Conference Evaluation Results

Highlights

- ***One-in three participants answered the overall conference survey*** *(n=46)*

- ***Almost all were satisfied with the conference*** *(96%), would participate in another conference (96%) and/or recommend the conference to others (91%)*

- ***Participants were most happy with the venue/location*** *(along with related AV and catering),* ***registration*** *(despite Paypal woes) and* ***sessions available*** *(program). None found the conference too long.*

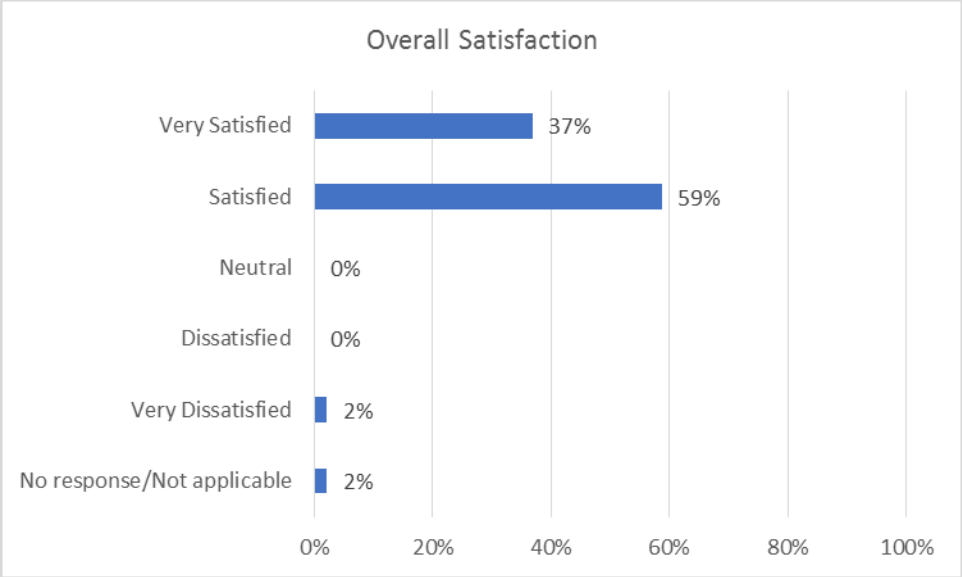
- ***Most learned about the conference through CES and/or colleagues****.*

- *Participants completing 186 evaluations of* ***sessions*** *said they* ***met their expectations*** *(96%), would* ***recommend them*** *to others (89%), had* ***engaging presenters*** *(98%) and provided* ***useful information*** *(93%).*

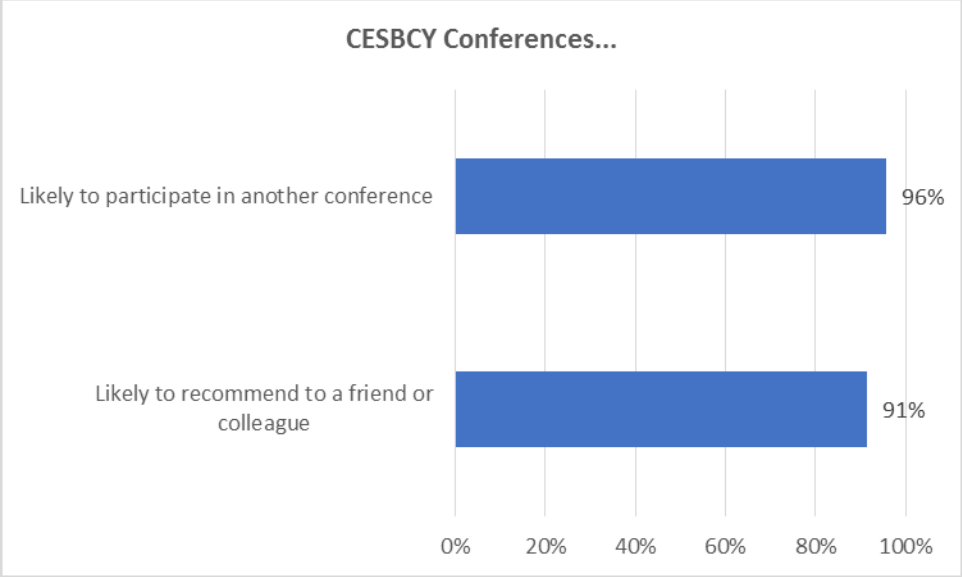
1. Overall Conference Ratings

- 46 participants responded to the evaluation survey (33%) – 26 were CES members
  - In 2014, 46 participants responded to the evaluation survey (almost 50%) – 29 were CES members

