What Makes The Unstoppable Leadership Program Different?

We have had the privilege of being invited to develop the leadership of the Aboriginal People of Canada. What follows are some of the real results our extraordinary graduates have produced in the world.

Our programs are distinct. They are designed to leave participants *being* effective leaders versus *knowing* more about leadership. This fundamental shift in focus has demanded a teaching methodology that is far more discovery-based and participant-led. This stands in contrast to the "expert" model that most people have grown up with and still expect.

Some of the Leaders we Have Developed and the Extraordinary Results they Produced

1. **The Aboriginal Leadership Development Program** (Yukon College, Parks Canada)

   From 2006 – 2014, Vik Maraj, was the lead instructor for training leadership and communication within the National Aboriginal Leadership Development Program of Parks Canada. The extraordinary experiences of the almost 100 participants touched during that time are captured by a few of the participant's testimonials below, of which the first testimonial is from the Director of program itself.

   "I was sitting beside Leesee on Friday during the graduation ceremonies and she shared that now at the end of her 4 years of ALDP she felt complete. WOW!! There was so much that was powerful and life changing going on through the week - a privilege to be a part of that journey, the awakening and generosity of sharing - simply life giving."

   Nicola Pritchett, BSc., BFA
   Coordinator, Aboriginal Leadership Development Program
   Coordonnatrice Programme de formation au leadership pour Autochtones
   Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness Unit | Unité de l'apprentissage du développement organisationnel, Workplace Management and Leadership | Gestion des effectifs et du leadership, Human Resources Directorate | Direction générale des ressources humaines, Parks Canada Agency

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   "I enjoyed our time together in the Yukon a great deal. I feel less burdened already with that which is not mine, and freer still to examine what is."

   Chantel LaRiviere
   Aboriginal Liaison Officer | Agent de liaison autoctone, Bruce Peninsula National Park | Parc national de la Péninsule-Bruce, Fathom Five National Marine Park | Parc marin national Fathom Five

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"I've taken two extra days to hang out in Vancouver before heading home, this gave me time to let the week all sink in, for this I'm so very glad. I'm sorry we didn't have time to chat more one on one, but I guess that is to be expected you are a superstar! It would be my pleasure to share my experience over last week.

Thank you for your time and presence, I always look forward to your enlightenment sessions. The Aboriginal Leadership Development Program wouldn't be the same without you."

Elijah Mattess,
Administrative Assistant
Fort St. James National Historic Site of Canada | Lieu historique national du Fort-St James Parks Canada | Parcs Canada P.O. Box 1148, Fort St. James BC V0J 1P0 | C.P. 1148, Fort St. James

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"I miss you too :) I hope all is well wherever you are. As someone who generally discourages guided self-examination, I really learned a lot about myself during the course last week. It allowed me to see ways that I was being that were previously invisible to me, and really helped to explain why I was being the way I was for the past 20 years or so. And rather than have that use me, I can now see those ways of being and open up other ones as well. It's something that I would like to explore and learn more about as well. Thanks again for all the support!"

Nathan Cardinal
Cultural Program Advisor | Conseiller de la gestion des resources culturelles, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve | Réserve de parc national des Îles-Gulf, Parks Canada Agency | L'Agence Parcs Canada, 2220 Harbour Road, Sidney BC V8L 2P6 |2220 chemin Harbour, Sidney C-B V8L 2P6

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"It's great to hear from you. And it was amazing to have you guide us through the sessions last week, leading us (ok, me... I can only speak for myself, right?! :) to realisation and a stronger awareness of my schticks. You are a truly captivating facilitator. Your honesty or rather, way of simply being <u>real</u>, is refreshing. I really appreciated and value the time you shared with us and for sharing so much of who you are, of what you do to lead a more authentic life. Thank you for challenging us in a respectful and meaningful way. I really enjoyed the exercises we did in pairs to get to the core of certain stories. Although I sometimes cringed at having to face the alternate reality I had created around my life, way

of being and relationships, I now know I need to take action and responsibility for my schticks and for distinguishing my thoughts from reality and from who I am. I have already had one (easy) conversation on this since last week. The tougher one is yet to come, but will.

Despite all this great stuff, I saw myself default back into my schticks this week, and I must say, it's a bit painful. I tend to blame it on the crazy pace we have here at the start of the season, but I think that's just a cop out. We are truly fortunate to have you be a part of ALDP. I hope you know you are a positive force of change that is well needed and valued."

