

**NOVA SCOTIA  
MAIN STREETS**

**IDEAS EXCHANGE**

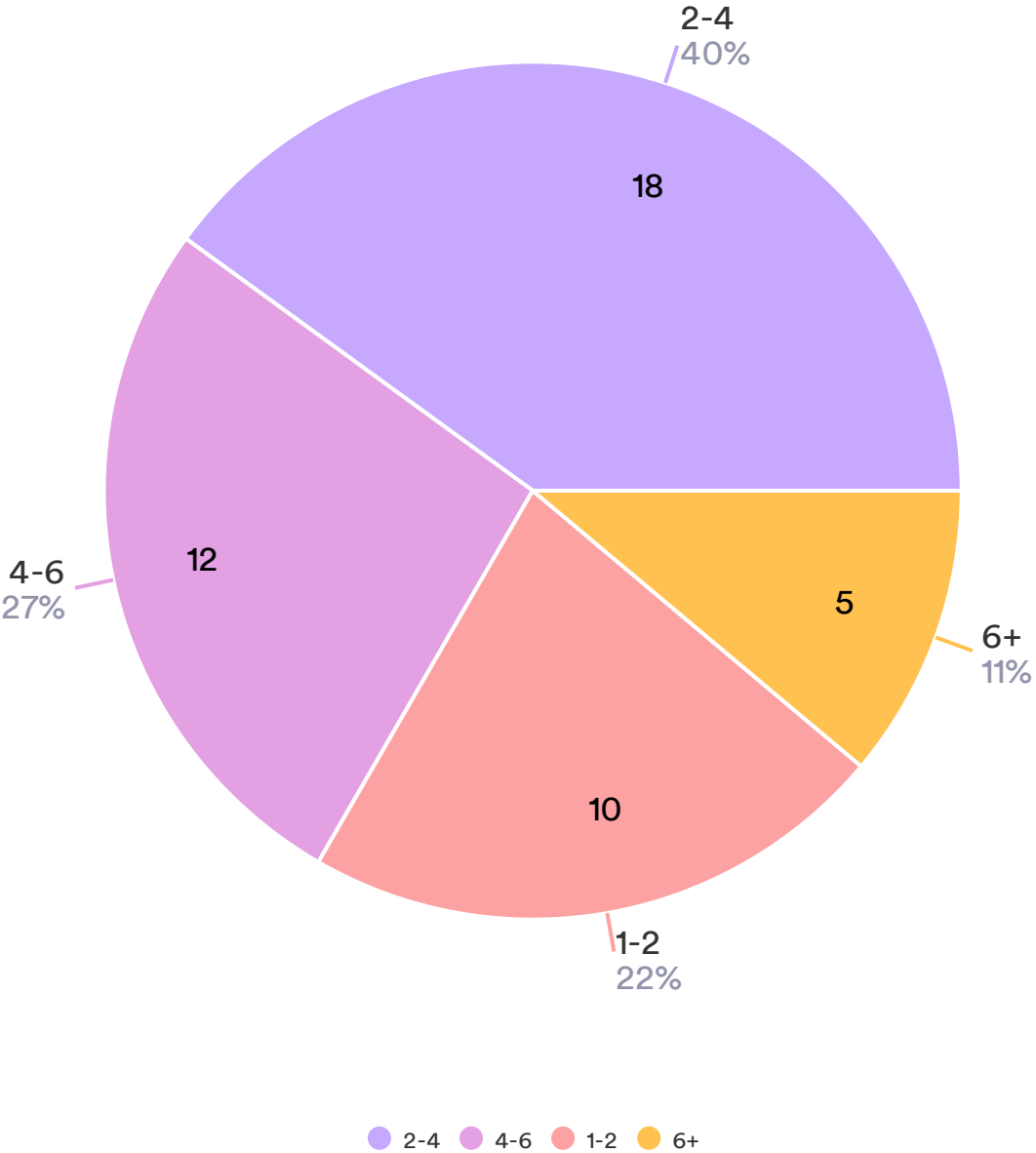
**CONFERENCE**

**ATTENDEE FEEDBACK**



How many external conferences/seminars do you attend, on average, in a year?