- 96% (44/46) were satisfied/very satisfied overall with the conference
  - In 2014, 85% (39/46) were satisfied/very satisfied



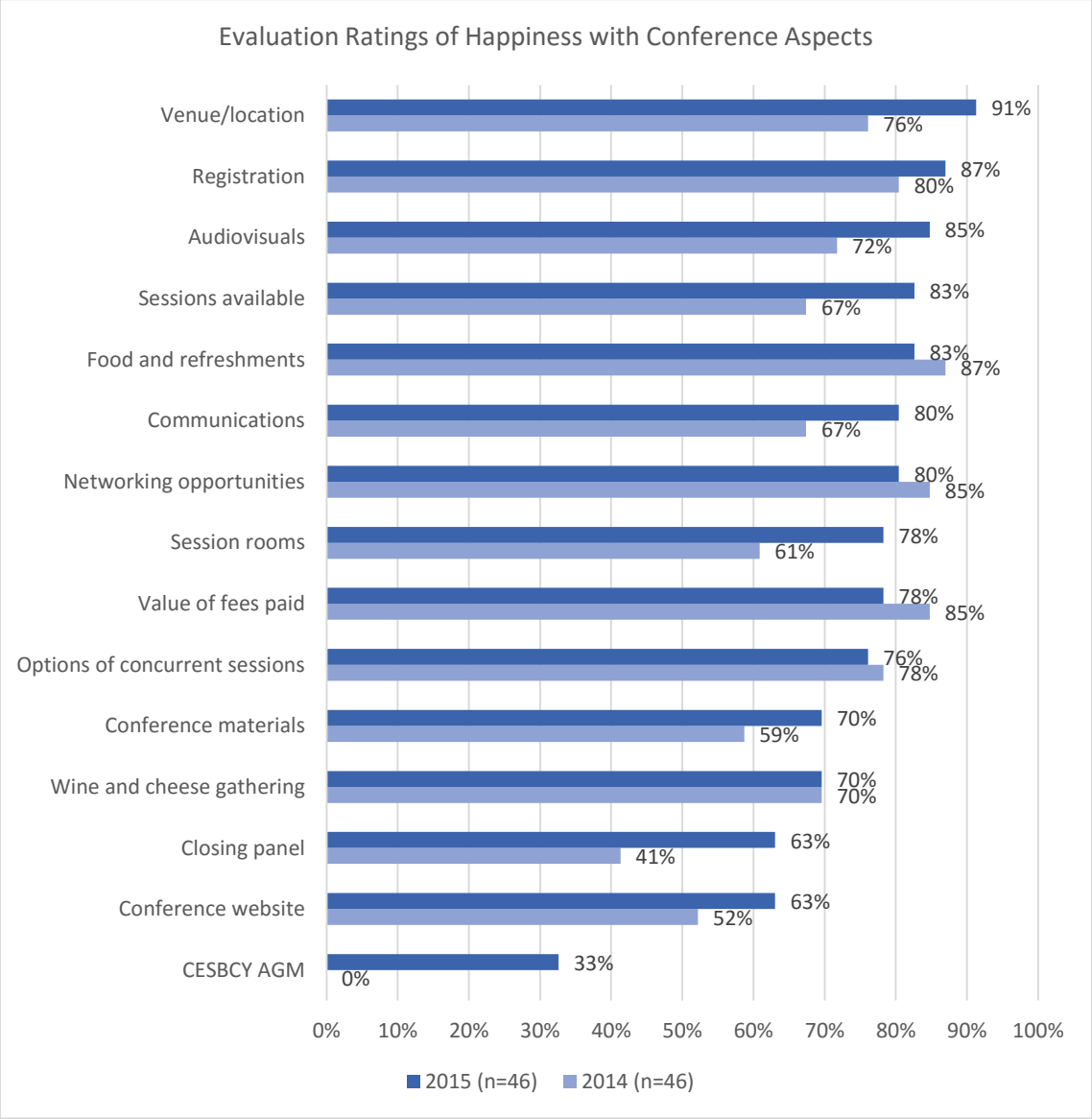
- 96% (44/46) would likely participate in another CESBCY conference
- 91% (42/46) would likely recommend a CESBCY conference to a friend or colleague



