

I had previously heard that Wab Kinew is a prominent Canadian politician and Manitoba's top official. I was informed of the fact that Wab Kinew was the first non-white Canadian to be elected as a leader of the Manitoba New Democratic Party in Canadian history. Before being elected as a leader, he worked with CBC as a broadcaster, wrote, ran a university, and was also a musician, doubling up as a rapper. This background information appealed to me and I became interested to know more about the individual who was engaged in creativity, had communication skills, and experienced the political front, unlike joining the traditional political process.

After listening to the initial conversation of Wab Kinew, I came to learn a lot more about the role of a leader and leadership. He tackled the necessity of focusing on the real-life issues that impact individuals, such as health care access, its cost, and the welfare of communities (CBC Radio Canada). The qualities which made him an effective leader was the significant part which made me interested about knowing more about Wab Kinew. He became the epitome of good leader who does not force ideas on people. Instead, the leader listens to the people, and responds in the best way possible. He made it clear that being a leader does not mean forcing ideas on people, but rather listening to their side and responding in the most constructive ways possible. He also brought to the forefront about the challenges a leader faces. This made me further realise that governing is not an easy task.

The second conversation helped me to get more acquainted with Wab Kinew as an individual and an introspective individual. He explained how his experiences in life and as an individual have contributed to the manner in which he addresses leadership. He emphasized the concept of the need for reconciliation and respect to the Indigenous communities as a practical thing, but not just a mere rhetorical effort (CBC Radio Canada). As this discussion has

demonstrated, the experience has given him a special perspective regarding issues of justice, inclusion, and equality. He referred to struggles, and mistakes which assisted him to be resilient and embrace the path of development where one can become a better person.

One of the themes that was prominent in both the discussions was the theme of unity and people coming together irrespective of their differences. Wab Kinew highlighted the need to overcome the divide and collaborate in pursuing shared goals. He pointed out that it is important that a good leader must be sensitive, responsible, and willing to learn (CBC Radio Canada). It was the first occasion that I could hear him talk in a more informal setting rather than merely reading his news in the paper, which allowed me to humanize him, and as his reasons got more comprehensible. It also revealed that communication is a significant factor within leadership, especially when addressing a challenging or sensitive issue.

On the whole, these two conversations allowed me to know more about Wab Kinew as an individual and headlines instead of reading about him. Even when I was already informed of his position and his successes, I learned even more about his principles and his vision of management, and personally, of his life experience that shapes his decisions. These kinds of discussions made me learn that he was not a one-dimensional political leader but an individual who views inclusive governance and positive changes.

References:

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