45 Responses

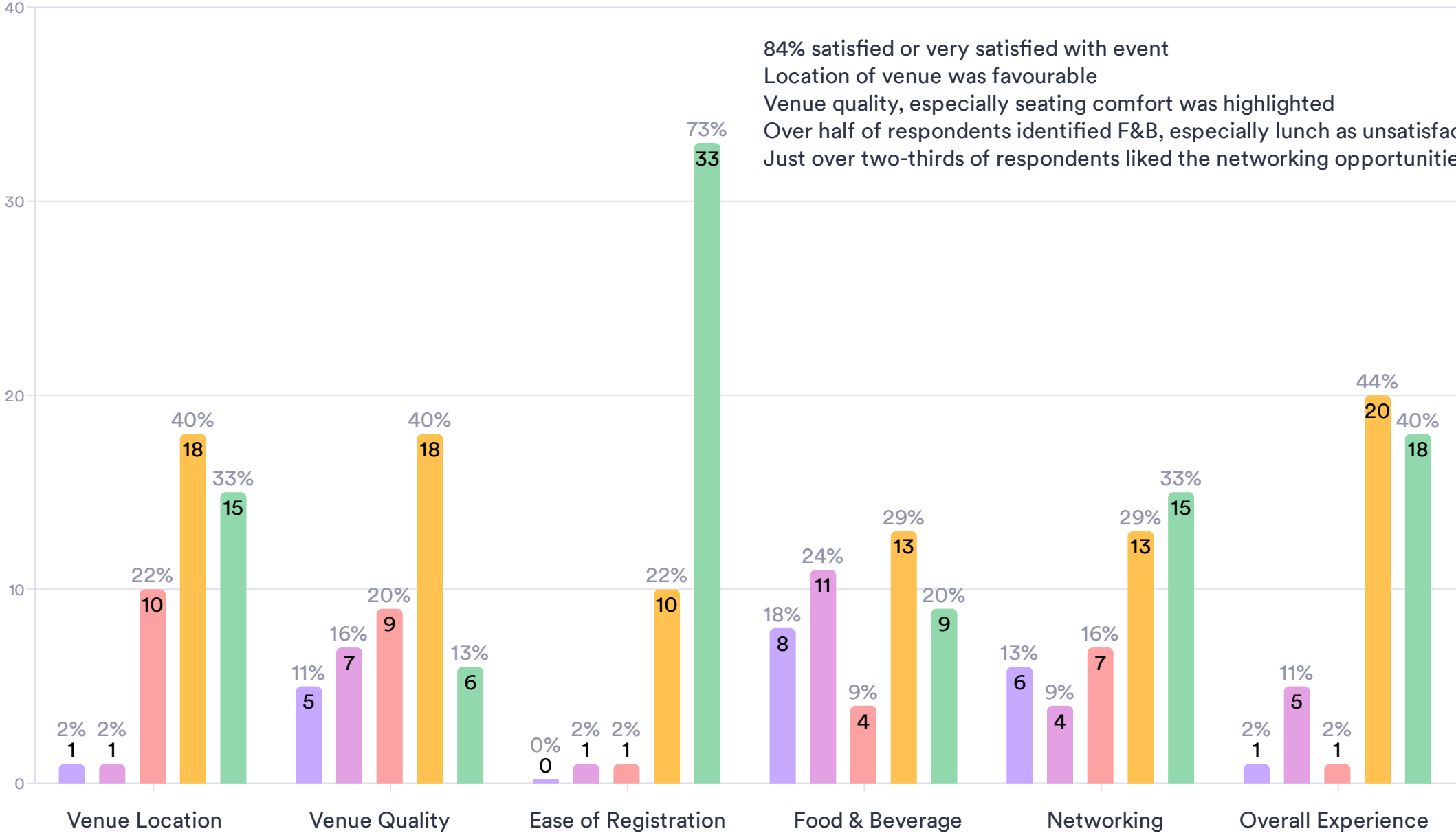


# Nova Scotia Main Streets Ideas Exchange

Please share your overall satisfaction with the following aspects of the Main Streets Ideas Exchange

