



# leading communities bc



## 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 participate?

- ❖ 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



Leading Communities BC is a program of



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## Benefits of the program

### *For participants:*

- ❖ Increase personal, interpersonal and community leadership capacities
- ❖ Develop a new understanding of the community's assets, challenges and dynamics
- ❖ Engage in a learning community and become part of a cross-sectoral network of community leaders
- ❖ Practice 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

### *For communities:*

- ❖ 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

## Program Structure

*Leading Communities BC* is delivered on-site in rural communities and offers participants approximately 70 hours of training over the course of 5- 6 months, with some follow-up work on a class community project. The program schedule is designed according to the needs of the participating communities; however, the program generally takes place one weekend per month over a period of approximately 5-6 months. Learning sessions are facilitated by a team of facilitators who bring extensive experience in adult education, leadership and community development.



## Leading Communities Curriculum

The *Leading Communities BC* curriculum is both experiential and practical. It is designed to explore real-life issues and develop skills that are relevant and real to communities. The program includes a number of core topics designed to give participants a solid foundation in community leadership and community development, as well as the opportunity to explore specific topics based on their particular realities. The curriculum focuses on developing leadership competencies in 4 key areas:

# Leading Communities BC: 4 Areas of Leadership Development





**Leading Communities BC** has been developed based on principles of adult learning, and draws on the knowledge, skills and experience of participants to bring the topics to life. The program content varies in each community based on their particular issues and interests, however, examples of topics that are covered in the program include:

- The Leader Within – Personal Leadership Styles and Values
- Theories and Practice of Leadership
- Understanding Community & Community Systems
- Identifying Community Assets
- Diversity, Difference and Power
- Effective Communication Strategies
- Group Dynamics and Team Learning
- Dealing with Conflict
- Building and Sustaining Community Collaboration
- Facilitating Effective Meetings
- Community Development Models
- Strengthening Social Capital
- Tools for Community Economic Development
- Building Shared Vision
- Community Mobilization and Engagement
- Developing Successful Community Initiatives
- Youth Engagement and Leadership
- Building an “Entrepreneurial” Community Attitude
- Creating a Learning Community
- Leading Innovation and Change



## About CIEL:

*Leading Communities BC* is a program of the **Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL)**, a centre of excellence for community, entrepreneurial and economic leadership based in Nelson, BC. CIEL is a federally incorporated not-for-profit organization that does work across Canada focusing on tools, training & innovative solutions for communities. In addition to the *Leading Communities BC* program, CIEL has developed and delivered the *Business Vitality Initiative (BVI)*, the *Community Vitality Initiative (CVI)* and the *Communities Matrix*, assessment and community action tools used by dozens of governments and communities. For more information, please visit [www.theCIEL.com](http://www.theCIEL.com)



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