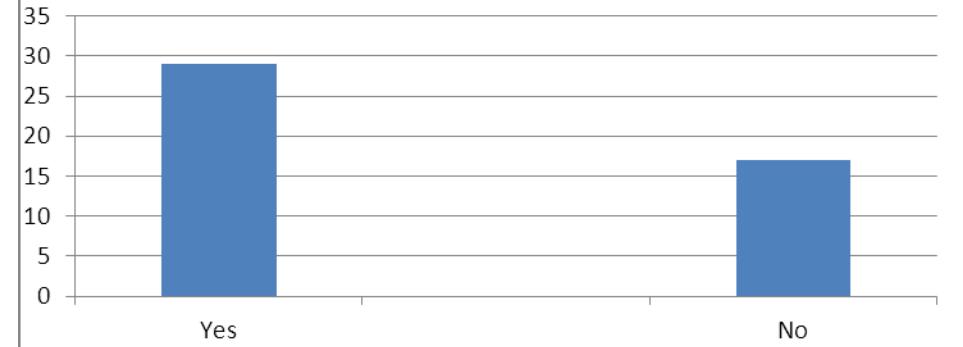
- “Internal discussions were not allowed”
- “More listening and being told than sharing”
- “never enough”

A reduced majority felt there was enough time to engage in dialogue on complex issues. (63.0%).

6. Was there ample opportunity to engage in dialogue to address complex social issues?

Yes	No
29	17
63.0%	37.0%

**6. Was there ample opportunity to engage in dialogue to address complex social issues?**



6. A reduced majority felt there was enough time to engage in dialogue on complex issues. (63.0%).

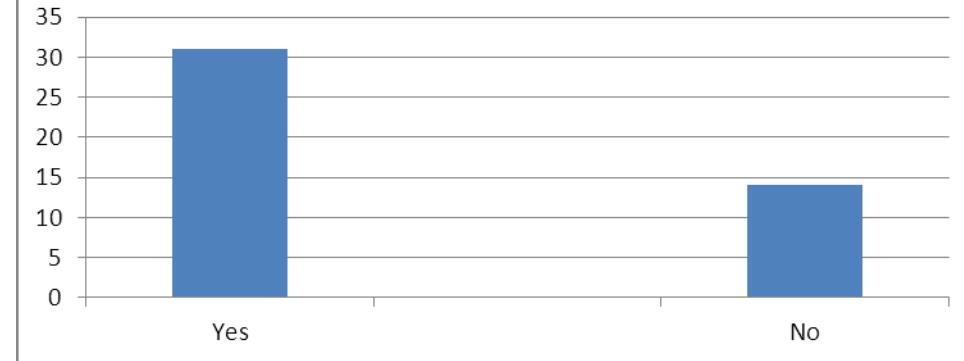
Some of the comments:

- "I didn't feel "real" issues were described - youth were not actually asked what is happening with them."
- "More time for discussion needed"
- "No problem solving or next steps identified at all"
- "More listening and being told than sharing"
- "never enough"
- "everything has a time and a place and the symposium with multiple agenda items does not allow for this"
- "Unpack the complex issues and to see how strategy connects"
- "Only one type of mode"

7. Was there ample opportunity to hear what is happening with children, youth, and families?

Yes	No
31	14
68.9%	31.1%

**7. Was there ample opportunity to hear what is happening with children, youth, and families?**



7. Again, a reduced majority felt there was sufficient opportunity to hear what is happening with children, youth, and families.

Appendix 2 contains comments recorded for questions 2-7.

9. What suggestions do you have for improving future symposiums?

All the comments on Question 9 are in Appendix 3. The most frequent comments were:

- More youth involvement or leadership (4)
- Hold regional forums prior to the symposium (5)
- Keep to work hours (3)
- Focus on tangible results – action items as takeaways (4)
- More youth diversity (2)
- Go deeper on complex stuff (2)
- More of a focus on CYS work with children and families (2)