45 Responses

● Not Satisfied ● Somewhat Satisfied ● Neutral ● Satisfied ● Very Satisfied

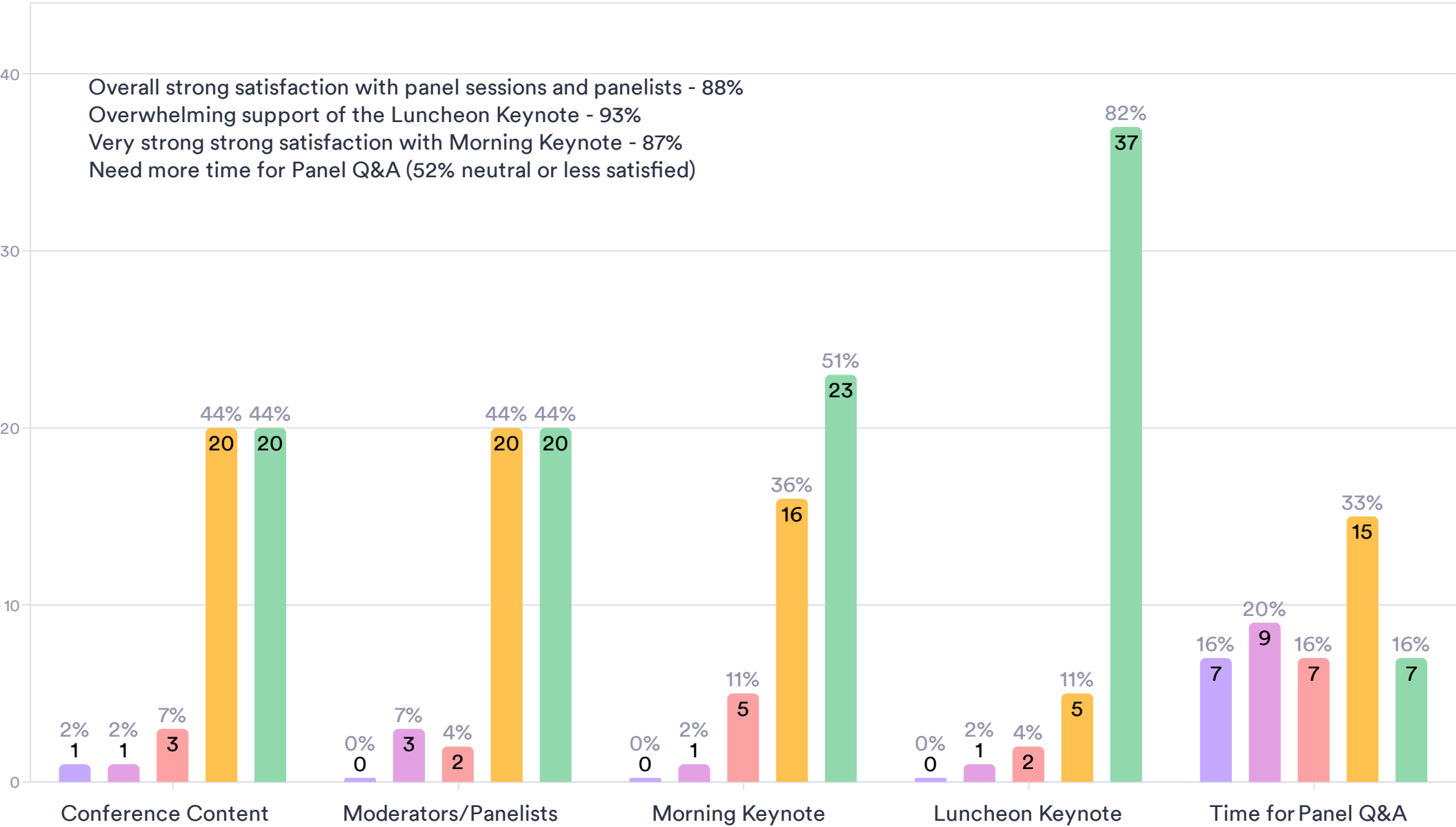


# Nova Scotia Main Streets Ideas Exchange

Please share your overall satisfaction with the following aspects of the Main Streets Ideas Exchange

45 Responses

● Not Satisfied 
 ● Somewhat Satisfied 
 ● Neutral 
 ● Satisfied 
 ● Very Satisfied



Overall strong satisfaction with panel sessions and panelists - 88%  
 Overwhelming support of the Luncheon Keynote - 93%  
 Very strong strong satisfaction with Morning Keynote - 87%  
 Need more time for Panel Q&A (52% neutral or less satisfied)

Please select your favourite session(s) at the conference: (check all that apply)

