

The Canadian Evaluation Society, Nova Scotia chapter is pleased to share a summary of the work of 2020. We would like to say a special thanks to our [board members](#) and all of our volunteers for all of the hard work they have put in over this unprecedented year.

We would also like to acknowledge our CES NS member and regular volunteer Robert Chatwin for his National CES Award for Service to the Society in 2020.

Building partnerships and working with CES National has been a key focus of the work of CES NS Chapter President Andrealisa Belzer.

Chapter Presidents from CES NS, CES NB, and CES PEI have been collaborating to jointly organize and promote webinars (see under PD) and to exchange information on matters of operational and strategic importance to evaluation in the Maritimes.

We are also connecting with CES Newfoundland Chapter to extend professional development opportunities across Atlantic CES Chapters.

In February 2020, several CES Nova Scotia Board members joined an Indigenous Services Canada-hosted Think Tank on supporting capacity for Indigenous-led Evaluation, facilitated by leading Indigenous evaluators Larry Bremner and Nicole Bowman.

In May, Andrealisa offered a national Webinar on the Principles and Greening Rubric developed by the national CES Sustainability Working Group and C2019 and C2020 volunteers. Please follow the links below to access the national [Webinar](#) and [Presentation](#)

Membership

- CES-NS chapter began 2020 with 57 members and ended 2020 with 44 members.
- The number of CEs has increased from 19 to 22.
- Emails and meetings were conducted with new members to welcome them to CES.
- Emails were also sent to members whose memberships were expiring.

Member Engagement & Professional Development

With the arrival of COVID-19, we made a push to continue providing professional development and engagement opportunities using web-based platforms. Our online offerings included:

- Virtual AGM June 2020
- *Info and Q & A on the CES Credentialed Evaluator Designation* with Kaireen Chaytor and Karyn Hicks
- *The need to Build Reach into Evaluation Design* with Steve Montague
- *Meet and Greet with CES National President Doaa Saddek*
- *Journal Club* – two sessions in 2020, continuing sessions in 2021

Building Our Online Presence

Over the summer of 2020, the [Chapter website](#) was updated to remove dated content, address broken links, and update pages like [2020-2021 Executive Bios](#) and [Find a Consultant](#).

- [Website](#): In 2020, the CES-NS website had 2,101 visitors, 4,347 page views, 40 blog posts (our most in one year!), and 30 new blog subscribers (162 total).
- [Twitter](#): In 2020, the CES-NS Twitter account had 39 Tweets and 66 new followers (330 total).
- In December 2020, we launched the [CES-NS YouTube Channel](#) where we'll be posting recordings of online Chapter PD events.

Administrative Update

- A part time Administrative Assistant was contracted to support the work of the chapter
- The by-laws have been revised, and a member vote to approve the by-laws will be held on February 24 – [Register here](#)
- Draft Policies and Procedures have been created to help guide our work
- A formal orientation process for new board members in progress
- CES-NS currently has a good level of financial resources available as a result of our work hosting the national conference in 2019. Because of this, the board decided to make professional development events free to members for 2020 and 2021.

2020 Membership Survey

A survey was distributed to CES-NS members in March 2020 to learn about professional development (PD) preferences and other topics.

Out of 50 members, 12 completed the survey (24%). Given this response rate, *we caution against generalizing results to the entire membership*. We present some top findings here that may be of interest to members.

Preferred methods for PD: webcasts or podcasts (67%), exploring the content of evaluation websites (58%), in-person workshops or seminars hosted by CES (50%), CES e-institute learning modules (50%)

Topics of interest for learning events: advanced evaluation designs (42%), cultural competency and working in diverse settings (42%), development and use of performance measures (33%), policy evaluation (33%)

Credentialed Evaluator designation: the majority of respondents were already CEs (42%) or were pursuing, or interested in pursuing, their CE (41%)

Respondent suggestions (open-ended responses):

- Regular email communication to share professional development opportunities
- Updated consultant directory on the provincial chapter site
- All training, conferences and network events to stay online

*Special thanks to [Narrative Research](#) for analyzing and reporting the data.

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