

Step Up To Leadership Closing Ceremony
Tuesday, June 3, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Tallahassee Community Centre

Good evening,

Thank you for the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you tonight and on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to the graduates of the Step up to Leadership program.

By completing this program you have each demonstrated a strong sense of social responsibility, a willingness to take positive action to address community needs and make an ongoing contribution to our community.

Why should you be a community leader? Community leaders take responsibility for the well-being and improvement of their communities. Leadership can be good for you. You don't have to lead out of obligation. You can choose to lead and participate in ways that energise you and help you grow. You can choose to work on issues that you care about. You can take on challenges that are fun, rewarding, or interesting. It's up to you.

As a community leader, you can make a profound contribution.

Leadership skills are built step-by-step. No matter what your skills are

right now, you can become a better leader if you work at it. You may find yourself doing things you never imagined you would!

There is always room in this world for more community leaders. One or two leaders can't possibly solve all the complex problems that our communities face. With more community leaders, our communities will do better. The more people become leaders, the more problems we will solve.

We need community leaders to think about and organise around many issues: youth development, economic growth, substance abuse, crime, the environment, health care -- and the list goes on. We all have to learn to cooperate. We all need to put aside differences in order to achieve goals that benefit everyone. If you take initiative to improve a situation, you will almost always delight, relieve, and surprise people.

It's just possible that community leadership is a job that is made for you.

Remember, you are the one, and the only one, who can decide what kind of responsibility you would like to take to make sure things go well in your

corner of the world. Go ahead and dare to take hold of your dreams and do the work that is meaningful to you. You have the ability to make significant changes in the lives of the people with whom you work, live, and play. Each person here has an opportunity to influence the future - how you influence the future is up to you.

Thank you.