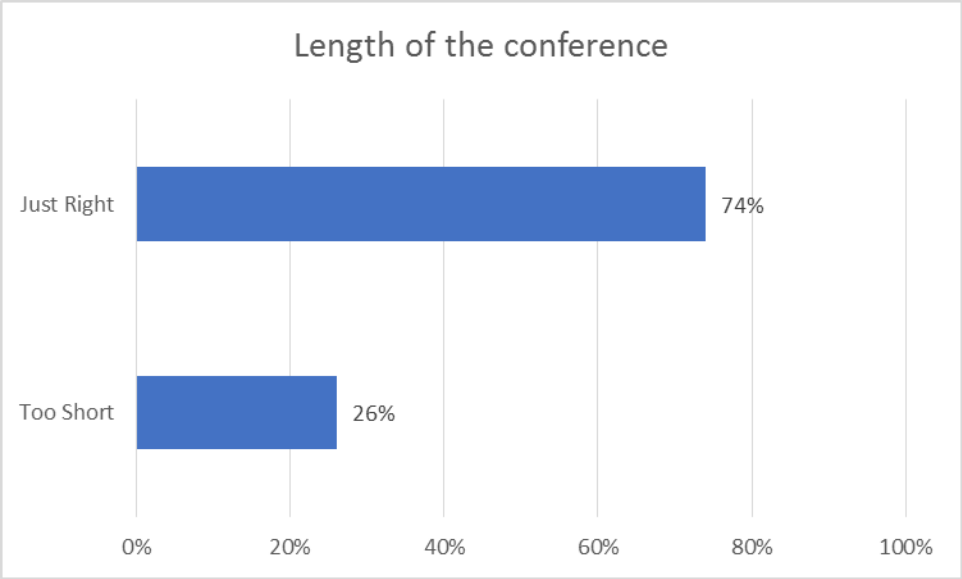
2. Evaluation Ratings of Happiness with Conferences Aspects

(# 4 = happy or 5 = very happy on a 5-point scale. Total of 46 respondents.)

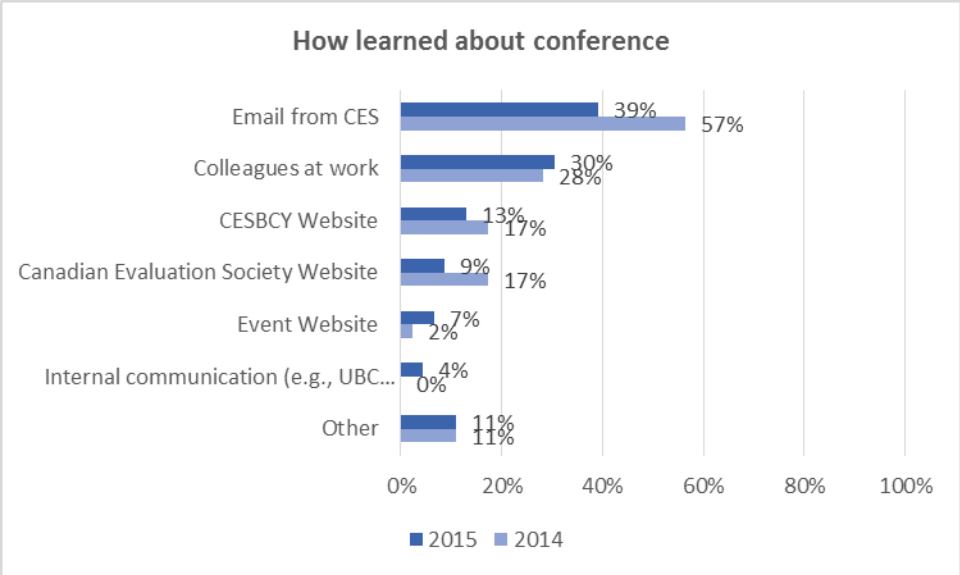
- ◊ Happiness ratings were highest for venue/location (along with related AV and catering), registration (despite Paypal woes) and sessions available (program)



