



Member of JA Canada

PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENOUS LEARNERS

2025-26



PROGRAMS FOR
**INDIGENOUS
LEARNERS**



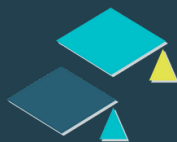
Years of
Empowering
Lives

PROGRAM REACH



213

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS
DELIVERED



3,687

STUDENT LEARNING
EXPERIENCES



55%

OF PROGRAMS IN
FINANCIAL LITERACY



23

SCHOOL DISTRICTS (SD)
REACHED *11 NEW



NEW COMMUNITIES THIS YEAR

TSQÉSCÉŃ-
FIRST NATION
UCLUELET-
FIRST NATION

NEW WESTMINSTER
PRINCE GEORGE
FORT ST. JAMES
WILLIAMS LAKE

ANAHIM LAKE
MAPLE RIDGE
CLINTON
TRAIL

QUENSEL
BURNABY
SECHelt
BURNS LAKE

MOST POPULAR INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS



DOLLARS
WITH
SENSE



MORE
THAN
MONEY



WORLD
OF
CHOICES



We are so glad and proud to learn about Indigenous cultures . We hope to continue learning about these cultures in the future grades.

– Student, Indigneous Leaders & Role Models, World Of Choices

OVERALL SCHOOL DISTRICT REACH

020 - KOOTENAY-COLUMBIA

040 - NEW WESTMINSTER

070 - PACIFIC RIM

091 - NECHAKO LAKES

098 - NORTH (INDIGENOUS)

100 - ISLAND

027 - CARIBOO - CHILCOTIN

041 - BURNABY

073 - KAMLOOPS-THOMPSON

098 - INTERIOR (INDIGENOUS)

098 - SURREY & FRASER

(COMMUNITY)

028 - QUESNEL

044 - NORTH VANCOUVER

082 - COAST MOUNTAINS

098 - ISLAND (INDIGENOUS)

VALLEY (INDIGENOUS)

100 - SURREY &

036 - SURREY

046 - SUNSHINE COAST

085 - VANCOUVER ISLAND

098 - MAINLAND

099 - SURREY & FRASER

FRASER VALLEY

039 - VANCOUVER

057 - PRINCE GEORGE

NORTH

(INDIGENOUS)

VALLEY (INDEPENDENT)

(COMMUNITY)

STORIES OF IMPACT



KYLE PETERS

Student, Burnaby North Secondary

“Coming from the perspective of an Indigenous person, coming from limited options and limited education, with JABC I was able to make it here.”



Kyle was selected as a JA Canada FIFA World Cup 2026 Flag Bearer after participating in several JABC opportunities, including the JA Company Program for Indigenous Learners, Discover Your Pitch, and the Youth Leadership Conference.

Through a partnership with the Ballantyne Project, JABC delivered a week-long entrepreneurship program for five Indigenous youth from Cumberland House, strengthening community relationships and creating new opportunities for future collaboration.



“Connecting helped us create through conversation. A strong team collaborates effectively and understands each others strengths and weaknesses.”

Student,
JA Company Program for Indigenous
Learners

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

The JA Company Program for Indigenous Learners (CPI) is a key part of JABC's broader programming for Indigenous youth, offering Grade 9–12 students a culturally grounded way to explore entrepreneurship, build business and leadership skills, and strengthen connections with their communities.

THE WEAVING PATH

This past term, JABC reimagined CPI from the ground up, in collaboration with Indigenous communities and educators and our valued partner, UBC Sauder School of Business. UBC Sauder supported the development of relationships with participating school districts and contributed to the curriculum development process. The result: the **Cedar Weaving Framework** (Reflect, Connect, Weave, Share) a cyclical model rooted in Indigenous ways of knowing. Rather than individual competition, it centres on community and shared responsibility, reflecting how knowledge is passed down, strengthened and practiced within Indigenous communities.

Honour stories
and experiences



Building relationships
and trust



Learning together
with purpose



Celebrating learning
and community



Our elders are knowledge keepers & they are passing it down to the younger ones so they have something to pass on.

- Student, JA CPI

GRADUATION CEREMONY

CELEBRATING JA CPI STUDENTS

This year's CPI journey culminated in a celebration at the First Nations Longhouse at UBC, bringing students together to recognize their learning, growth and achievements.

