



Fondation
Rideau Hall
Foundation

2023-2028:
**Creating Opportunities.
Connecting Communities.**

Why it matters.

In its first ten years, the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF) has evolved to become a thriving and dynamic national charitable organization focused on building a better Canada and with the commitment to addressing the country's long-term challenges. Our work and partnerships today emanate from the RHF's original vision to amplify the purpose of the institution of Governor General: to connect, honour and inspire Canadians.

Looking to the future, we believe there is a critical need for an independent non-partisan organization focused on a common public good and with a long-term vision for the country.

By building on the RHF's existing national tapestry of programs and partnerships established over the organization's first decade, the RHF is positioned to help overcome entrenched interests, fragmentation, and partisanship in ways that bring us closer together, while enshrining the organization as a permanent-feature-for-good in Canada's philanthropic landscape. This plan sets the stage for the RHF's work in the next five years, to create opportunities for Canadians and to further connect communities along the way.



RHF purpose statement

The Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF) is a non-partisan national charitable organization that amplifies and supports the impact of the Governor General of Canada to connect, honour and inspire, and seeks to engage all Canadians in the core elements of Canadian democracy – including a strong civil society; a free and independent media; robust electoral institutions and processes; and inclusive and accountable governance. By working in collaboration, the RHF creates opportunities and connects communities, all towards the shared purpose of a better Canada.



Deepening the country's trust in and understanding of Canada's public institutions.

The RHF will seek to address the current democratic deficit and build greater awareness of and engagement with Canada's democratic institutions as a source of national pride.

Over the next five years, the RHF will focus on:

■ Forum for Young Canadians:

The RHF will revive Forum for Young Canadians as a year-round series of inclusive learning opportunities for youth who reflect the diversity of Canada and focus on civic engagement and service, coast to coast to coast. This will include in-person opportunities to learn about Canada's range of public institutions and the functioning of our parliamentary democracy; a virtual symposium for young people to learn about service to community; and a virtual learning portal with resources for students to engage year-round.

■ Michener Awards in Public Service Journalism:

We will continue to build on the strengths of this annual award and fellowship program, reinforcing the importance of journalism that informs and serves the public, building trust in the media for a strong and stable democracy. We will also amplify the awards program and bring it into journalism schools across the country as well as a diverse range of newsrooms through a new mentorship component.

■ Supporting the impact of the Office of Governor General:

The RHF is committed to supporting the Governor General of Canada to operationalize the priorities of her mandate. The RHF will also continue to support special and legacy programming initiatives of individual former governors general aimed at connecting, honouring and inspiring Canadians.

Ensuring Canada's learning landscape is characterized by equality of opportunity and excellence.

While many young Canadians receive an education beyond high school, significant gaps persist in the post-secondary participation and attainment rates of many young people, including those with a lower family income, those living in rural areas, some visible minority groups, and Indigenous youth. The RHF will invest in programs and partnerships where Canadians can chart their own learning and career pathways and reach their fullest potential.

Over the next five years, the RHF will focus on:

■ **Catapult Canada:**

We will build on the successes of the Catapult platform established in 2021, ensuring that Catapult's three interrelated component parts (Innovation fund; capacity building arm; national resource hub) are equally strong, dynamic and sustainable, and leading to meaningful impact in reducing barriers to learning and in skill-development for more young Canadians.

■ **Queen Elizabeth Scholars:**

We will build on the successes of the past 10 years, and support exponentially greater numbers of young people developing global fluency and experience. We will broaden the program from its strong base in the university sector to the college and institutes sector. We will also formalize an alumni network of the current 2,400 Queen Elizabeth Scholars nationally, regionally and by thematic issue of focus, offering a means for them to connect, mentor, be mentored and give back.

■ **Indigenous Teacher Education initiative:**

Because we believe that teachers transform lives, the RHF will deliver on a roadmap to support 10,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis teachers. As part of the RHF's commitment to Reconciliation and to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action around education (particularly actions 10 and 11), this work will be Indigenous-led and undertaken in partnership with Indigenous-led organizations, faculties of education, Indigenous communities and different levels of government. We will broadly share our learnings along the way to raise the profile of this imperative, coast to coast to coast.

Making Canadian innovation contagious and inevitable.