◊ 74% found the conference length just right; 26% found it too short



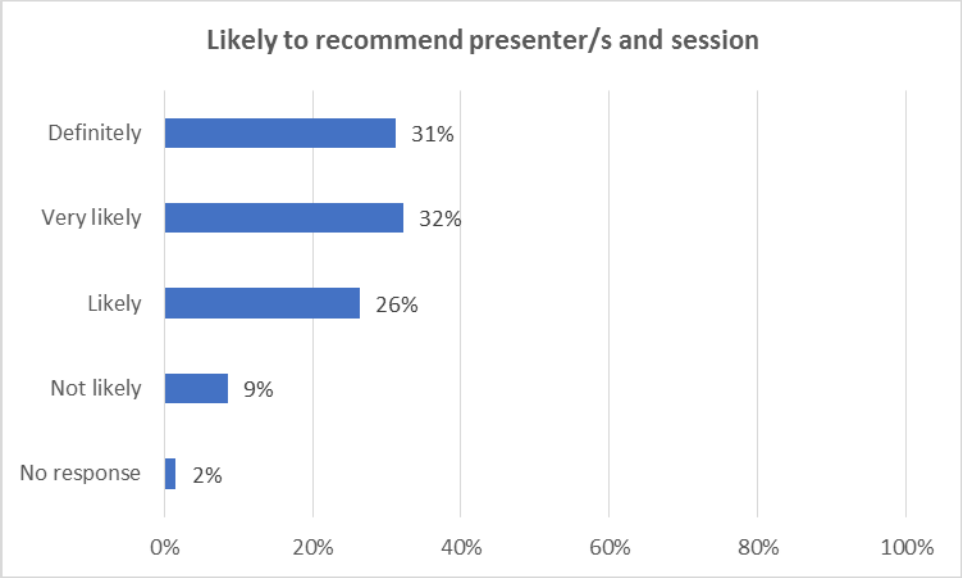
◊ Participants often learned about the conference through CES communications (emails and chapter/national websites) – along with colleagues at work (word of mouth)



