

girlsAction On

REDEFINING LEADERSHIP FOR GIRLS

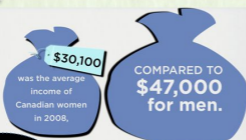
POTENTIAL + ENCOURAGEMENT + RESOURCES = *changemaker*

Every girl has the potential to be a changemaker in her life and community, if she gets encouragement and access to resources.

Leaders are already around us yet they go unnoticed.

GIRLS ACTION FOUNDATION believes in redefining leadership in order to help girls and young women connect with their inner potential.

GET THE FACTS



This difference is partly because women are less often in leadership positions with higher salaries.¹

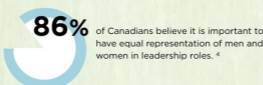
"There seems to exist a specifically coded image of what a leader looks and sounds like. Leadership is also likened to a popularity contest, and girls worry that they aren't popular enough, or don't speak the right way if they have an accent."



There are **4X** as many men than women elected in all levels of government - federal, provincial, municipal.



AT THE SAME TIME



"The notion that one only needs to work hard to get the same chances as the next person is bogus when other factors like ethnicity and gender are not taken into consideration."

It's true that young women are typically less involved in traditional politics than young men.

BUT

Girls are more likely to be interested in politics during childhood compared to their teenage years.⁵ Exposing girls to politics at a young age may help keep them interested as young adults.

If not in politics, where are young women shaking things up?

Female youth are not apolitical; they are very engaged and driven by commitment to a cause rather than an organization.⁵

Many girls and young women are already engaged in their communities and are organizing for social change and justice.

"Leadership isn't just about taking charge, it also means contributing, working collaboratively, cooperating, being supportive and sharing skills."

Want an example?



Since 2005, during the National Day of Action, girls and young women have implemented over 200 local actions, making a difference on community issues from poverty to racism to sexual health and bullying. girlsactionfoundation.ca/en/day-of-action

The GIRLS ACTION FOUNDATION Approach

- Recognizing that barriers to leadership still exist, especially for marginalized communities. We support girls and young women to challenge those barriers.
- Applying popular education in girls' programs. This means we encourage girls to decide what issues are important and support them to enact change.
- Supporting girls and young women to learn by doing: a powerful way to practice leadership skills and channel passion into creative expression and community projects.
- Creating intergenerational spaces: girls gain strength and inspiration from diverse women role models.



- Offer opportunities for girls to build confidence and find their unique leadership strengths.
 - Hold a mentorship event or Career Day for girls to meet women role models. Get tips from our guide to creating intergenerational spaces: girlsactionfoundation.ca/en/intergenerational-spaces
 - Get involved in ELLE, our young women's leadership training program: girlsactionfoundation.ca/en/elle-project
 - Apply for a Leadership Capacity Grant and be a changemaker in your community: girlsactionfoundation.ca/en/leadership-capacity
- Get ideas:
 - "Redefining Leadership" shares our insight from our young women's leadership programs: girlsactionfoundation.ca/en/redefining-leadership
 - Start something fierce! If you are a young woman, take action in your community on something that is important to you. Check out our zine for inspiration: girlsactionfoundation.ca/en/start-something-fierce-2nd-edition
- Why Girls? Find out more about Leadership for girls: girlsactionfoundation.ca/en/why-girls



Additional Resources

- ✓ Young Feminist Wire: www.yfa.awid.org
- ✓ Apathy is Boring: www.apathyisboring.com

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References

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Founded in 1995, GIRLS ACTION FOUNDATION is a charitable organization that supports the empowerment, leadership and healthy development of girls and young women across Canada. In collaboration with a network of 300 community partners, Girls Action reaches 60,000 girls and young women annually. Our work is to inspire girls and young women to reach their potential and create change.