



Indigenous Leadership Programs

Sharing Indigenous leadership perspectives, guided by Wise Practices and Right Relations

Banff Centre's Indigenous Leadership programs provide leaders an opportunity to gain a better understanding of how to establish a strategic direction for their communities and organizations and implement that plan through focused efforts and measured performance. Our programs integrate the power of art and the wisdom of Indigenous practice, within the extraordinary beauty of Banff National Park on Treaty 7 Territory.

Programs prepare leaders and participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to run effective organizations and build communities with sustainable economies. With investment in their professional development, community leaders and participants will have additional knowledge and tools to achieve incredible change and growth.

Indigenous Program Model: Sacred Circle of Life



Earn your Certificate of Indigenous Leadership, Governance, and Management Excellence!

Awarded to individuals who recognize the importance of continuing education, this certificate is strategically focused on building your capacity to assist your community and organization in moving forward into the era of self-determination and successful community development.

To achieve your certificate, complete one program from each of the 7 Wise Practices Elements.

Funding at Banff Centre

Banff Centre's Indigenous Leadership offerings are geared towards Indigenous leaders and those working with or for Indigenous organizations or communities. We have limited funding available for these learners. Please apply within the registration process online!

We also recommend seeking additional support through your employer, community, and local granting agencies.

2025/26 Indigenous Leadership Programs

WISE PRACTICE ELEMENT 1

Identity and Culture

Wise Practices in Indigenous Leadership

Weave together leadership pathways to overcome challenges, create a strategic focus, and actualize personal, professional, organizational, and community goals. Bring a renewed sense of meaning and purpose to your work.

Calling Our Spirits Home: Indigenous Women in Leadership

Examine the issues, challenges, and inequities that women face as they strive to fulfill the responsibilities of homelife, careers, and communities, while finding inspiration and empowerment to care for themselves.

WISE PRACTICE ELEMENT 2

Leadership

Inherent Right to Indigenous Governance

Illuminate foundational principles of effective and responsible governance. Uncover the possibilities and challenges of rights recognition and discover pathways to Indigenous resurgence within the current legal and political context.

WISE PRACTICE ELEMENT 3

Strategic Vision and Planning

Braiding Strands: Related-world Strategic Planning

Successful Indigenous nations and organizations set strategic direction and long-term goals. Implement a strategic planning process rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing to support your community, organization, board, or council.

WISE PRACTICE ELEMENT 4

Good Governance and Management

Establishing Indigenous Institutions of Governance

Explore approaches Indigenous peoples are taking to rebuild institutions of governance in this period of rights recognition and nation rebuilding.

Dreaming Forward: Exploring Pathways to Child Welfare Jurisdiction

This program fosters knowledge-sharing, and problem-solving, exploring traditional Indigenous perspectives and emergent approaches to child welfare jurisdiction.

These programs do not count towards the Certificate.

WISE PRACTICE ELEMENT 5

Accountability and Stewardship

Leading Teams:

Governance for Indigenous Councils and Boards

Indigenous leaders are faced with increasingly complex issues, accelerated change, and new ways of working together. Lead your team by discovering the structure and management of a governing body to build strong foundations.

WISE PRACTICE ELEMENT 6

Performance Evaluation

Project Management for Indigenous Organizations

Discover how to plan and implement successful projects by building a Project Management framework through an Indigenous Wise Practice lens.

Indigenous Evaluation Frameworks

Define, design, and evaluate Indigenous successes and stories. Gain the skills and tools to implement and assess community-driven change that reflects community values and cultural practices.

WISE PRACTICE ELEMENT 7

Collaborations, Partnerships, and External Relationships

Negotiation Skills Training

Explore principles of interest-based negotiation through experiential learning, case studies, and reflective activities. Practice your negotiation skills and leave with new strategies to bring to the negotiating table.

Indigenous Business and Economic Development

Implement Wise Practices to build effective economic policy and culturally appropriate governmental institutions to help achieve more successful, sustainable, and self-determined economic activity.

Truth and Reconciliation Through Right Relations

Understand the truth of our shared Canadian history, be inspired to learn more about Indigenous ways of knowing, and move – individually and organizationally – into the act of reconciliation.

Support of the design and development of this program provided by Shell.



Photo by Jessica Wittman.

Contact Us

Take the next step in your journey:
leadership@banffcentre.ca

We recognize, with deep respect and gratitude, our home on the side of Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain. In the spirit of respect and truth, we honour and acknowledge the Banff area, known as “Minihrpa” (translated in Stoney Nakoda as “the waterfalls”) and the Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the İyârhe Nakoda (Stoney Nakoda) – comprised of the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Goodstoney Nations – as well as the Tsuut’ina First Nation and the Blackfoot Confederacy comprised of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Shuswap Nations, Ktunaxa Nations, and Metis Nation of Alberta, Rockyview District 4. We acknowledge all Nations who live, work, and play here, help us steward this land, and honour and celebrate this place.

Founding Supporter:



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Visit our website for full program details
and additional sponsors and supporters.

banffcentre.ca/indigenous-leadership

