



Leading with Hope and Optimism

2024-2025 Impact report



Fondation
Rideau Hall
Foundation

Message from Founder and Chair Emeritus

When I was installed as Governor General of Canada in 2010, I spoke about my vision for Canada: “A nation where all Canadians can grow their talents to the maximum. A nation where all Canadians can succeed and contribute.”

The Rideau Hall Foundation was born out of this vision, with the goal of fostering a smart and caring nation. Since 2012, thanks to the support of incredible donors, staff, partners, and board members from coast to coast to coast, the RHF has grown into a national, non-partisan organization that is creating opportunities and connecting communities, all towards the shared purpose of a better Canada.

Through this report, I am delighted to share with you some of the highlights of our activities over the past year. Highlights that centre around celebrating the ingenuity, persistence and creativity of Canadians from across sectors and across the country. While there is much work left to do, I am stepping down from my role as Chair of the RHF knowing we are having a measurable impact across the country, and that we have a dedicated and formidable team in place to carry on this important work.

I am deeply grateful to all those who have helped make this vision for Canada a reality.



Right Honourable David Johnston
28th Governor General of Canada
Chair of the RHF board of directors (2012 – 2025)





Message from the President and CEO

It may seem counterintuitive to title a report Hope and Optimism in these troubling times. As I write this, Canada has faced sobering calls requiring us to reflect on our sovereignty and our national identity. Democracy is under attack around the world, and trust in public institutions is falling steadily.

Despite all this, we at the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF) see ample reason for both hope and optimism, and in many cases that starts with young people doing incredible things for their communities, the country and the world.

The first example I'd like to share is the youth from our Ingenious+ program, which aims to support young innovators aged 14 to 18 from across Canada. This year's winning innovations include a wildfire monitoring and prediction system, a Braille communication platform for the deafblind, and a software system for rapid and non-invasive screening of skin cancers. These young innovators are dedicated to improving people's lives, here at home and around the world, and we are inspired by their work.

An exciting first for the RHF this year was the return of Forum for Young Canadians' national summit. Forum is a program designed to encourage youth to become active members of their communities and their country by deepening their understanding of Canada's decision-making process. In March, we convened 300 youth in Ottawa for the first time since 2020 to meet Parliamentarians and other influential leaders. In our short time together, these youth demonstrated a commitment to civic engagement and a desire to improve their communities for everyone.

The Queen Elizabeth Scholars program continues to mobilize university and college students and researchers around the world to tackle some of our most pressing challenges. This year for the first time, scholars from Canadian colleges were included in the program, and we look forward to seeing their impact both at home and abroad. At a time when the world seems to be getting smaller and more entrenched, the QE Scholars remind us how much better we are when we open our minds and hearts to new experiences, different perspectives and opportunities for collaboration.

The youth engaging with these programs are not just the leaders of tomorrow – they are leading today, showing us what can be done with a little empathy and determination. They are meeting challenges head-on, with ambition and focus; our job is to give them the tools to continue that work and to deepen it.

Hope and optimism are sometimes undervalued, seen as an easy escape route from the very real crises in the world. I have to emphatically disagree: it takes strength to be a change maker; it takes hard work to put your hand up and commit to doing better.

Through our programming and our deep relationships across every sector and every part of this great country, we have the deep privilege of seeing first-hand that Canadians care deeply and are taking meaningful actions. The RHF will be here to continue to champion and back the ambitious visions of changemakers working to create a better Canada for all of us. We could not do this without you!

With deepest gratitude for your support,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Teresa Marques". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Teresa" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Marques".