78 Responses- 2 Empty

Best Response

## Opening Session - Mobility for All

35%

Percentage

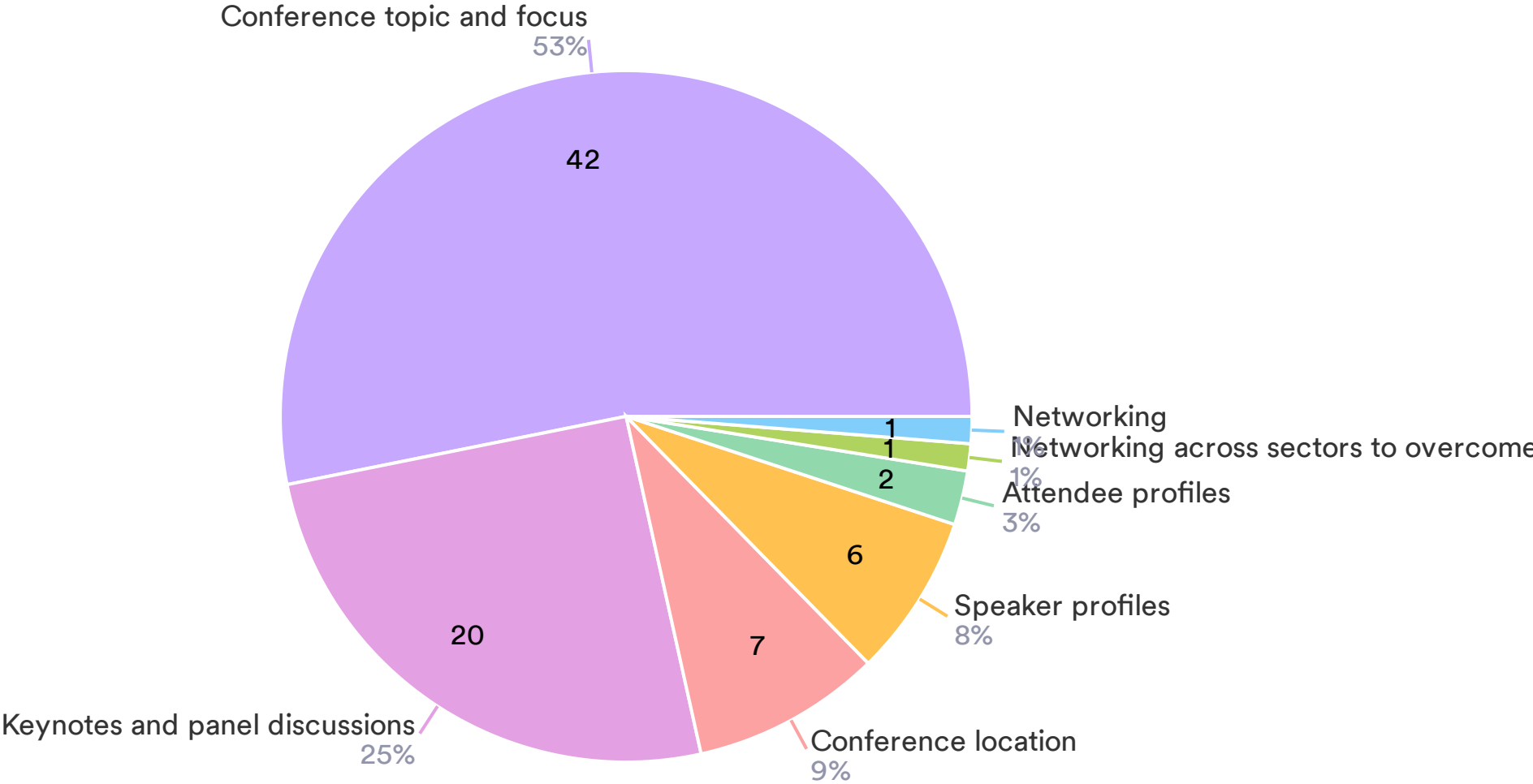
78

Responses

Data	Response	%
Opening Session - Mobility for All	27	35%
Introduction - Main Streets Health Check	22	28%
Afternoon Session - Health & Belonging	21	27%
All of the above	5	6%
Closing Session - Economy of Place	3	4%

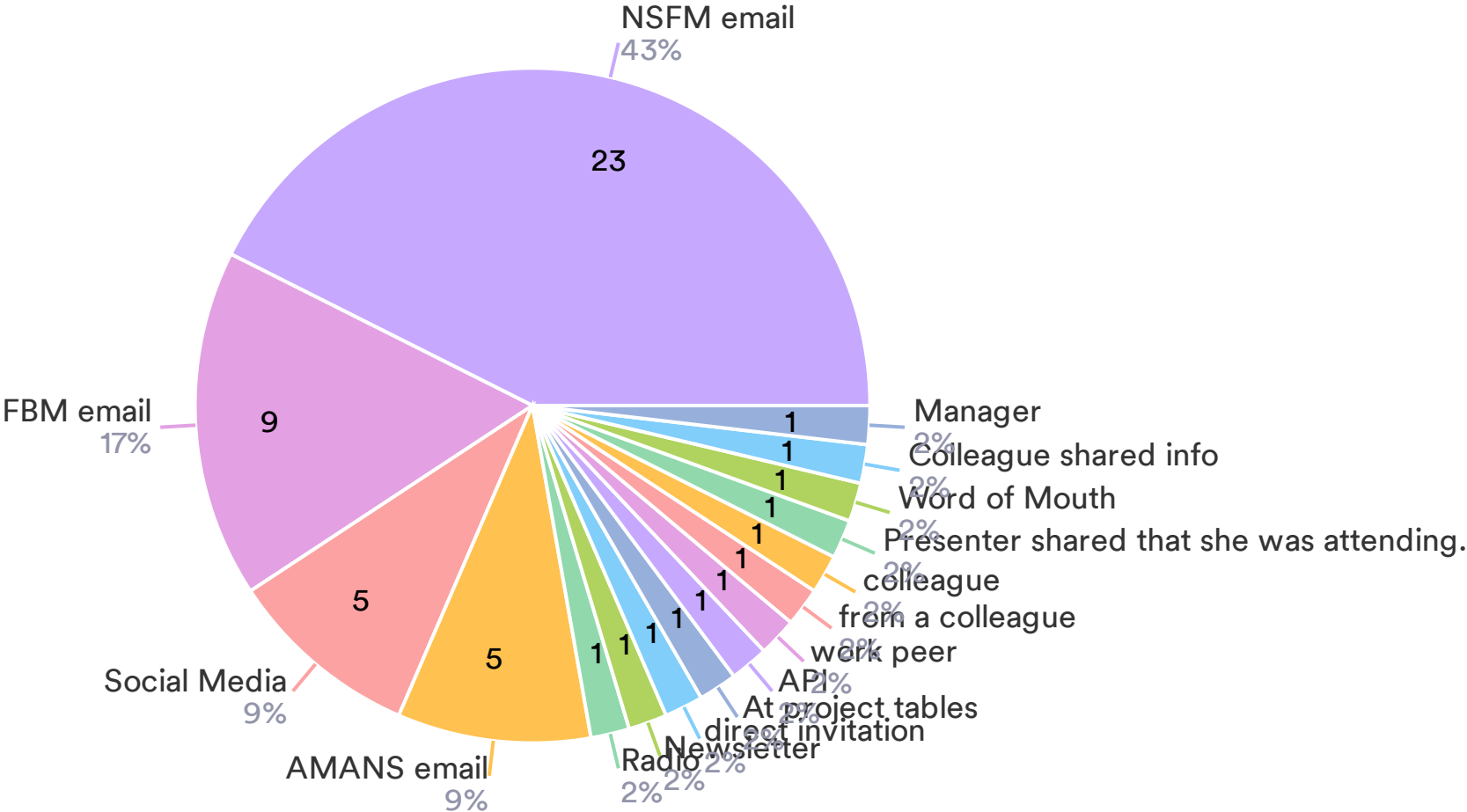
## What were you main reasons for attending this conference? (check all that apply)

