

# Solutionaries

can make a change

## Community Leadership Training

January – June 2015



CALGARY CENTRE FOR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

### Do you...

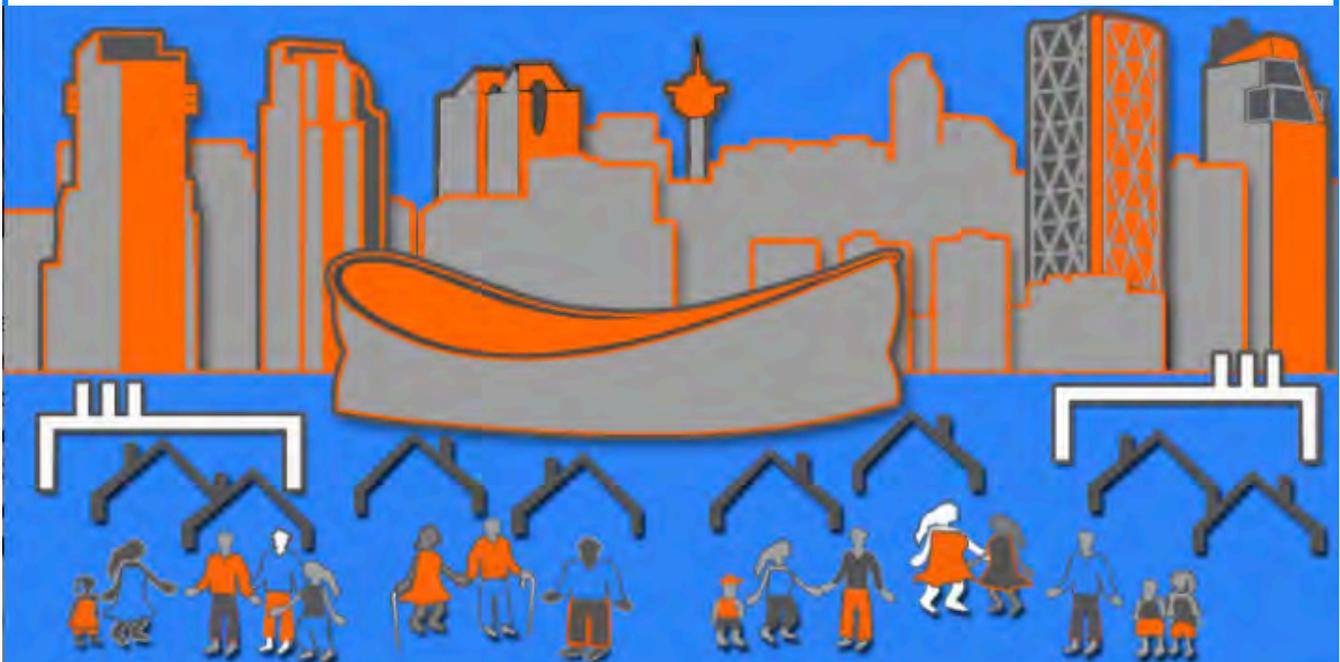
- care about the well-being of your community?
- see opportunities to take positive action in your neighbourhood?

### Are you...

- looking for a supportive place to explore ideas?
- interested in contributing to lasting change?

### Would you...

- join others in taking action?
- contribute your talents to a local organization?



## Solutionaries – Community Leadership Training

If you're interested in discovering a deeper level of involvement and developing your capacity as a leader to shape the future of your community, this program is for you!

Through the *Solutionaries* program, you will have an opportunity to build meaningful connections with people who share your concerns about the challenges we face and use your knowledge and skills for the benefit of the common good.

Building on a long history of ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve their communities, *Solutionaries* is steeped in participatory processes for learning, action and reflection with principles of social justice at their core.

*"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."  
- William James*

### Program components

#### Workshops

As a group, *Solutionaries* participants will engage in weekly, interactive sessions where they will explore different ways of understanding community development. These workshops will draw on the diverse backgrounds, perspectives and strengths that each person brings to the group.

#### Service & Action Learning

Participants will be linked with organizations in their neighbourhoods (schools, faith groups, community associations etc.) where they will use the skills and tools they get from the workshops to support community development initiatives.