Teresa Marques

President and CEO



Impact to date across Canada

CATAPULT



\$18M

Invested in community-based programming to support youth learning

100,000+ youth at risk benefited across the country

GOVERNER GENERAL'S
CANADIAN LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE



2,400+

Multi sectoral leaders

Joined RHF in 2024

MICHENER AWARDS
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE
JOURNALISM



100+

awards and fellowships
awarded over the past 50+ years

Partnered with RHF since 2020

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S
INNOVATION AWARDS



60

laureates over 10 years, inspiring
excellence in innovation and
entrepreneurship

INDIGENOUS
TEACHER
EDUCATION
INITIATIVE



\$21.8M

in support of cross-Canada
programming to recruit and
retain First Nations, Inuit and
Métis teachers

QUEEN
ELIZABETH
SCHOLARS



2,600+

scholars with 134
projects funded

**55 participating Canadian
universities and colleges**

FORUM FOR
YOUNG CANADIANS



27,770+

youth taking part in civic
engagement programming

CANADIAN
INNOVATION
WEEK



11,000+

contributors

**138,000 engagements
since 2018**

INGENIOUS +



\$800,000

invested in young innovators
from coast to coast to coast
over four years

**18 national winners
283 regional winners**

ARCTIC
INSPIRATION
PRIZE



\$29M+

awarded over the past 13 years
to fuel innovative projects in
the North

78 winning teams

PRIORITY 1

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

Queen Elizabeth Scholars

As more countries around the world become inward-looking, the RHF is increasing support to global exchange and collaboration. This year, the RHF committed \$6.2 million in funding to support international collaborative projects at 22 Canadian universities and, for the first time, colleges. All projects funded through this QES stream focus on the adaptation, response and resilience to a changing climate.

These projects will provide international study experiences, research, or internships for outbound Canadian scholars as well as support for inbound international scholars.

In March 2025, the Government of Saskatchewan announced a gift of \$100,000 to the QES program to support the next generation of global leaders. "This program provides valuable research-based global education and leadership experiences that will benefit Saskatchewan students, post-secondary institutions and communities," said Saskatchewan's Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff.

More than
2,600 scholars



55 participating
post-secondary
institutions

QE Scholars have
gone to or come from
over **80** countries



134 projects
funded

650+ partner
organizations engaged
*Universities/colleges, NGOs,
research institutes*



"I gained an immeasurable amount of understanding and appreciation for the struggles and realities of the communities I served. I have far better awareness regarding these communities that have only grown from the original lessons in the classroom."

- **Emily Smith, undergraduate student and Queen Elizabeth Scholar, Vancouver Island University project in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Guatemala**



THE 2025 ITE PROGRAM RECIPIENTS ARE:

Save the Children Canada and First Nation School Board (Yukon)

\$433,457

Nunavut Bilingual Education Society (Nunavut)

\$479,000

Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami – Inuit Nunangat University (Inuit Nunangat)

\$1,000,000

Squamish Nation (British Columbia)

\$498,000

Aboriginal Teacher Education Program, University of Alberta (Alberta)

\$999,285

University of British Columbia – NITEP Expansion to Lax Kw'alaams (British Columbia)

\$998,666

First Nations University of Canada (National)

\$499,000

Louis Riel Institute (Manitoba)

\$251,806

University of Manitoba + Frontier School Division (Manitoba)

\$1,000,000

Matawa First Nations Management (Ontario)

\$500,000

Endaayan Indigenous Language Teacher Education Program (Ontario)

\$1,000,000

ITEP-Lab with Nunatsiavut and Innu Nations (Labrador)

\$1,000,000

Indigenous Teacher Education (ITE) Program

The RHF envisions a Canada with 10,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis teachers. Through multi-year programming, the RHF seeks to ensure that Indigenous educators are supported, valued, and equipped to lead in their communities through innovative initiatives led by Indigenous peoples and allies. Through this journey, the RHF announced an investment of \$8.6 million in 12 new Indigenous-led partnerships focused on recruitment and retention of Indigenous teachers.

Awarded projects span from Labrador to Yukon and reflect diverse, locally grounded approaches—from land-based degree programs and new language revitalization tools to digital mentorship platforms and in-community teacher education. The RHF is grateful to the National Advisory Committee on Indigenous Teacher Education (NACITE) for their guidance in this program.

