As a leader, you are expected to take appropriate self-development in order to increase your effectiveness and help you feel more comfortable as a colony leader.

Scouts Canada helps leaders develop their knowledge and skills through a variety of training methods. These methods may include coaching, on-the-job coaching and mentoring, self-education and formal or informal courses or programs.

Some examples of self-development opportunities may include:

- Sharing sessions
- Visits to other colonies
- Coaching/mentoring
- On-the-job training with other leaders
- Service team members
- Council Workshops.

Whatever your concerns or needs for information or techniques to help you do a better job with your Beavers, Scouting has a self-development program with something to offer.

Sharing Sessions

“Sharing” is one of the basic concepts of the Beaver program; it's the key word. All leadership teams – even the most experienced – gain from opportunities to provide and receive program-enriching ideas.

Sharing sessions are gatherings of leaders to share and swap ideas, resources and hints. Typical sessions are organized to:

- Exchange favourite ideas
- Swap games and crafts
- Discuss different methods of approaching program development
- Discover solutions to common problems
- Introduce leaders from different colonies
- Explore sources of programming material.

Sharing sessions can also take the form of practical training in specific areas (e.g. program planning, how to organize an outing, or how to conduct a Swim-up ceremony).

Like Beaver colonies, sharing sessions are shaped to meet the needs of their participants. Across Canada, these sessions occur at a variety of levels which range from sharing among a few colonies to sharing at area and council levels.
If you would like to know when your area will hold its next sharing session, or if you have a topic you would like to see discussed, contact your service team representative or council office. If you find that no sharing session is being planned, organize one yourself. Remember, it’s not only Eager Beavers in the colony who learn through sharing!

**Woodbadge Training**

This is designed to provide new leaders with the appropriate opportunity to develop knowledge and skills they’ll require to conduct programs and outings. We want to help the leader:

- Understand the purpose and programs of Scouting, and how they relate to the community
- Develop knowledge and skills for providing age-appropriate and appealing activities which meet the children's interests and the section program goals
- Find and make use of a variety of resources
- Develop the knowledge and skills to administer the section effectively.

To find out more information about Woodbadge training, surf to www.scouts.ca. A supplementary information piece covering a range of important topics called “Key Information Statements for Scouters” can be found there as well. It is important to familiarize yourself with this prior to taking Woodbadge training.

**Woodbadge Part I**

This is designed to provide new leaders with the knowledge and skills they’ll require to conduct weekly programs and outings. It is useful to take this course early in the program year – ideally within six months of joining.

**Woodbadge Part II**

Part II help leaders develop their knowledge, skills and competencies in conducting the Beaver program in the outdoors and gives them an in-depth understanding of developing a multi-year program for the colony.

Training is fun and an exciting adventure. Look into it now, and sign up for a program as soon as possible. Contact your council office for course dates and location.

**PEOPLE**

The people involved in Scouting are what makes the Movement strong. Within the Scouting family, a wide variety of human resources are available to you: your group committee; other Beaver leaders in your council; the service team person from your area; people in your Scout office and executive staff; and leaders from other sections. You’ll meet these helpful people through sharing sessions and Scouter’s Clubs.
Scouting personnel can help you tap into other community resources. Guest speakers, visits, excursions and people with special programming talents are available for the asking. Be sure to plan to use them, either for advice or in your program. Invite them to your meeting. It’s good for Beavers to see other people make contributions to the colony.

The following brief list will give you an idea of the kinds of resource people for whom you can look:

**Members**
- Group committee, your sponsor/partner, other Scouters in your group, local commissioners, service team, field executive.

**Non-members**
- Parents, religious advisors, community officials, police officers, teachers, trades people, professionals, firefighters, forest rangers, senior citizens.

**PLACES**

There are so many places you can go for ideas and help, and a wide variety of places to take Beavers on an outing. When you do go visiting with your Beavers, be sure to give yourself and whoever you’re visiting plenty of lead time for preparations.

Here are some ideas for outings: scout office, Scout Shop, schools, colleges, places of worship, parks, zoos, radio and television stations and local newspapers, manufacturers, fire stations, libraries, farms, and your town hall.

