

# BLBC Hall of Fame Gala Dinner & Induction Ceremonies

## EVENT REPORT

2025



JABC PRESENTS

**BUSINESS LAUREATES  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
HALL OF FAME**

*They Built. We Benefit.*



**JA  
British  
Columbia**

Member of  
JA Canada

# WITH GRATITUDE



On behalf of the JA British Columbia Staff and Board of Directors, I would like to sincerely thank you for your support of the Business Laureates of British Columbia Hall of Fame program this past year.

At the 19th annual BLBC Hall of Fame Gala Dinner and Induction Ceremonies, we made history by raising over \$1.5 million, setting a new fundraising record. Every table in the room contributed to JABC's ability to deliver critical programs that equip young people with skills they need to thrive.

This special evening honoured extraordinary Laureates who have shaped British Columbia's business and philanthropic landscape. Their stories inspire us all and demonstrate what today's youth can achieve by building businesses, taking bold risks, and giving back to their communities. Experiencing my first BLBC Gala as President and CEO made the evening especially meaningful.

We are deeply grateful to our Presenting Sponsors, Fasken and RBC. A heartfelt thank you also goes to the incredible volunteers who make this all possible: our nomination and selection committees, cabinet, governors, special advisors, and our exceptional co-chairs. Your leadership and generosity are creating new possibilities for the next generation.



Wendi Campbell  
President & CEO,  
JA British Columbia

[Learn more about the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual BLBC Hall of Fame Gala](#)







# THE HALL OF FAME



## HISTORY

The Business Laureates of British Columbia (BLBC) Hall of Fame was created by JA British Columbia (JABC) in 2005 to honour British Columbia business leaders whose efforts have shaped our province and country. With Barbara Brink and Jim Shepard as the founding co-chairs, the Hall of Fame stands as a testament to the positive legacy the Laureates provide to future generations of business leaders.

## HALL OF FAME SITE

The BLBC Hall of Fame site is prominently located in the Vancouver Convention Centre West and includes a specially-commissioned sculpture, Shape of Inspiration, designed by B.C. artists Cheryl Hamilton and Michael Vandermeer.

A media display allows visitors to learn more about each of the members of the Hall of Fame.

## GALA AND INDUCTION CEREMONIES

The Laureates are inducted and celebrated in front of their families, friends and peers at the annual BLBC Hall of Fame Gala Dinner and Induction Ceremonies. 100% of the net proceeds from this event support the efforts of JABC in delivering high-quality education programs free of charge to tens of thousands of students across the province.

Learn more at [businesslaureatesbc.jabc.ca](https://businesslaureatesbc.jabc.ca)

# 2025 BLBC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



## 1. Ryan Beedie

President, Beedie

**Keith Beedie** (1926-2017)

Founder and Former Chair, Beedie

## 2. Bus Fuller (1928-2019)

Cofounder, Earls Restaurants

Chairman, Fuller Family Restaurant Group

**Stan Fuller**

Cofounder and CEO, Earls Restaurants

Board Member, Fuller Family Restaurant Group

## 3. John Nicola

Chairman, CEO and Co-Chief Investment Officer,  
Nicola Wealth

## 4. Bob Stewart (1916-2003)

Founding Partner and President,  
Sinclar Group Forest Products Ltd.

**Ivan Andersen** (1916-2011)

Founding Partner and Secretary-Treasurer,  
Sinclar Group Forest Products Ltd.



Laureates have demonstrated Vision unique among their peers; they have provided Leadership to inspire others to achieve their goals; they have led their lives with Integrity; and they have built a Legacy that will enrich the lives of those who follow.

[Learn more about the Laureates](#)

[Watch the 2025 Laureate Videos](#)

Read candid and personal articles on [Ryan Beedie](#), [Stan Fuller](#) and [John Nicola](#)

## NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Laureate nominations were accepted from June to September 2024.

The process was open to the public to ensure B.C.'s diverse business community was represented and the broadest group of nominees was put forward.

Laureate Selection Sponsor, PFM Executive Search, an executive recruitment firm based in Vancouver, guided the nomination process. The final Laureate selection was made by a committee of past inductees and business leaders.



# PHOTO GALLERY



## BLBC HALL OF FAME GALA DINNER & INDUCTION CEREMONIES MAY 5, 2025 | VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE WEST

[View online photo album](#)



**Reception**  
Vancouver Convention Centre West



**Master of Ceremonies**  
Chris Gailus, Global BC



**Territory Welcome**  
Dennis Thomas-Whonoak, Executive Director, Indigenous Business Initiatives & Engagements, UBC Sauder School of Business.