With support from our valued partner, UBC Sauder School of Business, students presented their business ideas and celebrated the relationships and skills they built throughout the program. Each student received a cedar weave headband, symbolizing unity, belonging and their connection as new CPI alumni.

80

GRADE 9-12
INDIGENOUS
STUDENTS

06

COMMUNITIES

10

SCHOOLS



Dennis Thomas-Whonoak,

Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives & Engagements, UBC Sauder School of Business



Students showed up with curiosity, confidence, and pride, eager to learn about the Indigenous economy and how they can participate through business, brick and mortar enterprises, and digital innovation.



PROGRAMS FOR
INDIGENOUS
LEARNERS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

MEET SAMUAL CUTHAND ZHAO

When Samual joined the JA Company Program for Indigenous Learners, he was looking to build business skills. What he found went far deeper: a stronger connection to his Cree-Chinese roots and a clearer sense of who he could become.

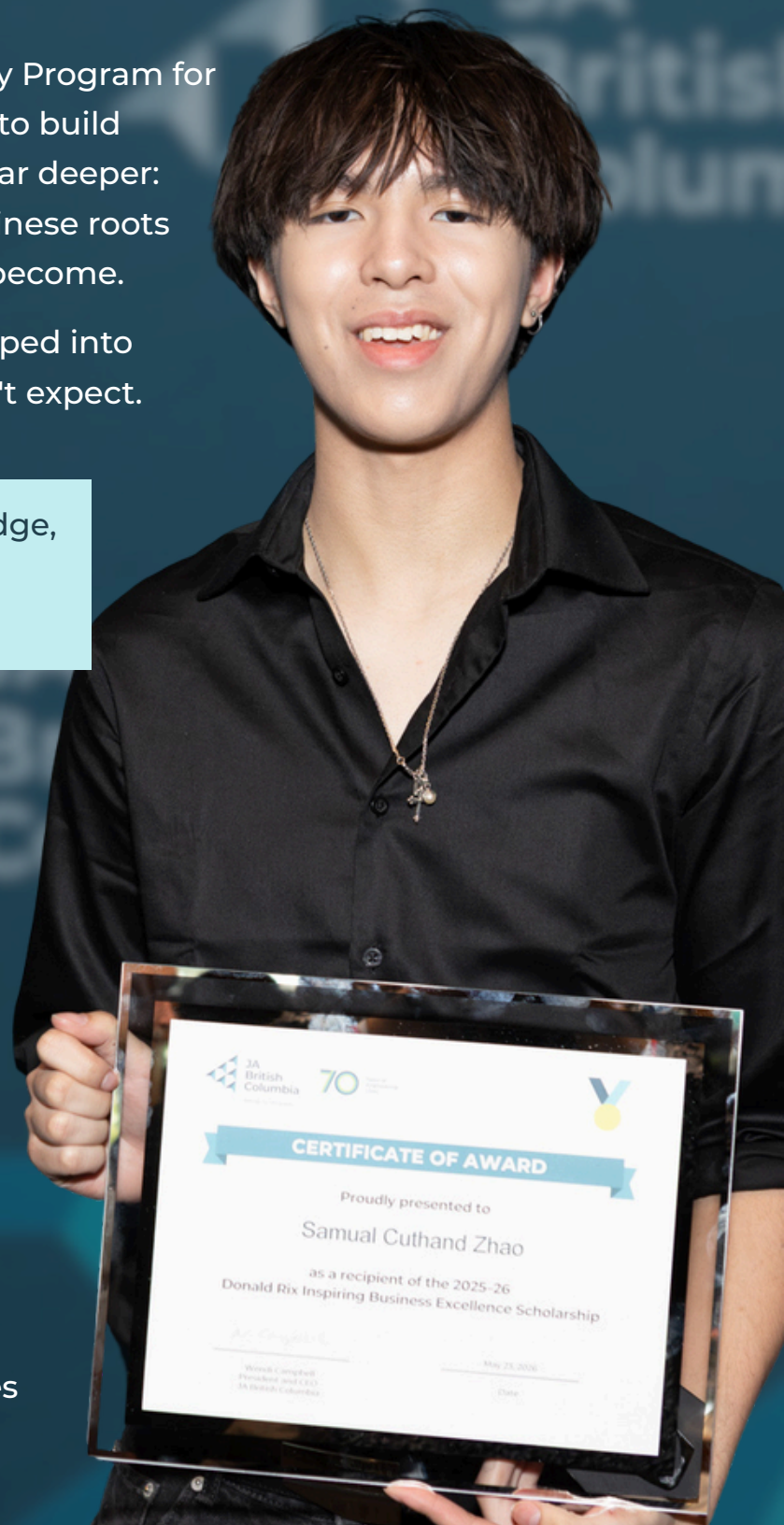
Along the way, he pitched ideas, stepped into leadership, and grew in ways he didn't expect.

