

I am an experienced outdoor Leader. If I take the LL1 course will it restrict what I can do?

No! There are big holes in the Canadian certification system, particularly for land based activities and for so called 'soft' leadership skills. As a result there are many great leaders who don't have formal certifications covering all the work they do. The OCC is committed to helping these leaders continue in their work. We do this by specifically stating that while a particular certification only certifies for a particular scope of practice, the graduate may still work beyond that scope of practice if they have 'additional training and experience that has been validated as sufficient by other respected outdoor leaders'. In some cases this might mean a formal examination process, but in many other cases it simply means that if you believe you are competent to lead a particular trip, and other experienced leaders would agree with you, then the OCC will support your continuing work.

I am an experienced outdoor Leader. Will you grandfather me?

No. Grandfathering has pros and cons. While grandfathering existing leaders would give the OCC a great boost at the beginning, it would undermine the validity of our certifications over the long term. We believe that it is in the best interest of our community, and the OCC, if every person holding an OCC certification holds it in virtue of demonstrated competence.

We will not simply grandfather experienced leaders, but we are committed to making it as easy as possible for experienced leaders to demonstrate their competence. (see the next two questions for more information)

The Leadership Level 1 course is designed for entry level leaders. As an experienced leader do I have to take this course?

Yes and No. Unfortunately even experienced leaders will have to take this course in some form or another. The LL1 course contains key concepts concerning the various roles and responsibilities of an outdoor leader and so forms a foundation that will support the various other certifications the OCC is or will offer. As result, to be assured that all our certifications are 'valid' we must insist that even the experienced leader is familiar with the ideas in the LL1 course. Currently there are two ways to gain this familiarity: ether by taking a course, or by becoming a LL1 instructor. (The LL1 Instructor's course includes reading LL1 materials and demonstrating familiarity with them).

We understand that experienced leaders may find this may be frustrating but be assured that although this course is designed for entry level leaders, it is not a 'simple course'. The material covers a very broad range of materials and introduces complex ideas that some experienced leaders may never have been exposed to. Like the good children's movie that speaks as much to adults as children. Experienced leaders who have taken this course reported that was valuable 'continuing professional development' that enriched their understanding of leadership.

Will experienced leaders have to take all the other modules too?

No. We will be developing a process to enable experienced leaders to demonstrate their prior learning.

If I take a LL1 (Hiking) course will I have to take the LL1 (Shoreline) to be water certified?

No. You will only have to take the core materials in the LL1 course once. Once you have taken the LL1 course in one environment all you will have to do is demonstrate familiarity with the factors that distinguish the water from the land environment. This will involve reading some materials and taking a short and inexpensive test.

Will I have to recertify my LL1 course?

No. We believe that the way in which the core ideas in the LL1 course are taught will ensure that the key messages will be retained indefinitely.