**HELPFUL TOOLS**

A wealth of books filled with crafts, games, songs, stories, nature information, skits and special events are available at your public library. The community college in your council is yet another source. Many colleges have recreation courses which use wonderful resource books; any member of the community can use their library facilities. Why not hold your next leadership team meeting in the library?

Consult the librarian about films and magazines such as *World*, *Owl*, *Chickadee*, *Wild*, *Big Backyard*, *Canadian Wildlife*, *Canadian Geographic and Biosphere*. These publications – full of articles on nature’s wonders, pictures and projects – can be very useful for theme building. Check out the world wide web as well!

**SCOUT SHOPS**

Your local Scout Shop has a selection of program resource books and items to satisfy your needs. Here are a few of the resources you will find there.

**Friends of the Forest**
- The Beaver program is based on this story. The book includes a grown-up guide to encourage discussion. (Cat. No. 20-106)

**Beaver Leader Handbook**
- This informative book supplies complete details on the Beaver program. It’s a must for all Beaver leaders. (Cat. No. 20-110)
Fun at the Pond
This book is packed with hundreds of wonderful program ideas, themes and activities. (Cat. No. 20-503)

Colony Annual Record Sheets
This resource includes roster, attendance, progress, budget and history sheets. (Cat. No. 25-102)

The Beaver Song Book
Beavers love to sing. This book is full of popular songs designed for Beaver colonies. (Cat. No. 20-151)

Fieldbook for Canadian Scouting
A resource book of outdoor equipment, skills and safety know-how, the Fieldbook for Canadian Scouting is a must for all youth and leaders. (Cat. No. 20-667)

Games... from A to Z
Over 275 fun-tested games for all. (Cat. No. 20-504)

The Campfire Book
This outstanding resource provides openings, skits, songs, cheers, closings and program planning. (Cat. No. 20-626). See chapter 14.

First Aid Books
Scout Shops have many first aid books, including the latest St. John Ambulance book on essential first aid.

JUMPSTART for Beavers
JUMPSTART for Beavers is an information-rich, ready-to-go program planning resource to help you get off and running quickly and easily. It's brimming over with fun-filled programs of fascinating themes and activities. Each program package contains everything needed to build a high quality program, including:

› A monthly overview schedule of all activities
› Weekly schedules broken into individual activities and times
› Details on how to do every game, craft, story and song mentioned in the package
› Flexibility to add your own ideas and times.
Scouts Canada's Web Site
Our web site is a great resource for all leaders. It offers up-to-date forms, changes to the program, program ideas and other Scouting information. Be sure to log on at www.scouts.ca and check it out.

Duty of Care Document
This document is a code of conduct for adults; offer it as part of a volunteer’s orientation. (See details in Chapter 2.) You may download it from Scouts Canada’s web site (www.scouts.ca).

Camping & Outdoor Activities
Camping & Outdoor Activities, Section 10000 in B.P.&P. contains essential information for planning/ preparing for camping or outdoor activities, as well as necessary Scouts Canada forms and applications. It’s available to download from Scouts Canada’s web site (www.scouts.ca).

Scouts Canada’s HELP Line
Got a question? Need program ideas? Scouts Canada’s HELP Line can help. Call 1-800-339-6643, or e-mail at pgmhelp@scouts.ca

Scouting Life Magazine
The Scouting Life Magazine keeps Scouters informed about the newest developments in Scouting, and offers a wide variety of program ideas. Every registered leader receives a copy of this magazine.

If you have interesting programs, themes, crafts, outings or pictures, send them to The Leader Magazine, 1345 Baseline Rd., Suite 100, Ottawa, ON, K2C 0A7. The editor may feature your program and group in a future issue.

Local Beaver Publications
To ensure vitality and success, it’s important to constantly share and exchange ideas with other Beaver leaders. That’s why many areas have their own publications, like newsletters, sharing packages, and more.

Local Beaver publications are excellent vehicles for sharing. They can:

- Provide you with tried and true ideas
- Bring you new program ideas as they develop
- Bring you news and notice about coming events from your Beaver Service Scouter
- Keep you informed about resources in your community.

These local publications depend on leaders like you for new ideas. Whenever you do a craft, play a game, or try a special project that your Beavers particularly enjoy, write down a few details and send the note to the editor of your local publication.