

# SoTL Canada Membership Survey

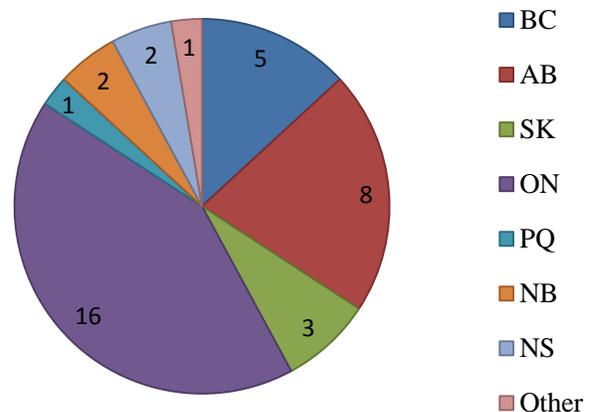
SoTL Canada is a special interest group of STLHE. We share the goals of STLHE and also provide a targeted opportunity for SoTL scholars to form a community to share findings, to engage in opportunities for broader sharing of SoTL work, and consider ways to catalyze SoTL initiatives at the institutional, regional, national, and international levels.

The purpose of this survey was to collect perspectives on current SoTL Canada initiatives as well as recommendations for initiatives SoTL Canada should consider developing. Initiatives outlined in the survey included: SoTL writing retreats, institutes, workshops, and peer mentoring. Responses are tabulated for each of the surveys themes in the following brief report.

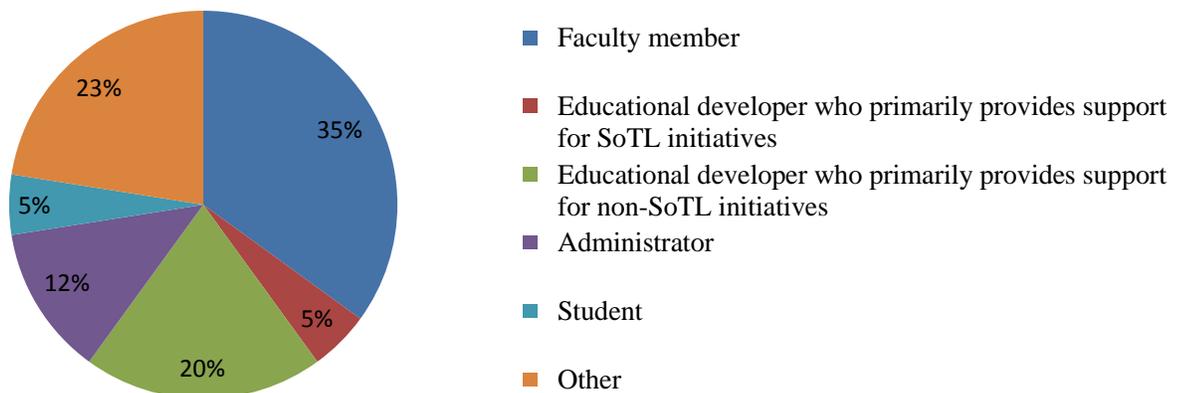
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## 1. Participant Demographics

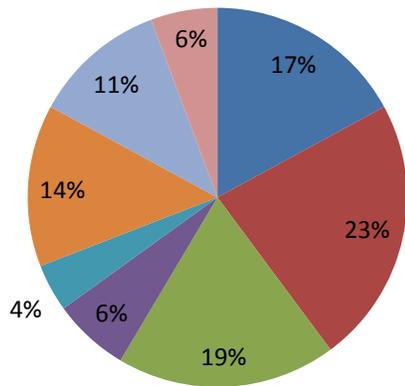
Of the 40 respondents, 34 were from Canadian universities, 5 from Canadian colleges, and 1 was from a university in another country.



