



# LEADERSHIP HEADQUARTERS

## Creating a Professional Network.

A professional support network is a defined group of individuals who can offer you advice and direction, as well as assistance when you need it. The important thing is to seek advice from a diverse group of people who can offer you insight and different perspectives.

They know your work well enough to give you sound professional advice. These days, people in your professional network can be located anywhere, as long as you are linked to telephone or email. In turn, you may meet these individuals in different environments and therefore they may not even know each other.

It is important to take responsibility for building your own professional support network. If you wait for others to find you, know that you will be operating first from the context of their agenda for you and therefore they may not have your best interests in mind. This is where networking and joining professional associations is a great way to build your professional support network.

In thinking about how to build your professional network, you have first to define your profession and think through what kinds of expertise you need to help you along the way. Identifying people in your network from different organisations, functions and businesses and identifying acquaintances with similar or matching experience is a means by which you can build a professional support network.

### EXERCISE: BUILDING A PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT NETWORK

The purpose of this exercise is to shape a plan for building your professional support network.

What would your professional support network look like for you?

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Who are some of the people I would like to have in my network?

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List 5 networks you hope to connect with or need to re-engage with to strengthen your professional support

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.