I gained valuable business knowledge, built meaningful connections and grew tremendously as a leader.

That growth was recognized at JABC's inaugural Youth Leadership Conference, where Samual received the Donald Rix Inspiring Business Excellence Scholarship. This fall, the East Vancouver student heads to UBC Sauder School of Business, carrying that growth with him.

Moments like this remind me of how far I have come.

Samual didn't just learn business. He found himself. Your support makes stories like this possible.



LEARNING FROM LEADERS



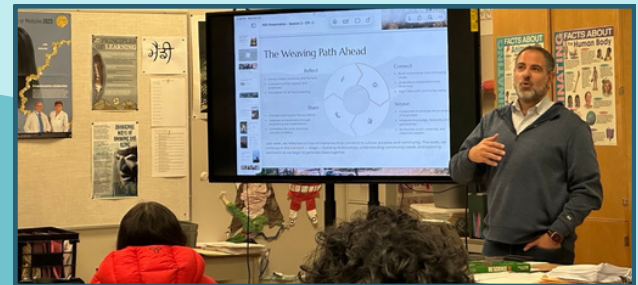
COREY JANVIER

Founder & CEO of Cedar Brush Site Services & Janitorial, Corey brought mentorship and encouragement to CPI classrooms, creating a space where Indigenous youth could learn and grow with confidence.



EMIR ABOULHOSN

JABC Board Director Emir volunteered with CPI, mentoring students as they developed business ideas and built entrepreneurial skills at École Kwantlen Park Secondary.



WORLD OF CHOICES INDIGENOUS ROLE MODELS

In June 2026, students connected virtually with Indigenous leaders from business, entrepreneurship, healthcare, and talent development, gaining valuable insights into career pathways, leadership, and the impact Indigenous professionals are making across Canada.

Reach: More than 2,600 students from across British Columbia



Ryan St. Germaine
CEO, Indigenous Tech Circle
Partner, Indigenous Tech Fund



Jace Poirier Lacerte
Founder, Family
Stewardship Centre
Founder, COYA
Productions Inc.



Paul Lacerte
Co-Founder and
Chief Purpose Officer
Raven Indigenous
Capital Partners



Lyssa Morrison
Indigenous
Recruiter,
Interior Health



Jay Pariseau
Head of Talent, R8dius
Talent Advisory
Offering Leader, R8dius
Managed Services

PROGRAM SUPPORTERS



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS WHO MADE
OUR PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENOUS LEARNERS POSSIBLE:



Quiet Money.®

Jennifer McMillan
& David Downie

Peter & Joanne
Brown Foundation

John &
Claire Nicola



Learn more about
programs for
Indigenous
learners at
[jabc.org/
indigenous](http://jabc.org/indigenous)



ABOUT US



Celebrating 70 Years

Since 1955, JA British Columbia (JABC) has helped young people build the knowledge, skills, and confidence to shape their futures. What began with 200 students participating in the first JA program in Canada has grown into a province-wide organization.

Today, JABC delivers more than 100,000 Youth Learning Experiences each year, providing hands-on learning in work readiness, financial health, and entrepreneurship at no cost, thanks to donor support.

This work is possible because of the commitment of donors, partners, educators, and volunteers who believe in the potential of B.C.'s youth.

Thank you for investing in their futures. Together, we are building on 70 years of impact and preparing the next generation to shape a more confident and financially capable future.

Learn more at jabc.org

2025-26 IMPACT SNAPSHOT



102,233 Youth
Learning Experiences



554 Volunteers



709 Educators



3,694 Indigenous
Youth Learning
Experiences



510 Schools and
Venues



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