

February 27, 2009

On Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, his Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, S.O.M., will be visiting the Northwest Leadership Academy to share his leadership journey and to hear about projects and activities related to the Leadership Academy course from the delegates.

Dr. Barnhart, an acclaimed historian and recognized expert on the Canadian parliamentary process, has always strongly believed that youth are the key to Saskatchewan's future. In pursuance of this belief he established the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Forum to inspire high school students to rise to the challenge of leadership. The rigorous annual Forum exposes participants to the vast educational and career opportunities in the province, and provides an opportunity for senior high school students in the province to gain leadership skills and cultivate a vision of their future in Saskatchewan.

Dr. Barnhart obtained a Ph.D. in history at the University of Saskatchewan, where he taught political studies and served as University Secretary. He has published several books on prairie history and Saskatchewan political figures. He has extensive experience in government in both the Saskatchewan Legislature and the Canadian Senate, and has worked as a consultant to strengthen democratic governance in countries around the world.

With support from the board and senior administration, the Northwest Leadership Academy was created by staff to give the students in all of the schools the chance to have access to leadership training. Students from across the division meet once every six weeks in a central location to participate in a credit course that explores styles of leadership, group dynamics, conflict resolution, team building, planning a project, and evaluating. Students are brought into contact with local mentors, introduced to leaders from many walks of life, taken to conferences and expected to push themselves beyond the classroom. The emphasis in the Academy is on learning by doing, with every student carrying out both an in-school and a community service project in their first year.

The students of the Academy are excited to be able to share their work with the Lieutenant Governor as well as their thoughts and concerns regarding access to leadership training opportunities. The Mayor of Edam, Mr. Larry McDaid, the Board Chair, Mrs. Faith Graham, and the Director of Education, Mr. Glen Winkler, have been invited as well. The session will run until 3:00 after which His Honour has been invited to stay and spend some casual time with the young leaders.

**Location: Edam Legion Hall.**