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A Leadership Development Experience Like No Other

The Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference brings together Canada’s emerging leaders from business, labour, government and the community sector for a unique two-week experience aimed at broadening their perspectives on work, leadership, their communities, and their country. Conference members come from different regions, different perspectives and different careers.

All members share one thing in common: they are high potential individuals expected to achieve senior leadership positions in their organizations and communities within 10 years. 250 Canadians will be selected for the 2017 Conference.

Since the first conference in 1983, more than 2,000 emerging Canadian leaders have participated in this unique process of examination, debate and discovery.

In a 2016 survey of all Conference alumni, 98% said they had recommended the Conference to others, 89% said the experience helped their development as leaders and 91% said the Conference had a lasting impact on their lives.

NAHEED NENSHI (2008)
MAYOR OF CALGARY

I learned so much about a region I didn’t know very well, about community action and engagement, and about what binds us together as a nation. I learned so much from my fellow travellers, as well as all the wonderful community people we met. I can’t recommend the experience highly enough.
The 2017 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference will take place during the 150th anniversary of Canada festivities, a wonderful occasion to celebrate our past and look forward to a bright and prosperous future.

And what greater gift to Canada can we make than to prepare the leaders of the next generation, those who will no doubt influence Canada well into our 200th anniversary!

Some of this country’s most dynamic leaders, who have the potential for even greater impact, will embark on a two-week journey. They will travel to different communities, get out of their comfort zone, challenge preconceived notions, and discover innovative ideas and creative solutions.

Part of that road is about finding out what works, integrating and applying new skills to leadership. Keeping an open mind, collaborating with others, sharing knowledge and expertise with peers—all of this will help the participants get the most out of this conference.

I am grateful to the participants, organizers and supporters of this important national event. I look forward to hearing the results of this journey.

DAVID JOHNSTON
Governor General of Canada

Leadership is a great responsibility and it has no set boundaries. But I am confident that many great accomplishments lie ahead for you.
As Canada looks ahead to 2017 and its 150th year as a country, we reflect on the achievements of our past, but we also know that our nation will need strong, forward-thinking leadership to meet the challenges of the future. The 2017 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference is an opportunity for you to play an active role in helping develop the leaders who will meet those challenges on behalf of all Canadians.

The Conference brings together emerging leaders from all sectors and regions of Canada for a unique two-week learning experience that will challenge and inspire. The Conference experience offers an unparalleled opportunity to learn from Canadians from all backgrounds and to see your country in a new light.

This will be the tenth Conference since its inception in 1983 and it has grown to become this country’s most prestigious leadership development experience. Its alumni can be found in leadership positions across the country, in the business community, labour organizations, governments and the community sector.

The 2017 Conference will explore the challenges and opportunities facing Canada as we reflect on the past 150 years and look ahead to the Canada we aim to build over the next 150. Conference participants will return to their organizations with greatly enhanced decision-making abilities, a more profound understanding of leadership and an enlightened view of the country and where it is headed.

As Chair the 2017 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference, I encourage you or your organization to consider becoming a donor and make an investment in Canada’s future by supporting the Conference. We cannot simply hope our future leaders emerge—we must act. Leadership must be nurtured and this Conference provides that opportunity.

I also encourage all organizations to put forward applicants to the Conference. It is an investment in your organization’s future and the country itself, as leadership is critical to our future prosperity.

To potential applicants: do not let this opportunity pass. Past participants describe it as a life-changing experience. The Conference will open in the spectacular mountain setting of Whistler, British Columbia, and then travel to every corner of this country before concluding two weeks later in Ottawa-Gatineau. In effect, the whole country will be your classroom.

As Canada enters its 150th year, we will increasingly look to the next generation of leaders to seize the opportunities and face the challenges before us. The Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference will equip those leaders with the skills and experience necessary to ensure a strong future for our nation and its people; and I can think of no better ways to honour Canada’s past than by supporting its future.