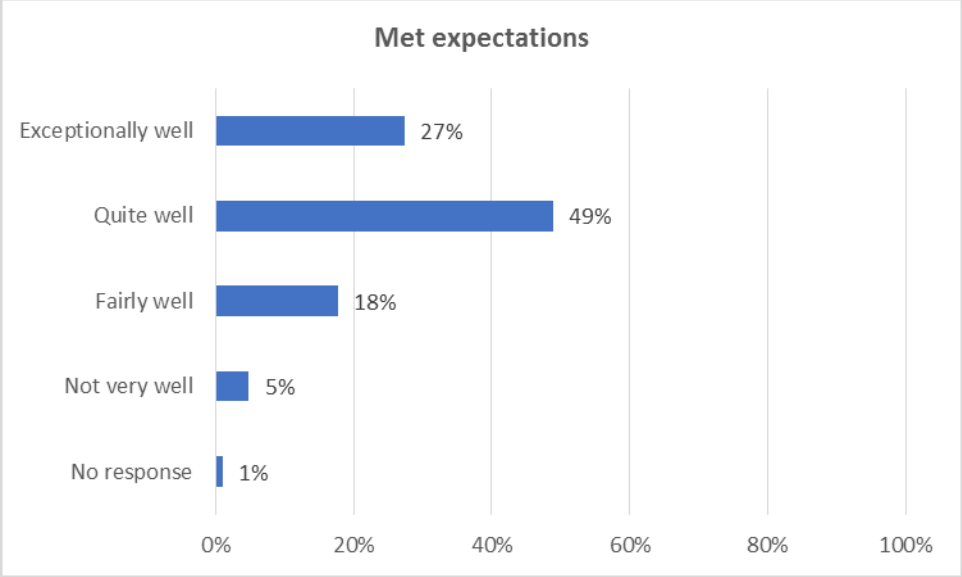
3. Individual Session Evaluations

Participants provided 186 evaluations of 28 concurrent or panel sessions. (Single sessions received between one and twenty evaluations.)

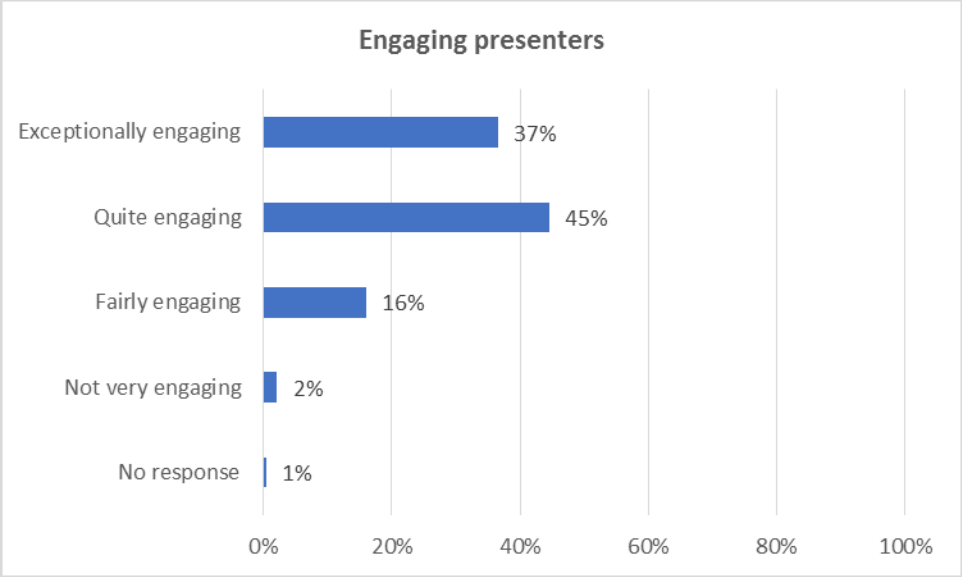
- In most (89%) of these evaluations, participants said they would recommend the presenter/s and sessions to others (likely, very likely or definitely)



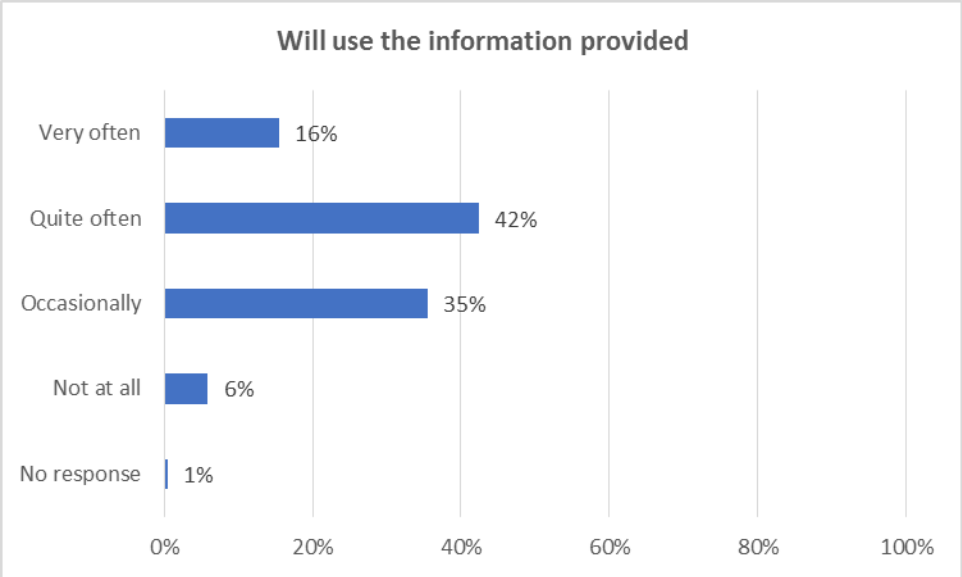
- In 94% of the evaluations, participants agreed that the sessions met their expectations fairly, quite or exceptionally well



