

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**Transforming
Education,
Unleashing
Infinite
Potential.**



www.dukeofed.org

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to ensure the Award, and its benefits, are known and embraced by institutional and individual partners and used as a tool to inspire and guide young people into life-enhancing experiences. Put simply, the Award is largely delivered through Award Leaders and Award Centres, so we need to expand our brand awareness to ensure they know what, why, and how the Award can support young people to be successful.

OUR VISION 30X30

Our vision is to equip every young person in Canada with the skills, confidence, and real-world experience needed to succeed, regardless of background or circumstance. By 2030, Award Canada will be the leading experiential education and learning accreditation in Canada, engaging more than 30,000 young people, with more than 65% supported through Education Operating Partners embedded in schools, improving student achievement and well-being in high school and beyond.



HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Education Transformation

Award Canada must work to integrate our experiential learning framework much further into the public secondary school environment.

Inclusion through Partnership

The Award is a tool for empowerment, and it is through strong and diverse partnerships that we can extend its reach to those who stand to benefit most.

Enhancing Employability

The Award has strong evidence that it plays a role in developing skills for life for young people, and further work can enhance the link to employability.



450 +

AWARD CENTRES



70 +

SCHOOL BOARDS



7M +

HOURS
OF EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING

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I would have never discovered my love for volunteering in the local community without the Award. Putting smiles on the faces around me was one of the greatest feelings that I experienced.

Silver Award Achiever



FROM VISION TO NATIONAL MOVEMENT

2025 for the Award in Canada was a year defined by momentum, achieving some of our strongest milestones on our path to reach our 30x30 vision, which will see 30,000 young people participate in the Award through our Education Operating Partners by 2030.

As young people face rising pressures and declining engagement, education systems are seeking more meaningful, experiential learning solutions, and we believe the Award offers a scalable, real-world framework to build Global Competencies and connect classroom learning with lived experience. What began in 2023 as a vision to connect education with real-world experiences has grown into a national movement, with over 6,000 new registrations in 2025, a 14% increase from the previous year. Guided by the Award Canada Way, our efforts focused on Education Transformation, Employability, and Inclusion through Partnership.

Transforming Education

Through our Co-curricular Approach, the Award is continuing to transform education by bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world experience. In 2025, our momentum accelerated, with the launch of two Education Operating Partner pilots and the addition of 7 new partners. Since launching pilots with the Greater Essex County District School Board and the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education, feedback has been consistently strong. In year one of the pilots, 90% of Bronze Award construction participants completed their Award. Our partners report that the Award's experiential learning framework is one of the most effective models they have seen for improving student well-being, confidence, and achievement.

Enhancing Employability

This year also reaffirmed the Award's vital role in enhancing the employability of young people in Canada. In 2025, the Award established 8 new learning pathways, including aviation, construction, STEM, and skilled trades, showcasing how the Award helps young people build the competencies employers value and the confidence to pursue emerging career opportunities.

2025 MILESTONES

14%

INCREASE IN
REGISTRATIONS
FROM 2024

7 NEW
EDUCATION
OPERATING
PARTNERS (EOP)

90%

BRONZE EOP PILOT
COMPLETION
RATE

700K +
EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING
HOURS

Partnerships Driving Success

Our success this year has been driven by the strength of our collaboration with our strategic partnerships. With the establishment of Collaborative Award Partners and Registered Activity Provider models, we have opened new pathways for young people, expanded our presence in schools and communities, and unlocked the resources needed to scale our impact with confidence and stability.

The foundation of our success is rooted in the dedication and collaboration of our network of Award delivery partners. In 2025, our network grew by 24%, partnering with 45 new Award Centres. Our partners are integral to the growth of the Award, including Award Centre Partner Ridley College, based in St. Catharines, Ontario. Through embedding the Award into its curriculum, registrations increased more than 640% from 2024. Critical to their success was a focus on a whole-grade entry approach that made it easier to integrate into classroom learning through goal setting, activity tracking, and reflection, supported by strong teacher collaboration and leadership. Ridley College is a strong example of delivery partner excellence, helping extend the reach of the Award to over 270 communities across Canada.

In 12 months, the Award has strengthened its role in complementing formal education through authentic, student-led experiences that extend beyond the classroom. Looking ahead, our ambition, combined with strong momentum into the second half of the decade, puts us on track to achieve our 30x30 goal. Driven by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and the wider Award community, this report reflects their dedication and commitment to empowering young people to reach their full potential.

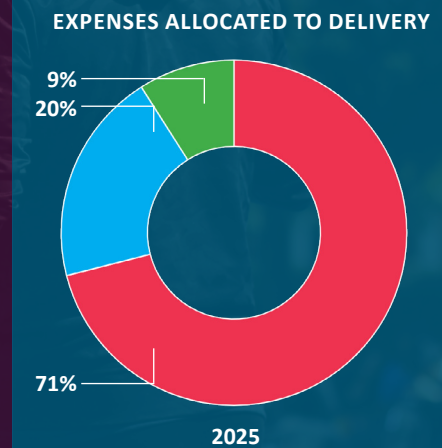
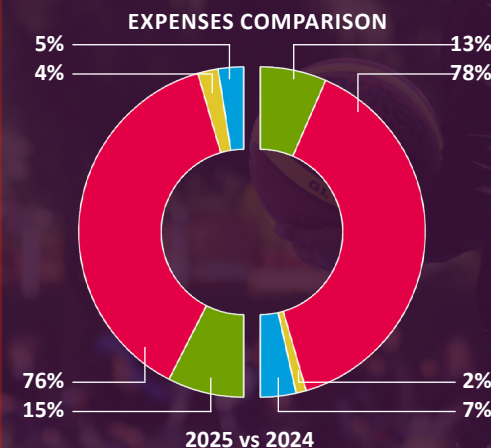
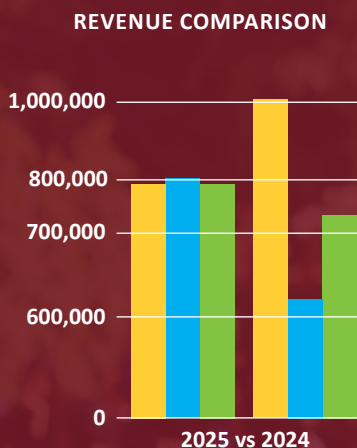


Amy Langhorne
Chair Award Canada



Mark Little
CEO Award Canada

Financial Summary: 2025 vs 2024 For the year-end of December 31, 2025



Contributions – Restricted

Contributions – Unrestricted

Earned Income

Corporate and Support Services, including professional fees

Fundraising and Communications

Remuneration

Program Delivery & Information Technology

Program Delivery

Fundraising

Support Services

**IN 2025 9,100 + YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE AWARD,
ENGAGING IN 700,000 + HOURS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**



43% Male 56% Female
1% Undisclosed



6,000
Registrations



2,364 Completed
their Award



From over 270
Communities

187K + HOURS

practicing a new Skill,
discovering lifelong
passions.