## 2. Primary Institutional Role



### 3. SoTL Activities at Institution

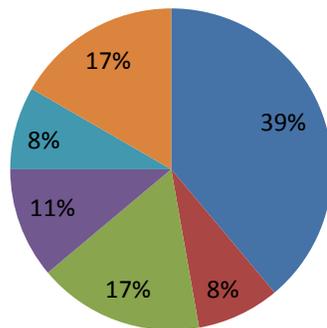


- SoTL Grants
- SoTL Workshops
- SoTL Communities of Practice
- SoTL Peer Mentoring
- SoTL Writing Retreats
- SoTL Conference
- Opportunities for Student Engagement in SoTL
- Other

### 4. SoTL Activities Involved In

SoTL Activity	Available	Involved in
SoTL Grants	21	17
SoTL Workshops	28	24
SoTL Communities of Practice	23	20
SoTL Peer Mentoring	8	5
SoTL Writing Retreats	5	1
SoTL Conference	17	14
Opportunities for Student Engagement	14	12
Other	7	9

### 5. Activities outside Institution



- All levels
- International
- National
- Regional & National
- Local only
- None

## 6. How do you define SoTL?

A few sample excerpts:

- I define the scholarship of teaching and learning as intentional inquiry into teaching, learning and higher education (asking a question, choosing a methodology, considering ethical implications and sharing findings).
- I tend to use McKinney's 2006 definition, which I usually paraphrase as the systematic exploration of teaching and learning made public (actual quote: “systematic study of teaching and/or learning and the public sharing and review of such work through presentations, performance, or publications” (McKinney, 2006, p. 39))
- Scholarship that aims to improve the student learning experience.
- Exploration of teaching and learning issues and opportunities within and outside the classroom that results in sharing insights and learning from exploration process with others in a variety of formats
- I recognize the full spectrum of scholarship as defined by Boyer, but in general when I talk about SoTL I mean classroom-based research on TandL in higher ed. And I mean research in the broadest sense - both quantitative and qualitative, empirical to interpretive to critical, etc.
- Inquiry into student learning and my teaching practices that are based on scholarly theory and documented results and which are shared publically with others.
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning?
- The acronym is as far as I get.

## 7. Other working groups needed?

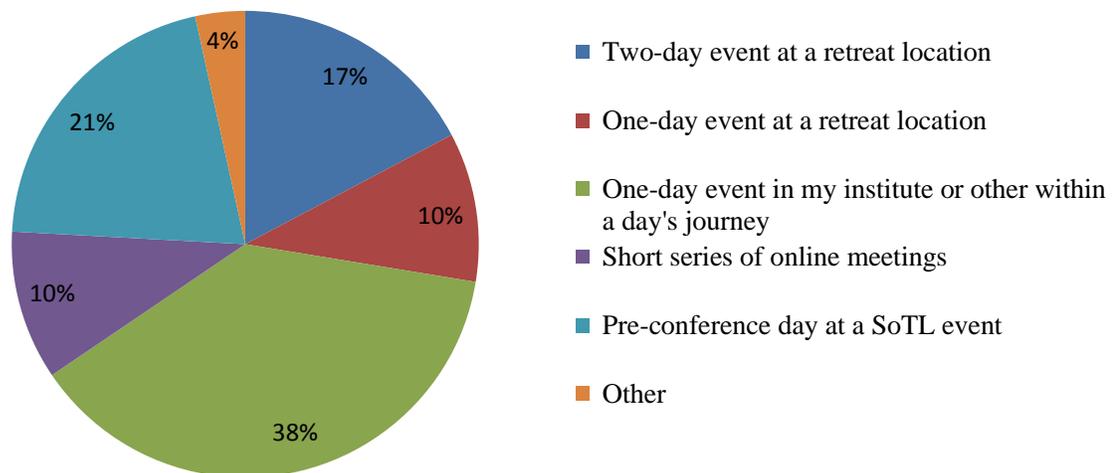
Suggested Working Group	#
National advocacy (for funding/promotion in disciplines)	3
Collaborative writing groups	2
Representation at other events/panels at disciplinary societies	2
Multidisciplinary initiatives	1
Blog for commentary on teaching and learning	1
Collaborative Canada-wide research project	1
Institutional ‘summits’ to provide training in methods, etc	1
Online webinar/other resources	1