DONALD LINDSAY
President and CEO
Teck Resources Limited
A Unique Learning and Networking Experience

The Conference format provides members with the opportunity to freely and openly exchange views and experiences with peers from backgrounds vastly different than their own.

Members begin their exploration with a three-day plenary session where eminent speakers from Canada and around the world provide focus and substance to the Conference theme. The members also begin the process of debate and networking in their study groups, each of which is a microcosm of the overall Conference membership.

Each study group then travels to a region of Canada where, for the next nine days, the members examine issues through the practical experiences of local companies, communities and regional leaders. Multiple site visits are made daily; the locations are selected for their potential as learning sites. Uninhibited face-to-face discussions at each location are considered essential. The links between communities, the national perspective, and Canada's place in the global community will underpin this examination.

As each study group works together to explore first-hand the relationships between leadership and sustainability in the community, the individual members will find their own beliefs, values and preconceptions are challenged. The multi-sectoral and multi-cultural composition of each study group compels members to widen their perspective.

After nine days of travel, observation and debate, the study groups reconvene at the Closing Plenary in Ottawa-Gatineau where reports will be presented to the Governor General of Canada.

This conference takes a group of extremely successful, talented leaders and challenges their way of thinking and looking at different issues in Canada. The conference is designed to have each participant examine their own perspective and at the same time learn from and understand the perspective of other leaders. If you open yourself up to this amazing, wonderful, once in a lifetime experience, you will have no choice but to become a more successful leader.
Examining Leadership and the Canada We Will Build

Canadians are blessed to live in a country where the general standard of living ranks among the very top in the world. We are justifiably proud of sustaining a strong, open economy which in turn supports resilient, conscientious social systems.

As Canada enters the 150th anniversary of Confederation we are celebrating our successes. But we understand there is no guarantee tomorrow will be the same or better for Canadians without smart, caring and forward-thinking leadership. Global competition for jobs and economic growth is increasing. Worldwide economic challenges are impacting our natural resource sectors. Significant economic disparities are a growing concern for many Canadians. And all parts of our economy and society are being called upon to address the challenge of climate change.

Alongside the many challenges are many opportunities. There is optimism for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples who are working to ensure that their communities have a greater and sustainable share of Canada’s prosperity. Global growth is driving long-term need for the goods and services Canada produces. The skills, knowledge and expertise of Canadians are in demand around the world.

The 250 members of the 2017 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference will be challenged to define their goals for the future of their country, and how they will meet them as they take on increasing responsibility in their organizations and communities. They will examine the reasons for Canada’s current successes, and the domestic and international challenges Canada faces. Particular focus will be placed on how to accelerate innovation, productivity, inclusion and entrepreneurship in our core economy as well as the growth industries of the future.

As part of this examination, new and collaborative decision-making systems that draw on wider skills, talents and technological advances will be studied. Disruptive technologies that have the potential to impact many of Canada’s core industries and their workforces will be experienced first-hand.

The 2017 Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference will study the role that leaders play in stimulating, driving, managing and diffusing constructive change. Throughout the Conference, members will meet with Canadians from all sectors and walks of life who are dedicated to building resilient, diverse and sustainable organizations and communities.

Andrew K. Mackay (2015)
National Retail Fuels Manager,
Imperial Oil

I’ve attended a lot of training and personal development sessions over my career, but nothing compares to the GGCLC experience.
Membership

Membership is open to mid-career Canadian men and women who are expected to advance to senior leadership positions. All potential members will complete an application form and supply an endorsement from their employer or sponsor. The deadline for membership applications is September 30, 2016.

Approximately one-third of Conference members are from business, one-third from labour, and one-third from government, NGOs, and the community sector.

Members participate in the Conference as individuals, not as delegates or representatives of their organizations or sectors. They are expected to dedicate their entire time to Conference activities while the Conference is in session.

