

NEXT UP ALBERTA

a leadership program for young people
committed to social and environmental justice
February 6, 2010 – June 29, 2010
Edmonton, Alberta

Welcome!

Do you wonder what the future holds for the world? Are you concerned about things like climate change, poverty, public health and education, housing and trade policy? Do you believe that global and local issues are connected? Do you feel that our economic system is focused on profit at the expense of people and the planet? Do you believe it is possible for us, as communities, to do things differently at home and abroad, to eradicate poverty, to deal with conflict peacefully, for everyone to have access to good public health and education services?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, this program may be for you.

Next Up was created by a group of young people who wanted to help emerging leaders (that's you!) develop new and better skills, smarts and ideas. The program is intense. Over 5 months, we'll dive into a number of topics and disciplines, combining theory, practice, deep thinking, and hard skills. We'll look at some of the most pressing Canadian foreign and domestic policy issues, and where "progressive" thinking is at on how to solve them. We'll look at how change is made in society. And we'll meet some of the most innovative change-makers in Alberta — from the non-profit, business and public sectors — who are working for a better world.

Program information

Who should apply? You are:

- Aged 18–32
- Passionate about changing the way the world works, and committed to being active on the front lines of social change
- Certain that there are better ways for us to take care of each other and the planet
- Willing to take a risk, join a team, and learn more about yourself
- Someone with leadership qualities (though leadership and activism experience are not necessarily required)

What do we mean by leadership?

Everyone has a different take on the word "leadership." For us, it doesn't necessarily mean that you're a big talker, or that you're the popular person, or the funniest person, or the person who speaks in public a lot. You may have those qualities — or you may not. It does mean that you think about the world around you and take action to make it a better place.

Who are “we” and why did we create this program?

This is the program's third year since it was started in BC, and its first year in Alberta. The folks organizing it come from a wide range of backgrounds: from public policy, communications, organizing, and research. We are all involved in social and environmental justice work. We're creating this program because we believe that another world is not just possible, but an imperative. We believe that good solutions to the biggest issues are out there, and can be realized. We have different approaches to teaching and learning, but we all believe that a new generation of progressive leaders is needed and should be supported.

Next Up is a partnership between the Global Youth Education Network Society (genius), the Parkland Institute, and a number of Alberta-based environmental, labour and social justice organizations.

The Global Youth Education Network Society (genius) is a non-profit organization that works with young people on projects connected to democracy, social and environmental justice and social change leadership. The projects of genius include Get Your Vote On and the first Next Up program in BC. www.nextup.ca

The Parkland Institute is a non-partisan research network at the University of Alberta that thinks critically about Alberta's political economy and proposes real positive alternatives for the future. www.ualberta.ca/parkland

What will I learn?

You'll learn more about yourself and your values, and about how to turn ideas into action. You'll be challenged with new ways of thinking, provocative speakers, inspiring mentors and fascinating guests. You'll discuss solutions to problems like poverty and climate change. You'll learn skills in areas like media relations, issue framing, project development, fundraising and facilitation. You will meet people working in different areas of public policy and social change. And you'll connect and work with people in Alberta doing innovative social and environmental change work. Our goal is to equip you with the skills and tools needed to become an effective leader in movements for social and environmental change.

The sessions will be delivered by the Next Up Alberta Coordinator and by guest presenters from the non-profit, public and business sectors.

What level of commitment is required from me, and when?

By joining Next Up you're committing yourself to an extraordinarily rigorous and exciting program. The program runs from February 2010 to June 2010, and during that time you will:

- Attend one evening session per week
- Attend one day-long weekend session per month
- Connect with mentors during mutually convenient times
- Explore and take action on an issue or topic of social change that you're passionate about

Can I apply if I'm in school or working?

Yes. The program was designed with an understanding that the people in it would have a life: work, school, family and many combinations thereof. That's why the sessions take place in the evenings and on weekends.

How much does it cost?

It's free! The cost of the program for participants will be covered entirely by the program (if you live outside Edmonton we may be able to help with travel costs, so please apply). You have to commit, time, energy, curiosity and a desire to change the world.

When is the final application deadline?

Applications are accepted from Tuesday, December 22 until Friday, January 22, 2010 at Midnight Mountain Standard Time. Short-listed applicants will be invited to take part in a group interview process on Saturday, January 30th, 2010, as well as a one-on-one interview. All short-listed applicants will be notified of their status by Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010.

How many people can take part in the program?

There is space for 13 participants.

What is the language of learning for the program?

Participants need to be comfortable working and learning in English as all sessions will take place in English.

Where does the funding come from?

Funding for Next Up is provided by:

- Alberta Federation of Labour
- The Columbia Institute
- United Nurses of Alberta
- Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation

I have a different question, who can I ask?

Send us an email at alberta@nextup.ca

Check online at www.nextup.ca

That's it. Happy applying!