



INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

This program takes place in Mi'km'aki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. It encourages Indigenous women to further develop their leadership skills and abilities for community-led and community-driven development. Social change in solidarity with others and providing tools that prioritize equity and inclusion are central goals. The course welcomes all self-identified First Nation, Métis and Inuit women who can demonstrate the ways they are currently engaged in or showing their potential for leadership in their respective communities, organizations or Nations.

- This program runs from September 22, 2020 – October 2, 2020.
- Optional Mentorship and Community Project: October 5, 2020 – December 18, 2020
- Application deadline May 15, 2020
- This program is for First Nations, Métis and Inuit women residing in Canada only.

“I’m so thankful that I got the opportunity to take the IWCL program. The whole program was worthwhile; I learned so much. More about my self, and how to appreciate and look at everything around me differently with possibilities and opportunities.”

2018 IWCL participant

Personal benefits include:

- assessing your life and leadership experiences;
- building leadership awareness by discovering your strengths and capacities;
- understanding opportunities and challenges in your community;
- learning practical tools and strategies to lead community-driven change forward;
- design a community engagement project;
- networking with a motivated and diverse group of Indigenous women to build approaches that break down barriers and limits to community development work.

Organizational benefits:

As a result of this program, participants will:

- develop community approaches to increase the social capital of their communities, organizations, Nations; and
- develop vision and leadership approaches that support and lead to innovation and social change.

Fees/Scholarship

A mix of institutional and private donors who share Coady Institute's vision of community-based, citizen-led change sponsor the institute's educational programs. For successful candidates, we can offer a full scholarship that includes tuition, program materials, travel, accommodations and meals during the program.

Who should take the program?

The strength of the course is in the geographical and cultural diversity of Indigenous women who attend, share and contribute meaningfully. The mix of ages, experiences, backgrounds, cultural knowledge, responsibilities, education, and working lives creates a vibrant context for learning.

You are a great candidate if you are/have:

- a First Nations, Metis, or Inuit self-identified woman who is passionate and actively working to make positive social change in your community, organization, or Nation or show high potential for this kind of leadership
- a high school diploma or undergraduate degree in combination with sound oral and written abilities
- 3-5 years' experience in community work, at emerging or mid-career leadership level.
- limited exposure to leadership training or other educational opportunities.
- committed to being accountable to staff and mentors throughout the program.
- applying your learning in your community, organization, or Nation after the program.
- contributing to on-going learning within IWCL and Coady alumni networks.

Approach to learning

This course includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous approaches to leadership and community development. Participatory and experiential learning methods are used by which participants share their experiences and deepen their learnings. These include on-the-land opportunities, talking circles, Elder and knowledge keeper teachings, ceremony (where appropriate), lecture presentations, small group discussions, role-plays, debates, case studies, guest speakers, and skill-building exercises. Additionally, participants visit a local Indigenous community to engage in dialogue and learning.

For Further information contact: womenlead@stfx.ca or visit: coady.stfx.ca

Coady Institute, situated at St. Francis Xavier University in the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people, is one of the few educational organizations in Canada which has specific and focused niche programming for leadership and community development on and for Indigenous communities. For 58 years, we have been engaging with emerging and established First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders in our Diploma and certificate programs. We are known in Indigenous organizations and communities across the country for promoting sustainable, practical and culturally appropriate approaches to development practice.