274K + HOURS

of reduced screen
time through Physical
Recreation & healthy
lifestyles.

197K + HOURS

giving back to the
community through
Voluntary Service.

170K + HOURS*

working together in a
team to complete an
Adventurous Journey.

INCLUDING...



31,100 + hours
learning a musical
instrument



7,700 + hours perfecting
their dribble on the
soccer pitch



10,100 + hours leading
a youth or school group



630 + expeditions
traversing waterways



1,080 + hours
mastering carpentry



8,950 + hours mastering
a tennis serve



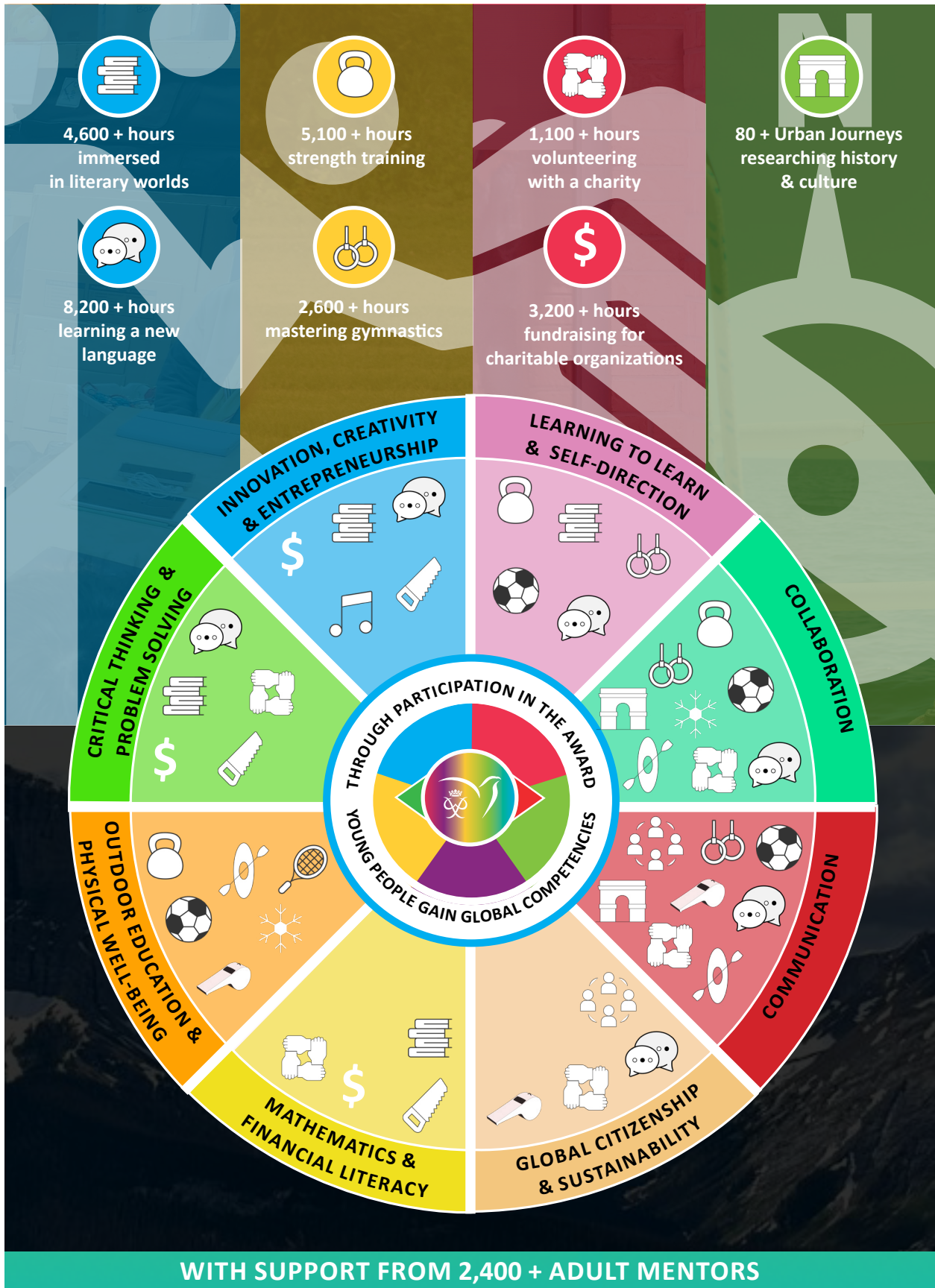
7,400 + hours coaching
& teaching peers



190 + winter based
expeditions

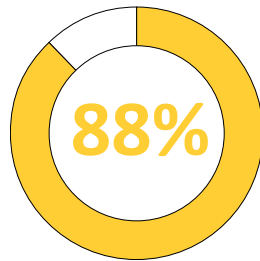


*Hours form part of the Physical Recreation total

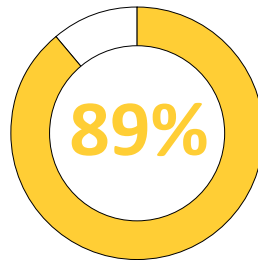


IMPROVING HEALTH AND MENTAL WELL-BEING THROUGH INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

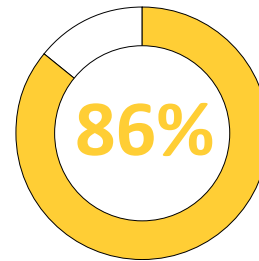
Participants improve their fitness and performance, and build a healthy lifestyle which encourages good mental health and physical well-being. Through regular exercise, young people feel healthy and happy, build valuable team skills, self-esteem, and confidence. Award participants surveyed after completing their Award in 2025 indicated they:



feel more confident

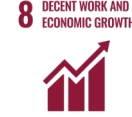


feel more resilient



feel more comfortable in new and unusual situations

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN ALIGNMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



3 89%

of Award Holders who completed the Award in 2025 said they improved their physical fitness.

