

# JA Leadership Breakfast Series

## EVENT REPORT

**January  
2025**



Member of  
JA Canada



# MESSAGE FROM CEO



Thank you for joining us at this year's JA Leadership Breakfast—my first as President and CEO of JA British Columbia! It was wonderful to be in the room with such an inspiring group, including so many students. I loved seeing both new and familiar faces and hearing the amazing insights shared throughout the morning.

The panel discussion was fantastic, with refreshing and honest conversations about the challenges and opportunities within family enterprises. The advice our speakers would give to their younger selves truly resonated with me and many attendees. I especially appreciated the engaging Q&A session, where attendees, including students, asked meaningful questions and gained valuable insights from our esteemed panelists.

A special thank you to our Presenting Partner, PwC and our Leadership Partners, Osler, PenderFund, and Scotiabank for their generous support of this experience.

We are grateful to our speakers and panelists for sharing their expertise and energy. Their thought-provoking discussions made for an unforgettable morning, and we're excited to share the key takeaways in this report.

We appreciate you spending your morning with us and look forward to seeing you at future JA events!

Wendi Campbell  
President and CEO  
JA British Columbia

JA Leadership  
Breakfast

Presenting Partner





# OVERVIEW



## JANUARY 29, 2025 | FAIRMONT WATERFRONT VANCOUVER

Since 2015, the JA Leadership Breakfast Series has provided business leaders with valuable, free insights on critical business topics, positioning participants as thought leaders in the community.

The 2025 discussion, [Generations of Success: Navigating Family Businesses](#), explored the unique dynamics of multi-generational family businesses, including founding stories, generational transitions, fostering innovation, and community engagement. Attendees—including JABC partners, donors, volunteers, alumni, and other special guests from the local business community—had the opportunity to gain valuable perspectives from representatives of leading business families in BC. The event fostered meaningful conversations, highlighted lessons learned across generations, and showcased how family-run businesses continue to shape industries and communities.



**Stuart Louie, J.D.**  
Governor,  
London Drugs

### 2025 Panelists



**Kate Furber** - *Moderator*  
Vice-Chair and Managing  
Partner,  
BC Region, PwC Canada



**Karen Flavelle**  
Chair,  
Purdys Chocolatier



**Jennifer Podmore Russell**  
Chief Development Officer,  
Nch'kay Development Corporation



**Tristan Armstrong**  
Chief Executive Officer, Rocky  
Mountaineer

## OUR REACH

# 190

**Guests  
Attended**

# 97

**Companies  
Represented**



**Learn More  
Here**

## EVENT DAY AT A GLANCE

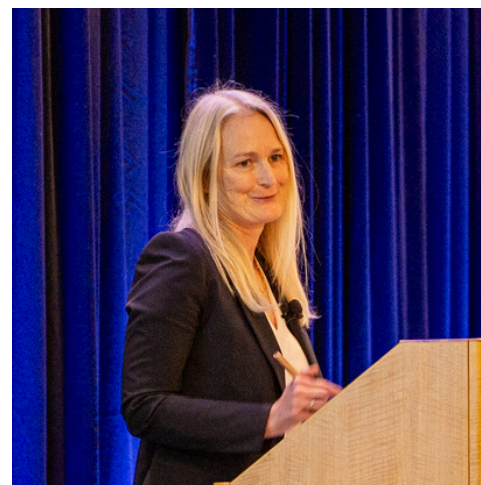


The 2024 JA Leadership Breakfast in downtown Vancouver, B.C., brought together industry leaders and guests for a morning of connection and insight.

Attendees enjoyed breakfast and networking before a dynamic event featured an outstanding panel of business leaders who shared their expertise and personal experiences navigating generational transitions.



Co-hosts Wendi Campbell, President and CEO of JABC, and Ryan Wood, JA Alum, welcomed the guests.



Kate Furber, Vice-Chair and Managing Partner, BC Region, PwC Canada did welcome remarks.

