

# JA Company Program

## PROGRAM REPORT

**2023-24**



JA  
British  
Columbia

Member of  
JA Canada



# JA COMPANY PROGRAM 2023-24 OVERVIEW



Over the past school year, more than 1,000 high school students from across British Columbia participated in JA Company Program, where they acquired the practical skills and knowledge to launch their own small businesses.

In an immersive learning experience, 69 student-led companies were formed through both online and in-person collaboration. These student companies created a wide range of innovative products and services, including refillable eco markers, microgreen starter kits, sustainable leather products, customizable desktop music plaques, biodegradable leaf plates, and more.

This incredible opportunity was made possible by the unwavering support of our program donors, educators, and volunteers. We extend our deepest gratitude for their contributions to empowering youth across the province.

## ABOUT JA COMPANY PROGRAM

### THIS PROGRAM GIVES YOUTH THE HANDS ON EXPERIENCE TO ORGANIZE AND OPERATE A REAL BUSINESS

Over the course of 10-16 weeks, high school students work as a team to develop a business idea, finance their startup, creatively market their concept, and sell their finished product or service.

Mentors from the local business community have the opportunity to volunteer their time to work with students, sharing their knowledge and expertise.

All teams are required to address at least one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Like real businesses, they must also incorporate technologies to manage their company and provide a positive experience for their customers.

This program is offered both in school and as an after school experience. Learn more at [jabc.org/cp](http://jabc.org/cp) or contact Craig at [c.lovell@jabc.org](mailto:c.lovell@jabc.org).



# JA COMPANY PROGRAM 2023-24 AT A GLANCE



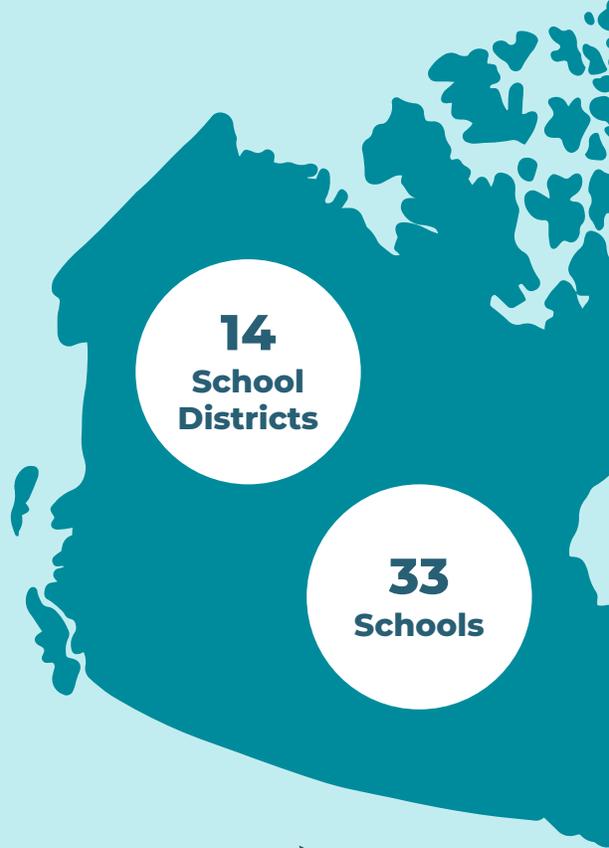
**1,058**  
Students



**69**  
Student-Run  
Companies



**61**  
Volunteers



**14**  
School  
Districts

**33**  
Schools

## 2023-24 SCHOOL DISTRICTS REACHED

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| #05 Southeast Kootenay | #36 Surrey         |
| #06 Rocky Mountain     | #38 Richmond       |
| #08 Kootenay Lake      | #39 Vancouver      |
| #19 Revelstoke         | #41 Burnaby        |
| #23 Central Okanagan   | #45 West Vancouver |
| #33 Chilliwack         | #61 Great Victoria |
| #35 Langley            | #71 Comox Valley   |

## INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS REACHED

Osoyoos Indian Band School  
Native Education Center  
Tsawwassen First Nation



PROGRAMS FOR  
**INDIGENOUS  
LEARNERS**

"The thing I liked the most about this program was that it exposed me to a bunch of different business owners and potential investors and taught me a lot of stuff about business that I would need to know if I wanted to create my own business. It was worth it and I would recommend it to everyone else!"