4 83%*

of Award Holders still exercise at least once a week, on average, 10 years later.

8 7,400 +

hours spent by Award Participants coaching & mentoring peers in 2025.

13 117K +

hours trekking and enjoying nature in all seasons, practicing leave no trace environmental stewardship.



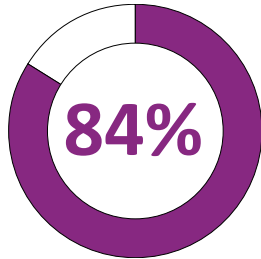
I set a challenge for myself, to carry my canoe the entire length of a 3km portage route. I was unsure of whether I was capable, with encouragement and all my training increasing my distance slowly, I surprised myself by portaging 4.5 km that day. That trip was challenging but the most rewarding, and it gave me the confidence to attempt something similar in the future.

Makenzie
Award Participant

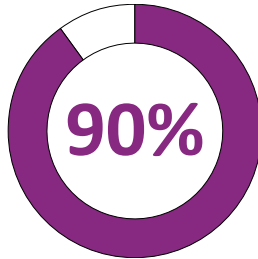


BUILDING LEADERSHIP AND TRANSFERABLE LIFE SKILLS:

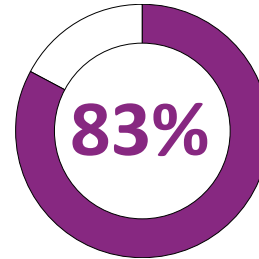
The Award helps young people grow into confident leaders by encouraging them to set goals, take ownership, and learn through real experiences. Along the way, participants build communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making skills they can use wherever life takes them. These hands-on challenges build confidence and adaptability that carry forward into school, work, and community life. Award participants surveyed after completing their Award in 2025 indicated they:



feel strongly that they can be a good group leader



feel more equipped to set goals and achieve what they want out of life



got better at managing the way they use their time

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN ALIGNMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



3 90%

of Award Holders who completed the Award in 2025 said they feel more determined.

4 9,200 +

hours of leadership development, meeting new people in unfamiliar locations, and collaborating on projects that work towards a shared goal.

13 117K +

hours working as a team to plan & prepare an overnight Adventurous Journey, practicing leave no trace environmental stewardship.



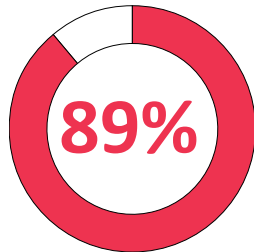
Being a trainee on the St Lawrence II sailing ship means that I was part of a watch composed of 3 trainees, and we had to work together. Throughout the entire course, we had many opportunities to collaborate in an isolated and sometimes stressful setting. This expedition helped me develop my resilience towards physical hardships.

Yi Tong
Award Participant

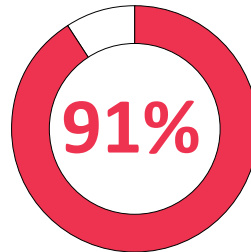


CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY, BUILDING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH SERVICE:

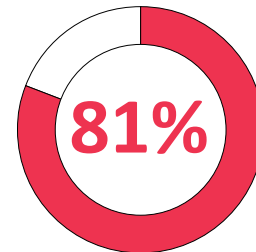
Through Voluntary Service, the Award connects young people with their communities, building empathy, responsibility, and a sense of belonging. By contributing to causes they care about, participants form lasting relationships and see the real impact of their efforts. Award participants surveyed after completing their Award in 2025 indicated they:



value giving back and contributing to their community

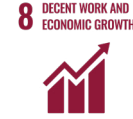


got better at working in a team



made new friends through participating in the Award

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN ALIGNMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



3 3,270 +

hours volunteering time in the health sector including assisting in hospitals and care centres, and aiding elderly and retired people.

4 69%*

of Award Holders sustain monthly volunteering a decade after completing the Award.

8 10,700 +

hours volunteering in leadership opportunities including student council and peer mentorship groups.

13 38

service projects volunteering for charitable organizations focused on environment stewardship.



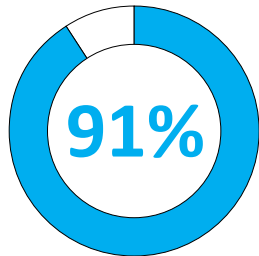
A personal highlight was collaborating with teachers and peers beyond the classroom, which helped break down barriers and build confidence. The shared experience strengthened relationships, fostered a sense of belonging, and enhanced my overall Award journey.

Aryam
Award Participant

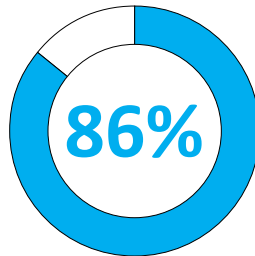


DEVELOPING PASSIONS THROUGH SKILLS PRACTICE SPARKING CREATIVITY AND COMMITMENT:

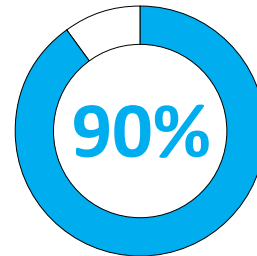
Through sustained Skills practice, participants develop their talents, broaden their abilities, and build self-confidence that supports future employability. Progressing over time fosters a sense of achievement, creativity, and discipline, transforming learning into lasting passion and commitment. Award participants surveyed after completing their Award in 2025 indicated they:



find it more exciting to try new things

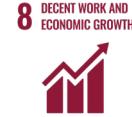


feel inspired through participating in the Award



have improved their problem-solving skills

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN ALIGNMENT WITH UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



3 539

hours learning transferable skills related to physical activities, including dance theory, sports officiating, and maintenance of sports equipment and facilities.

4 66%*

of Award Holders sustain weekly practice of an Award developed skill a decade after completion.

8 160 +

different skills activities where participants discovered new passions.

