

Leadership is a vital ingredient to success. Here are some thoughts on leadership, for either politics or the workplace from **Colleen Johnston, Chief Financial Officer of TD Bank Financial Group**, and sponsor of Equal Voice's Experiences program.

***Q: In your opinion, what are the key characteristics of good leaders?***

At TD, we outline the characteristics that we consider are key to being a good leader, so everyone knows what to aim for. Let me share them with you because I think they really are universal characteristics of a good leader:

- Make an impact
- Build for the future
- Inspire the will to win
- Work effectively in teams
- Live transparency
- Show excellent judgment
- Demonstrate unwavering integrity

***Q: Do you have any tips for these young women who want to develop as leaders?***

Here are my top 10 tips on how to develop as a leader:

- Work to embrace the qualities that define great leaders
- Master your subject and know your business – know what's going on around the business and in your field. Keep up to date with new developments
- Consciously work to develop your people-management and strategic-thinking skills
- Respect all people
- Take the time to learn from others
- Keep challenging yourself
- Build your network – find a mentor and be a mentor
- Put the fear of failure aside. I have a plaque that says, "What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?"
- Find your passion – you're more likely to be successful if you do something you're passionate about
- Be yourself, but your best self

***Q: What are some of the common mistakes women make when setting career goals for themselves?***

I'd say one of the biggest mistakes that women often make is that they don't reach high enough. Studies show that women tend to underestimate what they're capable of, they don't put their hands up for assignments, not wanting to appear pushy or self-promoting, and they are highly self-critical when they make mistakes. We're also often embarrassed to tell people our goals – afraid, perhaps, that we'll be shot down. As a group, we need to have more confidence in our abilities.

***Q: Why do you feel having women in leadership roles is important?***

It's all about building the best possible leadership – for business, non-profit organizations, government, and, ultimately, for Canada. The reality is that women represent more than half of the population in Canada and of students in Canadian universities, so statistically we should make up a bigger portion of Canadian leaders. If we don't, that tells us we're not tapping into all the talent available to us. Also, research has shown that organizations are more successful if they have a greater percentage of women on their leadership teams. It's about making sure women have a strong voice in leadership, so our perspectives are well represented.

# So, you want to be an MLA?

by Jason Unrau  
Northern News Services

The territorial election is in 67 days and already nine newcomers to territorial politics have declared their candidacy, while incumbents Sandy Lee representing Range Lake and Dave Ramsay of Kam Lake said they'll run again.

"There could be a major turnover in elected represen-

tation for Yellowknife," Ramsay speculated.

On July 9, Great Slave MLA Bill Braden said he would not seek a third term. Frame Lake MLA Charles Dent, Yellowknife South MLA Brendan Bell, and Weledeh MLA and premier Joe Handley, have yet to announce their intentions.

Yellowknife businessman Bob Bromley and tax consultant Andy Wong have declared their intentions to run in the Weledeh riding and non-governmental organization director and volunteer Sue Glowach and socio-environmental advocate Ben McDonald have decided to challenge Yellowknife Centre MLA incumbent

Robert Hawkins.

Yesterday, Doug Ritchie announce his intention to run for Great Slave, while Amy Hacala said she will run in Yellowknife South.

Outside of Yellowknife, Marc Miltenberger – brother of Thebacha MLA Michael Miltenberger – has announced he'll run against Hay River

## Easy to get involved, harder to get elected

South incumbent Jane Groenewegen. Fort Simpson town councillor Bob Hanna said he plans to run against Nahendeh MLA incumbent Kevin Menicoche. Between Sept. 3 and 7, challengers and incumbents can make their declarations official by filing nomination papers with local returning officers. To run for office one

must be a Canadian citizen, 18-years-old on or before the date of filing and have been a resident of the NWT for at least 12 months.

Candidates must choose an official agent and obtain at least 15 signatures from eligible voters residing in the electoral riding where the nomination paper is filed. A deposit of \$200 is also required.

## Should there be party politics in the NWT?

It's election time and once again candidates are out on the hustings trying to get enough votes to move them into the legislative assembly. That said, no one has any idea who will form the government once election day is over. That, in our consensus-style government, will be decided by the elected MLAs. One advantage of party politics is that it's the voters, not the MLAs who will decide who forms the government. Is it time to do away with consensus government and go with political parties?