The RHF is committed to celebrating Canadian innovation success stories, both national and locally relevant, in a broad and inclusive manner, and to inspiring the next generation of dreamers and doers. We believe stories are critical, but alone they are not enough. Celebrating Canadian excellence in innovation needs to be paired with real financial resourcing, the right tools and mentorship, and material connections for innovators across sectors, regions, and stages. For the RHF, innovation is about doing things better for positive results: a topic of relevance to all Canadians, of all ages, in every sector.

Over the next five years, the RHF will focus on:

■ Ingenious+:

In the next five years, Ingenious+ will support youth in every province and territory and offer a robust package of meaningful benefits to young innovators representing the diversity of Canada. This will include financial resourcing; mentorship from an array of the country's leading innovators and organizations; co-op opportunities; scholarship support; a thriving peer-network to learn with and from.

■ Canadian Innovation Week:

Ensure CIW continues to offer in-person and virtual spotlights on excellence across Canada and across sectors, sharing stories that recognize Canadian excellence and inspire.

■ Governor General's Innovation Awards:

Build and promote the GGIA as a means of recognizing Canada's highest level of achievement in innovation. Over the next five years, an alumni network of GGIA laureates will be formalized and provided with opportunities to give back and learn from each other. The GGIA will also be celebrated through national media and promotional partnerships to extend both the reach of the program and visibility of the laureates.

■ Nurturing Canadian talent at home and abroad and supporting local community-based innovation through programming like the **Global Excellence Initiative**, and the **Arctic Inspiration Prize**.

Strengthening civil society and Canada's culture of volunteerism.

The RHF will strive to encourage all Canadians to become active in strengthening community, through volunteering and mentoring; getting involved in public life; and by ensuring the health and vibrancy of Canadian civil society.

Over the next five years, the RHF will focus on:

■ Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference:

We will offer a more permanent and sustainable home to the GGCLC, Canada's pre-eminent mid-career leadership and learning conference. In doing so, we will foster community for the GGCLC alumni network and opportunities for this group to give back in their communities and across the country.

■ Strengthening the fabric of community volunteerism:

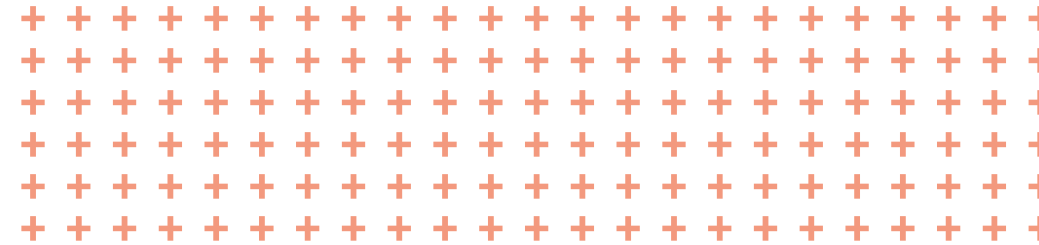
We will work in targeted ways to profile, celebrate, encourage and measure community-based volunteerism, for all age groups.

■ Developing meaningful opportunities for mentorship across all RHF programming.

In conjunction with these core strategic priority areas, through data and consultation, the RHF will also continuously work to surface emerging challenges for the country, and to identify and assess the unique role that we might play "upstream" in addressing these future challenges.

RHF Opportunities Toolkit:

The right tool for the right job



In support of the RHF's four strategic priorities, we will deliver on our purpose by operating nimbly in the following ways:

AS A HELPFUL CONNECTOR:

Either formally or informally, the RHF will seek to serve as a trusted connective tissue across regions, sectors, partner organizations, Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and generations of Canadians. This way of working recognizes the uniqueness of the RHF's vantage point and national non-partisan perspective.

Examples in action:

- Canadian Innovation Week*
- Alumni of various programs: GGIA, QES*
- Indigenous Teacher Education initiative*

THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING:

By providing direct funding to organizations or in-kind operational administration leveraging the infrastructure and programming/management talent of the RHF team, we will support the capacity-building goals of select partner organizations, towards specific time bound objectives.

