



Newsletter

New leadership course for LPNs begins this fall

Fundamental Leadership Skills for Licensed Practical Nurses

Some Background:

Vancouver Community College (VCC) Continuing Studies: Health Programs is offering an entry-level leadership course – *Fundamental Leadership Skills for Licensed Practical Nurses* – addressing the learning needs of LPNs, and providing them with knowledge and skills essential to their expanding roles in various practice settings.

Following successful completion of the course, participants will receive credit toward VCC's *Clinical Leadership Course* or the *Leadership Certificate Program* (which ladders into the British Columbia Institute of Technology's certificate programs in *Management Systems* or *Human Resource Management*).

A variety of learning strategies will be employed to support LPNs in acquiring knowledge and exploring beliefs and values surrounding leadership. LPNs will build their confidence in communicating with other members of the health care team, and enhance their comfort in public speaking. Coaching will be provided to introduce and apply the day-to-day practice of leadership concepts. The primary goal is to have LPNs come away with a personal leadership development plan applicable to their work settings.

The program is 24 hours in length, and the \$450 course fee can be funded through the Nursing Directorate. Sponsorship is available for 160 LPNs to take the course between September 2006 and March 2007.

The Agreement by the Nursing Directorate to pay for this course was reached at the Facilities Bargaining Association's joint policy table, where the Unions (HEU, BCGEU and IUOE), the Ministry of Health, and health authorities decided to collaborate on ways of improving LPN leadership opportunities in British Columbia. Sponsorship of this program is a first step in what is intended to be a long-term plan to support LPNs in new and emerging leadership roles across the province.

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What are the criteria for registration?

You are eligible to register for the program if you are either::

- an LPN currently working in a leadership position in long-term care, assisted living or community health; or
- an LPN, who has worked for current employer for two years or more, and are interested in developing your leadership skills.

Where and when will the course be offered?

Location	Dates 2006	Times
VCC	September 11, 18 & 25 October 2, 16, 23 & 30 November 6	1730 – 2030
Abbotsford	September 14, 21 & 28	0900 – 1630
Surrey	October 19 & 26 November 2	0900 – 1630
Prince George	November 16 & 17 December 1	0900 – 1630
Kelowna	November 23 & 24 December 8	0900 – 1630
2007		
Nanaimo	January 11, 12 & 26	0900 – 1630
Victoria	January 18 & 19 February 2	0900 – 1630
Kamloops	February 15 & 16 March 2	0900 – 1630
Castlegar	March 8, 9 & 23	0900 – 1630

How do you register for the course?

No matter where you live, you need to register with **Sarah Mokaber** at the Centre for Continuing Studies: Vancouver Community College. She can be reached at *Smokaber@vcc.ca* or by phone at 604-443-8635.

Sarah will send you an application form. This form must be signed off by your employer (i.e. immediate excluded supervisor) to confirm your employment status and their knowledge that you are taking the course.

Beginning in August 2006, you can register online at:
<http://www.continuinged.vcc.ca/health/index.cfm>.

Once you have enrolled, VCC will send you a receipt and a copy of the course schedule.

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How will you get reimbursed for the course costs and materials?

The cost of the course and materials is \$450, and can be funded through the Nursing Directorate. A total of 160 participants will be funded for the eight courses being offered between September 2006 and March 2007.

As indicated above, you need to pay the Centre for Continuing Studies: Vancouver Community College for the course, and then send your receipt, a copy of your course schedule and LPN license, and your completed funding application to the Nursing Directorate to get reimbursed.

To contact the Nursing Directorate for more information on reimbursement, visit their website at <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/ndirect/index.html> or call the Ministry of Health information line at 1-800-465-4911 (toll-free in B.C.).

You must submit your request for a reimbursement prior to March 15, 2007. Please keep in mind that the funding is available on a first come first served basis, and that applications received after the fund is exhausted will not be reimbursed.

July 31, 2006