## Why Community Leadership Training?

We believe communities, whether defined by place, interests or identities, can bring about social change when they work together to share their awareness, knowledge and skills. All around us people are looking for meaningful ways to contribute to their communities; we see that through the high rates of volunteerism and philanthropy here in Calgary. Yet social problems from homelessness and childhood hunger, to isolation and racism persist.

Many communities have an active core group of people who work tirelessly to address these issues and encourage greater participation. Through a number of engagement processes, we heard about their desire for learning opportunities to further develop their leadership skills and build supportive networks with other community leaders across the city.

## Your commitment to us:

By joining the *Solutionaries: Community Leadership Training* program, you are committing an average of 7 hours per week over the course of 6 months to participate in a multifaceted process of learning, action and reflection. Participants are expected to:

- Attend weekly workshops on Monday evenings from 6:30pm-9:00pm
- Attend monthly Saturday workshops from 10:00am-4:00pm
- Work together with a local organization to initiate or help grow a community project.

## Our commitment to you:

Calgary Centre for Global Community and our partners in this project are committed to offering a transformative learning experience to program participant by:



- Providing a safe, inclusive environment to explore diverse ideas and stretch boundaries
- Facilitating learning processes where each participant's life experiences, knowledge and skills are valued and respected.
- Building supportive relationships with other community leaders and mentors.

## What will you learn?

*Solutionaries* incorporates the learning interests as well as the skills, values and understanding of issues that each participant brings with them. The workshops will include discussions and activities on the following themes:



**Knowing our communities & ourselves:** Understanding how our experiences shape how we see our communities and our own role within them.

**Understanding our times:** Identifying the ideas and issues that impact our understanding of the world around us.

**How Change Happens:** Exploring different models for change and real-world examples of how change happens.

**Community development for Social Justice:** Exploring social justice and why it's important to creating change.

**Sustaining Our Community & Ourselves:** Learning ways to take care of ourselves and the people around us to make lasting change in our community.

*" Knowledge emerges only through invention and reinvention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other. "*

*- Paulo Freire*

## Who will you learn with?

We are actively seeking a diverse group of Calgarians to join in this program as participants and as guest facilitators for the workshops. We hope to draw participants from all quadrants of the city and from different age, gender, economic, and ethno-cultural backgrounds.

## Important dates:

November 17, Application deadline  
January 12, Weekly sessions begin  
February 16, Family Day, no session  
May 18, Victoria Day, no session  
June 20 – Closing Celebration

## Full-day Workshops:

Saturday, January 17  
Saturday, February 21  
Saturday, March 21  
Saturday, April 18

## Program cost:

There is no cost for applicants who are selected to participate in this program. We acknowledge the commitment of time and energy that you are making to embark on this journey.

## For more information

Please consider attending our upcoming information session.

Monday, October 20, 7:00-8:30 PM  
CommunityWise Resource Centre, 223 12 Ave SW

If you have other questions that have not been answered here, please contact:

Kelly Dowdell  
Program Facilitator  
Solutionaries@calgarycgc.org

## The Calgary Centre for Global Community

Calgary Centre for Global Community provides education, engagement and research opportunities to enhance and expand Calgarians' capacity for responsible, well-informed, effective global citizenship. Our work recognizes the interconnectedness of local and global issues and their impact on the well-being of our communities.

## Funding provided by:



Catherine Donnelley Foundation

## With advisory support from:



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**  
COMMUNITY &  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES



**United Way**  
Calgary and Area

## Solutionaries Program Application

Thanks for your interest in becoming a Solutionary! Please fill out the application and return it via email, mail or in person to the Calgary Centre for Global Community.

The application deadline is November 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll arrange a time to meet with you for a conversation during the last week of November.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY POSTAL CODE

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you interested in joining the *Solutionaries Community Leadership Training* program?

What community or communities do you belong to? These could be communities of place like your neighbourhood, of identity like a faith or ethnic group and / or of shared interest like hobbies or activities.

Tell us about an issue or possibility that you are interested in exploring in your community and why.

How would you describe your level of participation in your community over the past few years?



CALGARY CENTRE FOR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

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*Educating for effective global citizenship*