

# Leadership Skills

## MODULE 1: YOU GOT THIS!

### Activity 1: Leadership Qualities

1. Consider a positive role model or leader in your life. What important qualities did they possess? List them below:

---

---

---

---

2. Share your list with another person and discuss the impact those qualities had on you. For example, if the quality was that your role model was punctual, that could impact you by feeling like you were important to them as they valued your time together.
3. When looking at the list of qualities of your role model or a leader, highlight any of those qualities that you believe you currently possess. Be prepared to share these.
4. With a partner, share the qualities that you highlighted and explain how these could be valuable during campaigning and while in office if elected.

Confidence is a key part of gaining support in an election. Voters look for someone who displays a sense of strength and confidence and as women already have added visibility as minorities in most campaign races, appearing confident is incredibly important. Women often start up their campaigns with their personal stories and biographies, which make them appear likable and in touch – both important traits – but often do not do much to establish their qualifications and credibility.

So what's the secret? To help women explain their qualifications, they must focus on sharing their experience and accomplishments before sharing their personal stories.

Women who are running for an elected position need to emphasize being confident, organized and knowledgeable.

## Activity 2: How Does Your Experience Make You Qualified?

1. Look back to the previous activity on page 7 and write the leadership qualities that you identify with yourself:

---

---

---

---

2. For each of those words, list how you gained and demonstrated those qualities? For example, if you listed resilient, what experiences have you undergone that created a sense of resilience?
3. Next, link how those qualities that you gained through experience can be assets in running for an elected position. For example, if you listed experiences that connected you with the quality of being honest or genuine – how is the quality of honesty or genuineness going to serve your voters if you're elected?

We're about to watch a few short clips of women who have run for elected leadership positions in the NWT. Use the space on the following page to record what leadership qualities you observe from them and any major points that you would like to remember from these clips:

---

---

---

---

Research on leadership shows that successful leaders in politics tend to have several common traits, although how these are displayed depends on the community and the situation. For example, strength (which takes the form of dominance and self-confidence) is present in all successful political leaders but is shown in different ways depending on what is culturally accepted.

Common traits among successful political leaders include:

TRAIT	RESULT	HOW DO YOU SHOW IT?
Self-confidence	Strong belief in oneself.	
High energy	Capable of achieving a higher number of tasks and working longer hours than the average person.	
High level of task-relevant information	Knows and understands a lot about the areas she must manage.	
Intelligent and naturally curious	Always eager to know or learn something new. Political leaders are often particularly good at abstract thinking, which involves seeing multiple possibilities and options for any idea or concept, and have strong analytical abilities.	
Effective communicator	There are many ways to be a good communicator, but in politics, this frequently involves delivering messages in such a way that the target audience easily understands them.	
Comfortable in his or her own company	Many good political leaders are comfortable being alone, which gives them time to reflect and learn.	
Purpose or focus	Knows why she is in politics and has a sense of what she wants to achieve.	

Source: Adapted from the Campaign Schools, National Demographic Institution

## Activity 3: Traits of Political Leaders

1. Consider the list of common traits of political leaders on the previous page. Do you think this is a list that accurately reflects what is required in the political environment in which you are involved? Are there changes you would make to this list?

---

---

---

---

2. Consider the last trait on the previous page which is listed as, “purpose or focus.” Thinking about this, what calls you to serve as a political leader? What do you think are the most important values for political leaders to uphold?

---

---

---

---

## Leadership Style

Anne-Marie Slaughter, an American Political Scientist discusses finding her leadership style that best represented who she was as a leader.

Consider the leadership qualities that you are identifying yourself with and find ways to continue to lead in a way that comes naturally to you.

No one leadership style will work for everyone. It’s important that you choose a leadership style that feels genuine and authentic to you. Not only is inauthenticity exhausting, but voters—specifically in communities of the NWT where there is little anonymity—will see right through it and not trust you with their confidence or their vote.

## Leadership and Politics



There are many types of leaders in society, including community leaders, educational leaders, and business leaders. Like political leaders, these individuals can exercise power and influence over large groups, and often do so for longer periods than political leaders.

However, in practice, political leadership is broader than many other fields. A

political leader is expected to be able to manage a vast variety of issues such as public health, economic development, social well-being, culture, art, and sports to education and training. The demands and expectations placed on political leaders are extensive and, therefore, frequently exceed those of leaders in any other domain of society.

Be clear on what you stand for as a leader and continue to stay curious with the public and your community to understand opposing views. Staying curious and being authentic will allow your leadership style to flex and develop according to the situation at hand.

### Summary

Taking some time to clearly identify who you are as a leader and what you have to offer to your community will help to validate your sense of confidence and competency to run for elected leadership positions. Once you're clear on these items, you can campaign with clear leadership that will help the voters better understand who you are and what makes you the most qualified candidate to represent their needs and interests.

---

---

---

---