“PwC were proud sponsors of this morning’s JA Leadership Breakfast. Inspiring to hear the insights and stories from each of the panelists. And always great to be reminded of the important work that JABC does in preparing our youth to thrive in a global economy.”



The panel explored the challenges and opportunities within family enterprises, which make up over 60% of Canada's private-sector businesses. Following the discussion, the speakers engaged with the audience in an insightful Q&A session.

"I was proud to have the opportunity to not only share why I've been involved with JA for well over a decade, but also why my colleagues at Scotiabank do as well. A huge thank you to JABC for creating this space to inspire and empower young entrepreneurs. The future is bright when we invest in the next generation!"

- Robyn Chisholm,  
VP & Head, Commercial  
Banking, Scotiabank



Robyn Chisholm, Vice President & Head, Commercial Banking of Scotiabank, spoke about the benefits of getting involved with JABC.



Kelly Edmison, Chairman of PenderFund Capital Management, shared his volunteer experience with JABC.



Ryan Wood, JABC Alum, shared how the JA Company Program provided him with valuable skills to help shape his future.

"All of us involved at Pender Capital Management have enjoyed watching the incredible impact that the JA Company Program has on young people. Helping them experience the challenge and fun of business is great for preparing them for the world and it is a rewarding culture building experience for us. I challenge each of you to consider having your company sponsor a Company Program or host a session and have some of your people step up as volunteers. You won't regret it."



## BUSINESS AND JABC COMMUNITY ATTENDEES

JABC is grateful for the support of leading organizations in impacting British Columbia's youth. Your financial contributions and involvement as volunteers inspire and prepare today's young people to lead. Thank you for attending this year's breakfast.



Acuitas Therapeutics	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Vancouver	Platform Insurance
AirSprint	Hamilton & Associates	Prospera Credit Union
Alvarez and Marsal	Headwater Equity Partners	Purdys Chocolatier
Armstrong Group of Companies	Kensington Capital Partners	PwC Canada
Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.	Khalsa Credit Union	RBC
BCI	KPMG	RBC Global Asset Management
Beedie Group	League of Innovators	RBC Phillips, Hager & North Investment Counsel Inc.
BIV	Ledcor	Real Estate Professional
Boyden	Leith Wheeler	RentSimple AI
Cadence Financial Group of	Lions Peak Financial Group	Richmond School District
Raymond James Ltd.	Live to Play Sports	Rocky Mountaineer
CAI Capital Partners	Live to Play Sports	Samantha Falk Communication
Canadian Alliance Terminals Inc.	London Drugs	Science World
Canadian Men's Health Foundation	Madison Pacific Properties	Scotia Wealth
Capilano Suspension Bridge Park	Mark Anthony Group	Scotiabank
Citi Private Bank	McCarthy Tétraut	Scott Construction Group
City of Vancouver	McMillan LLP	Shivji Financial Services
CJAD Holdings Ltd	Metis Nation British Columbia	Spira Equity Partners
Clark Wilson LLP	Miller Thompson LLP	STEMCELL Technologies
COBS Bread Bakery	Monos	Stern Partners
Colliers International	Nch'kaý Development Corporation	Stonemark Investments
Concert Properties	New Westminster School District	Sun Life Canada
Connor, Clark & Lunn Investment Management Ltd.	Nicola Wealth	Teck Resources
CPA BC	Norco North Shore	The Jennissen Group
CRS Group of Companies	Odlum Brown Limited	Tricor Pacific Capital Inc
Discovery Foundation	Oh Boy Production	University Canada West
Eckler Ltd.	OnActuate	Vancouver School District
Enterprise Holdings	Oppy	Varshney Capital Corp.
EY	Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt	West Vancouver Foundation
First West Credit Union	PenderFund Capital Management Ltd.	West Vancouver School District
FreshPrep	PFM Search Partners	White Crane Capital Corp.
Fulmer & Company Investments	PH&N Institutional	Wilet
Grosvenor		Wubs Family Foundation

**THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS, TO WHOM WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE.**

### Presenting Partner



### Leadership Partners



# 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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