

AWO TAAN HEALING LODGE

8TH WORLD INDIGENOUS WOMEN & WELLNESS CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 29TH – OCTOBER 1ST, 2008

CONFERENCE EVALUATION FORMS

Of the 510 Conference attendees (not including speakers/organizers), we received 306 (60%) Evaluation Forms.

1. The conference met my needs/expectations

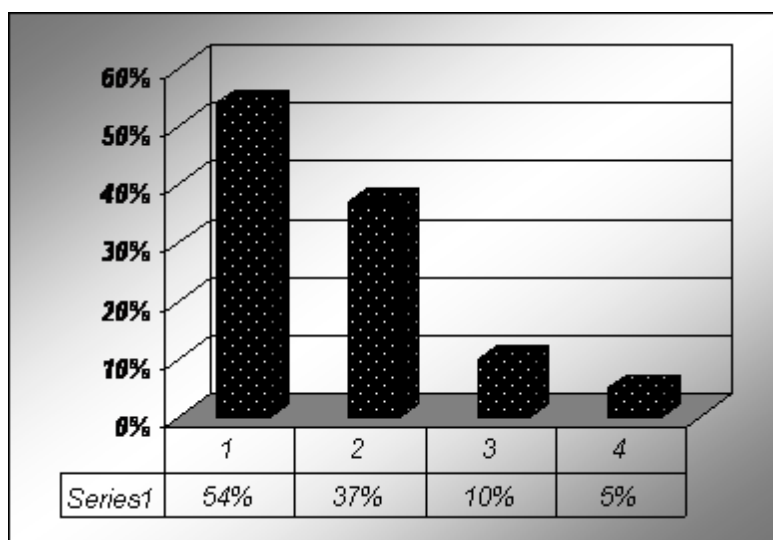
54% strongly agreed (168)

37% agreed (88)

10% undecided (34)

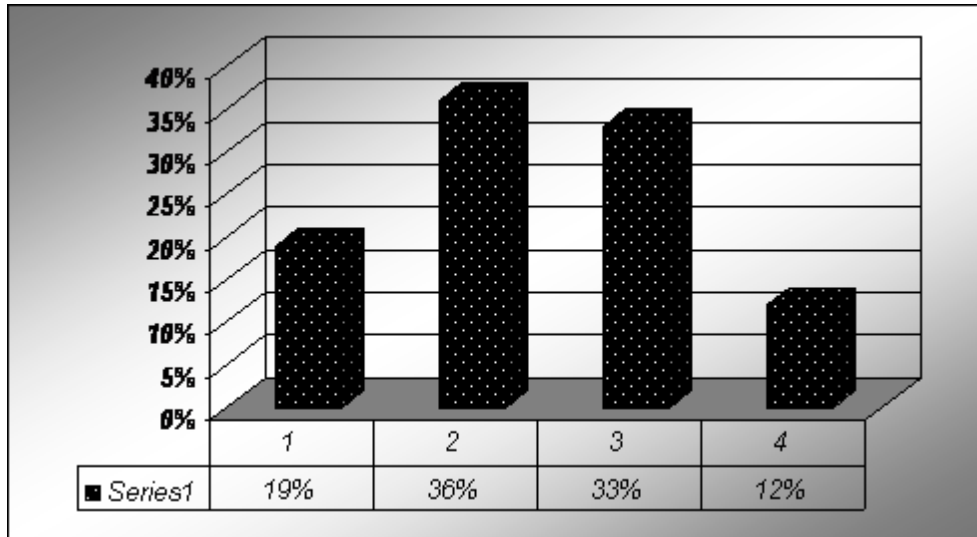
5% disagreed (16)

0% strongly disagreed (0)



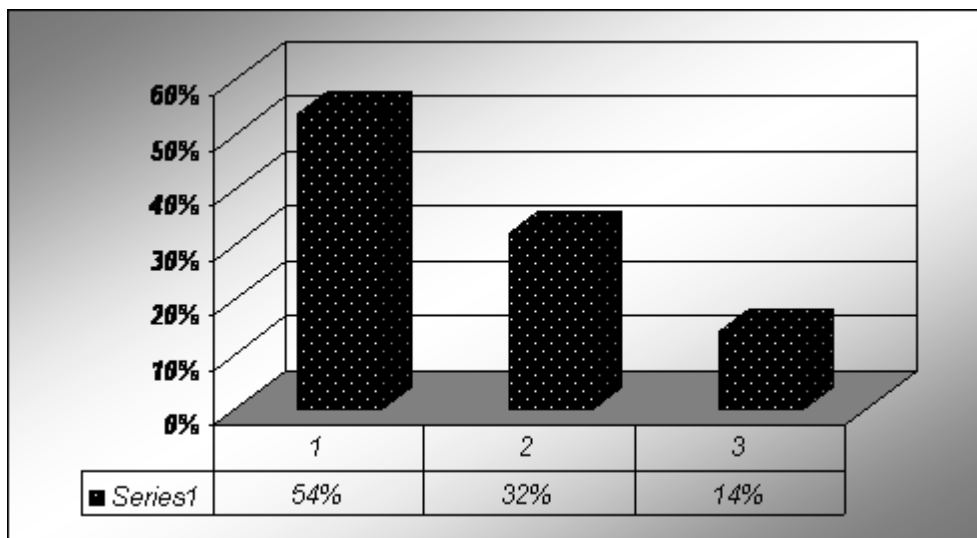
2. **The information gained from this conference will enable me to be more effective in my role/understanding of working with Aboriginal/Indigenous Communities**