79 Responses



## How did you hear or learn about this conference? (check all that apply)

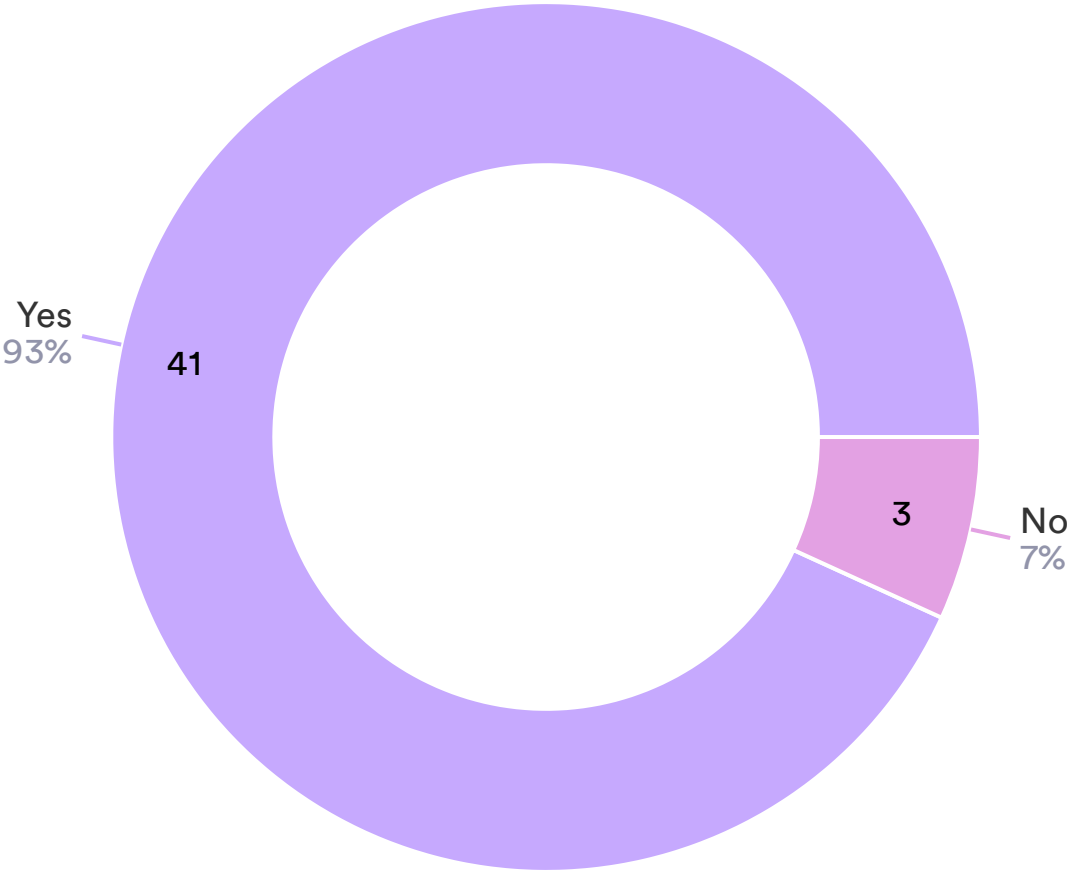
54 Responses- 1 Empty



- NSFAM email
- FBM email
- Social Media
- AMANS email
- Radio
- Newsletter
- direct invitation
- At project tables
- API
- work peer
- from a colleague
- colleague
- Presenter shared that she was attending.
- Word of Mouth
- Colleague shared info
- Manager

