

Nov 29 – Laurentian Leadership Centre – 10 minutes

**Laurentian Leadership Centre
Guest Speaker
Tuesday, Nov 29, 2011
Length: 10 Minutes**

Event: what is it?

- The Laurentian Leadership Centre (LLC) is a work/study program run by Trinity Western University that offers third and fourth year students the opportunity to live and intern in Ottawa while completing their education.
- The program is geared towards students who plan a career in business, communications, history, international studies or political studies.
- Students who complete all the requirements receive a Certificate in Applied Leadership and Public Affairs.

Audience: who are they?

- Undergraduate students with an interest in politics and public affairs.

Key Messages:

- Government is changing and BC is leading Canada in open government and social innovation.
- Through the BC Jobs Plan, we are reaching out globally to change the world for the better.
- We want you to be a part of the opportunities here in BC.

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Thank you so much for that kind introduction.

I am so thrilled to be here at the Laurentian Leadership Centre.

What an amazing time to be young – and growing up in Canada...A time of huge opportunity.

Many of you will be thinking of where you will go once you have completed your program.

I know when I was your age – one of the things I sought out – was adventure. Like many of you, I cut my teeth right here in Ottawa.

I spent a couple of years here in Ottawa in the early 1990s as a parliamentary aide to the Minister of Transport.

I know that may seem like the “olden days” to you, but it doesn’t seem like it was very long ago to me. It seems like just yesterday.

I could sit here and tell you a lot of war stories, but you will soon have your own to tell. And they'll probably be more interesting than mine.

The hours are long, there is always a crisis boiling over somewhere, and you will have to deal with a lot of difficult people – and they will probably yell a lot.

You will probably have to work a lot of weekends and late nights. You will probably be woken up by urgent Blackberry messages telling you to be somewhere in an hour or less for an emergency meeting.

As for your parents, friends, and boyfriends or girlfriends, you will probably forget to email or phone them because you were dealing with an emergency, or you just plain forgot because you have been so busy. You will try to explain it to them, but they probably won't understand.

Well, I don't want to scare you off. But there's another side about Parliamentary internships that you need to know about.

This will probably be among the most rewarding experiences of your life. You will do things that will have a meaningful and lasting effect in improving the lives of Canadians.

You will also meet people who will become life-long friends because you shared something much more important than just an office.

You will have worked together to help achieve a better life for others. Maybe you helped create a job. Maybe you helped fund a community program.

If you really value public service, you won't care about the long hours, the workload, or the stress.

You will soon find out that there is nothing more enriching, more satisfying, than making government work for your community. It is not easy, but it is possible with hard work and persistence.

After my wonderful experiences in Ottawa, I knew that public service was where I wanted to make my mark on this world.

I never regretted it, and I have just as much enthusiasm for public service now as I did when I was in my 20s.

Social Innovation

As Premier of British Columbia, I am passionate about making sure that young people like you... who value of community leadership and action...

... That you know we want you back.

There is some amazing talent in the Laurentian leadership program.

Students like Joshua Peters, who turned his time here at LLC into an internship in the Prime Minister's office.

And students like Tara Teng.

Not only is Tara “Miss Canada 2011”, but this summer she led a cross-country campaign to fight human trafficking and brought her cause to the highest levels of government.

In British Columbia, we value young leaders with the guts to do things differently.

Governments all across the world are changing how they do business. In British Columbia, we are leading Canada in open government and social innovation.

It’s a challenging time to run a government. Not just in B.C. – but everywhere.

Our populations are graying. The need for social services is greater than ever. Yet there aren’t always enough revenues to pay for those services that are now in so much demand.

In British Columbia we don’t download or walk away from families in need. We are finding ways of doing more with what we have.

It's about social innovation. Together, we can capitalize on the combined power of our expertise and our unique perspectives, to find solutions that work for B.C.

The BC Jobs Plan

In BC, we are always taking steps to grow our economy so we can afford the services families want and need.

In September, we launched a BC Jobs Plan. It's called Canada Starts Here.

It means in B.C., we take that best of Canada and make it better. Because we border the Pacific Ocean, British Columbia has tremendous opportunities to lead our country's economic growth in the next century.

Trinity University President Jonathan Raymond was on my recent Jobs and Trade Mission to China, helping create new opportunities and build new connections with universities overseas.

These connections allow us to continue developing to B.C.'s world-class high technology and research cluster – including clean energy, life sciences, digital media and wireless, ICT, ocean sciences and motion picture production.

And it gives students like you the opportunity to meet people from a different country, to share your experience as Canadians and become leaders with a global view.

That makes a better world for us all.

Conclusion:

As Premier, I feel one of my most important jobs is creating great citizens...

...People who care for their families – the most important thing for all of us.

...People who will be future leaders, and will help make the world a better place.

When you are done your school, I want you to consider coming back to British Columbia and even working for the BC government. We want innovative leaders.

And we have a program called Pacific Leaders. It's one way we attract and retain the best and brightest minds to the BC Public Service.

Through Pacific Leaders, we forgive BC Student Loans for employees who dedicate a portion of their career to us after graduation. It's about one third of the loan per year.

And we provide financial support for employees who want to pursue their Master's Degree, up to \$7,500 per year.

I have also learned in my time as premier - that an important aspect of governing – is listening to people...being open to their ideas and suggestions.

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Well, I'm ready to listen! I want to hear your thoughts, your ideas, and your questions!

I will say one last thing. In BC, I always like to say – because we border the Pacific Ocean: **Canada Starts Here!**

Well here in Ottawa today – surrounded by young and talented students from a B.C. university – I can truly say... Canada also starts right here.

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