13 14,300 +

hours practicing essential wilderness safety and technical skills in preparation for an Adventurous Journey.



My photography commitment became a journey. I've always liked taking photos but learning cool and creative photography techniques over my 26 weeks helped me discover my passion. As part of my Silver level, I started an Instagram account to blog about my photography, and I continue to take photos and post them today.

Evangelina
Award Participant



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

In the 1950s, Award Co-founder and Educator Kurt Hahn warned of the Six Declines of Modern Youth, noting a steady erosion of resilience, initiative, imagination, craftsmanship, self-discipline, and compassion. More than half a century later, young people are still experiencing these declines while they navigate a world full of change, digital saturation, and rising social and emotional pressures.

With educators across Canada reporting clear declines in student engagement, attention, and well-being, international frameworks such as the OECD Learning Compass and the CMEC Global Competencies are also signaling the urgency of providing young people with the real-world, human-centered, competency-based learning opportunities needed to thrive in a changing world. The Canadian and Global education community is reinforcing what Hahn recognized decades ago, and in response, Award Canada is positioning its learning framework as a direct solution to these challenges.



“

I regard it as the foremost task of education to insure the survival of these qualities: an enterprising curiosity, an undefeatable spirit, tenacity in pursuit, readiness for sensible self denial, and above all, compassion.

KURT HAHN

Co-Founder The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award

Decline in Youth	Award Framework Development Solution
Resilience & Grit	Long-term challenges, progressive development with sustained goals across sections; expedition adversity
Focus & Attention	SMART goals weekly; time-on-task evidence, sustained effort, self-reflection
Civic Engagement	Voluntary Service section with outcomes + reflection
Outdoor Activity	Physical & Adventurous Journey (planning, risk, teamwork, mental health)
Face-to-face Skills	Group Adventurous Journey & Gold Project (collaboration)
Moral Anchors	Purpose, values, reflection logs, translating values to choices

As a scalable, evidence-based model, the Award provides a clear pathway for addressing declines in youth, transforming global competencies from aspiration into implementation, bridging education and employability while promoting civic engagement, resilience, and well-being. The co-curricular approach reframes the Award not as something “extra,” but as something complementary, aligned with the values, goals, and outcomes already embedded in public education.



Co-Designing and Collaborating with Leaders in Education

This year, the Award has strengthened its position as a leader in experiential learning by co-designing its approach in partnership with educators. This year, we facilitated two education summits focused on collaborating with our partners to align our framework with provincial education priorities.

Ontario Education Leadership



In July, educators, partners, and youth came together to champion learning beyond the classroom, sharing early success integrating the Award across pathways such as SHSM, trades, multilingual learner programs, and equity-focused initiatives. The attendance of Ontario Minister of Education Paul Calandra, alongside the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, helped elevate the Award's visibility and momentum.

Gathering Atlantic Canada Education Forum



On June 26, leaders from across Atlantic Canada came together to explore how the Award supports well-being, engagement, Indigenous learning and postsecondary readiness. The forum celebrated Newfoundland and Labrador Schools joining as an Education Operating Partner and highlighted growing momentum to expand the Award across Grades 9 to 12, with the presence of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh underscoring its broader impact.

We're grateful for the guidance and insight of our 2025 Co-Curricular Advisory Committee:



Robyn Breen
Partnerships and Initiatives,
Newfoundland and Labrador
Department of Education



Laura Briscoe,
Senior Director, Business
Development, Communications
& Experiential Education - Award
Canada



Brigitte d'Auzac
Vice-President of Operations,
Historica Canada



Michael Graham
Curriculum Coordinator, Alberta



Laura Elliott
Former Executive Director,
Council of Ontario Directors of
Education



Mark Little
CEO of Award Canada



Jaclyn Reid
Director of French Education,
Programs and Services – Prince
Edward Island Department of
Education



**Paul E. Henry, OStJ, CD, M.Ed.,
ECCM, FNWC, FRSA**
Major (Ret'd)/Director of
Education and Secretary-
Treasurer (Ret'd)

In 2025, the Award expanded and adapted its pathways to meet this need. New learning opportunities were established that directly support provincial curriculum priorities and provide students with hands-on, career-aligned experience. This shift positioned the Award not simply as an enrichment activity, but as a system-ready tool that strengthens curriculum delivery, enhances student engagement, and develops the social, emotional, and practical competencies that research shows are in decline. Through this realignment, the Award has been piloted and proven as a practical framework for delivering global competencies in everyday learning. Educators report that the Award supports students in developing critical thinking, adaptability, digital literacy, communication, and technical skills while also building confidence, purpose, and well-being.

In 2025 the Award added 8 new learning pathways:



Women in Red Seal Skilled Trades

This pathway helps young women explore Red Seal skilled trades by linking Award activities with practical training at Fanshawe College and Sheridan College. It expands access to high-demand trades and supports the development of technical skills, teamwork, and confidence.



Special Education & Inclusive Education

This pathway expands access to experiential learning for students in special and inclusive education programs in Ottawa, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Greater Essex County District School Board, offering adapted Award activities that build confidence, independence, and meaningful participation for learners of all abilities.



Specialist High Skills Major

This pathway connects Award participation with Specialist High Skills Major sectors, including construction at the Greater Essex County District School Board, as well as business, aviation and aerospace, health and wellness, and many other sectors, while enhancing literacy, and leadership. It helps students strengthen sector-specific skills and gain meaningful preparation for future education, training, and careers.



Careers Curriculum

This pathway supports the Careers Curriculum by linking Award activities with real-world skill development, helping students build confidence, explore interests, and understand pathways to future education and work. Through goal setting, reflection, and hands-on experiences, students strengthen the competencies needed to make informed career decisions and succeed beyond graduation.



Co-operative Education and Apprenticeship

This pathway links Award participation with co-operative education and apprenticeship programs, giving students real workplace experience while building practical skills, confidence, and readiness for careers in skilled trades and applied fields.



Outdoor Activity

This pathway strengthens learning through outdoor activity, giving students hands-on opportunities to build resilience, teamwork, problem-solving, and confidence in real-world environments. By engaging in purposeful outdoor experiences, participants develop essential life skills, increase well-being, and deepen their connection to the natural world.



