



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S  
LEADERSHIP FORUM

# News Release

October 23, 2007

## **Young Leaders Experience Leadership Up Close**

*Regina...*Seventeen high school students from communities throughout Saskatchewan recently experienced a unique opportunity to observe, learn about, and practice leadership during an intensive 10-day Leadership Forum. The Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum was initiated by His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, as a way of exposing students to a variety of experiences designed to develop personal leadership potential.

"All of the students who participated in the Forum are already leaders in their schools and their communities," the Lieutenant Governor explained. "Each of them had a concept of leadership, and what they experienced and discussed during the Forum will help them refine their focus."

The 17 Grade 11 and 12 students were selected from 164 applicants who applied earlier this year. They were chosen because of their school and community leadership activities, accomplishments, and academic achievement. During the Forum – four days in Regina, four in Saskatoon, and two in La Ronge – they met with educators, artists and performers, executives, administrators, RCMP cadets and officers, Canadian Forces personnel, scientists: all leaders in our province.

"Each of the leaders we met has stellar qualities," His Honour observed, "and they all display a passion for the work they are doing and challenges they face. The recurring message of these leaders was to get as much education as possible. Several of the students said they plan to take an Arts degree so they can explore many options while sorting out the goals they want to pursue."

To help document their experience, the students were divided into three groups, each of which had a video camera. Each group prepared a 10-minute documentary that was shown on the final night, highlighting the people who most impressed them. All of the people the students met and talked with could become mentors, the Lieutenant Governor noted. The students, he added, also learned from each other.

“There was a lot of interaction. The beauty of it all was that there were no cliques,” he said. “I would see one group sitting together at lunch, and an entirely different group at dinner. They were a remarkably inclusive group, who welcomed new friendships. They are true Saskatchewanians.”

This was the first of five annual Leadership Forums that will take place during Dr. Barnhart's tenure as Lieutenant Governor. It is up to the people of the province to decide if this is a legacy of his time at Government House, he said, but either way, “We will hear from these young people in the future. They will undoubtedly become leaders in both public and private environments.”

- 30 -

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### **Sidebar – Leadership Forum Sponsors**

The first annual Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum was made possible through the generous financial and in-kind support of the following private sector companies, federal and provincial government departments and Crown corporations.

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