- In 98% of the evaluations, participants said they found the session presenters to be engaging (fairly, quite or exceptionally)



- In 93% of the evaluations, participants reported they will use the information provided by the session occasionally, quite often or very often



4. What Liked Most/Would Most Like to Change

What did you like most about the conference?

What did you like least about the conference?

What did you like most about the conference?

I appreciated the quality of the presentations and the opportunities to meet other evaluators. It was a very engaging and lively conference.
Some of the presentations were very good; great information; food was very good (better than previous year); great networking
I like going to Vancouver. Thought the venue was nice.
Opportunity to hear about methods that I'm interested in developing further and share lessons learned.
The opportunity to network (although more networking time would have been nice). The individual sessions. The opening remarks from the Coast Salish elders.
Mix of session topics were good. There were lots of interest to me. Best - vibrance and energy of conference; positive attitudes of attendees and lots of informal discussions.
The variety of the speakers and content available was excellent, and so was the friendliness of the group.
I am new to evaluation so I enjoyed the fact that there was such a diversity of evaluators present who had varying levels of experience to share.
Networking with potential colleagues and hearing about projects. Also hearing from the funders...
Opportunity to hear from other evaluators.
The opportunity to connect with others who are doing evaluation work in the BC context.
I liked the quality and variety of the presentations. VERY good.
Learning about the work of others and the opportunities to network.
Networking
The buddy program
The opportunity to get together with others who work in this field and to catch-up through the sessions on the projects that people are involved in.
The presentations - lots of interesting topics. I wish I could have gone to all the sessions!
Networking with evaluation colleagues in BC.
Good opportunity to learn about other organizations and program evaluation activities.
The opportunity to network at the AGM and over lunch.
The sessions were all hosted by excellent facilitators and presenters. Really well chosen.
networking opportunities and finding out what other local evaluators are doing.
This was my first Conference and really my first time meeting with others on Evaluation and really appreciated the friendliness of everyone there and the conversations I had/networking.

The food
Great sessions. I learned a lot.
It was very interesting to learn about new tools and models used in specific evaluation contexts. The conference was the perfect size. I tend to prefer smaller, regional conferences because the networking opportunities are much more human scale. Also, as a vegetarian the food was really fabulous, which is pretty unusual at conferences.
Presentations, networking.
the opportunity to meet other evaluators, and to be inspired by the tremendous talent of presenters and CES-BCY community of practise
Many great presenters and a wealth of knowledge among participants.
Diverse range of evaluation topics, nice mixture of conference attendees (professional evaluators, community organizations, funders), engaging presenters, welcome ceremony with Elder.
The opportunity for even students to present their research findings
I enjoyed the Elders welcomes. The venues, food. Range of topics.
networking. i really enjoyed the museums talk in the morning.
Presenters were informed, invested and interesting. Location was perfect Friendliness of attendees
the networking
Very friendly and helpful people
Including different organizations
The overall theme of the conference - not for profits and evaluation - made the conference s perfect fit for my interests. I learned methodology at the last conference but at this one I took home ideas that I could directly use in my work.
So many great sessions to attend and such a wealth of knowledge and expertise to learn from!

What did you like least about the conference?