Pathways to Post-secondary Education

This pathway links Award participation with post-secondary programs, allowing students to earn college credits while completing their Award. It gives young people early exposure to post-secondary learning, builds academic confidence, and supports smoother transitions into college, applied programs, and trades-focused education.



Indigenous Learning

This pathway reflects Indigenous learning principles by enabling experiential, reflective, and place-based learning through student-driven experiences. It creates space for meaningful, locally grounded learning without prescribing content, supporting identity, responsibility, and long-term growth respectfully and inclusively.



Curricular Connections:

Participants personalize learning goals while also developing the Global Competencies through participation in the Award.



PILOTING SUCCESS TO NATIONAL EXPANSION

2025, we achieved a major breakthrough in transforming how experiential learning is delivered across public education systems. Our first two pilots with the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education and the Greater Essex County District School Board in Ontario demonstrated how the Award can be fully integrated into classrooms, curriculum, and connect to all pathways while strengthening student engagement and achievement.

Embedding Experiential Learning into Technical Classrooms

With our partner, the Greater Essex County District School Board, this pilot integrated the Award into Specialist High Skills Major and technological education pathways. The framework was used as an assessment tool to empower experiential learning in hands-on technical courses, including Construction, Aviation and Aerospace, Environment, and Special Education. This approach showed how experiential learning can meaningfully enhance student engagement, strengthen achievement, and build job-ready skills.

Adapting Experiential Learning to Support Varied Student Needs

Our pilot with the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education introduced the Award across a wide range of educational settings, including Special Education, Careers, Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs, and Outdoor Education. By tailoring the Award to meet the needs of learners in these diverse environments, the pilot demonstrated how flexible, experiential learning can enhance student confidence, well-being, and skill development. Early success sparked interest in expanding delivery to Indigenous and Land-Based Studies, French programming, IB, newcomer literacy, and supportive learning.

This year, the Award expanded and adapted its pathways to align with curricular expectations. New learning opportunities were established that directly support provincial curriculum priorities and provide students with hands-on, career-aligned experiences. This shift positioned the Award not simply as an enrichment activity, but as a system-ready tool that strengthens curriculum delivery, enhances student engagement, and develops the social, emotional, and practical competencies that research shows are in decline.

