



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S  
LEADERSHIP FORUM

# News Release

October 30, 2008

## **2008 Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum: Mining Your Passion**

*Regina...* For twelve days, beginning on October 13, nineteen senior Saskatchewan high school students were given the opportunity to travel the province to meet and learn from some of the province's top leaders in fields ranging from business to politics to the arts.

The second annual Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum travelled to Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, and La Ronge experiencing a variety of leadership styles and leadership theories. They encountered potential mentors, new ideas, engaged in networking, and developed a significantly broader view of what is happening in the province in which they live. They experienced all this in the company of His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor, who established the Forum in order to expand the horizons and grow the leadership potential of these youth who were already taking on leadership roles in their communities.

"What the Forum comes down to is the growth of the participants and expanding their views of the world; what the Forum is about is mining your passion," said Inspector Carol Bradley of the RCMP, who accompanied the group.

During such a short period of not even two weeks, the students heard from over thirty speakers, including artists, commanding officers, the Premier, top-level business executives, and other key community leaders. The students were encouraged to network with as many people as possible: "Many of our sponsors attended the graduation banquet and sat with the participants," mentioned Dr. Barnhart. "This gave them the opportunity to socialize as well as impress these important people in our province. Many of them exchanged business cards and will be in contact in the future, whether that be for advice, jobs, or references."

"The things we experienced were absolutely incredible," said Alex Thumm, a participant from Gravelbourg. "We flew from Saskatoon to Regina in a Hercules military transport plane; we had a discussion with the Premier around the cabinet table and in his office; we stayed for five nights at the RCMP training academy in Regina and were able to see and use many of their training aids, including simulators. The food we ate was so varied and so different from what most of us would normally eat. We ate at some of the best and most unique places in Saskatchewan. I don't think any of us had ever been able to do all that."

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Physical fitness was also a key component. Every morning, under the guidance of Her Honour Mrs. Naomi Barnhart, the participants as well as the chaperons had one-hour of either walking or running at six a.m.

The nineteen students were divided into three groups, each of which was expected to produce a short video on a leadership topic; these videos will be posted on the Lieutenant Governor's website – [www.ltgov.sk.ca](http://www.ltgov.sk.ca). One of the themes of the Forum was effective communication. "Working in the media, I am always exposed to stories about troubled criminal youth, and I find that to be very demoralizing," stated Gareth Dillistone, a CTV Regina reporter who spent several days with the group. "It has been so refreshing to spend this time with the Forum youth, who are all impressive communicators. I was amazed to see their confidence showing non-stop: they came up and introduced themselves to me with no hesitation whatsoever, and the students I interviewed expressed themselves clearly and with conviction, and were not afraid to speak. That's something that we don't always see in today's youth."

The participants were able to grow both personally and professionally. David Boots, a Moose Jaw participant, remarked, "Meeting all these people has really expanded my horizons. It's given me the opportunity to experience many different fields and to meet the leaders in each one. When I go back home, I'll take on more leadership roles and take these newfound skills into the leadership roles I already have."

"It is such a pleasure to work with nineteen talented and personable youth. They are leaders now with a very bright future in this province," commented Dr. Barnhart.

The Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum has a plan to run for five years, this year was the second. During these five Forums, a total of 90 students will have experienced this opportunity. The Forum is open to Saskatchewan students showing leadership potential who are in grades 11 or 12. The office of the Lieutenant Governor would like to encourage youth to apply for next year's Forum when applications come out in early 2009.

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