## Appendix 1 Evaluation Questionnaire

Child and Youth Strategy Symposium October 9 & 10, 2013

1. Please let us know what you thought of the Symposium by rating the following:

	Excellent	Good	Neutral	Fair	Poor
a. Overall satisfaction with the symposium	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b. Overall satisfaction with the geographic location of the facility	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c. Overall satisfaction with the facility (Best Western, Dartmouth)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d. Leaders of Today (LOT) Facilitation/ Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e. Promising Practices presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>				
f. Discussion on best ways for youth/adults to interact	<input type="checkbox"/>				
g. Youth Keynote presentations about their work/volunteerism/action	<input type="checkbox"/>				
h. Socratic Circle on Provincial Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/>				
i. Update on CYS Focus Areas and other provincial CYS work	<input type="checkbox"/>				
j. Graphic Facilitation Symposium review	<input type="checkbox"/>				
k. Regional planning discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
l. Overall satisfaction with the evening social	<input type="checkbox"/>				
m. Overall satisfaction with the Children's welcome	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2. Was sufficient time allocated for each agenda item?

Yes  No

3. The purposes of the symposium were to:

- a. Build connections and relationships (networking)
- b. Exchange knowledge (e.g., Promising Practices)
- c. Engage in dialogue to address complex social issues
- d. Information sharing re: what is happening with children, youth, and families
- e. Regional planning discussions

4. Do you believe there was a good representation from the various sectors?

Yes  No

If not, who did we forget?

5. Was there ample opportunity to share knowledge?

Yes  No

6. Was there ample opportunity to engage in dialogue to address complex social issues?

Yes  No

7. Was there ample opportunity to hear what is happening with children, youth, and families

Yes  No

Comments on any of the above questions:

8. What will you take away from the symposium?

9. What suggestions do you have for improving future symposiums?

## Appendix 2 Comments on Questions 2-7

1. Energy on the first day was great - Socratic circle day 2 needed some stretch breaks, but very interesting style. Difficult to do planning late in the program (just tired) but understand the reasoning. Very hazy on the CYS focus/ - could have varied presentation style for this one. REALLY appreciated the unique style of the event - something about day 2 planning/purpose needs some tightening.
9. Now is the time to put words into action - all good stuff.
11. There still has to be a way to connect policy and frontline people both in government and community. Excellent ideas and great statements made but not sure if they truly represent the reality of what the majority of families and young people face.
12. Written in- We consistently seem to miss our conversation about children & families. BUT hit high on youth.
15. The youth who attended were awesome
16. I think a larger focus on "what to do" next is necessary. I'm leaving the symposium still feeling unclear on what actions to take. I involve youth and want to keep doing so but funding is an issue.
17. LOT involvement was great. I think even more from them would have been. Maybe have LOT completely facilitate.
19. I would like to say I am very glad to have been part of this and it was important to be here.
20. Wonderful, uplifting, thought provoking
21. I feel the symposium needs to be open more to regular community and youth led
22. Good questions
24. Not sure how I benefitted from kids singing. Tables to eat are helpful.
29. Very uncomfortable setting. Room not conducive to large activities or even small activities. The circle discussions do not engage all of us in the room? Those of us in large circle only observe?? Having McDonalds meal not appropriate given nutritional standards. Artist work very distracting. What is the point of the charts?
30. The forum allowed very little time for natural, genuine networking - If conversations happening were not on the agenda, they were discouraged and cut short with sarcastic and judgemental comments. Would be nice to acknowledge some positive practises displayed by adults participating in govt. There are some positive practises happening. Let's focus on that. Too much focus on negative. Let's BUILD ON THE POSITIVE practises.
34. Great job. It is hard to meet everyone's needs.
35. Best one yet! Well-planned and run. LOT youth continues to blow me away!
36. Wow!
37. Bit more time for discussions
40. Chairs/circle was difficult as it became oral.....hard to see all. I think LOT could have done more re: facilitation/Involvement (friendly comment). One promising practise presentation was quite unclear/rambly. One of the Youth Keynotes was just a prepared speech....not a real youth voice....very tokenism. Socratic circle was so honest. Update on CYS Focus areas and provincial work could have been more visual or engaging. Children's welcome was adorable! - safe space check-in? youth engaged? meaningful? adult engaged? meaningful?
41. I still don't think we're speaking about those who do not (will not) cannot or whatever access the services needed for their children despite the efforts of many agencies that go to their homes, drive them to school, go to their schools, counties, etc. offer child care,

etc. etc. At some point someone needs to make parents accountable and insist they take part in the services offered. We're losing a generation despite everyone's best efforts.