# Was the information presented of use to you and your organization?

44 Responses- 1 Empty

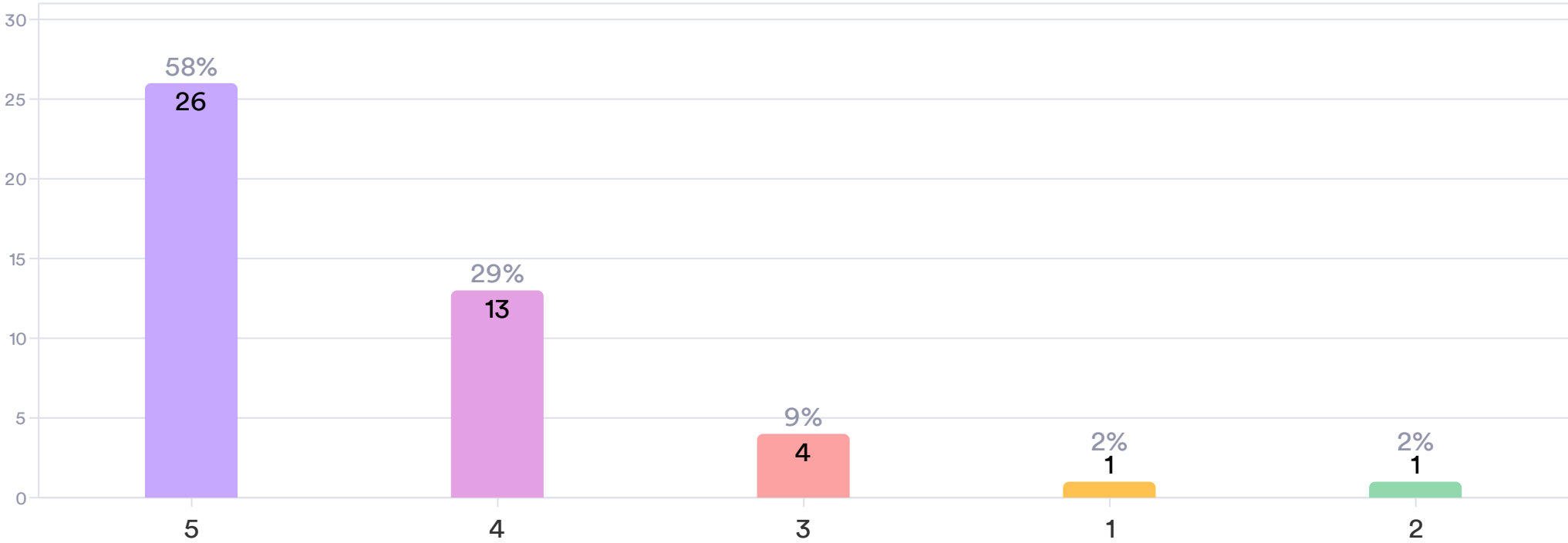


● Yes ● No



## Would you recommend this event to others if it was held again?

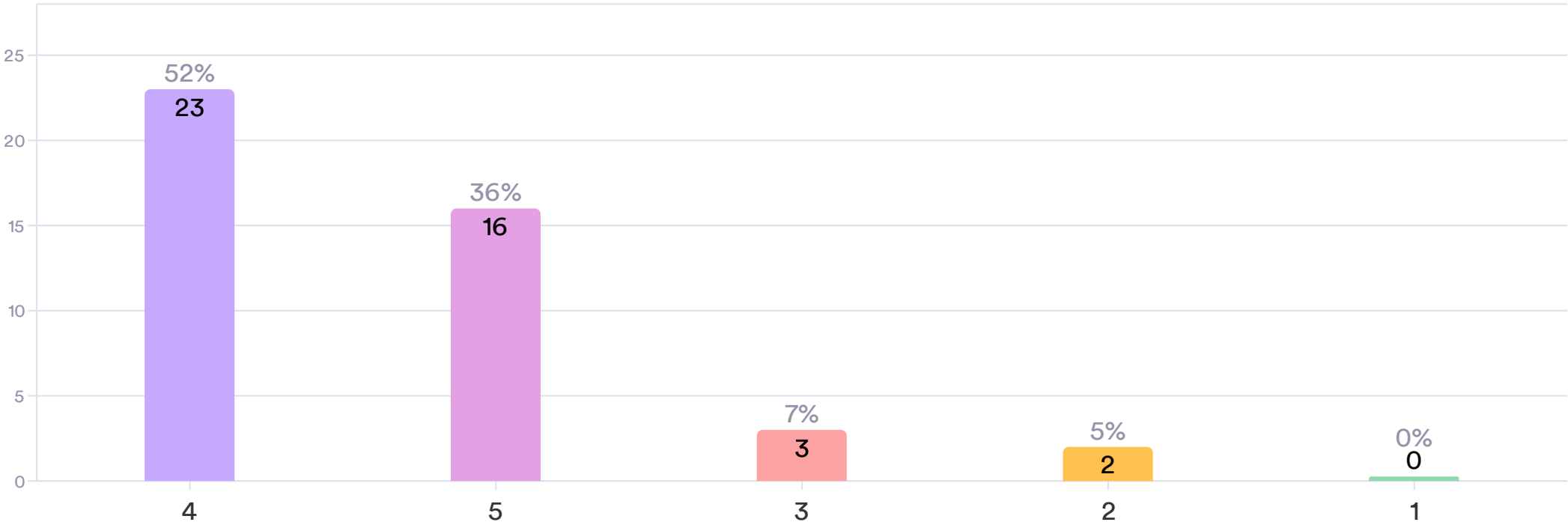
45 Responses



Data	Response	%
5	26	58%
4	13	29%
3	4	9%
1	1	2%
2	1	2%

## Overall, how satisfied were you with this conference?

44 Responses- 1 Empty



Data	Response	%
4	23	52%
5	16	36%
3	3	7%
2	2	5%
1	0	0%

### Most common responses

- End event at 4pm or have 2 day event
- Too many sessions
- More time for Q&A and include breakout sessions
- Better venue - seating and food especially
- Ideas for future panels - more municipalities and diversity
- Appreciated being outside of HRM
- Overall informative and well done
- Speakers were excellent

# Nova Scotia Main Streets Ideas Exchange - Event Photos





# Nova Scotia Main Streets Ideas Exchange - Event Photos



## Please provide any comments or suggestions to improve future events

Perhaps change the hours to end earlier at 4pm

If cost is a factor for food & beverage consider charging more for registration to have a better lunch menu. I would pay more to register for a day long event if the lunch was better.