19% strongly agreed (55)
36% agreed (111)
33% undecided (101)
12% disagreed (36)
0% strongly disagree



3. **The Venue was appropriate for the conference**

54% agreed (166)
32% undecided (98)
14% disagreed (52)
0% strongly disagree



4. Where did you hear about the conference

Work - 56
Internet - 14
Newspaper
Mail Out – 15
Word of Mouth – 10
Employer
Friend - 5

5. What areas of interest would you like included for future conferences of this nature

- i) Positive Role Models;
- ii) Positive & Traditional Parenting;
- iii) Social Determinants of health; Elderly & Senior Violence;
- iv) More of the same; aboriginal spiritual practices;
- v) More working with youth & dealing with drugs & alcohol; no more statistics would like tried practices – worked vs. didn't work;
- vi) One more day for workshops; have the same workshops go more than once;
- vii) More working with men culture – i.e.: song/dance/drumming; more on traditional birthing (midwifery);
- viii) More with grandmothers;
- ix) More counselors available for those upset by sessions;
- x) More advocacy, petition & lobbying for all levels of gov't on native issues;
- xi) Take action as soon as the conference is over;
- xii) Time for Q&A after the sessions and speakers;
- xiii) More language workshops;
- xiv) Traditional plant healing and women cultures;
- xv) Do a film on this conference;
- xvi) All areas were great!
- xvii) Mix of applied & academic;
- xviii) Move to a more rural or less commercial setting to feed the soul and not the corporate;

6. The Gala Dinner & Entertainment was

Excellent - 72
Above Average - 6
Average - 4
Poor
Did not attend – 18 N/A

7. The Grandmothers Indigenous Lodge was

Valuable - 19
Relevant -
Excellent - 4
Average - 3
Undecided - 3
Did not attend – 62

8. Did you find the Indigenous Film Festival

Entertaining
Informative – 5
Relevant - 1
Excellent - 1
Good - 1
Average
Poor
Did not attend – 40
Did not reply – 12

9. The Forum & Panel “Apology to Aboriginals by the Government” was

Valuable - 34
Relevant -
Excellent - 48
Average -
Undecided - 2
Did not attend – 81

10. Other Comments

- This was an amazing conference, I was blessed to be in such a powerful space with such beautiful women.
- The lunch area was too crowded & and a bit unorganized; Prayers by
- Elders needed more recognition.
- Excellent
- To have concurrent sessions offered repeating them as they were all so attractive
- The Forum was the most healing for me.
- Well done committee! Your hospitality/organization is to be commended & know your efforts were appreciated.
- Would like time for discussion with the presenters
- The panel on Tues at 5 PM was the best
- I would love to come back or hope the young women get out here to more of these conferences
- The apology idea was good and brought up lots of feelings and hope
- Good job! Anytime women gather, the universe smiles and those who worked so hard for this global gathering, have my deepest respect
- Thanks for the bannock & jam it really made us feel welcome and acknowledged
- The entertainment was jam packed. Needed the uplifting lighter evening after a heavy day
- Common areas were crowded. Would have like list of presenter contacts and Elders list

- I got to understand a lot of issues about native people
- Apology to us was the best! Loved the panel very helpful
- Excellent Conference, well done!
- The gala night should have been included in the conference fees so everyone could attend.
- Conference had lots of great info/wisdom off elders and humour. Thanks so much for the content & opportunity. Keynotes were fabulous!
- Disappointed that a few sessions were cancelled. Thought this workshop was solely for women wellness (more on a personal level) well being mentally.
- Excellent conference I look forward to the next one.
- Wish more people were thoughtful enough to think of the great apology forum opportunity
- Enjoyed most of the presentations. May the great spirit guide you all front line workers and many years of good work.
- As a Métis person where was the Métis Flag, were the invited.
- Would be great if one day longer to repeat break out sessions to attend more.
- Too many speakers over lunch and late start
- Presenters were not introduced and no one to apologize for late starts.
- The staff at the Westin were very courteous & provided excellent service.
- Excellent Conference! Thank you for our work and making the conference feel like home and being among family.
- Organizing committee did an excellent job. Enjoyed viewing the variety of vendors.
- Thank you! CHI Meegwetch!
- Thank you very nice. Really enjoyed this event, well organized!
- Thank you for everything excellent.
- Would like to have scholarships for people who can not afford conference fee.
- Timing was an issue when some sessions cut off due to late start. Really enjoyed my time, the information and contacts made will be incredibly valuable in my life and my work.
- The organizers and volunteers were amongst the best I have ever seen in terms of being helpful, friendly, cheerful, respectful and available to participants. A young woman (Rochole) was inspiring in her dedication.
- There were an amazing number of Elders participating which made the event more powerful.
- The agenda was too full – would have been better to take in sessions on a rotating basis i.e. repeat sessions.
- Keep gala as an upbeat atmosphere; there was only was sad low point.
- Really enjoyed the panel on Residential Schools
- Wish there had been more time to hear more from the Elders's on the first day.
- Thank you for all of your hard work and strong spirit.

