



# The Shambhala Institute

*for Authentic Leadership*

## Our Story

In 1998 members of the Shambhala meditation community who were actively engaged in business, education, and civil society, began a dialogue with pioneering leaders in the fields of organizational and societal change — pathfinders such as Peter Senge (*The Fifth Discipline*, founding chair of the Society for Organizational Learning), Margaret Wheatley (*Leadership and the New Science*, founder of The Berkana Institute), Juanita Brown and David Isaacs (co-founders of The World Café), and Art Kleiner (business editor and author, editor-in-chief of *Strategy + Business*).

The intention behind this exploration was to discover a new model of leadership development that would adequately prepare organizational leaders for the challenges of the 21st century. This model would bring together Shambhala, as a source of pre-industrial wisdom and practices for realizing the potential of individuals and societies, with post-industrial research and methodologies related to leadership and whole-systems change.

This fusion turned out to be a powerful support for more effective action, especially in the domains of innovation, strategy, collaboration, and large-scale transformative change. It resulted in a radical new training program, the week-long Authentic Leadership Summer Program, which was first offered in Nova Scotia in June 2001 and which has convened annually ever since. A distinctive feature of this program was a three-part design that combined intensive “core modules” with meditation and creative process—all in the context of a week-long diverse learning community.

In addition to this flagship program, the Institute is becoming a year-round networked organization, connecting regional fields of practice, learning, and action to international resources. We are committed to being a catalyst and connector for leaders of social and organizational innovation in our home region of Nova Scotia. The Institute is a founding partner, with the United Way, of Envision Halifax, a community-wide leadership initiative. The Institute is also currently prototyping a regional leadership program and network in Ontario.

The Shambhala Institute for Authentic Leadership is part of Nalanda Foundation, a secular educational organization under the broad umbrella of centres and organizations known as Shambhala International. The Nalanda Foundation is a charitable organization in Canada and the United States. The Shambhala Institute, based in Nova Scotia, Canada, is funded by a combination of program tuition, grants, and donations.