Catapult Canada

Through Catapult Canada, the RHF is committed to helping ensure that every Canadian youth is given the opportunity to learn and build the skills they need to be full participants in their communities. The vision for Catapult is to foster a community of youth-serving organizations across the country that could draw on each others' experiences, share successes and build on each other's achievements, all in support of better youth outcomes in learning and skills development. That vision became a reality for a second time in October 2024, when 46 Catapult funded organizations came together in Halifax to make connections, share and learn from each other.



CATAPULT CANADA IMPACT STORY

Ethos Lab Educational Society: Participatory approach to curriculum development, BC

Ethos Lab is focused on increasing representation in STEAM and empowering youth to transform their communities and reshape the culture of innovation. Over 2024, Ethos Lab pivoted its program delivery model to focus on outreach. Increasing their facilitation team to 10 facilitators, it became clear that they were not only supporting the youth in the schools, but they had a group of young adults that also formed a more direct pipeline to STEAM. Seeing this they developed a new program that focused on empowering this group, so they could deliver programming to youth in the schools. This included developing mentorship, learning and networking opportunities for them. *"This new program, called the bridge program, is a direct result of Rideau Hall Foundation's funding. This inspirational transition and achievement allows us to deepen the impact in our community."* Anthonia Ogundele, Founder and Executive Director of Ethos Lab Educational Society

PRIORITY 2

Making Canadian innovation contagious and inevitable

Governor General's Innovation Awards

For 10 years, the Governor General's Innovation Awards have been celebrating trailblazing Canadians who are making a meaningful impact on their communities, the country and the world and encouraging Canadians to embrace innovation.

THE 2025 GGIA WINNERS ARE:

Stephane Germain for GHGS atVanguard: Satellite-Based Emissions-Monitoring: satellite technology and powerful aircraft imagery to remotely monitor and measure greenhouse gas emissions from industrial facilities worldwide.

Dr. Milica Radisic for Heart-on-a-chip for drug discovery and disease modelling: revolutionary tool to grow and mature contractile heart tissues starting from human stem cells, modeling heart disease of patients in Canada and enabling drug discovery.

Dr. Sumantra Ghosh and team for National Overdose Response Service: a national service supporting individuals who use drugs alone to help prevent deaths.

Helen Watts and team for Student Energy: a global, youth-led organization supporting a network of 50,000 leaders who are accelerating the transition to a sustainable, equitable energy future for youth in over 120 countries.

Nivatha Balendra for Dispersa: a proprietary process to produce waste-derived biosurfactants. These biosurfactants are affordable, non-toxic alternatives to petroleum-based and synthetic surfactants in consumer products. (Young innovator)

Dr. N. Zoe Hilton and team for ODARA: the world's first data-driven tool for assessing the risk of future intimate partner violence based on specific risk factors in domestic incidents. It is used by front-line responders and corrections systems to identify the most dangerous cases.



GGIA IMPACT STORY

Dr. Kamran Khan is a 2018 GGIA winner for his innovative big data platform BlueDot, which contains the ability to track the spread of influenza and other outbreaks globally. The following year, they secured venture capital financing in their global epidemic intelligence platform to help detect outbreaks earlier, to understand them faster, and to mobilize timely, effective, coordinated responses. Today BlueDot is supporting 49 countries, representing over 1 billion people worldwide. "The GGIA is celebrating people that are taking risks. This really speaks to the spirit of the GGIAs, by continuing to tell these stories, we better understand what we're capable of and the kind of problems that we can tackle together," said Dr. Khan.



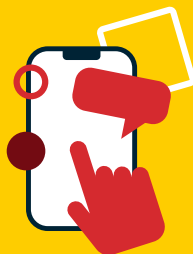
Canadian Innovation Week

Every year in May, the innovation ecosystem in Canada comes together for a week-long celebration of innovation and imagination. Partners from coast to coast to coast host events and share inspiring innovation themed stories on social media. Its goal is to animate, inspire, and build pride in Canada's rich culture of innovation.

