



BACKGROUND NOTES: BEING A LEADER

Leadership Qualities and Skills

Courage: The mindset that enables a person to face difficulty. Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the willingness to do something in spite of fear. Having courage means that even if you are scared of doing something you are willing to try it.

Visionary: The ability to see the bigger picture in a situation or organization, and dream of possibilities that would be more beneficial. A visionary is one who imagines possibilities.

Change Agent: The ability to not only move people and things in a new direction, but also to accept, handle and thrive in the midst of change. A change agent is one who can create a sense of urgency for a new direction, and guide a group down the path of that new direction.

Decisive: Having the willingness and ability to make a decision, judgment call or resolution. Leaders would often rather make the wrong decision than no decision at all.

Perseverance: The ability to remain steady in a course of action; having tenacity and endurance despite hardship or discouragement.

Risk Taking: The courage to begin a course of action or make a decision even though failure is a possibility. Risk takers realize that no one succeeds at every turn, and sometimes more can be learned from failure than success.

Creativity: The ability to use originality, innovation and imagination to solve problems or dream dreams. A creative leader thinks "outside the box."

Confidence: The steady belief or trust in yourself and your abilities. The opposite of confidence is low self esteem or feeling worthless.

Self-Discipline: The ability to control your actions and order your behaviour appropriately.

Honesty: Having truthfulness and integrity in your actions and dealings with others.

Sense of Humour: The ability to see the lighter side of a situation or circumstance. Key to having a sense of humour is having the ability to not take yourself too seriously. Leaders can laugh at themselves.