I felt that there was not enough time at the end for the AGM and that element felt tacked on and overshadowed, especially after the long tiring day of conferencing. AGMs are important and I'd like to see more emphasis on that.
The titles/descriptions of presentations not matching the actual presentation
too fast, went by so quickly...jam packed day...
Sessions to brief to allow for meaningful discussion of methodology.
The CESBCY AGM
In the theatre, sound was difficult to hear clearly - Generally, the speakers voices carried, but questions from the crowd did not.
I would have liked a fuller day so that the concurrent sessions could have been spread out a bit more. For the 30 minute talks, it would be nice to have them all at the same time, so that you could go between the 30 minute sessions in different rooms.
The original wifi password was incorrect. But that got fixed
see previous comment on the excessive time spent by FN speakers at the start of the conference..
I missed an initial plenary session and maybe small group discussion based on it.
I felt like there could have been more time for networking - longer breaks.
The food was mediocre.
I still think the evaluation could be improved. How about saving 5 minutes at the end of every session for everyone to fill out the evaluation link on their mobile devices at the end. They can't leave the room until it's done. Email it to all registrants at the beginning of the day and set it to kiosk mode so they can use the link again and again.   And I'd suggest sending this final conference evaluation to folks around 3 pm the day of so they can fill it in immediately while their thoughts are fresh.
The Wifi had such a complicated password, many people couldn't figure it out. The semi-colon looked like an i" and it was hard to know which network to sign into."
There isn't anything really, but if I have to name something it was the lengthy welcoming ... A little shorter perhaps next time, though I know you can't rush these things
That presenters did not stick to the time limits (and room hosts did not even try to enforce the time limits - at least in the sessions that I went to), which meant there was almost no time for audience questions
Nothing
Struggled identifying the best sessions to attend to ensure I was optimizing the info for my organization (may have been helped by a "this session is aimed at" statement on the abstracts).
The sessions ran concurrently. I was torn picking between topics during the same time slot.
venue... not very professional and poor seating arrangements in small classrooms.

I felt the sessions that two or more workshops/topics in them incredibly rushed. I would have loved more time for the presenter to go deeper into their topic. and also for Q+A with that presenter before having to move on to the next presenter.
The lecture room
The registration process was a little confused. It all worked out in the end though!
The signage could have been a little better. It was a little awkward that there was another event down the hall. I'm sure there was completely beyond your control.
Buddy program.
I'm not sure if participants got what they hoped for in terms of networking; I had my own objectives and am not shy. However for new people I don't know if they had opportunities to meet others?
As with many conferences, I would have liked for there to be a collaborative element that ran throughout so that at the end of the day people could stand back and see that they had created something together. Perhaps a journey map.
Some variability in the quality/level of preparedness of presenters, some time management issues (presentations running long), desire for a more cohesive conference message re. collective impact, somewhat limited communication to presenters about expectations (presentation time slot, length of presentation, etc) beforehand.
I enjoyed all of the conference.
I found the session evaluation form did not allow me to express how I felt about some of the sessions. Most likely it skewed my response to sound more positive than i felt about the presentation. Specifically, it asked if info was something I would use in my work or info of interest. I responded positively because it was true, I will use the info in my work. However, the information was not new to me because the presenter delivered same ppt previous year with very little updates this year and seemed unprepared as though had not looked at the speech of late… Yes i will use the info all the time in my work though session did not add to my knowledge. As well, [a session] was fine though was at an introduction level. I answered on eval form that i will use info in my work though it was not new to me and added little to my knowledge. Perhaps survey question could ask if session provided new or novel information that you will begin to incorporate or something along those lines. Missed having an opening plenary!
It seemed like [a funder] was overrepresented in a lot of the talks I went to. I would have liked to gain new skills in addition to hearing what others are doing.
I was interested in all concurrent sessions, difficult to pick between them
many talks focused on findings - one talk actually just kept presenting quotes from their data which was not that useful. The business meeting was painful…
Concurrent sessions happening at the same time (people attending might be interested in two sessions going on at the same time, therefore will miss one). Having more than one topic within the hour session, that made each one too short and with no much time for further discussion.

It was enjoyable. I didn't have any bad experiences. It was difficult to decide which to attend because I could have gone to several sessions scheduled at the same time.
Too many concurrent sessions - I wanted to go to more of them and wasn't able to. There was also no discussion or presentations on feminist evaluation.