

Tuesday, September 21: Sustainable Deaf Leadership

Video Transcript

Hello all, my name is Sarah. I am located in Edmonton, Alberta. I grew up in Edmonton all of my life but I was born in Calgary. I am a mother to 3 children and all of them are hearing. I am the only Deaf. My husband is hearing. I currently attend University of Alberta full time pursuing Bachelors for Education for high school. I am almost in my third year. That's short biography about myself. I was involved in Deaf community a lot while growing up. In lot of ways, I was involved in schools, deaf organizations in Edmonton, deaf organizations province wide in Alberta, deaf camps in summers, week night & weekend Deaf programs for Deaf youths, many retreats and conferences that includes leadership opportunities. I am blessed to have that experience growing up.

So, for Deaf youths who want have the same experience in Deaf leadership, you might have get the same experience as I did. But there will be so many opportunities for you to become a leader. The first thing you need to know, you are already a leader inside you. You just need tools to support you to involve yourself in different opportunities. The leader inside you needs to be nurtured to growth to be confident with experience and gain skills. You are not same as everyone else. You will have your own identity, interests, skills, motivation and passion. That is great! That is how you become a leader! It is all I can share for you today. It is important to try grab different experiences across Canada even in your province or local city. Try to meet as many people as you can. Leaders with many years of experience. It could be a president of an organization, owns a business and so on, you can chat with them asking how they became a leader. What kind of network you can use? What helps lead you to involve the same or different opportunities? Mentorship from experienced Deaf leaders is where you can learn and apply it to your life. I know that you all have potential to become Deaf leaders because you already are one. Take care of yourself and be safe.