Sessions for teachers/students to probe assumptions about T&L	1
Knowledge translation (SoTL into practice)	1
SoTL Twitter account	1
Repository for sharing work	1
Draft definition of SoTL	1
Mentorship for grad students	1
Program evaluation instruments/methods	1

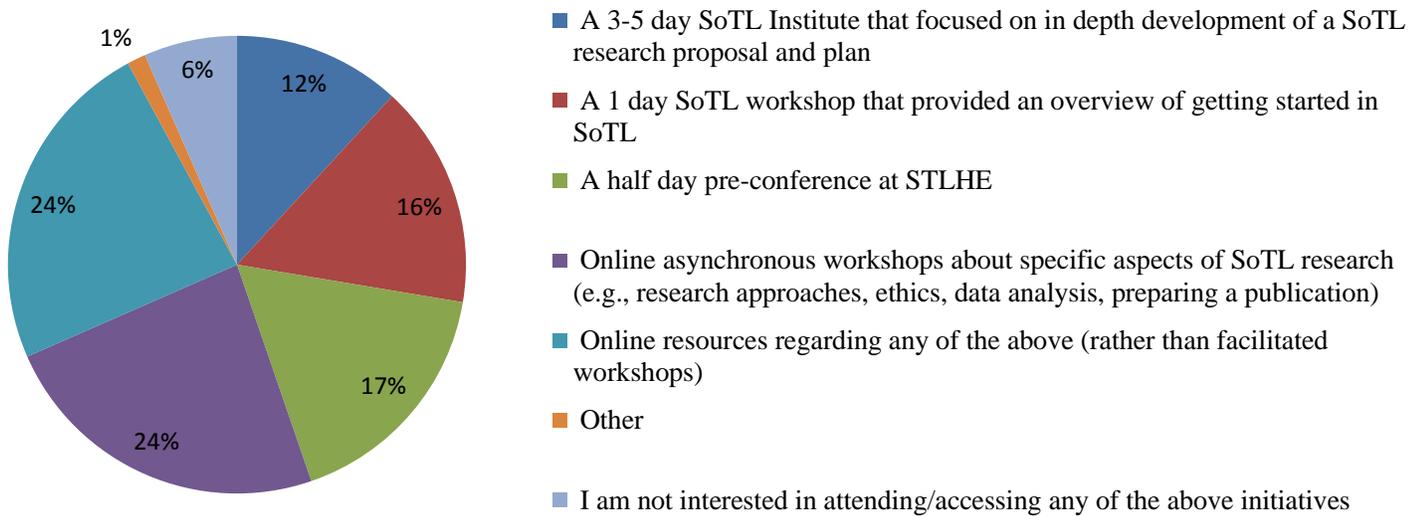
### 8. Interested in SoTL Writing Retreat?

