

No-Cost, Low-Barrier Women's Leadership Training 2026

Empowering Women. Building Community Leaders. Creating Change.

Positive Living North's No-Cost, Low-Barrier Women's Leadership Virtual Training is a culturally grounded, trauma-informed program designed to support women in Northern British Columbia to build confidence, leadership skills, and community connections.

This training is based on the **Women Leadership Toolkit: Reclaiming, Redefining and Restoring Leadership in Northern British Columbia** as part of the 3-year project titled Women Out of the Margins: Increasing Decision-Making Power of Women in Northern British Columbia

The program takes place from January 19, 2026, to February 2, 2026 and includes 19 participants who self-identify as women from diverse backgrounds across Northern BC.

Eligible Participants must:

- Be over 16 years of age
- Self-identify as Indigenous, racialized, marginalized and/or 2SLGBTQIA+
- Have a low and/or unreliable income
- Have lived in Northern BC (Northern Interior, Northwest, Northeast, or rural/remote communities) for at least six months
- Be able to read, write, and understand English

WHAT MAKES THIS PROGRAM LOW-BARRIER

- No cost to participants
- Trauma-informed and culturally safe learning spaces
- Flexible, community-centred facilitation
- Respect for lived and living experience
- Indigenous-informed and decolonial practices
- Peer learning and mutual support

WHAT PARTICIPANTS LEARN

Module 1: Foundational Concepts – GBA+, Intersectionality, Power & Privilege, Decolonization, Cultural Safety: *Facilitated by Vibusha Madanayake - Interim Co-Executive Director & Education Manager, Positive Living North and Dr. Ujunma Egbuawa - Support Services Manager, Positive Living North*

Module 2: Leadership through a Decolonized Intersectional Indigenous Feminist Framework: *Facilitated by Tanvi Guhagarkar - Executive Director, Northern Women's Centre, University of Northern British Columbia*

Module 3: Training & Mentorship in Fundraising and Feminist Grant Making: *Facilitated by Vanessa West (Chief of Staff, BC Assembly of First Nations and Bill Gottschall-Morgan (Senior Policy Developer and Strategic Initiatives Advisor, Carrier Sekani Family Services)*

Module 4: Creating Safe Spaces – Consent, Cultural Respect & Trauma-Informed Care: *Facilitated by Julie Sam – Elder at Nak'azdli Whut'en / Indigenous Community Health Educator - Positive Living North and Kyle Sam – Community Liaison at Dudes Club Society*

Module 5: Creating Allyship & Community Support Networks: *Facilitated by Confidence Ben – Corporate Human Resources Manager, 'Tano T'enneh Enterprises at the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and Cynthia Williams – Equity & Inclusion Professional at the University of Northern British Columbia.*

Module 6: Leading from Where You Are – Navigating Workplaces & Systems Change: *Facilitated by Piumi Denagamange – Peer Support Coordinator, Foundry Prince George.*

OUR APPROACH

This training is guided by:

- Indigenous knowledge systems
- Trauma-informed practice
- Harm reduction principles
- Feminist and decolonial frameworks
- Community accountability and reciprocity

Leadership is understood as relational, collective, and rooted in care, culture, and community.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Participants will gain:

- Increased confidence and leadership skills
- Tools for advocacy and community engagement
- Understanding of systemic barriers affecting women
- Strong peer support networks
- Certificates of completion

This training program was supported by Jufil Boquecosa as the *Course Navigator and Mental Health Support Facilitator*, and Michelle Roberge as the *External Evaluator*.

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This training is supported by Women and Gender Equality Canada (WAGE) through the Women's Economic and Leadership Opportunities Fund.