



Fellows' Survey Key Findings

SUMMARY

The Fellows survey was disseminated via email to every member of the Society's College of Fellows. The response rate (113 out of approximately 700) was remarkable, suggesting a robust connection between Society Fellows and the RCGS.

Below are some of the key findings.

ON FELLOWS SATISFACTION WITH THE SOCIETY

Most Fellows expressed a strong level of satisfaction with the Society. 90 of the 113 respondents identified their level of satisfaction to be positive, ranging from "Somewhat satisfied" to "Extremely satisfied".

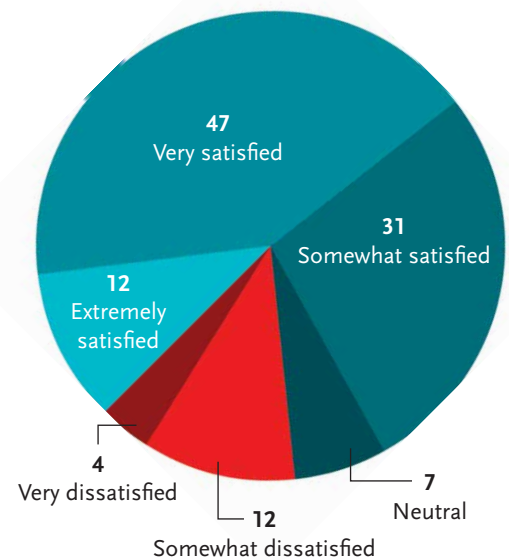
In their comments, Fellows recognized the quality of the Society's publications, including the Fellows Journal and took note of the Society's important rise in visibility coming from its participation in the 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition. Other Fellows acknowledged the strength of the Society's educational programming, and its growing reach within the teacher/educator communities across Canada.

Of the few concerns expressed, the most prominent was a call for greater opportunity for Fellows engagement outside the Ottawa-Toronto corridor. Some participants also identified challenges in maintaining a geography-based focus when engaging in activities connecting with Canadian history.

ON CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

Survey participants responded quite clearly by identifying two key areas of contribution by Fellows. The largest number of respondents felt that Fellows can contribute to the Society by helping to raise its profile through writing, networking and community engagement. Many of those that made this comment encouraged the Society to provide additional opportunities for them to contribute in this regard.

A smaller group of participants acknowledged that Fellows can make a stronger contribution through charitable giving.





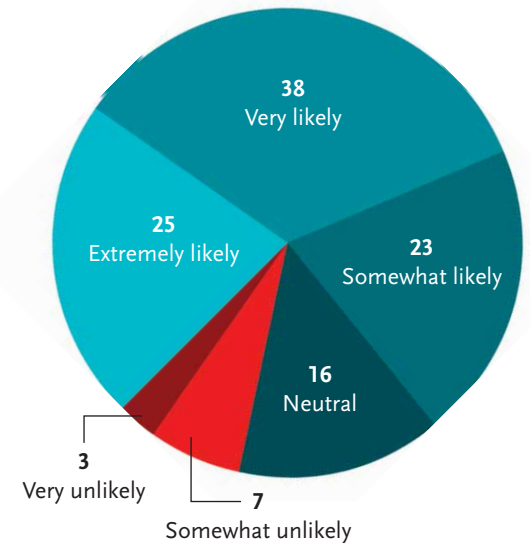
ON THE BENEFITS OF FELLOWSHIP

On the question of benefits, Fellows responses were quite consistent. Many respondents felt that the greatest benefit received from Fellowship was an added level of recognition received in their work environment. A smaller group of participants suggested that RCGS Fellowship allowed for greater access to likeminded professionals/academics, with an even smaller group identifying event participation, such as the Annual Fellows Dinner as being of great value.

ON WHETHER THEY WOULD RECOMMEND OTHERS TO BECOME FELLOWS

Of those 112 Fellows that replied to this survey question, 86 identified that they positively recommend others to join the College of Fellows, 61 of which suggested that they were either “Very likely” or “Extremely likely”. This strong endorsement greatly mirrors the results of the question concerning Fellows satisfaction with the RCGS.

However strong this endorsement may seem, the ideal would be a positive response from all Fellows. As such, there appears to be a good opportunity for the RCGS to improve the perceived value of Fellowship for its key stakeholders.



ON SOCIETY EVENTS

Fellows’ responses on events presented a clear and uniform message - the Society should hold more events that they can participate in. A majority of respondents suggested that they rarely are able to attend events due to location, and would more actively participate in the Society were events available to them. Of the events they would like to participate in, lectures, dinners, symposia and networking events were most often recommended.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES FROM THE FELLOWS

1. Fellows are satisfied with the work that the Society does and the value it provides them as Fellows. However, there is more work to be done to strengthen both.
2. Fellows feel their greatest opportunity for contribution is through raising the profile of the Society in their community, by writing, speaking and engaging the public.
3. The Society can strengthen its engagement with the Fellows by reaching outside of the Ottawa-Toronto corridor, and providing a greater number of events and initiatives for Fellows outside of that area.
4. Fellows encourage the Society to find additional opportunities for them to enhance their engagement with Society initiatives.
5. Fellows greatly appreciate the strong quality of the Fellows Journal, and encourage the Society to continue to produce it 4 times a year.