**Land Acknowledgement and Address**  
Honourable Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



**Welcome from JA British Columbia**  
Wendi Campbell, President & CEO, JA British Columbia



**Speeches by Recipients of the JABC Student Award  
for Oratory and Presentation Skills**  
Kail Keyes, Isabella Ge, Zeyus Spenta, Chloe Yu

# PHOTO GALLERY



## BLBC HALL OF FAME GALA DINNER & INDUCTION CEREMONIES MAY 5, 2025 | VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE WEST

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### Keynote Presentation

Isabelle Hudon, President and CEO, BDC



### Conversation with Recipients of the JABC Junior Entrepreneur Award

Shreyan Talukdar, Zixin (Shirley) Xu, Cici (Meixi) Yao,  
Bella Zhao, Vivian Zhao



### Hall of Fame Co-Chairs

Shelina Esmail and Abi Coman-Walker



### 2025 Laureate Inductees

Greg Stewart, representing Bob Stewart; Gordon Andersen representing Ivan Andersen; Ryan Beedie, Stan Fuller, John Nicola



### Sponsor Remarks

Martin Thibodeau, Regional President, RBC



### Sponsor Remarks

Jenny Francis, Managing Partner, Fasken BC Region



# JABC'S IMPACT



Today's youth are navigating a rapidly changing world, yet many are leaving school without the critical skills they need to succeed. Gaps in work readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurial thinking leave too many unprepared for the future of work.

JA British Columbia fills this gap by delivering hands-on learning experiences that equip students with practical skills in these key areas, knowledge often missing from standard curriculums.

## THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

All net proceeds from the BLBC Hall of Fame Gala support JABC's delivery of work readiness, financial health, and entrepreneurship programs to youth in urban, rural, and Indigenous communities across B.C. Sponsorships from this event help fund programs for approximately 20% of the youth JABC reaches each year.

Since 2007, this program has raised over \$14 million, enabling more than 197,000 young people across the province to benefit from a life-changing JA program.

**\$1,565,500**

Raised in 2024-25

**18,000+**

Youth will receive a JA program

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HALL OF FAME

*They Built. We Benefit.*

THANK YOU  
FOR HELPING US RAISE

**\$ 1,565,500**

#BLBC2025

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN RAISING \$1.5 MILLION



## PRESENTING SPONSORS

**FASKEN**  
Own tomorrow



## LAUREATE CHAMPION SPONSOR



## RECEPTION SPONSOR

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**BROWN**  
FOUNDATION

## SPEAKER SPONSOR

**Beedie/**

## VOLUNTEER SPONSOR



## EVENING PRODUCTION SPONSOR



## WINE SPONSOR

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FINANCIAL  
EST. 1946



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN RAISING \$1.5 MILLION



## STUDENT AWARD FOR ORATORY AND PRESENTATION SKILLS SPONSORS



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## JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR AWARD SPONSORS



## LAUREATE VIDEO SPONSORS



Earls



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## LAUREATE SELECTION SPONSOR



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN RAISING \$1.5 MILLION



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## MEDIA SPONSORS





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN RAISING \$1.5 MILLION



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## DONATIONS IN LIEU

Wesgroup Properties

# 2025 BLBC HALL OF FAME CABINET



## BLBC HALL OF FAME CO-CHAIRS

Abi Coman-Walker and Shelina Esmail

## PAST BLBC HALL OF FAME CO-CHAIRS

Olin Anton	Terry A. Lyons	Bill Weymark
Peter Blake	Conrad Pinette	Fred Withers
Barbara Brink	Jim Shepard	Janet Wood
John C. Kerr		

## SPECIAL ADVISORS

Kelly Heed      Casey Forrest

## SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Dhillon, Chair	Kathy Butler	Peter Gustavson
	Debra Doucette	Nancy Stibbard
John Anderson	Dr. Allen Eaves	

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Barbara Brink	Ross Langford	Fred Withers
Lorraine Cunningham	Leslie Lee	Janet Wood
	Kirsten Sutton	

## CABINET MEMBERS

Warren Beach	Michael Geller	Beverley Pao
Sheila Biggers	Paul Geyer	Walter Pela
Doug Brandes	Kelly Heed	Keith Spencer
Barbara Brink	Kirk Kuester	Martin Thibodeau
Brenna Daloise	John Kump	Cathy Thorpe
Robin Dhir	Leslie Lee	Richard Weymark
Jenny Francis	Colby Miller	Fred Withers
Christie Garofalo	Chris Nicola	Janet Wood

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Delreen Motiwalla



# 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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