



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S  
LEADERSHIP FORUM

# News Release

October 28, 2009

## **2009 Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum: Exploring Possibilities**

*Regina...* On October 12, eighteen senior Saskatchewan high school students met for the start of a twelve day experience of a lifetime – the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum.

Nine of the participants were selected from northern Saskatchewan and nine were selected from southern Saskatchewan. The students were chosen based on an application process, which outlined the leadership they have shown in their schools and communities.

The Forum was initiated two years ago by Saskatchewan's Lieutenant Governor, His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, who wanted to teach the youth of Saskatchewan about the opportunities this province has to offer and to expand their leadership capabilities.

"The slogan of the Forum is 'ten days that could change your life'," commented Nick Chandna, a participant from Moose Jaw, "but it should be 'ten days that *will* change your life'."

Over the twelve days, the young leaders travelled to Saskatoon, Regina, Moose Jaw, La Ronge, and Nistowiak Falls. The participants met with Saskatchewan leaders from all walks of life. They interacted with political leaders like Premier Brad Wall and Opposition Leader Dwain Lingenfelter. They spoke with educational leaders, including U of S president Dr. Peter MacKinnon, U of R president Dr. Vianne Timmons, and SIAST president Dr. Bob McCulloch. The participants were also able to enjoy the performance of *The Alice Nocturnes* at the Globe Theatre, and were treated to a show by country musician Brad Johner, breaking into dance from the spirit of the music. Aside from these experiences, the eighteen teens also had a taste of the business world, as they met with Cameco senior vice-president Dr. Grant Isaac, Transwest Air owner and president Jim Glass, and Rawlco Radio President and CEO Pam Leyland. The participants met with about fifty leaders in total, all of whom gave an insight about their field of expertise and their views about leadership, its character, challenges, and opportunities.

"Even though we met with great leaders in this province, my favourite part of the trip was interacting with my fellow participants and the Forum facilitators. Learning about their views about life really gave me insight and a perspective of the world," said Nick Chandna.

"Many parts of the Forum were very surprising for all of us. For example, at the RCMP training academy in Regina, one of the participants was able to try on a bomb suit and we were able to blow stuff up! We also had an opportunity to fly on a float plane to Nistowiak Falls, and to see the historic church at Stanley Mission from a bird's eye view. I didn't know that Saskatchewan had water falls," offered Chandna.

.../2

Another important aspect of the Forum was learning how to maintain a balanced lifestyle. Each morning at 6:00 a.m., the teens woke up to participate in either running or walking, which was led by His Honour, Her Honour Naomi Barnhart, and one of the Chaperones. They also experienced different types of physical activity, including yoga, a spin class, and muscle sculpting. Along with their physical activity regimen, the participants created documentary videos exploring themes about leadership. They were able to interview many of the leaders they met. These videos can be seen on the Lieutenant Governor's website – [www.ltgov.sk.ca](http://www.ltgov.sk.ca). At the end of the experience, the participants had earned a 30-level Special Project Credit that will be used for their high school graduation requirements, and they also became Saskatchewan *in motion* ambassadors.

“At the end of the day, the Forum gave us all a great taste of the possibilities that can be realized in this great province of Saskatchewan,” said Nick Chandna. “I was initially reluctant about coming to the Forum when I was chosen, but I am happy I had the opportunity. The Forum has been the best experience of my life, and I have met some of the classiest people, too. Now I’m reluctant to go back home!”

The Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum is a charitable organization. The participants were able to meet some of the Forum's sponsors at their graduation ceremony at Government House and exchange contact information. Without the sponsors, the Forum wouldn't be possible. Dr. Barnhart plans on holding five Leadership Forums in total, which means ninety teens will get to experience this life-changing event. This year's Forum was the third of five.

“Sure, ninety teens will get to experience the Forum, but many people now and in the future will be positively affected by it because the Forum develops leaders and the ripple effect that leaders create will go a long way,” exclaimed Chandna with a smile. “This was a spectacular experience. We stayed in great places, ate amazing food, learned a lot about this beautiful province, and were inspired by powerful leadership. I have a new respect for Saskatchewan, and will promote my province with passion.”

The Forum is open to Saskatchewan students in grade eleven or twelve who have shown leadership capabilities in their schools and communities. The office of the Lieutenant Governor would like to encourage youth to apply for next year's Forum when applications come out in early 2010.

- 30 -

*Media enquiries may be directed to:*

Heather Salloum  
Director  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
306.787.4415

Don Savaria  
Project Manager  
Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum  
306.502.1960