All member expenses for travel, food and accommodation are covered by the Conference, except the cost of getting to and from the opening in Whistler and the closing plenary in Ottawa-Gatineau.

Members whose applications meet the Conference criteria will be interviewed. Final selection of members for the 2017 Conference will take place in November 2016.

Applications and Sponsor Endorsement forms should be completed online at www.leadershipcanada.ca.

Participating in the Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference had a profound impact on me. Two weeks of fascinating interaction and in-depth discussion that challenged preconceived views, and led to discovery that all the participants were leaders in our own right. A powerful experience not to be missed!

SOPHIE-EMMANUELLE CHEBIN (2008)
Senior Manager, KPMG

I cannot say enough about what a profound effect the Conference had on me. There is no other opportunity in Canada where emerging leaders get to test their skills, build their awareness, broaden their perspectives and meet other engaged individuals from across the country.

ALISSA BARTON (2015)
Director, Employee Programs
Infrastructure Ontario
A Valuable Sponsorship Opportunity

By supporting the Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference, a donor is making a significant contribution to the future of Canada and its next generation of decision-makers.

The Conference is funded entirely by cash and in-kind donations from organizations and individuals. Donors are recognized in Conference publications and on the Conference website. The following sponsorship levels are available:

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<th>Sponsorship Level</th>
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<td>GOVERNOR GENERAL’S CIRCLE</td>
<td>$75,000 AND OVER</td>
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<td>PLATINUM LEADERS</td>
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<td>FRIENDS</td>
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For further information, please contact the Conference Secretariat at:
The Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference
P.O. Box 968, Adelaide Station, Toronto, ON M5C 2K3
Toll-free: 1-877-388-4427
Fax: 416-360-1353
Email: info@leadershipcanada.ca

In a country where leadership really does make a difference, the Conference ranks among the top opportunities to make an investment that will last, quite literally, a lifetime.

PAUL DESMARAI S, JR., O.C
Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer
Power Corporation of Canada
The Canadian labour movement has welcomed a special partnership with the Governor General’s Canadian Leadership Conference for more than 30 years. Activists hoping to achieve senior leadership positions can benefit tremendously from this unique opportunity where participants drop preconceptions, debate ideas, and enrich their understanding of our country.

**The Lasting Impact of the GGCLC**

**SURVEY OF 2015 CONFERENCE MEMBERS**

- 99% Conference provided a unique learning experience
- 98% Conference exceeded or met my expectations
- 97% The GGCLC was a valuable experience
- 95% Conference gave me a greater knowledge of Canada
- 90% Conference gave me a greater understanding of national issues
- 89% Conference helped my development as a leader
- 97% Conference improved my understanding of Canada
- 93% Conference experience will make me a better decision-maker
- 92% Conference taught me to view situations from different perspectives
- 91% Conference experience will make me a better decision-maker
- 92% Conference taught me to view situations from different perspectives
- 96% Conference enabled me to meet and engage with people I would not meet elsewhere
- 99% Conference provided a unique learning experience
- 97% Conference exceeded or met my expectations
- 96% Conference enabled me to meet and engage with people I would not meet elsewhere

**SURVEY OF 1,600 ALUMNI FROM 1983 TO 2015**

- 97% Conference improved my understanding of Canada
- 92% Conference taught me to view situations from different perspectives
- 98% I recommended the Conference to others
- 96% Conference enabled me to meet and engage with people I would not meet elsewhere
- 98% Conference provided a unique learning experience
- 97% Conference exceeded or met my expectations
- 97% The GGCLC was a valuable experience
- 95% Conference gave me a greater knowledge of Canada
- 90% Conference gave me a greater understanding of national issues
- 89% Conference helped my development as a leader
- 99% Conference provided a unique learning experience
- 97% Conference exceeded or met my expectations
- 96% Conference enabled me to meet and engage with people I would not meet elsewhere

**SOURCE:** Independent Surveys by The Strategic Counsel, 2015 and 2016