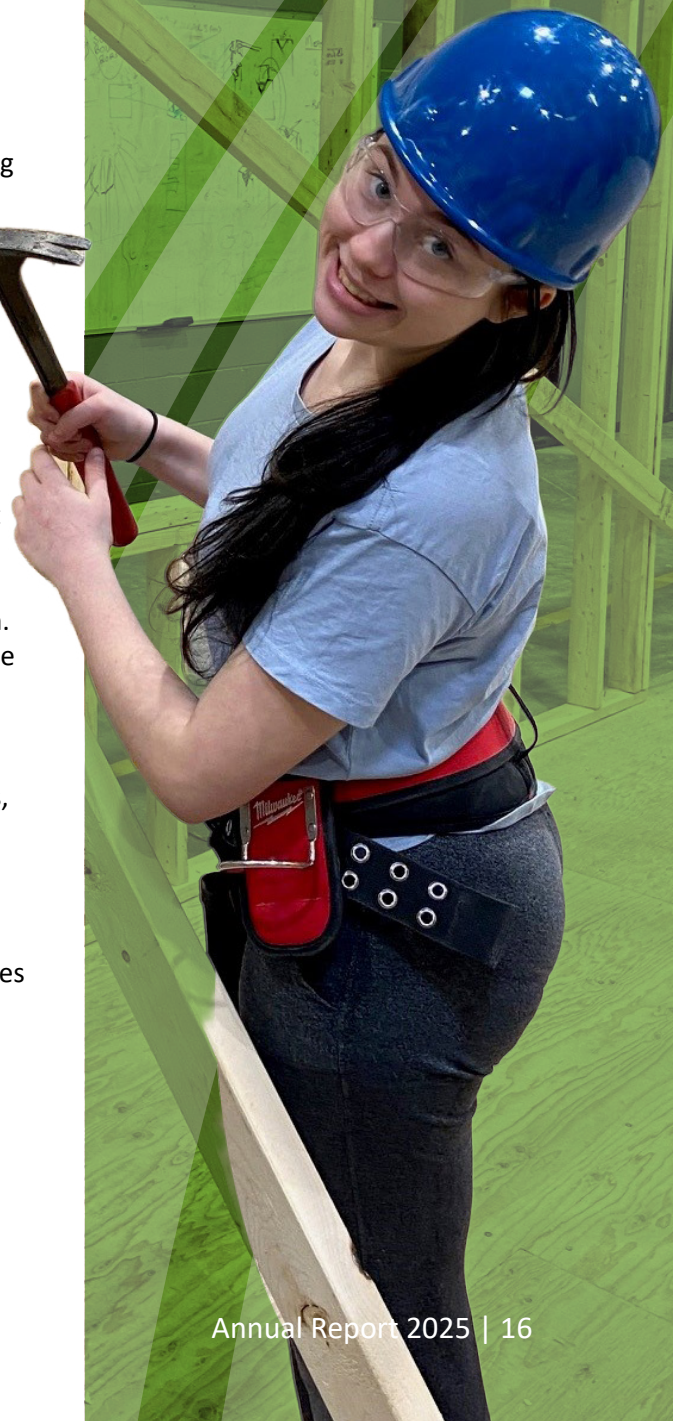


7 NEW EDUCATION OPERATING PARTNERS



8 NEW CO-CURRICULAR PATHWAYS

45 NEW AWARD CENTRES



























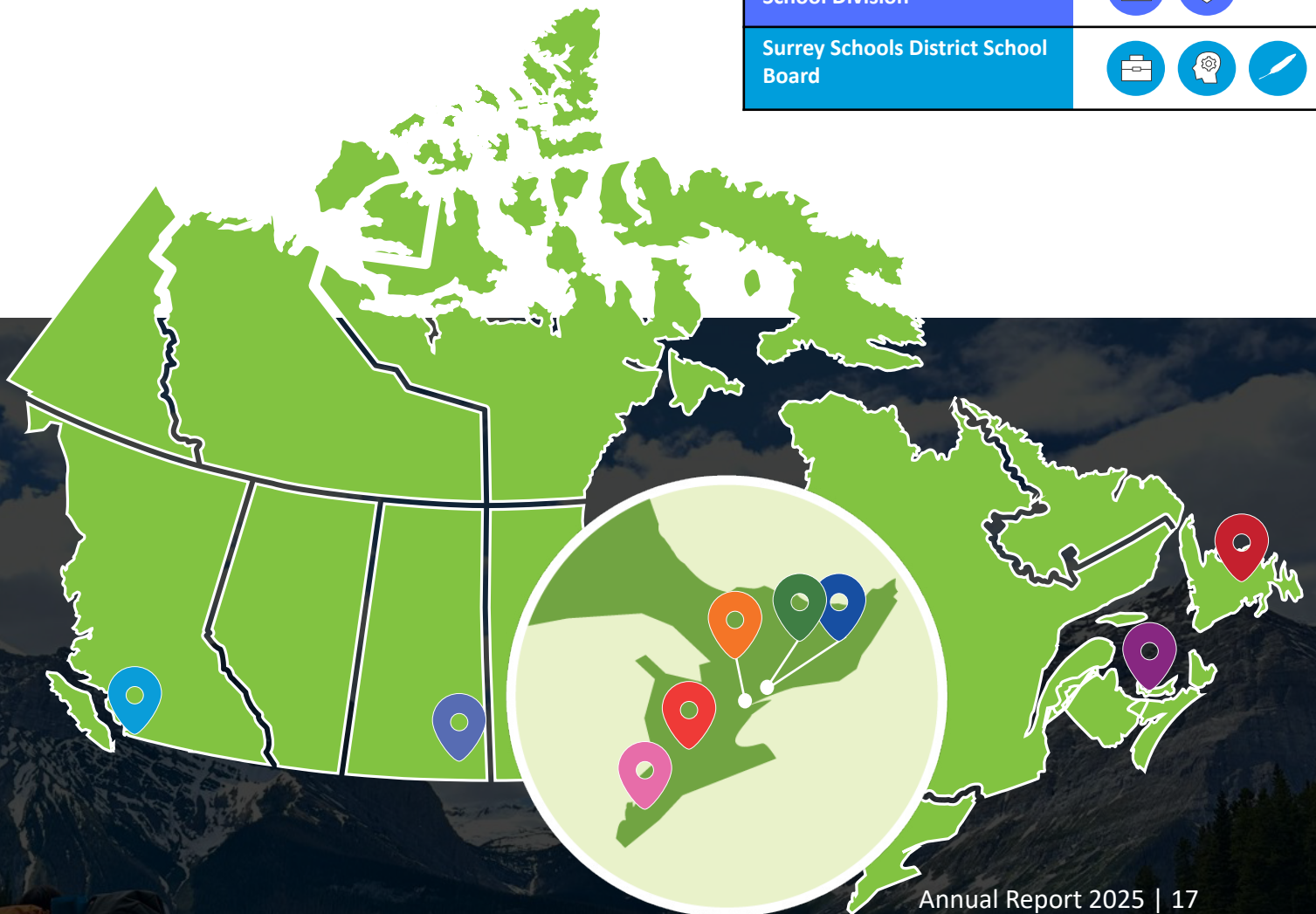
Award Co-curricular Pilot Success

This expanding network is now one of our greatest strengths. Each new partner represents not only another region embracing the Award, but another milestone toward our Vision 30x30. Together, they are helping build a unified, scalable, and inclusive model of experiential learning that ensures more young people can discover their potential and thrive.

Growth of Award Centre Partners

Award Centre Partners remain a vital part of the Award’s national delivery, and 2025 was a strong year of growth across this network. Independent schools, youth groups, and community-based organizations have long championed experiential learning, and this year, 45 new Award Centres joined the movement, an increase of 24% from 2024. In 2025, we celebrate this enduring legacy of collaboration and steadfast partnership, expanding access to the Award across Canada.

Education Operating Partner Curriculum Integrations	
Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education	  
Prince Edward Island Department of Education	
Peel District School Board	  
Halton Catholic District School Board	  
Sheridan College – Women in Trades Pilot	  
Fanshawe College – Women in Trades Pilot	  
Greater Essex County School Board	  
Southeast Cornerstone Public School Division	 
Surrey Schools District School Board	  



JOANNE MUTFORD - BRINGING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING TO LIFE

Teacher - J.M. Olds Collegiate - Newfoundland, Award Leader and EOP Pilot Partner

At J.M. Olds Collegiate in Twillingate, NL experiential learning is part of everyday teaching. Joanne Mutford has integrated the Award into Career's curriculum so students can connect school learning goals with real experiences they care about. The results include higher engagement, stronger ownership, and steady progress captured in the Award's Online Record Book.

Joanne seamlessly integrates the Award into her curriculum, making experiential learning a natural part of everyday classroom practice rather than an add on. By using the Online Record Book during class, students regularly reflect on their progress and goals, while teachers gain authentic insight into learning and development. This shared process fosters a supportive classroom culture where students recognize one another's achievements, exchange ideas, and take greater ownership of their learning. Clear visibility of hours, activities, and reflections also supports meaningful reporting and decision making for educators and school leaders, reinforcing the Award as a core part of the learning experience.

This work supports Award Canada's partnership with NL Schools, the provincial public education entity responsible for K to 12 English speaking students across Newfoundland and Labrador. Award integration shows what is possible in all curriculum areas to personalize and deepen learning in classrooms across the country.

“

Because the Award is so prestigious, students were genuinely excited to realize that their everyday efforts are worthy of recognition. It helped reinforce that their learning is shaping them as people and supporting their personal goals. When learning feels important and relevant, students engage more deeply, and this Award has done exactly that, something bigger.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

2025 was a defining year for Award Canada, marked by national visibility, strong educational partnerships, and celebrations that showcased the power of experiential learning across the country.

King Charles III Medal and Gold Award Ceremony

Award Canada hosted a special celebration at BMO First Canadian Place in Toronto to honour both King Charles III Coronation Medal recipients and new Gold Award Achievers. The event reflected the deep dedication of Award Leaders, community champions, and youth who embody the values of resilience, empathy, and purpose.

Award in Action Photo Contest

The Award in Action Photo Contest invited Award Leaders across Canada to submit images capturing how the Award is lived each day through mentorship, teamwork, reflection, and youth leadership. The contest featured three themed categories: Teamwork, Mentorship, and Goal Setting & Reflection. The contest offered national recognition and engaged participants in public voting during Awareness Week, serving as both a celebration of participants and a powerful storytelling tool, showcasing youth experiences from across the country.

