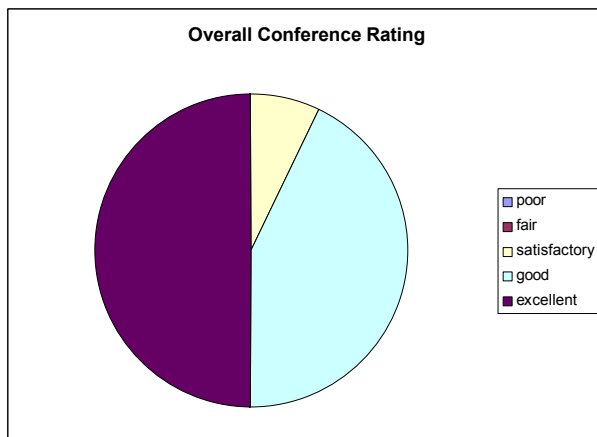




ACKNOWLEDGING OUR STRENGTHS - 2007 CONFERENCE Evaluation Report

We received only 18 evaluation returns. Not all respondents answered all the questions. Nevertheless, the conference was overwhelmingly seen to be successful with 93% of respondents rating the conference as good or excellent.



Additionally, 100% of respondents reported that the conference met their objectives while 88% indicated that the promotional material communicated effectively the conference content. However, similar to last year, about 25% of respondents did not believe that notification for the event was adequate. There were suggestions to include the full conference descriptions and the conference schedule in the mail outs and web site.

The overwhelming majority of comments regarding the most valuable part of the conference involved the opportunities to network and interact with colleagues. Additionally, the plenary addresses received significant support as did the opening ceremony and awards.

Comments regarding the location of the conference and the physical setting and arrangements were primarily positive. There were some concerns regarding the cost of parking and the fact that staff did not clean up very well. Respondents felt very positive about the lunch and the wine and cheese.

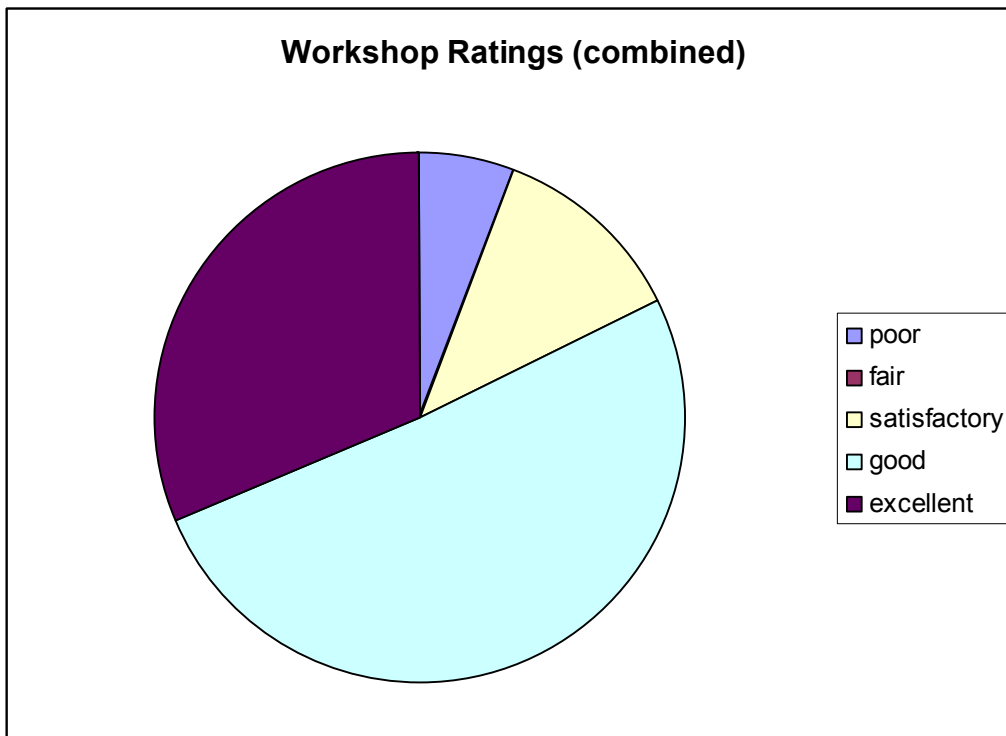
With Respect to Key Note and Plenary Addresses, the conference participants reported that they were well received. The opening key note address by Paul Kivel entitled "Creating Social Change" received good or excellent ratings by 93% of respondents. Similarly, the address by Ellen Pence on "Best Practices for Ending Relationship Violence" received good or excellent ratings by all respondents. The Appreciative Inquiry at the end of the conference by Arden Henley and Mary Kean received fewer responses in the evaluation forms and slightly lower ratings with 80% indicating it was good or excellent.

Comments on Plenary Addresses:

Paul Kivel	Ellen Pence	Appreciative Inquiry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very interactive and focused on social justice • I really appreciated Paul's interactive approach and his analysis of contexts that support violence • Moving our perspective towards a more global conversation was both interesting and challenging. A good way to begin the conference • Thought provoking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very insightful, interesting, motivating and honest • Excellent ++ • It was wonderful to experience Ellen again 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun •

Concurrent Workshops

The responses to the concurrent workshops were considerably lower than responses to the plenary addresses. There was confusion regarding the lettering system and the ratings with many ticking just one of the two. Thus it was impossible, in most responses, to tell which workshops were being rated. Consequently the chart below summarizes the ratings for all the workshops. This problem was also evident in last year's evaluation and requires some changes for the future conferences.



The workshops were generally well received with 83% of ratings falling in the good or excellent categories.

Summary and Recommendations

Based on the evaluations and the feedback received at the conference, it is fair to conclude that the Acknowledging our Strengths conference was a success. There was overwhelming positive feedback regarding the plenary addresses. The conference workshops were also well received. Topics for future conferences as suggested by participants are listed below. Conference planning would best begin early in the year and full conference details posted on list serves and on the web site would be helpful. Finally, the evaluation form needs to be improved. It would be best to include the presenters and titles of workshop rather than fill in the blanks or letter/number system as respondents do not fill these in consistently.

Topic suggestions

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More of the same• Continued exploration of holding women's experiences while working compassionately with men• Philosophical/practice issues (e.g., anger management issue)• Women's groups running parallel to men's treatment• Models; best practices• Violence and trauma experiences of immigrant women• Progress with DV court reforms in BC• Working with multicultural communities• Best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monty Roberts work• Working with First Nations• Skill based• Engagement training• Belief system influence on behaviour• Women survivors as experts on the issue• Nonviolent communication skills (Rosenberg)• Prevention/ early intervention• Compassion work of Stosny• Men's programs having conversations with women's programs
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Thank you all for your excellent hard work and contributions towards making this a successful conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Stefanakis