Examples in action:

- Arctic Inspiration Prize: providing in-kind operational support as AIP transitions leadership to the North*
- Catapult Canada: Mentoring and governance support as well as evaluation framework for funded partners + mentoring*
- Michener Awards Foundation: by enhancing the awards program with meaningful learning and training opportunities in public service journalism*

BY CHAMPIONING EQUITY & EXCELLENCE:

By sharing stories and profiling exceptional achievement across a variety of fields connected to the RHF purpose statement, the RHF seeks to inspire and build pride. We believe that sharing stories of excellence can help to instill a shared sense of national identity and a more hopeful collective narrative for Canada's future.

Examples in action:

- Michener Awards in Public Service Journalism*
- Governor General's Innovation Awards*
- Global Excellence Initiative*

BY CREATING OPPORTUNITY:

To deliver on our strategic priorities, the RHF can bring together partners, funding, research/data and a framework for action to deliver on programming that serves to create opportunities for Canadians to learn, contribute and innovate.

Examples in action:

- Ingenious+*
- Forum for Young Canadians*
- Indigenous Teacher Education Initiative*
- Queen Elizabeth Scholars*

THROUGH SUSTAINABLE RESOURCING AND STRENGTH IN GOVERNANCE:

Key to the RHF's ability to deliver on this plan and serve as a permanent feature of Canada's philanthropic landscape, is ensuring the strength and sustainability of the RHF's financial, operational and governance models.

Examples in action:

- Board of Directors*
- Best in class financial management and investment strategy*
- Excellence of Operations*

Who we work with

■ **The Office of the Governor General of Canada and network of Lieutenant Governors and Commissioners:**

The RHF works with the Governor General of Canada and the vice-regal community of lieutenant governors and commissioners on key programming to connect, honour and inspire Canadians.

■ **Non-profit sector:**

Through our range of programming, and in accordance with set criteria, the RHF works with and supports charitable organizations and non-profit organizations serving communities across Canada to deliver on programming with local relevance and reach.

■ **Individual Canadians:**

The RHF offers an inclusive national platform for Canadians of all ages to engage with a non-partisan nation-building agenda, and to give back through volunteerism, mentorship, or philanthropy in areas of innovation and entrepreneurship, learning, and civic life.

■ **Educational systems:**

We work with provincial and Indigenous educational systems in every province and territory, to promote both equity and excellence of Canada's learning culture.

■ **First Nations, Inuit and Métis:**

communities, government and organizations across our programs.

■ **Municipal, provincial, territorial and federal orders of government:**

Given its reach, the RHF can work with partners across the provincial and federal orders of government to bring programming to life.

■ **Philanthropists and grant makers:**

The RHF works with dedicated and engaged donors and funders across Canada to help ensure a diversified and sustainable funding model to support programming priorities into the future. The RHF offers donors who believe in both the greatness and future potential of Canada a trusted, efficient and proven national charitable vehicle for delivering long-term impact.

How we will measure success

The RHF has a vested interest in Canada's long-term progress and a bias for measurable action. As such, our approach to measurement will be centered on the following:

■ We will look to how systems are changing in both visionary and targeted ways, related to the strength of Canada's social fabric, pride in Canada, and more specifically related to changing markers on innovation culture; learning equity and excellence; and participation rates in civic life.

■ We will ensure that each RHF program and partnership includes a unique set of success metrics that are regularly reviewed for purposes of program development.

■ We will measure operational efficiency and excellence in delivery, always seeking to learn from what we're doing and with the agility to change. We will continue to evaluate our own work as a partner to others, and evaluate the RHF as an employer. Combined, this will help to ensure that the RHF is well perceived by all those we work with and who support our mission for a better Canada.

Conclusion

The Rideau Hall Foundation is an enduring and evergreen organization with a long-range vision for Canada's future. We bring together people of all ages and backgrounds, resources, knowledge, and infrastructure to build a better country. Our vision for Canada is one where:

- Innovation is contagious, inevitable and inclusive in every community, at all stages and in every sector of the economy.
- Both excellence and equity are recognized and celebrated as hallmarks of Canada's learning culture.

■ Community matters. Meaningful opportunities for public service and civic leadership across the continuum of experience are widely available and embraced.

In working with our partners over the next five years, the RHF will be creating opportunities and connecting communities, towards a shared, unifying and more hopeful narrative for Canada.





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