



Leadership Project Completed

"Creating Opportunity and Sharing Knowledge: Leadership Development in the Canadian Disability Community", the leadership project, a partnership including Canadian Centre on Disability Studies (CCDS), the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD) and Philia has been completed.

The first Phase saw the completion of a literature review and initial research into the state of leadership in the disability community in Canada.

In Phase II there were four pilot projects. In the first pilot project, interviews were done with 40 leaders from the disability community regarding the state and needs of leadership in Canada's disability community. In the second, four Leadership workshops were held; for persons of Aboriginal origin in Regina, for youth in Halifax, for persons of multi-cultural origin in Toronto and involving independent living centres in Duncan, British Columbia.

In an interview with Rosanne Zulak, Research Associate at CCDS and Co-Manager of the Leadership Project, she spoke about highlights of the project. "One of the most powerful highlights for me about it [Regina workshop] is that it's in a context, because Regina was for aboriginals with disabilities, and what we were trying to do, to the greatest capacity, was to engage the people of that community in that event. We had an Elder speak at the opening, he engaged all of us in prayer, and he engaged the people, it was an opening that cultivated trust in the event." Zulak commented on the participants, saying that "in the pre-workshop questions and interviews you can tell that they certainly have the stuff of leadership or the desire and in their speaking the desire to reach out to the community." She added that the Leadership Project came at the right time with capable mentors volunteering to walk with these potential leaders, "Well I think we're at the right place in the right time, I think that's the point, because you can't make this happen, you can't pay people to do this."

The Halifax Leadership workshop, led by Sandra Greenough of Regina, Saskatchewan, was aimed at young men and women who demonstrated leadership desire and potential. In her opening remarks to the assembled at the workshop, Mayann Francis, Director and CEO of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission said "I want to congratulate the Nova Scotia Disabled Persons Commission, the Canadian Centre for Disability Studies and the Greater Halifax Business Leadership Network for planning this event. Your joint efforts are an important contribution to the work of creating a province which practices inclusion and respect for difference on a daily basis...I see Nova Scotia becoming a center of excellence in both the practice and study of human rights. Today, I think this innovative program marks another step on the path of that vision." Francis congratulated the Halifax business group; "To the members of the Greater Halifax Business Leadership Network, I want to commend you for agreeing to assume the role of mentor. I have seen how mentorship can be a powerful tool for countering a history of discrimination and disadvantage. This partnership for success you are forging today provides hope and it sets a positive example for other business leaders in our province and our

country. I look forward to positive results from this initiative." At the conclusion of the Halifax workshop 10 participants were matched with mentors from the Halifax business community.

The final Phase of the project will evaluate the pilot projects and share the new knowledge about leadership development that has been gathered in the first two phases.

HALIFAX PHOTOS



Mayann Francis



Sandra Greenough



LearnLink workshop for participants



Participants in LearnLink classroom