Annique Maheu
Visitor Experience Manager | Gestionnaire, Expérience du visiteur, Pukaskwa National Park | Parc national Pukaskwa, Parks Canada | Parcs Canada

2. Norman Yakeleya – **Being a Leader and the Effective Exercise of Leadership - Edmonton 2018** (Former National Chief of the Dene Nation)

"You gave me a key... but it was me that had to turn it. And when I turned it, I opened a jail. So I was in a jail without having the bars".

Norman Yakeleya, former National Chief, Dene Nation

Norman Yakelaya, through his participation in the Unstoppable Being A Leader program discovered his true purpose in life: that "all Indigenous youth in Canada are free from the trauma of the past."

The Dene Nation elected Norman as National Chief soon after in the fall of 2018

Under National Chief Yakeleya's leadership, in collaboration with the Grand Chiefs, the Dene Nation now "speaks with one voice" for the first time since 1969.

The Dene Nation has made Unstoppable their official leadership development partner. In June of 2020, we began a new phase together, empowering the first Youth Leadership Council, where a group of 10 youth, one woman and one man from each of the 5 Dene regions created the following Noble Cause:

We exist to create the leaders of the future, youth who say what the future looks like, tackling the social issues of today to create a better tomorrow, protecting youth, and providing pathways out of generational trauma. Youth are proud to be Dene.

Norman Yakeleya, former National Chief, Dene Nation

Interview with Norman (17 min)

https://unstoppableconversations.com/blog/the-courage-of-transformational-leadership/

Standing for an Apology from the Pope

Norman_Vatican Post.docx

3. Dr. Betty Bastien - Empowered Strategic Planning – St. Albert 2018
(Professor at Red Crow College)

We hired Unstoppable Conversations because we were stuck; we felt we were working very hard, exhausted and burning out, and we needed a change in our conversation.

What we got out of the unstoppable [training] is becoming aware of the limitations that we created - a limiting culture focused on our [dire] circumstances, and what we got to do was create a conversation based on our soul calling, passionate and inspiring.

The result of the workshop was that those conversations that produced ineffective actions were brought to our awareness, and we understand that they resulted from our burnout. We have created results based on our commitments and [have a] structure to support those commitments.

Betty Bastien, Author,
Blackfoot Ways of Knowing – The Worldview of the Siksikaitsitapi

Creating a New Future from the Leadership Course (recordings)

Betty - new future.mp4 (30 Seconds)
Betty Bastien RIP creating what life is about.mp4 (30 Seconds)

4. Angelina Pratt - Empowered Strategic Planning – St. Albert 2018
(Vice Chair of Nechi Institute)

In just two days, my thinking got turned upside-down and sideways, opening up conversations that were trapped in a deadened cycle on a repeated loop. The insight for me was the recognition that the "thinking " which precedes conversations can either contribute to their success or their failure, depending on whether you want the same results or want successful, meaningful conversations. I choose the latter.

Angelina Pratt
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) and Vice Chair of Nechi Institute

Angelina created a Podcasts after the Leadership Course
https://www.alcoholfree.com/listen/podcasts/episode/were-human-lets-get-disruptive-and-shake-things-up

5. Leesee Papatsie The Aboriginal Leadership Development Program – Whitehorse 2006-2014
(Manager, Heritage Appreciation)

I want Nunavummiut to stick together and say one thing: food costs are too high in Nunavut—one simple message. I do not want to see kids and elders go hungry. I want to thank you for helping me realize who I am and what I think I can do. I still remember what you have taught me, and it will continue to help me (when I want it to!!)

Lessee Papastie

Lessee participated in the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program led by Vik Maraj. Who she became and what she created is extraordinary. Lessee discovered she could make a difference in life and transformed from an innocent bystander in her Inuit community to a Global Leader. Here commitment end Food Poverty in the North of Canada resulted in her:

- Creating a Facebook called *Feeding My Family*, with over 21,000 members
- Being interviewed by the BBC News, Globe and Mail, Al Jazeera
- Inspiring other Not for Profits to be created (Adopt-a-Family Program and Food for Nunavut Group)
- Global attention from a visit from Princess Sarah Ferguson, Dutchess of York

6. Dene Tha' Community School – Unstoppable Foundations – Chateh 2018:

We worked with the staff of the Dene Tha' Community School in Chateh Alberta. Chateh at the time had one of the highest crime rates in Canada, including murder, assault, and domestic violence. This impacted the quality of childrens lives and their ability to learn. We worked with teachers to strengthen their ability to teach in this environment and make a difference.

