



Participant Information

What is Local Champions?

Local Champions is a new community- based leadership development program for Victoria residents to gain foundational skills, confidence and relationships to become more active and engaged “local champions” in their neighbourhood or community.

Through developing collaborative grassroots leadership skills, local champions can apply their learnings to initiate community-building activities or projects, become “connectors” in their neighbourhoods, and engage in community life through local initiatives or groups.

What’s in it for you?

Local Champions is all about equipping you with foundational skills to make your community a better place. Through the program you will:

- Develop practical skills, confidence and relationships to put your community ideas into action
- Connect with mentors and learn from other local champions
- Gain on-the-ground experience in community organizing
- Take away skills and credentials that can serve you for future career and volunteer opportunities
- Access resources and small grants to undertake neighbourhood projects
- Be part of building a critical mass of local champions that can make Victoria’s neighbourhoods more engaged, sustainable and vibrant.

How does it work?

As part of Local Champions, you will join a diverse group of participants from across Victoria for a series of fun and interactive learning workshops between January- June 2019. Participants are supported by community mentors and apply their learning through a community-based practicum such as hosting a neighbourhood learning event.

What's the commitment?

Local Champions consists of **one weekend learning intensive** ((Saturday daytime, Sunday daytime), **plus six day-long sessions** which will be held every 2-3 weeks on Saturdays (10am-3:30pm), between February- May 2019.

You won't want to miss any of it, but to be eligible for the program, participants should be able to commit to attending the weekend learning intensive and a minimum of five 1-day sessions.

Who should participate?

Local Champions come from all different backgrounds and walks of life! We welcome anyone with energy, passion and an interest in collaborating with others to make their community a better place.

Local Champions could be a great fit for you if you:

- Want to become more involved in your community
- Want to apply for any type of community grant
- Want to become more involved in decisions that impact your neighbourhood
- Want to facilitate a project
- Want to become a better facilitator and communicator
- Are interested in developing your employment skills

What does it cost?

In order to make the program accessible to as many people as possible, Local Champions is being offered at a highly subsidized cost of \$150 per participant. (The market value of the Local Champions program is over \$2000).

A limited number of full scholarships are also available, as well as childcare and transportation subsidies. [Click here](#) if you would like to request a scholarship or subsidy to participate.

How to apply:

[Click here](#) to fill out a simple application form. **Deadline to apply is December 13th, 2019.**

Selected applicants will be notified by January 10th, and the Kick -off Learning Intensive will take place on February 1st & 2nd, 2020 (mark your calendars now!)

For more information:

If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Gary Pemberton at GPemberton@victoria.ca or phone 250.361.0548

Preliminary 2020 Program-at-a-Glance

Local Champions focuses on developing capacities in **4 key areas**:

- **Personal Leadership** – building self- awareness and congruence between personal beliefs, values & action
- **Collaboration**- developing interpersonal effectiveness, collaboration with others and working across differences
- **Community Development**- understanding community systems and tools for community building
- **Innovation & Change**: being an effective change agent by building inspiration, shared vision and supporting others to lead change

Weekend 1: Learning Intensive Kick-off (2 days, February 1st & 2nd, 2020)

- Getting Started – Program Orientation & Team Building
- Neighbour Power – Introduction to Asset-based Community Development
- Understanding Community and Navigating Complexity
- Leadership Approaches & Mindsets for Community Change
- Becoming a Local Champion – Skills & Tools for Community Connectors
- Introduction to Mentors and Local Champions in Action

Session # 2: (1 day)

- Effective Meetings & Facilitation
- Group Dynamics & Group Decision Making

Session #3: (1 day)

- Building Inclusive Communities & Intercultural Competence
- Diversity, Difference and Power

Session #4 (1 day)

- Engaging Others – Community Outreach and Building Networks, Resources & Relationships
- Working with Conflict

Session #5 (1 day)

- Public Speaking, Storytelling & Having a Voice
- Working with the Media

Session #6 (1 day)

- From Vision to Action: Developing, Implementing and Sustaining Community Projects
- How Local Government Works

Closing Celebration

- Acknowledgements & Recognition by City of Victoria's Municipal Council
- Leadership Practicum Presentations