

Health Leadership Capabilities Framework

The LEADS in a Caring Environment Capabilities Framework is a foundational element for health leadership development in Canada.

The LEADS Collaborative, supported by the College in partnership with CHLNet and Royal Roads University, is made up of those organizations, networks and individuals who have agreed to collaborate and work collectively to support the growing interest in the use of the LEADS in a Caring Environment Framework (LEADS Framework) across Canada.







The LEADS in a Caring Environment Framework represents the key skills, behaviours, abilities and knowledge required to lead in all sectors and all levels of the health system. It presents a common understanding of what good leadership looks like.

Caring leaders maximize the potential for universal, efficient and effective service delivery to all Canadians.

"Leadership is the capacity to influence self and others to work together to achieve a constructive purpose."

- Graham Dickson

Original commissioned research: Centre for Health Leadership & Research

Lead Self

Are Self Aware

They are aware of their own assumptions, values, principles, strengths and limitations

Manage Themselves

They take responsibility for their own performance and health

Self-motivated Leaders...

Develop Themselves

They actively seek opportunities and challenges for personal learning, character building and growth

Demonstrate Character

They model qualities such as honesty, integrity, resilience, and confidence



Engage Others

Foster Development of Others

They support and challenge others to achieve professional and personal goals

Contribute to the Creation of Healthy Organizations

They create engaging environments where others have meaningful opportunities to contribute and ensure that resources are available to fulfill their expected responsibilities

Engaging Leaders...

Communicate Effectively

They listen well and encourage open exchange of information and ideas using appropriate communication media

Build Teams

They facilitate environments of collaboration and cooperation to achieve results



Achieve Results

Set Direction

They inspire vision by identifying, establishing and communicating clear and meaningful expectations and outcomes

Strategically Align Decisions with Vision, Values, and Evidence They integrate organizational missions and values with reliable, valid evidence to make decisions

Goal-oriented Leaders...

Take Action to Implement Decisions

They act in a manner consistent with the organizational values to yield effective, efficient public-centred service

Assess and Evaluate

They measure and evaluate outcomes, compare the results against established benchmarks, and correct the course as appropriate



Collaborative Leaders...

Develop Coalitions

Purposefully Build Partnerships and Networks to Create Results

They create connections, trust and shared meaning with individuals and groups

Demonstrate a Commitment to Customers and Service

They facilitate collaboration, cooperation and coalitions among diverse groups and perspectives aimed at learning to improve service

Mobilize Knowledge

They employ methods to gather intelligence, encourage open exchange of information, and use quality evidence to influence action across the system

Navigate Socio-Political Environments

They are politically astute, and can negotiate through conflict and mobilize support

Systems Transformation

Demonstrate Systems / Critical Thinking

They think analytically and conceptually, questioning and challenging the status quo, to identify issues, solve problems and design and implement effective processes across systems and stakeholders

Encourage and Support Innovation

They create a climate of continuous improvement and creativity aimed at systemic change

Successful Leaders...

Orient Themselves Strategically to the Future

They scan the environment for ideas, best practices, and emerging trends that will shape the system

Champion and Orchestrate Change

They actively contribute to change processes that improve health service delivery

Contact Us

The LEADS Collaborative can help develop leaders and maximize the leadership capacity of individuals, organizations and regions.

Canadian College of Health Leaders

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