



Canadian Evaluation Society – National Capital Chapter

# 2018 ANNUAL LEARNING EVENT

*Principled Evaluation: Should I give a s\*#t?*

February 13th, 2018

Ottawa Conference and Event Centre

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

The Organizing Committee for the National Capital Chapter (NCC) of the Canadian Evaluation Society (CES) is inviting proposals for oral presentations and posters for our Annual Learning Event. Those proposals should focus on our event theme. Evaluators frequently face ethical challenges in terms of their autonomy, competency, integrity and accountability. Are the principles adequate? How can evaluation principles be employed, adapted or made more responsive to changing context and needs, be it in small organizations or large complex systems? Proposals should be linked to one of the three streams below.

### ***Stream 1: Canadian Evaluation Society Principles in Evaluation Practice***

CES is working towards a renewed focus on ethics through an updated Statement of Principles and greater attention to ethics as part of its Competencies for Canadian Evaluators. This stream will focus on the relevance and adequacy of CES Principles – competence, integrity and accountability – for meeting the challenges of how we plan, design, conduct, manage, and communicate evaluation. It will highlight new developments and resources for principled evaluation such as Michael Quinn Patton's Principles-Focused Evaluation: The Guide and their potential relevance and utility for Canadian practitioners.

This stream will address the following types of questions:

- What ethical challenges have CES members been encountering in their work?
- Are there relevant examples that reflect an explicit focus on principled practice, or conversely, that reflect unprincipled practice? What have been the consequences of either?
- What resources and supports are being used and/or needed to help members address the challenges they are facing?
- To what extent are CES principles meaningful, actionable, and adhered to by those to whom they are targeted?
- Who should be targeted by renewed focus on ethical principles, and how should they be supported?

### ***Stream 2: Principles in Government of Canada Research and Evaluation***

The 2009 Policy and Standard on Evaluation required that evaluations be conducted in a professional and ethical manner, consistent with the Values and Ethics Code for the Public Service. The 2016 Policy and Directive on Results only states that evaluations are to be conducted in a “neutral manner and with integrity”. By contrast, the Government of Canada's 2010 Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS): Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans, 2nd edition is far more detailed and demanding. It establishes minimum ethical standards for government funded research that involves human participants. A broad range of issues are identified in the TCPS, many familiar to evaluators. They including: consent; fairness and equity in research participation; privacy; confidentiality; conflict of interests; research involving first nations; qualitative research; and clinical trials.

Conference organizers invite presentations and posters that address these issues and the following types of questions:

- Do conflicts of ethical issues occur within Federal Government evaluations, and how are they practically resolved without compromising the quality, integrity or utility of evaluation?
- Is referral to the Values and Ethics code for the Public Service a sufficient condition in the conduct and/or quality of evaluation?
- Are there relevant examples to illustrate what is meant by evaluations that are both “neutral” and with “integrity”?
- Evaluation is currently and explicitly excluded from the TCPS. Should parallel guidance be established for evaluators conducting Federal Government evaluations? For professional program evaluations in general?



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## **Stream 3: Navigating Ethical Dilemmas and Challenges in Program Evaluation**

This stream looks at ways to engage constructively in ethical dialogue in order to reach solutions to the issues faced by evaluators. The issues can have different dimensions: personal, organizational or professional ethics, or any combination. The tools and guidelines for ethical dialogue span all sectors: business, voluntary sector, government and academia. The opening presentation will reflect perspectives of the Ethics Practitioners' Association of Canada (EPAC), the mission of which is "to promote ethical knowledge, wisdom and competency in Canadian organizations". As evaluators, we face ongoing professional challenges to our competence, integrity and accountability.

From a values perspective, the conference organizers would be interested in receiving proposals that recount experiences of ethical challenges and dilemmas and/or propose avenues of resolution; for example, when:

- Demonstrating responsibility to clients
- Respecting the confidentiality of information when transparency is not always appropriate;
- Highlighting measures to avoid conflicts of interest
- Ensuring the accuracy of public statements about any aspects of evaluation work
- Avoid undertaking to achieve results which are beyond the capacity to deliver
- Demonstrating personal responsibility
- Acting with integrity and candor
- Developing and maintaining individual competence and expertise
- Establishing co-operative relations with other evaluation professionals
- Demonstrating responsibility to the profession of evaluation
- Contributing to the ethical development of evaluators, and to the profession
- Promoting the sharing of professional knowledge and skills related to evaluation ethics
- Working actively to ensure ethical practices are maintained
- Avoiding actions that may be considered denigrating the work of evaluation professionals

Within these three streams, the conference organizers are particularly interested in obtaining proposals for either presentations or posters that address the following priorities:

- Presentations and posters in French
- Projects that involve working with Indigenous populations, programs and initiatives
- Projects from students and early-career evaluators

This year we are welcoming submissions for both oral presentations and poster presentations.

- **Oral presentations** will be grouped into sessions according to topic, and a moderator will facilitate the session. Each presenter will be asked to speak for approximately 20 minutes, and then there will be a 10-minute question and answer period.
- **Poster presentations** will allow presenters to interact with attendees at specific periods throughout the event. This format is particularly useful for those wishing to present projects that are in process, or to present a specific idea or question to gather feedback from attendees. We are hoping that students will present posters to highlight their current projects.



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## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Please complete the Submission Form and submit to [nccsecretariat@evaluationcanada.ca](mailto:nccsecretariat@evaluationcanada.ca) by **January 5th, 2018**. You are asked to provide information on the proposed presenters, type of presentation and abstract. Be sure to complete all the required information fields and checklists. Please note that oral presentations will be allotted a total time-period of 30 minutes including presentation time (approximately 20 minutes) and a minimum of 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

The acceptance rates for proposals vary each year and not all proposals will necessarily be accepted. In addition to completeness, each proposal will be assessed by an independent review committee against the following criteria:

- **Relevance:** the proposal should demonstrate alignment to the conference theme and/or one of the conference streams
- **Clarity:** the proposal should clearly outline the topic that will be featured in the presentation as well as its main concepts/ideas
- **Innovation:** the proposal introduces new ideas, methods, and/or approaches that promote new knowledge and the potential to contribute to the field
- **Focus:** the proposal contributes to knowledge on broader issues of evaluation methods, theories, policies and practices that have value to a wide community within CES in contrast to presenting findings from a specific evaluation
- **Learning support:** includes interactives and/or other methods to support learning where applicable

Please note that for oral presentations, a data projector, PC laptop, screen and flipcharts will be provided. All other equipment must be ordered in advance and paid for by presenters. Poster boards will be available for all poster presentations.

Presenters selected will be notified via email by **January 12th, 2018** and are expected to register for the conference no later than **January 29th, 2018**. Considering the benefits of attending the conference (panel discussions, keynote, workshops), **presenters do not receive reduced or waived conference registration fees (note early-bird registration at reduced price runs until January 8th)**.

Any questions regarding the content of your proposal or any technical questions should be forwarded to: [nccsecretariat@evaluationcanada.ca](mailto:nccsecretariat@evaluationcanada.ca).

All submissions will be acknowledged. Submission will be retained in a CES-NCC database for reference for future CES-NCC events, unless applicants wish otherwise. Also, the CES-NCC intends to post presentation materials from the event on the CES-NCC website unless presenters wish otherwise. Please note your preferences in the Submission Form.

*Thank you for your submission!*



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