

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Leading Communities BC program?

- ❖ An action-oriented rural community leadership program focused on developing skills to collaboratively lead positive community change
- ❖ An initiative that engages a diversity of potential, emerging and experienced leaders to work together across differences
- ❖ Leadership development that focuses on real-life community issues, and building a healthy, vibrant community
- ❖ A learning journey that mixes reflection and action to develop lasting leadership capacities, and a strong network of skilled community members

Who is the program for/ who should apply?

- ❖ Community members who are actively involved, or would like to become more involved in making their community more sustainable and vibrant, and who would like to develop their collaborative leadership skills
- ❖ People from all sectors, backgrounds, and a variety of age ranges (ages 14- 90)
- ❖ People with all levels of leadership experience
- ❖ People who bring different "voices" and experiences of the community, and help to build a diverse participant group made up of experienced, emerging and potential leaders

If I participate, how will it benefit me and my community?

Through the program, you will:

- ❖ Increase your personal, interpersonal and community leadership capacities
- ❖ Develop a new understanding of your community's assets, challenges and dynamics
- ❖ Engage in a learning community and become part of a cross-sectoral network of community leaders
- ❖ Practice your leadership skills through the development of a collaborative community project
- ❖ Cultivate creativity and an innovative mindset to respond to community challenges and opportunities
- ❖ Become more effective at working collaboratively with others, and responding to complex issues

Benefits to the community include:

- ❖ Developing a "critical mass" of skilled leaders who share common tools and experience
- ❖ Encouraging new, innovative thinking on community challenges and opportunities
- ❖ Deepening relationships amongst community members, and greater collaboration across sectors and interests
- ❖ Implementing a class community project which benefits the larger community
- ❖ Supporting leadership succession through development and mentorship of new and emerging leaders

- ❖ Enhancing a sense of community “trusteeship” and engagement amongst community members

What is the time commitment to participate?

Participants are expected to participate fully in:

- ❖ 3 weekend learning sessions, each consisting of 2 full days of training (* Please note: The 1st weekend may include an additional day or evening session)
- ❖ Approximately 20-50 hours outside of learning sessions for a leadership practicum implementing a class community project. (*Work on the project may take place up to 1 year after the training sessions, depending on the nature and scope of the project which is selected by the class.*)

What are the 2011 scheduled training dates for my community?

* Weekend #1 – January 22-23 (* Please note: The 1st weekend may include an additional day or evening session)

* Weekend #2 – February 26-27

* Weekend #3 – April 2-3

What does it cost to participate?

Program fees to participate in the Leading Communities BC program are normally \$2500 per participant. However, thanks to support from the *Skeena Diversity Society*, the program is able to offer significant scholarships to participants. The cost is \$150 with additional subsidy available. In recognition of this unique opportunity, we ask that participants commit to full participation in the program, and attend 100% of the learning sessions.

How does the participant selection process work?

In addition to a public call for applications, *Leading Communities BC* manages a process of identifying five to ten local nominators who know the community well and are able to identify potential, emerging and existing leaders from various community sectors. The nominators identify up to 60 candidates who are invited to apply to the program, from which *Leading Communities BC* selects 20-24 people to invite to participate. The program strives to include a variety of “voices”, including youth, so that class discussions are rich with ideas and perspectives, and includes a mix of participants that represent the diversity of the community.

Final selection is based on ensuring a diverse cohort that includes a mix of leaders from different backgrounds and experiences. Because of class size limitations, many qualified leaders may not be included in the program this year.. Leading Communities and the program partners keep their names on file for subsequent programs and trainings. The program retains the final decision on participants selected for the program.

How do I apply?

Interested community members can obtain an application package by contacting Skeena Diversity Society: Tel: (250) 635-6530, email: info@skeenadiversity.com or visit Skeena Diversity centre at 4617 Lazelle Ave in Terrace. If you are interested in applying please complete an application form.

When is the application deadline?

The application deadline: **January 7**. Selected participants will be notified by: **January 15**