Canadian Evaluation Society

How To Strengthen VOPE’s Capacities to Enhance Evaluators’ Skills
Context

- Long-standing involvement with professional development
- Member of the Consortium of Universities for Evaluation Education
- Developed the first Professional Designation Program
The CUEE

- Collaborative partnership among universities, government and the Canadian Evaluation Society
  - Carleton University
  - École nationale d’administration publique (ENAP)
  - Université Laval
  - University of Alberta
  - University of Ottawa
  - University of Saskatchewan
  - University of the Fraser Valley
  - University of Victoria
CUEE

- Purpose is to build capacity in graduate-level education in Canada in order to
  - increase the number of qualified evaluators in Canada
  - build capacity among Canadian academic institutions to develop and offer advanced education/training for professional evaluators
  - enhance students’ access to high quality graduate level instruction in evaluation
  - support the development of graduate certificate and degree programs in evaluation by sharing course syllabi, proposals for credentials and other materials
  - operate nationally
CUEE

- Students of Consortium participants will be able to take courses from one member and have it apply to another member’s degree
- Currently criteria for course review process is being developed
- The course review process will incorporate the evaluator competencies that serve as the foundation for CES’ Professional Designation Program
What is the Professional Designation Program

The CES Credentialed Evaluator (CE) designation is designed to:

- define
- recognize
- promote the practice of ethical, high quality and competent evaluation in Canada through a program for professional designations.
The Qualifications

- Evidence of graduate level degree or certificate (prior learning assessment is also available)
- Two (2) years (full-time equivalent) evaluation related work experience within the last ten (10) years.
- Education and/or experience related to 70% of the competencies in EACH of the five domains of Competencies for Canadian Evaluation Practice.
  - Reflective
  - Technical
  - Situational
  - Management
  - Interpersonal
Maintaining the CE Designation

- 40 hours of professional development over a three-year period
  - Posted through an online process
- $50./year annual fee in addition to the CES membership fee
Accomplishments Related to Strengthening VOPE Capacity to Enhance Evaluator Skills

- A consortium that is moving towards being a self-sustaining entity
- A professional designation program with close to 200 Credentialed Evaluators
- Moving towards integrating the CUEE courses and CES professional development offerings with PDP competencies
Challenges

- Reaching consensus
  - Getting agreement for a professional designation
  - Getting agreement on the competencies
  - Having eight different universities agree on criteria for course review
Reaching Consensus

**Research**

- 2002: Core Body of Knowledge Report
- 2005: Literature Review
- 2007: Interview Report
- 2008: Cross-walk of Evaluation Competencies
- 2009: Recommended Action Plan

**Consultation**

**Implementation**

- 2009: PDP Project Plan
- 2009: Evaluation: Competencies Determined
- 2010: Fast-Tracking for Experienced Evaluators
- April 2009: CES Membership Approves PDP
- June 2010: PDP Program Launched
- September 2012: 138 Credentialed Evaluators
Factors Contributing to Success

- Willingness to consult
- Patience – not expecting it to be easy
- Able to see the potential and at the same time take on the challenges
- The willingness of volunteers
What We Have Learned

- There is strong support towards greater professionalization of evaluation.
- There are many ways to accomplish a goal – in fact it needs to happen through a number of inter-related initiatives:
  - Academic education
  - Professional development
  - Credentialing
- Nothing comes easy
- The planning process is extremely important and needs to be inclusive.