44. Loved the youth's involvement & learning what youth are doing in their own communities/evening presentation. We could all learn something from them!

48. Would have liked to hear more from the youth what the hardest issues are (drugs, sexual violence, family violence) and what they want to see us do with our money

## Appendix 3 – Take Aways

### 8. What will you take away from the symposium?

1. I miss engaging with youth! Management needs to make opportunities to spend time together to inform & invigorate work in our departments - not enough to hear via front line staff, but to experience directly. Depts. ED and Health and Wellness need to co-deliver, co-present, co-fund initiatives to help decrease silos & impact/effectiveness. It's getting better!
2. More knowledge on some of the great work happening across NS.
3. More awareness of work happening across the province. Energy for this work. Chance to renew connect and make new ones.
4. Youth energy
5. The passion everyone has for their work. New connections with my region.
7. Networking connections and chances for collaboration.
9. Energy to see things happen in my region (Western)
11. The determination to keep plugging away to keep it real and simple - have what we have done benefitted youth & families in some lasting and meaningful way.
12. Ensure "unclarity" is not brought into the room (such as "not sure" if there will be redirection)
13. Couldn't attend 1st day so lost much of context
14. I took away renewal, passion, inspiration and encouragement in the important work we all do.
15. I was able to connect and meet others in my area.
16. Keep engaging youth
17. Great contacts and new approaches to youth engagement
18. What I am writing on is not in isolation, we've come a long way and find things are happening, even in the face of insurmountable barriers and walls.
19. The connects I have made and the thought move forward
20. New contacts, enhanced youth perspective, encouragement
21. Contacts with others
22. All the good things that are happening in Nova Scotia re: kids, youth & family and all the commitment is impressive
23. Made a few great connections and great ideas to involve youth
26. Genuine desire that exists to "get it right"
27. The need to support youth in finding a political voice so they feel engaged in their futures
28. Information on Provincial Strategies and Promising Practises & the CYS update. Returning to the idea of involving youth @ our local CYS table & how to make that happen
29. Much of the discussions centre on individual practises & separate strategies - what is CYS doing to connect them? Does not seem to have forward movement? Isn't this the role of the strategy? WASTED time. If you really want connections to be made why not encourage discussions?

30. The Strategy and partnering departments need to do a better job at following through on the action plans, comments and suggestions presented at these symposiums. We seem to be having the same conversations repeatedly without action. What does that say about how we LISTEN and RESPOND to youth?
31. - Benefits of having different voices at the table, - Use of graphic discussion summaries, - New contacts
32. A lot of good ideas from youth.
33. Networking opportunities. Increased consciousness about involving youth in planning, program development. Supporting youth to "unpack the NO".
34. Involving youth in a genuine way.
35. Youth engagement - listen don't assume we "adults" know. We are NOT the experts
36. A drive to connect more youth with disabilities to LOT & regional groups working with youth in communities across NS.
37. Knowledge of resources to refer my clients to.
38. Increased knowledge re: provincial CYS priorities. Ideas from others
39. Ideas & opportunities
40. connections/knowledge. - energy. - ideas
41. To Ann, (NS Work Force - Jobs Here) and everyone, I feel ....we need to find youths gifts/strengths/interests earlier i.e. gr 7/gr8 when attendance begins to drop. Give "hands on" experience earlier and fitting the learning of math and science into the "hands on". We also need psycho-educational testing done with children so we know what areas they are strong in and struggle in i.e. not just say what they have problems in but how it is they learn and process so we know how to help with accentuating gifts and helping with learning struggles. Psycho-educational testing is very hard to access in some counties as the educational system does not have enough testing staff.
42. Thoroughly enjoyed youth presentations & words of wisdom from all the youth. That we must abandon the concept of "we" and "they" with regards to gov't and not-for-profit. Hope that gov't will recognize really good work and programming is happening @ the community level and ideas don't have to come from top down
44. Ensuring we (I) collaborate better within my own position & do my own part. Always having youths involvement.
45. A very positive feeling we are moving in the right direction
46. Connections
47. Great
48. Great networking with other professionals & youth