Teamwork Category winner: Munro Academy

Mentorship Category winner: Greenwood College

Goal Setting & Reflection Category winner: Sunset Hills District – Girl Guides of Canada

Award Awareness Week

Award Awareness Week, held October 20 to 24, united the Award community nationwide in a vibrant celebration of youth achievement and experiential learning. Flag-raising ceremonies took place across multiple provinces, hosted by Lieutenant Governors in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, each reinforcing provincial commitment to youth development. Daily sessions, digital launches, and storytelling highlighted the Award’s growing impact and the strength of its community.



ENHANCING THE DELIVERY OF OUR FRAMEWORK

In 2025, we made significant strides in enhancing the quality, consistency, and impact of our delivery model by investing in modernized tools, improved digital infrastructure, and new supports designed to meet the evolving needs of our partners and participants.

Removing Barriers for Educators

Educators consistently tell us they believe deeply in experiential learning, but face real pressures on time and capacity. In response, we positioned the Award as an integration tool for Educators to complement and support their work, rather than add to it. To achieve this, we focused on making the Award easier to adopt by simplifying the delivery process of our framework, aligning with existing curricula, and offering flexible co-curricular models.

Simplifying Support Resources and Tailored E-Learning

This year, we expanded our digital learning platform for our partners to include revamped digital playbooks designed to simplify the delivery and management of the Award Framework, along with the expansion of our resource catalogue, ensuring leaders have clear, accessible tools to support participants at every stage of their Award journey.

Expanding Virtual Experiential Learning

In 2025, Virtual Award Centre registrations grew by 35%, supporting over 420 young people to participate in the Award regardless of financial, geographic, or logistical barriers, ensuring access to meaningful experiential learning across Canada. We introduced a new low-income cut-off pricing model providing direct financial support to 24 participants, while simpler onboarding, improved access to learning materials, and a moderated Discord community enhanced connection and engagement throughout the Award journey.



NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES & TOOLS TO SUPPORT AWARD DELIVERY

35%

INCREASE IN VIRTUAL AWARD CENTRE REGISTRATIONS

130 +

NEW AWARD LEADERS TRAINED



At the heart of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award lies the unwavering commitment of Award Leaders who mentor and guide, inspire, and empower young people on their journey of personal growth and achievement. In 2025, we celebrated 155 individuals for their years of service, empowering the infinite potential of young people and contributing to the Award in Canada. As part of their recognition, recipients received letters of acknowledgement and a bespoke digital badge illustrating and honouring their years of service to the Award in Canada.

CELEBRATING 155 AWARD LEADERS WITH A COMBINED 1290 YEARS OF SERVICE



102 Award Leaders Celebrating 5 Years

In five years, Award Leaders have embraced the Award experiential learning framework and became mentors to numerous young people. Their support has opened doors to new experiences and empowered youth to discover their potential.



28 Award Leaders Celebrating 10 Years

A decade of volunteering means a decade of guiding young people through challenges, achievements, and personal growth. These Award Leaders have been steady mentors, helping youth build character and confidence that lasts a lifetime.



9 Award Leaders Celebrating 15 Years

With 15 years of service, these Award Leaders have inspired hundreds of young people to push boundaries and embrace new opportunities. Their encouragement has shaped courageous, compassionate individuals ready to make a difference.



10 Award Leaders Celebrating 20 Years

Twenty years of mentorship reflects a profound impact on multiple generations of youth. These Award Leaders have empowered young people to lead with purpose, overcome adversity, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



6 Award Leaders Celebrating 25 Years

After 25 years, Award Leaders have transformed countless lives. Their enduring presence has helped young people grow into confident, capable adults, leaving a legacy of lifelong inspiration.

DANIEL OSTER - TWO DECADES OF EMPOWERING INFINITE POTENTIAL

Teacher Toronto District School Board, and Award Leader, King Charles III Coronation Medal Recipient

Daniel Oster is a senior biology teacher with the Toronto District School Board, but his role extends far beyond the science lab. He's also a swim coach, glassblower, cycling commuter, crossfitter, and father of two daughters. Since 2005, he's been an Award Leader with Award Canada, using the program to support Youth At Risk and redefine what learning and growth can look like for students.

In recognition of his long-standing commitment to youth development and community engagement, Daniel was awarded the King's Coronation Medal, a national honour celebrating Canadians who have made significant contributions to their communities and to Canada as a whole.

"I started at an alternative school, West End Alternative, where many of the students had been displaced or kicked out of their home schools. We used the Award as a leadership course. The students worked through all the pillars; goal setting, Community Service, Physical Recreation, Skill Development, and the Adventurous Journey as part of the curriculum."

After nearly two decades, Daniel's still leading the program at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate Institute in Scarborough. For Daniel, the Award is about the spark that happens when a student finally believes they can do something hard.

“

I'd never even heard of SMART goals before getting involved with the Award. Now I use that same framework with my daughters, Zoe and Kaia, helping them take big ideas and break them into small, realistic steps. I want them to feel like they can always start with a small step toward something bigger.



SUSTAINING OUR MOMENTUM

As we reflect on an extraordinary year, none of our success would have been possible without the support and collaboration from all our partners across the education, community, and philanthropic sectors. Our community ignited and sustained our momentous progress this year towards our 30x30 goal.

National Champions Council (NCC)

In 2025, we launched the National Champions Council as a new leadership philanthropy initiative designed to support the next phase of national growth and impact. Bringing together a small group of distinguished Canadian leaders, the Council was created to champion experiential learning, strengthen long-term sustainability, and expand access for young people facing barriers. Through leadership, advocacy, and philanthropic support, National Champions help build momentum and confidence as the Award scales its impact across Canada.

New Collaborative Award Partners (CAP)

A major milestone was the establishment of our Collaborative Award Partners program, established to partner with organizations that support Award Canada's mission and vision, collaborating to advance shared goals, expand access, strengthen youth development and inspire young people to reach their full potential. These partnerships strengthen the impact of the Award by providing valuable resources, raising awareness, and supporting public relations efforts.