Yes	No	Maybe
16	9	13

### 9. If yes, what format would you prefer?



## 10. Interest in SoTL Institutes?



## 11. Interested in Peer Mentoring?

Yes	No
24	12

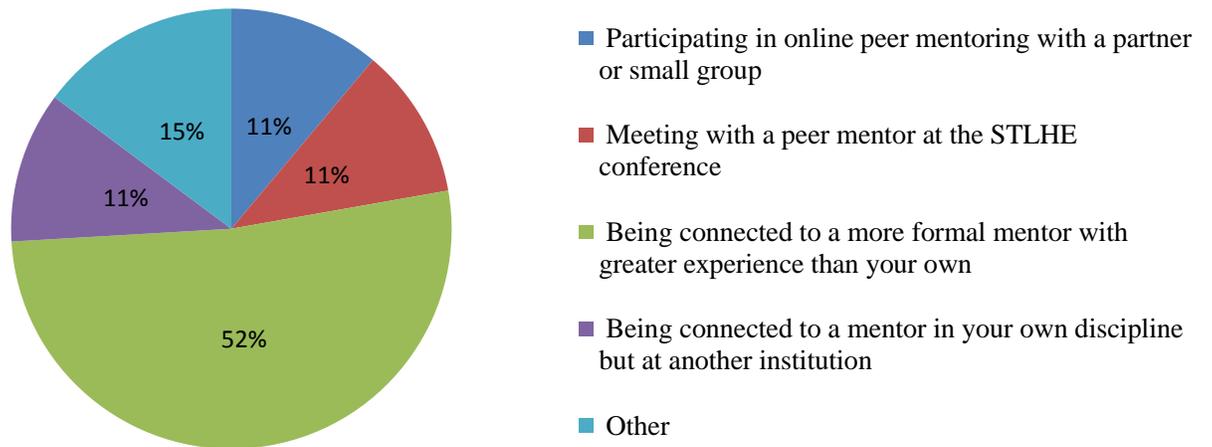
## 12. The Role of a SoTL Mentor

A few sample excerpts:

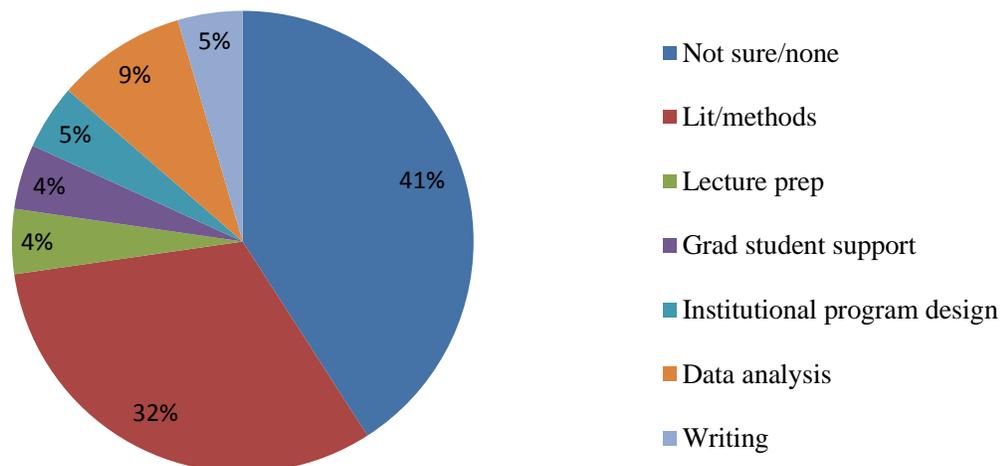
- “Suggesting resources, acting as a sounding board, possibly reviewing work in progress”
- “Someone who can share experiences of conducting a variety of SoTL work (practice and research) Someone who can discuss topical literature with the mentee. Someone who can connect with the mentee with a broader network of support.”
- “Being available by email/Skype to advise on what SoTL is and how to go about practising it.”
- “Essentially a mentor should support/advise on the entire inquiry process from question development to dissemination/communication. Ideally the mentor is identified based on common interests (discipline, focus of the question, methodology used, background with the target journals/conferences, etc).”

- “I personally need help in developing my teaching experiences into scholarship. I need help in both framing the questions that arise from experiences and the design of how to investigate those questions. In addition, I need help in understanding the ethics of using student work and surveys vs using the institutional data available with end of term student evaluations.”

