

My Leadership Philosophy

Great leaders have a strong moral compass and a clear vision of education that are demonstrated in what they do. I believe that every student should have high quality learning opportunities to graduate with dignity, purpose, and options. With effective instruction and the right supports, all students can be successful learners. Leaders in education have a moral and professional responsibility to create the conditions necessary to deliver on these goals.

Great leaders are clear about their priorities and rationale. Reconciliation with our Indigenous communities, driving for equity, and preparing all youth for a dynamic future, must underpin and guide the work of all in the system, especially our leaders. Educational leaders have significant influence over the future of our communities and that bears equally significant responsibility.

Great leaders are inclusive and empathetic. They are tough on problems but kind on people. They have difficult conversations for growth and improvement achieving necessary results while keeping people intact. Great leaders are present, knowledgeable, understanding, and clear about priorities. Diversity is to be celebrated and makes us stronger. Inclusion is fundamental for how we perceive and respond to human difference. It is an attitude and culture that is vital: great leaders support, create, and demand its presence.

Great leaders create and strengthen community. They ensure a vision is shared and people feel connected to the greater common good. Great leaders provide a sense of real purpose for those they lead, and they build strong, positive relationships with all stakeholders.

Great leaders are effective facilitators who create space for others to thrive. They develop capacity throughout the system. They move everyone from their point A to their point B in pursuit of improving education for our youth. Great leaders have strong listening skills that compliment their ability to observe and make sense of complex situations. They facilitate discussion, debate, and collaboration. They work with diverse groups and positions to achieve understanding and progressive direction. They are transparent and act fairly and justly.

Great leaders cultivate and create conditions for positive change. They see challenges as opportunities to improve practices. They are informed by four areas: theory, research, policy, and practice. Effective leaders constantly use these four areas to operationalize systemic improvement for student growth and development. Effective change leaders are clear about long-term goals and analyze the benefits of interim actions to achieving those goals.

Great leaders are committed to growing their leadership practice. They acknowledge their challenges and continually seek ways to improve their skills. They lead by example. They have extensive networks that inform their thinking, challenge their beliefs, and broaden their perspectives. They seek mentors that provide challenge, guidance, and growth. They connect with peers and approach situations from a learner's stance. They listen deeply with genuine desire to understand and grow.