-Kail, JA Student

# STUDENTS SPOTLIGHT



The three winners of the Junior Entrepreneur Award, Bryan Ma, William Preto, and Tiffany Spurgeon, each received a \$2,500 award in recognition of their outstanding business acumen, growth, or leadership in a JA Student Company. They were also invited to participate in the 2024 Business Laureates of BC Hall of Fame Gala Dinner and Induction Ceremonies, where they took part in a student Q&A session.



## STUDENT BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



### **Ink Again**

2024 CIBC Student Company of the Year Award Winner

Ink Again was awarded for recycling dead Expo markers into refillable products with 3D-printed caps, cutting waste and costs. The \$3,000 prize recognized their excellence in teamwork, creativity, innovation, and planning.

“We are deeply humbled to be named the CIBC Student Company of the Year. We are also excited about the opportunity to represent British Columbia in the national JA Canada Company of the Year competition. We are ready to showcase Ink Again on a larger stage and demonstrate why we believe in our product and our vision.”

-Richard Xie, Ink Again team member



### **MomentoVan**

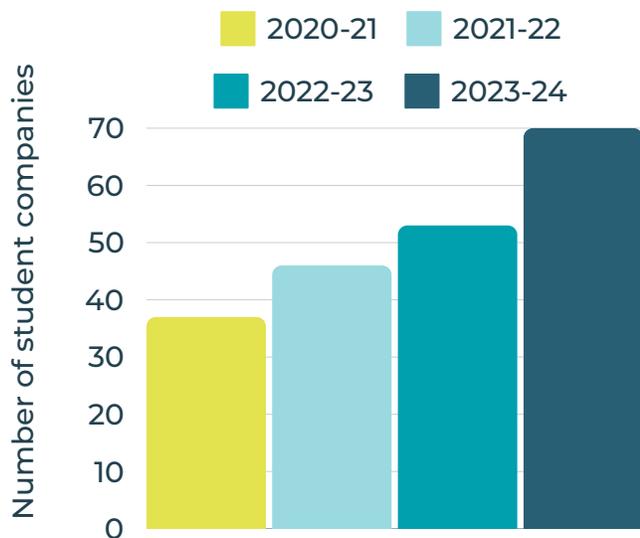
2024 Celebrate Entrepreneurship Provincial Award Winner

MomentoVan sold customizable music plaques that combine photos, app imagery, and QR codes for Spotify songs. The \$3,000 award, sponsored by the B.C. Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation, recognizes the JA student company that demonstrates the most innovation.

“Congratulations to the team at MomentoVan on this well-deserved award that reflects your inventive spirit and dedication. It’s exciting to see young BC entrepreneurs working together to create a product beloved across Canada and the globe.”

-Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation

# PROGRAM GROWTH



## SNIPPITS OF WHAT STUDENTS LEARNED:

-  How to establish and monitor production and sales goals
-  The importance of philanthropy in business
-  How to create business strategies and personal action plans
-  How to maintain and analyze financial records

## JA COMPANY PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS LEARNERS

In January 2024, JABC introduced a pilot initiative: the JA Company Program for Indigenous Learners. Delivered virtually over nine weeks, the program guided 29 learners through business ideation and planning, equipping them with essential skills for their entrepreneurial ventures—ranging from a food truck to a life coach.

As a result of the pilot, JABC is preparing to offer the JA Company Program for Indigenous Learners in both after-school and in-school formats, supporting the next generation of Indigenous entrepreneurs and their journey to success.

Learn more at [jabc.org/cpi](http://jabc.org/cpi) or contact Kimberly at [k.sommer@jabc.org](mailto:k.sommer@jabc.org).

“I have gained invaluable knowledge and skills that have brought me one step closer to realizing my dream of opening my own business. The lessons and experiences I have had during this program have been truly enlightening.”

- JA Company Program Student

# THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM SUPPORTERS



COMPANY PROGRAM FOR INDIGENOUS LEARNERS SUPPORTED BY  
**PETER & JOANNE BROWN FOUNDATION**

PROVINCIAL PARTNERS

Lotte & John Hecht  
Memorial Foundation



Brian & Paula  
Phillips



Dr. Kenneth  
Smith



"It was really fun to work with such an incredible group of young and aspiring entrepreneurs. Their passion for making the world a better place through creative problem solving and business development was truly inspirational. I look forward to seeing them pursue their dreams and bring their ideas into fruition."

- Fern Sabo, JA Mentor

# ABOUT JABC



JA British Columbia (JABC) is a not-for-profit impact organization that delivers hands-on, immersive education in work readiness, financial health, and entrepreneurship. Through JA, young people are equipped with the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities. Learn more at [jabc.org](http://jabc.org)



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