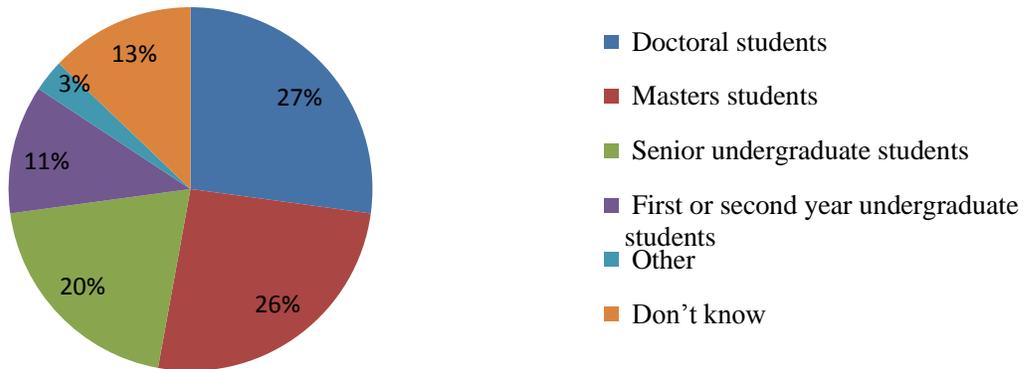
### 13. Mentoring Opportunities of Interest



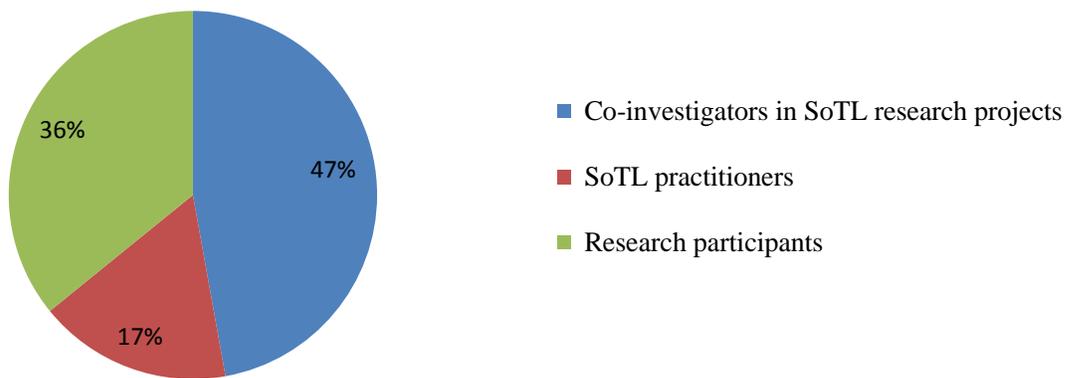
### 14. Support I could provide as a Mentor



### 15. Level at which students are involved



### 16. Student Roles in SoTL



### 17. If a student doing SoTL...

If involved, how did you begin?	#
Invited by a faculty member	0
Learned about it through my department	0
Saw an open job posting	1
Sought out my own opportunities	4
Other	4

## 18. Why did you get involved?

A few sample excerpts:

- “To expand my research portfolio.”
- “It's an area that I am passionate about and find interesting. I initially became involved through a co-operative education work opportunity in my fourth year.”
- “To improve my teaching practice, in order to better support my students; to engage in reflection as an instructor.”

## 19. If only 1 initiative this year for SoTL Canada...

Writing retreat/collaborative writing	4
Peer mentoring	4
Help getting started/methods workshop	3
Online/sustainable resources	3
Pre-conference at STLHE	2
Advocacy	1
Multi-institutional SoTL program evaluations	1
Increase awareness/membership of SIG	1
Favourite reading list	1

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## Preliminary Summary

This survey largely confirms the importance of the ongoing work of SoTL Canada and aligns well with current initiatives by working groups and the executive, such as: the resource section of the SoTL Canada website, the twitter account, and the development of SoTL writing groups.

Information regarding other activities and a potential peer mentorship program will be useful for the upcoming planning phase. As the work of SoTL Canada and its partners continues to progress, all members will be kept in the loop. To join, please contact SoTL Canada Chair – Janice Miller-Young at [jmyoung@mtroyal.ca](mailto:jmyoung@mtroyal.ca).