Shara Tacomba, Education Assistant
Everybody was afraid of talking about the truth before Unstoppable Conversations came here. What they do is similar to our Dene culture regarding beliefs and values because it reminds us of who we should be.
We need this for our youth also because it will teach them how to open up. One of the things that surprised me when we worked with Teacher Assistants and Teachers is that the problems of the Teachers was so similar to our problems. Now, we can be more open.

Sarah Wells, Teacher
Having Unstoppable Conversations work in our school was very beneficial. It allowed us to speak our minds without fear of consequences and lifted a big weight off my shoulders. It's interesting that what you think people think of you is usually much more negative than what people actually think of you....we often think the worst.

Allan Pastion, Culture Coordinator and Education Assistant
I found that the Unstoppable Conversations work lets the 'real you' come out and cuts through all the other garbage that stops us. The work we did was really practical making an impact on relationships, our work at the school and everyday things.

Sherry Lambert, Education Assistant
The work with Unstoppable Conversations let us feel good about our diversity – each person being different. It lets us be more positive and I find that many staff are much more positive now in how they speak. This sort of work would be great to have for our youth. They need to learn this.

Gordon Munro, Principal
I didn't know what to expect with this workshop with Unstoppable Conversations. I was somewhat concerned about its usefulness for a busy school staff. I was happily surprised. It was a great workshop and got us to think about all of our responsibilities on a deeper level. It made a big difference to the morale of the school by having us distinguish what's a story and what's real. This had dramatic effect. It also made me realize that I needed to be honest with myself regarding my aspirations and I decided that day to apply for position of school principal. I think this could be really helpful for students and everyone.

Yolanda Talley, School Board Representative
I didn't know what to expect for this workshop and I was pleased with what he was teaching the staff. It felt that he was referring exactly to issues I was having, so I think it was really good. I think this should be offered to our youth as well.

7. **Jamie Zettler – Dene-RCMP Justice Program – Yellowknife 2021**
(Commander Officer of the North, Northwest Territories RCMP)

We developed the first program in Canada, supported by both Dene Leaders and RCMP Leaders, to reconcile the differences of the past and bring in an entirely new era of trust.

The RCMP in the Northwest Territories, over the years, has developed an awareness of reconciliation, systemic racism, intergenerational trauma and cultural awareness with our communities. The Northwest Territories (NT) RCMP will need to continue developing our understanding of this path with our communities. With this evolving awareness and knowledge, the NT RCMP must transition to "operationalize" this knowledge in our duties. This will look very different in five or ten years as it evolves and continually changes as we learn from our communities what has worked and what has not. Some things will not meet our expected results, while others may exceed them. The most important aspect will be that we continue our open bilateral dialogue with the communities as we grow this important relationship. I believe this is the next step in our evolution in the Northwest Territories, and I look forward to the ongoing work with the Dene Nation.

The methodology of the pilot program, developed by Unstoppable Conversations on behalf of the Dene Nation, is adopted from successful examples in other jurisdictions, including post-Apartheid South Africa and Northern Ireland. Within Canada, the Coburg Police Department has already begun high-level implementation of elements of the program internally and has been actively involved in shaping how this will roll out with the NWT RCMP and its service members. The pilot will begin within one region in the NWT (out of 6) with ten (10) NT RCMP employees from various duties and 10 Indigenous leaders engaging together in a series of unique workshops.

"This is an opportunity to bring to life the Truth and Reconciliation Calls-to-Action while demonstrating a new way forward in Canada for policing and justice that reflects unity between Indigenous and Canadian leadership," continued Dene National Chief Yakeleya. "However, it is crucial that this is an Indigenous-led process. The only way we can make effective, long-lasting change is to employ the principle of 'Nothing About Us, Without Us'; understanding lived experiences must be a key part of breaking down the walls of colonial justice systems."

Jamie Zettler, Commander Officer of the North, Northwest Territories RCMP

8. **Casey Adlem – Difficult Conversations – Leduc 2024** (President, Larga Kitikmeot & Larga Ltd., NWT)

We trained the leaders of Larga, who provide accommodations to Indigenous People from the north who need critical medical attention from Urban hospitals.

What an incredible 2 days we had with the group last week! Wow! The skills and knowledge you shared with us are having a profoundly positive impact on me and how we all interact with one another. I'm not only extremely impressed with your work, but I'm grateful. Thanks again.

Casey Adlem
President, Larga Kitikmeot & Larga Ltd.