

# NSERC PermafrostNet

## Member survey findings

2019-2024



[www.permafrostnet.ca](http://www.permafrostnet.ca)

## **Making the invisible visible**

NSERC PermafrostNet research generates valuable benefits beyond published papers and data. These "intangible benefits," such as collaborations, new ideas, and approaches to training, are crucial for future progress in understanding permafrost and preparing the north for permafrost thaw, but they are often overlooked or difficult to measure. This lack of visibility makes it hard to fully assess the network's impact and prioritize future investments.

In January 2024, the network surveyed members with the aim of identifying the less-measured, high-potential value within NSERC PermafrostNet. By making these intangible benefits visible, we can:

- Demonstrate the true impact of the network beyond traditional metrics.
- Inform strategic decisions about future initiatives and resource allocation.
- Strengthen connections and foster collaboration within the permafrost community.

The initial results from the survey are presented in this report. A more concise summary will be presented when ready.

*Dr. Stephan Gruber, Scientific Director, and Michelle Laurie.*

# Exchange Summary

Michelle Laurie, Stephan Gruber  
January 2024

**What value are you getting from participating in PermafrostNet that you would like to share with your fellow network members and beyond?**

(Feel free to consider this broadly such as invisible or visible value, direct or indirect value, short-term and long-term value for example.)



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation



**64**  
Participants



**61**  
Thoughts



**883**  
Ratings

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WORDCLOUD  
Top Rated





## THOUGHTS

### Key Thoughts



**PN has done a good job connecting researchers. Next goal should be on contextualizing the results and translating into practical knowledge/application** The translation of what has been learned into usable knowledge outside of academia is what we all hope for, and our reason for doing the work itself.

4.3  (16 )

Ranked #1 of 61

**Initiatives and results toward more standardized permafrost science methods.** To harness an increasing proportion of the potential value of the collective body of permafrost science.

4.2  (17 )

Ranked #2 of 61

**Connecting with researchers across Canada who are involved in research research areas that are complementary to my own** This is important as it provides me with an understanding of the nature of the sampling, data collection, development of new tools and methods

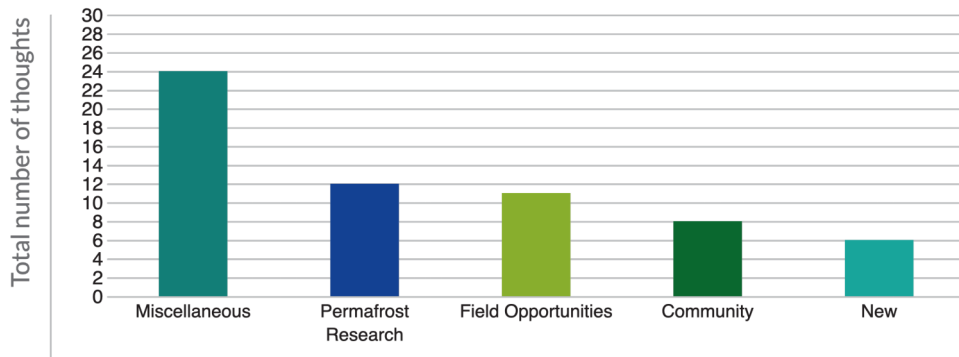
4.2  (16 )

Ranked #3 of 61



## KEYWORD THEMES

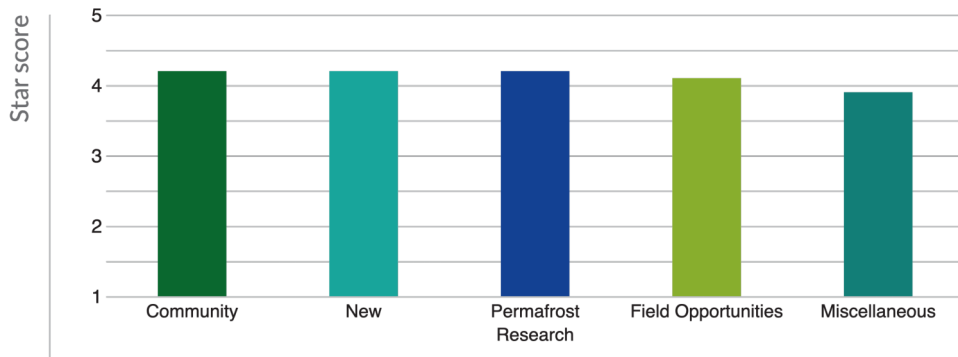
### Top Themes by total thoughts





## KEYWORD THEMES

### Top Themes by star score







## THOUGHTS Community



**A sense of community, and the realization that this community is so much bigger than we thought (and bigger than just the network)**

4.0  (18 )

**A connection to a community of people with similar interests, providing insight from their varying degrees of experience.** A community is important as it provides a place to turn when in need of help, advice, ideas, feedback, etc. It also promotes learning and sharing.

4.0  (16 )

**Community** Something greater than the sum of its parts (synergy)

4.0  (16 )



## THOUGHTS

### New



**Getting to know a different "scientific landscape".** Of immeasurable value is stepping out of a comfort zone, into a new scientific 'neighborhood' and finding new perspectives, this will improve science.

4.2  (15 )

**Exposure to new problems, methodologies, and innovations.** The diversity of research in PermafrostNet means I am always learning something new!

4.1  (17 )

**New research questions arise from new conversations and collaborations.**

4.0  (18 )



## THOUGHTS

### Permafrost Research



**Initiatives and results toward more standardized permafrost science methods.** To harness an increasing proportion of the potential value of the collective body of permafrost science.

4.2  (17 )

**More impactful research** Working as part of a larger network gives me a better idea of where the knowledge gaps are and how I can best contribute to permafrost research.

4.2  (16 )

**Connecting more with permafrost researchers/professionals in fields outside my own.** This has helped me have a broader understanding of permafrost. Narrow views/understanding doesn't make for good science

4.2  (15 )



## THOUGHTS Field Opportunities



**As a PhD student, I found theme meetings and annual general meetings to be very important in creating a community and building a professional network.** Meetings (online and in person) allowed me to learn from more senior researchers, while feeling comfortable to talk & present to other grad students.

4.1  (18 )

**Opportunities to meet and form relationships with other permafrost researchers** I now have a network of researchers that I know, trust, like, and collaborate with. This was made possible by in-person meetings (AGMs, Kluane)

4.1  (17 )



**Opportunities for collaboration and networking with individuals in similar fields.**



4.0  (18 )





## THOUGHTS Miscellaneous



**PN has done a good job connecting researchers. Next goal should be on contextualizing the results and translating into practical knowledge/application** The translation of what has been learned into usable knowledge outside of academia is what we all hope for, and our reason for doing the work itself. 4.3  (16 )

**Connecting with researchers across Canada who are involved in research research areas that are complementary to my own** This is important as it provides me with an understanding of the nature of the sampling, data collection, development of new tools and methods 4.2  (16 )

**Connecting with others/building relationships** Important for lateral communication, personal and professional growth, etc. 4.1  (17 )



## WRAP UP Next Steps



### **Thanks for participating**

We'll be carefully considering what we learned and sharing our actions back with you.