Registered Activity Providers (RAP)

Complementing this work, our expanding network of Registered Activity Providers helped diversify and enhance the learning experiences available to participants. These providers offer specialized instruction, sector-aligned programming, and safe, supportive environments where young people can explore new interests, develop practical skills, and progress through their Award journey with confidence.



\$1.3M REVENUE
GENERATED
FROM
PHILANTHROPIC
INITIATIVES

140 + INDIVIDUAL,
GOVERNMENT
CORPORATE AND
FOUNDATION
SUPPORTERS

4 FOUNDING NCC
MEMBERS

2 NEW
COLLABORATIVE
AWARD
PARTNERS



LOU GIZZARELLI - AWARD SUPPORTER: A FAMILY CONNECTION THAT GREW INTO SOMETHING DEEPER

President Quadiant, Award Supporter, Director-at-Large: Award Canada Founding Member: National Champions Council & King Charles III Coronation Medal Recipient

Lou received the King Charles III Coronation Medal on April 11th at a ceremony held in Toronto, Ontario, where he was honoured for his outstanding contributions to youth development and community service. As President of Quadiant Canada, Lou leads a global technology company specializing in communication, parcel, and business process automation platforms.

Beyond his professional success, Lou has a long history of volunteerism. He currently serves as President & Board Chair of Cedarcrest Manor, a non-profit providing affordable housing for seniors, and is a Director and Past Chair of the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award in Canada.

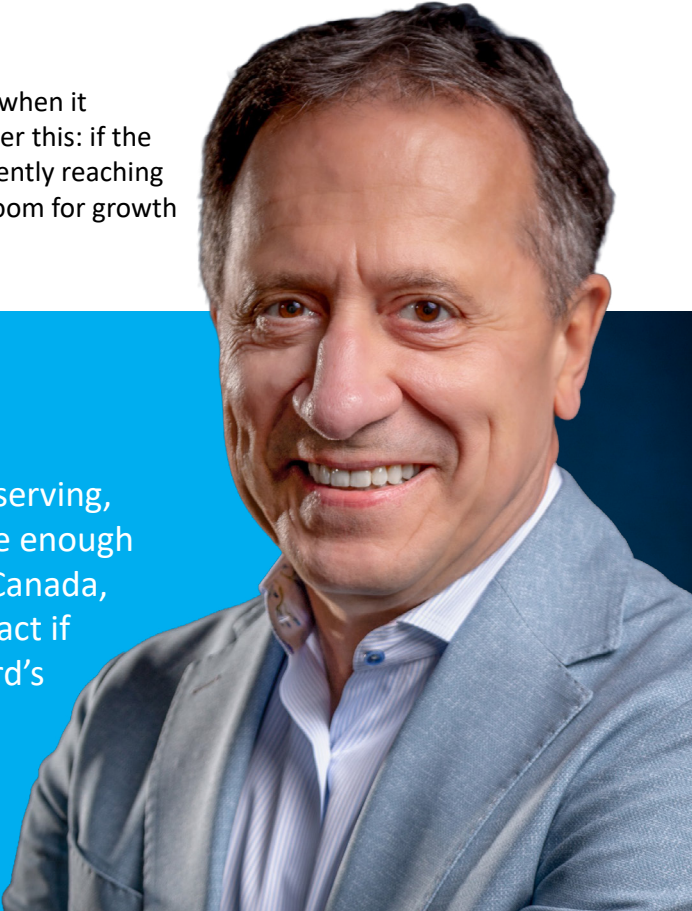
“When I first became involved with the program, our company contributed annually. At that time, my daughters were quite young, and although I initially had to encourage them to participate, it proved incredibly beneficial for both of them. One of my daughters completed her Gold Award, involving a demanding expedition to Algonquin Park. She endured camping in temperatures as cold as -9 degrees celsius and washing dishes in freezing water. Stepping outside of their comfort zone allowed them to tackle new challenges, form deep friendships, build teamwork, creatively solve unexpected problems, and return home with incredible memories and laughter.”

A Vision for the Award in Canada

Right now, we’re barely scratching the surface when it comes to addressing our target market. Consider this: if the potential market is five million kids, we’re currently reaching less than 1%. That tells us there’s substantial room for growth and impact.



This reality motivates me to keep serving, because our framework is versatile enough to be adopted by every school in Canada, public or private. Imagine the impact if every school understood the Award’s value—if every teacher could dedicate even a small portion of their time.



Thank you

None of this progress would be possible without the generosity of our philanthropic community. Donors, foundations, and corporate partners have been instrumental in reducing barriers to participation, strengthening educator capacity, and supporting the system-level work required to scale the Award across Canada.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the individuals, corporations, government departments, private and community foundations whose generous support has made a lasting impact on Award Canada. Your contributions are more than donations — they are meaningful investments in the holistic development of young people and in the continued advancement of Canadian society. Thank you for your unwavering commitment, generosity, and belief in the potential of youth across the country.

Government and Community Foundation Supporters



Corporate and Foundation Supporters



Looking to the Future

As we enter 2026, Award Canada stands at the threshold of an extraordinary opportunity. The groundwork has been laid, the momentum is real, and the path toward our 30x30 goal is clear, and now is the time to accelerate. Demand for deeper, more purposeful learning has never been stronger, and the Award Canada Way has proven itself as a timely and effective model for helping young people build the confidence, capability, and purpose they need to thrive.

From conducting pilots with local community school boards to establishing partnerships with provincial education ministries, we are poised to expand our reach across Canada. With every new partner and every young person engaged, we move closer to a future where experiential learning is a foundational part of public education. As we advance toward our 30x30 goal, we invite you to stand with us, champion this movement, and help ensure every young person in Canada has the chance to discover their infinite potential.



JOIN OUR MOVEMENT AND HELP US ACHIEVE 30X30 SUCCESS

Become a Partner

Join a national network of partners helping young people build confidence, develop real-world skills, and reach their infinite potential.

www.dukeofed.org/our-partners/

Deliver the Award

Support young people directly by guiding, mentoring, and delivering meaningful experiences that bring the Award to life.

www.dukeofed.org/our-program/deliver/deliver-the-award/

For more information email us at:
info@dukeofed.org



450 +
AWARD CENTRES



70 +
SCHOOL BOARDS



7M +
HOURS
OF EXPERIENTIAL
LEARNING



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12391 6751 RR0002

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