Very well attended and organized event, even if ambitious with the programming

Thank You!

The third panel was way too long (needed better facilitation to keep the panelists on time). It also was the panel least connected to the conference theme. I would suggest in the future, have someone from a downtown business association speak on Economy of Place or draw from folks outside the province who have more experience in the connection between economic development and the importance of place. This area obviously needs more development within our province.

Overall, a shorter day would be preferable and more comfy chairs please!

Including networking breaks in the schedule was useful, but 15 minutes was only enough time to meet 1-3 people out of the dozens in attendance. Networking breaks of 20 minutes would enable more conversations while maintaining the flow of the conference.

A formal mixer early-mid day would help attendees identify who to connect with during the unstructured networking breaks.

Panelists' introductions took up the majority of scheduled time for each panel discussion, leaving little time for questions and discussion.

Require panelists to submit a "tight five" in advance of the event, to confirm they have a concise intro covering relevant info that provides time and prompts for the panel discussion.

Closing with an open space session would give participants opportunities to discuss and digest the emerging themes of the day, and how to apply them in their communities.

For a 1-day in person gathering, attendees would be better-rested with a 10am start; particularly with most attendees driving hours each way to avoid the added costs of accommodations. A multi-day event would enable more attendees to be more present; chartered busses from each region would reduce VKT generated by the event while providing more time to network.

For the following question in this survey:

"Please share your overall satisfaction with the following aspects of the Main Streets Ideas Exchange" - The positioning of the "neutral" option in the satisfaction Likert scale is confusing. Either use a 4-point forced-choice scale from "not satisfied" to "very satisfied", or include "dissatisfied" options such that "neutral" is neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.

I felt the content of the day was great, however, the actual logistics left a lot to be desired. The food was not good (I hope the planning committee seeks a discount from the caterer). The seating was not good for a full day event. And I feel strongly that there should not have been a speaker over the lunch hour. Essentially, it meant that participants got very little break during the day, worked through their lunches, and lacked that chunk of time to get outside for a walk and socialize (two important topics that were covered during the session!). I think there was an effort to cover as much content as possible but sometimes less is better! Finally, I think it is very important to manage speakers. The last panel of the day did not respect their speaking time allotment which meant the day ran late. I really wanted to hear the last speaker but I had to leave for other commitments. It was not very respectful to that presenter.

Again, content and speakers were great...just needed a bit of work on the logistics! Thank you for organizing!

## Please provide any comments or suggestions to improve future events

A venue with lots of natural light, pleasing aesthetics (not a gym), controllable climate, opens to green space, comfortable chairs, varied seating sections and well prepared healthy food (non-cafeteria food). Spacious but not so spacious that you lose some degree of intimacy; the stage was very far; the presenters also seemed overly distanced; direct presenters to use minimum font size; maximize the display size as it was difficult to impossible to see some content (serve people with visual impairments). Location more central around Truro to HRM corridor. Or Pictou County. Antigonish is too far for people in west.

Timing was great and the speakers were excellent. I would have enjoyed a bit more time for networking, but otherwise excellent!

It ran long, perhaps an earlier start or multi-day event. Different chairs please. The St. F.X. location and room size was great but the chairs were a common complaint.

Thank you for hosting outside of Halifax which made the event more accessible to smaller communities with less resources (financial and human).

There was a need for follow-up directions as to the civic address of the venue and information regarding parking. The location was buried deep and could be accessed via a link or two. I called St FX directly regarding parking. Being from the area, I gave out a lot of directions to those coming to Antigonish. Don't rely solely on Eventbrite.

- Have a clock for presenters - time keeping was an issue in the afternoon.

Great event! Thank you for hosting it.

Breakout sessions with smaller groups/more refined topics.

Shorten the day a bit, reduce number of panels, cut down on panel presentations, increase panel discussion q&a time.

Already noted throughout room, but the chairs were horrible, and the food was underwhelming. Food can be healthy and at a reduced cost without amounting to a few carrots, celery sticks, and flat bread slices.

All in all, a great event to have, hope it continues and keeps focuses on building up our Main Streets.

Perhaps suggest that municipalities post the event on their websites/ facebook pages to reach a larger audience.

You I had to leave around 1 pm for work but thoroughly enjoyed the conference.

I found it very well organized and informative.

The price point was perfect. It is difficult to stage a full day event with many speakers with snacks and lunch for under \$30.00. Very well done.

