



## **Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation to welcome first cohort in June 2018**

**After six years of work, whether it be developing the program or fundraising to make the program a reality, the Foundation Board is proud and excited to announce that they will be welcoming the inaugural group of Catholic women to its new leadership program.**

Our world is changing at incredible speed. Mostly driven by technological innovations, which open new ways to communicate, innovate and automate, we now learn and work in different ways. We are more connected with global issues and global thinking. With such pressure for change, more responsible leaders are needed who can be transformative agents of desired change. Our world has not tapped into a deep resource of leaders.

- Approximately 51% of Canadians are women
- Women make up 47% of the Canadian labour force
- Women hold 35% of Canada's management positions and only 8.5% of the highest-paid **positions** in **Canada's** top 100 listed companies
- Half of the companies listed on the TSX have no women on their Boards
- 39% of Canadians identify as Roman Catholics

**Empowering Catholic women to be transformational and influential leaders where they work and live - that is our mission. We dream of a world where women and men hold equal roles of leadership and influence; where the impact of women is reflected in business, politics and throughout our communities.** Since the Foundation was created, the Foundation's Board worked concurrently on multiple fronts to give itself the means to achieve this mission. Thanks to volunteers across the country, we have:

- Initiated a \$1.5M capital campaign, which, with your help, will be completed in 2018
- Partnered with Saint Paul University to develop a specialized leadership training program
- Issued a call for program candidates and selected the first group of participants
- Launched the leadership program

The Certificate Leadership Program consists of online modules, with a one-week residence session at Saint Paul University in Ottawa at the start of the program in June 2018 and another week of residency one year later. Study topics include the **integration of spirituality with leadership, the Church's social teaching on ethics, challenges of faith and culture, ecological responsibility, power, agency and integrity.** Participants will also benefit from structured coaching and mentoring. A Catholic faith perspective informs the entire program.

The first participants of this program come from across Canada, including the territories. These women are from different backgrounds and age ranges. For all these participants, the Foundation is proud to cover the education costs of the program, including travel to/from Ottawa and residence and meals while in Ottawa. With the contributions pledged so far by generous donors during the CWLF's first capital campaign, the Foundation's national volunteer board created a Fund Development Committee to further strengthen its financial profile.

*We invite you too to invest in Canada's future by helping Catholic women become transformational leaders.*

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**Empowering Women Leaders | Pour une relève dirigeante autonome, forte et inspirante**