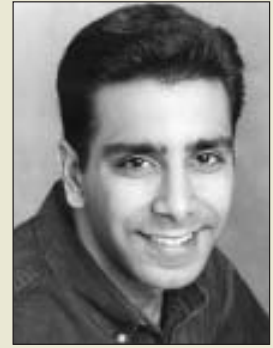


## Leadership

Akash Sablok



# The Skills of Leadership and the Joy of Utilizing Them

Leadership and management skills are learned over a period of time.

Simply studying about leadership does not mean you have perfected the skills. For that, you must practise. Practising helps you understand the why, where, and how of leadership—important aspects to know if you expect people to implement your ideas.

I have been fortunate to have many leadership lessons—in the classroom and in the real world.

During my high school years, I was offered the opportunity to attend a leadership conference, a five-day UBC session where participants stayed in residence on campus.

The course taught us how to motivate others and ourselves, and to take ideas and suggestions, however bad or good, and use them creatively enough to handle the tasks at hand. We realized that by encouraging people to come up with ideas and suggestions, we gave them the incentive to be even more productive. And when their own ideas were implemented, in a small or big way, people were more motivated to do the work.

At the end of the course, our belief that leadership is an active sport was cemented. For the improvements of leadership to take effect, we need to both follow and be followed.

Over the years I have learned skills of management.

I thank my father, Tarlok Sablok, also a Notary Public, for the invaluable

lessons he has taught me; he showed me the value of hard work and persistence.

I thank Dr. Bernard Hoeter for his consistent reminders to keep myself updated with statutes, rules, and regulations—something he does to this day, even though he has retired as a Notary.

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I thank Mr. Stan Nicol, Mr. George Tanco, Mr. Rick Evans, Mr. Wayne Braid, and other amazing Notaries who have shown me that keeping your cool, no matter how difficult the situation becomes, is the best way to handle a potential problem. Their calmness and readiness to help others in their profession showed me that even though we have individual offices, we can solve almost any equation as a team.

And I would certainly like to thank my own staff and my clients. Through their positive feedback to ideas I suggest or implement, they encourage me to come up with new and better ways of running my practice.

Recently I was discussing leadership and management skills with my friend Kevin, manager of a local coffee shop. He manages with the “example” style leadership . . . he first does what he expects his employees to do.

This approach is seconded by Mr. Brian Burke, GM of the Vancouver Canucks. In a speech at a recent Lions Club meeting, Mr. Burke said he expects each of his hockey players to do some community work. He promised them that for every charity event they attend as a Canuck, he would personally attend two. Whether the Canucks win or lose a game, this type of thinking makes them winners.

When I think about it, this is exactly the leadership model my father has been practising all along. His long hours of work, which he puts in to this day, are done without the slightest complaint. He has never asked me to work the same number of hours, but he has inspired me to invest the time and to strive to work beyond his achievements.

I know I will continue to learn new and exciting leadership and management skills. Without making this sound like an Oscar-acceptance speech, I am thankful for the skills I have learned and even more thankful that I have the opportunity to implement them on a daily basis. ▲

**Akash Sablok** has been practising as a BC Notary Public since June 1998. He speaks Punjabi and Hindi fluently, and some Urdu and Gujarati. His father Tarlok Sablok has been a Notary since 1977. Akash writes weekly automotive and technology columns, and hosts *Driver's Seat*, an automotive TV show.

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