## Appendix 4 - Suggestions for Future Symposia

9. What suggestions do you have for improving future symposiums?
  1. Have youth lead entire event. - Timing was good - pm start - pm end. Thanks
  2. I liked the timeframe used - good for people travelling and nice to use the time for the program. I loved the use of circle processes and the way the room/space was set up and used.
  3. Examples of collaborations that are working really well around complex issues. Like idea from Cape Breton with regional forums informing?? Forum. More youth involvement - great, but more.
  4. Continue to use youth in a leadership role
  6. What is the goal? Why are we collaborating? To what end?
  7. More youth discussions.....those who feel this truly is a safe space should have more time/opportunities to discuss what their current/personal needs are. Possibly allow youth to lead more.
  9. Nothing this time. It was great to see it in action (my first one).
  11. I will think on this question and email you something. Thanks. Russ Sanche 902-691-6556
  12. Keep the focus in how what we are doing - "service" or "Prevention" - do each well. Don't try to do it all.
  14. We really need more opportunity to align Provincial & Regional forums, as well as provide space for serious discussion on common issues around the province.
  15. The first day seemed very long. I would like if it was work day hours.
  16. Smaller groups - more frequent, more direct, work based, action based groups. Tangible results.
  17. Would have been nice to see African Nova Scotian population & Immigrant population representation in Socratic circle.
  18. Go deeper on the complex stuff and try to achieve some tangibles around breaking down "jurisdictions" and with more emphasis on policies (new ones and ones in need of revision). My 2 days here was time well spent. Thank you!
  19. I think to engage more in different types of learning people learn in different ways and we should engage in different ways
  20. Periodic connections rather than annual. Action items & follow up. Ideas on accessing funding
  21. House everybody at the hotel!
  22. More time for questions from the floor especially the Socratic circle
  24. Two rooms/one for circle format another with tables.
  26. Align Regional/provincial symposium experiences/agendas
  28. What's happening with younger children 5-11, More with Early Years, Like the idea of having the Regional forums first and then build the symposium from there for a future plan

29. Should focus on CYS work overall, not just youth piece? Hard to tell what Strategy does.....people ask all the time and I would be hard pressed to answer this from the symposium. Strategy staff had no apparent role in symposium more of a policing role? Dirty looks and Punitive statements made in relation to cell phone use or side conversations but nothing said about participants sleeping? Some of us take notes with our iphones.....not a safe environment after all?

30. Stop calling youth "youth" - they have told us previously they don't like that term. Practise what is preached - we talk about having healthy food available, yet serve McDonald's for lunch. We preach respect, yet the facilitator is patronizing and judgemental, making assumptions about other's behaviour. Do not advise someone to tone down his accent - that is rude and disrespectful. Remind youth they are role models and whether they like it or not how they behave in the community is my business when it impacts me or my family (speaking specifically to some comments made in the fish bowl - day one). Young children should not have been used as entertainment. Perhaps a demonstration of play based learning would have better shown how children are best served.

31. Have regional C&Y forums prior to Provincial C&Y symposium so regions bring concerns/questions/highlights to discuss. It would be interesting to see commonalities and differences and lead to great discussions

32. Bring more Diverse youth to circle.

34. End by 7:00 pm.

35. 1st day - shorter supper so don't lose folks.

40. - more regional planning time - more youth facilitation/planning input

42. Increase LOT representation from Eastern Region

44. Do not go as late into the evening with the youth presentations - lose some people at that point. Extremely long days for those that travel on Day 2

47. Much better format than presentations, etc.

48. More focus on complex issues - Adults need an eye opener as to the realities of situations, let youth educate us on terms, language, don't sugar coat it. Section for them to tell us what issues are on Day 1 - give opportunities for us to help through our services or programs existing. Would have liked day 2 vs. day & night. Following space?

49. I expected this Symposium to provide an opportunity to discuss provincial strategies, raise questions and get answers - but, this did not happen. No opportunity to connect work being done or plan future direction?