Halifax would of been closer for most but Antigonish is a nice place too!

A bit too long.

Very uncomfortable chairs

It was a long day, and perhaps shortening the day somewhat would be better. Even splitting it into two days.

One session too long. 50% of the participants left by the last session. Many driving a long distance likely left early.

Not that you could control this, but the room was too cold and many sat with coats on during much of the day.



## Please provide any comments or suggestions to improve future events

I did find the agenda to be just a little bit too ambitious/long for one day - I think it maybe could have been one panel discussion less. A lot of audience left before the final session and audience attention was flagging by then.

The content very much had a planning focus (understandably); perhaps some acknowledgement of other points of view. Once the street exists, how do we make the most of it? How can government support vibrancy?

Thank you for the opportunity to attend!

Truro is a good location outside of HRM for a provincial conference.

It would have been better to end by 4

I was really disappointed in the lack of time for questions and conversations. A few quick break out sessions to ease people into conversations and lots more time for questions to the key notes and panels would have made the event much much better. I left early because I felt so disengaged.

I was also freezing, the chairs were really uncomfortable and the round tables didn't work - no use since we didn't actually talk to anyone at them.

Had to leave before last session sadly but thought at 4-430 stop would have been good

Extremely well done!

The sessions were very informative

The workshop was very well done

The Economy of Place session seemed less relevant from my perspective and putting it at the end of the day and having it run late was challenging for folks who needed to drive back home to other parts of the province. Next time end at 4pm or 4:30pm, or if it's 5pm just make sure it ends on time. I liked that it wasn't in Halifax though I noticed that it seemed like a majority of attendees were from Halifax. If hosting another event outside of Halifax it would be nice to organize a carpool as the organizers to help facilitate carpooling for participants. Next time include more Black, Indigenous, and People of Color speakers.

Better acoustics, bigger screen(s), and a better venue. More focus on solutions and what works for groups and their projects, not just the importance of what they're doing (preaching to the choir).

Location (Antigonish) was fine, but the venue was bad. The acoustics were terrible and the room was bland. It was impossible to see the one, single, tiny, screen. The event felt drab and bland, with some heavy presentations.

Plastic chairs were uncomfortable for a day of sitting and washrooms need repair and cleaning. The conference speakers, topics, etc were great.

shorten the agenda time to 8am to 4pm

congratulations on a well done event!



## Please provide any comments or suggestions to improve future events

Lots more room for discussion and strategizing would be great! More time for questions

More comfortable chairs

More morning snacks

Less time for keynotes (wasn't as necessary as more time for discussion with others at the event and/or more time for questions from audience for panelists)

More direct examples / panelists from municipalities that are working on it (not just Hubbards)

Less of the format of presentation by each panelist - and more the format of moderator leading the sessions with great discussion questions

Contract a professional facilitator to help structure the event sessions to help ensure everyone can get the most out of each session.

I'm so thrilled this event happened. I was hoping for more discussion about what is possible to move forward and more time to connect with the people in the room after not seeing them for years (covid). But overall such an exciting thing to see all the people in the room for a discussion about main streets

Strive to have diversity of populations and communities in the panels, and audience. Invite more communities to attend. For instance, why didn't you invite the East Preston AT committee to speak? They have been working on their AT plan much longer than Hubbards has. They have faced many more barriers, and we should not shy away from these conversations.

I loved that the conference was offered outside of HRM, especially since the information was targeted to rural communities. The conference felt a bit long, perhaps ending at 3:30pm or 4:pm in the future to allow time for people to travel home. The number of breaks was perfect and allowed people to get up and stretch.

More snacks would be welcome pre-lunch (volume to have a bit more for breakfast). I would personally pay a bit more in order for this to be accommodated. Lunch options were awesome!

Venue space was not great, chairs were very uncomfortable and the room was cold.

lunch was disappointing.

conference was too long of a day, would be better to shorten by one session, have the day end at 3:30 or 4pm.

Highlighting the impact of systemic racism on community design within NS and how we can address it/change it

Understanding the impact of land use policies and how they can support or hinder progress towards sustainable communities & innovative design

How to partner with art community on public art projects

Thank you for organizing

Perhaps a table workshop to foster more ideas exchange and networking.

Allow more time for actual networking and idea exchange. More interaction.

Overall a good day.

Food was absolutely awful and everyone was starving as the portions were snack sized for lunch.

I think more networking time would have been useful and for the attendees to be allowed to interact with the panel discussions (more time allotted for this). It would have been nice to have lunch be a regular style buffet.

More connection to the host communities main street through a walking tour or other activity. It would have been lovely to have chocolates from Peace by Chocolate!

The food was abysmal. There should have been longer breaks between sessions, and overall trying to pack less into the day.

Too many panel presentations led to a bit of fatigue with so many presentations.

The 15 min intervals for networking wasn't enough time to have a full conversation with people, I would like to see more time for networking in the future.

Thanks for hosting! It was great to get together with people who have similar goals and interest - feeling inspired!!

Finding the building and parking were a challenge. The seating was extremely uncomfortable for a full day venue.

Thanks - this was a great learning and networking opportunity.