Canadian Innovation Week (CIW) ignites a nationwide celebration that empowers Canadians to push boundaries, share transformative ideas, and drive the future of innovation forward through collaboration, and the exchange of groundbreaking ideas and technologies.



CIW25 BY THE NUMBERS



More than **17k** engagements



Participation from **ALL** provinces and territories



12.1 million reach

Ingenious+ youth innovation challenge

If we want Canada to realize its ambitions, we need to encourage young innovators to think big now. **Ingenious+** gives young innovators and entrepreneurs the opportunity to grow and scale their ideas through financial support, learning opportunities and mentorship from leading Canadian innovators!



2025 WINNERS

Warren Chen, BC

Technology and Entrepreneurship

Naturacell: A Novel Biodegradable Cellulosic-Based Battery Cell

Anthony Efthimiadis, ON

Health and Wellbeing

M-SCAHN: A Point-of-care Digital Dermoscopy Software System for Rapid Screening of Skin Cancers

Joti Gokaraju, SK

Equity and Inclusion

TouchTalk: A Comprehensive Braille Communication Platform for the Deafblind

Jasmine Wang, ON

Climate and the Environment

Wildfire Monitoring and Prediction system

Céline Zhang, QC

Community and Civic Engagement

Student Innovation Lab

**IN FOUR
YEARS
INGENIOUS+
HAS**



Recognized **18** national winners, **20** national finalists and **283** regional winners



Reached **6,500+** youth with workshops and mentorships



Invested more than **\$800K** in young innovators from coast to coast to coast

Arctic Inspiration Prize

The AIP—the largest annual prize awarded in Canada—inspires, enables and celebrates the achievements of the people of the North, recognizing diverse teams with innovative projects. This was another record year for the AIP, with 18 teams being made finalists, representing every corner of the North. And for the first time ever, a team from the Yukon has taken home the AIP's \$1 million top prize. This year's prize-winning projects addressed opportunities around decolonizing healthcare, landbased skills, language preservation, community building and food insecurity. The RHF is honoured to serve as the AIP's southern operational support partner, helping to bring together Northern and Southern support to help make the visions of the AIP laureates become reality.



AIP IMPACT STORY

Bibia Nàtsät Ku: A Movement to Reclaim Yukon First Nations Midwifery and Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (YFN) -- Led by Yukon First Nations (YFN), this project will establish a Ku (house) in Whitehorse offering culturally safe, YFN-led midwifery and Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (SHRC) services. Grounded in Elder guidance, with a focus on Indigenous workforce development and traditional knowledge, Bibia Nàtsät Ku (strong baby house) will not only transform SRHC delivery in the Yukon but will also influence systemic change across the Arctic, helping to shape safer, more culturally appropriate care for Indigenous communities.

13
13 years

78 winning teams

\$29 million in helping
make the vision and
dreams of northerners
a reality

PRIORITY 3

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

Forum for Young Canadians

In March 2025, the Rideau Hall Foundation hosted the first in-person sessions of Forum for Young Canadians in the nation's capital since the pandemic of 2020. With democratic institutions under threat worldwide, it is a crucial time to better connect young Canadians with the workings of our multifaceted parliamentary democracy.

More than 300 youth aged 14 to 18 from all corners of Canada assembled in Ottawa for a week-long immersive, hands-on experience of civic engagement.

Forum gives youth the opportunity to see how decisions are made at the federal level, and why they matter. Participants got to meet MPs, Senators, and political leaders who shape Canada's future, and ask them the tough questions.

"Being at Forum and understanding how the government process works, and how our federal representatives all work collectively to better Canada has reinforced my passion for being able to help better the nation and stand up for people."

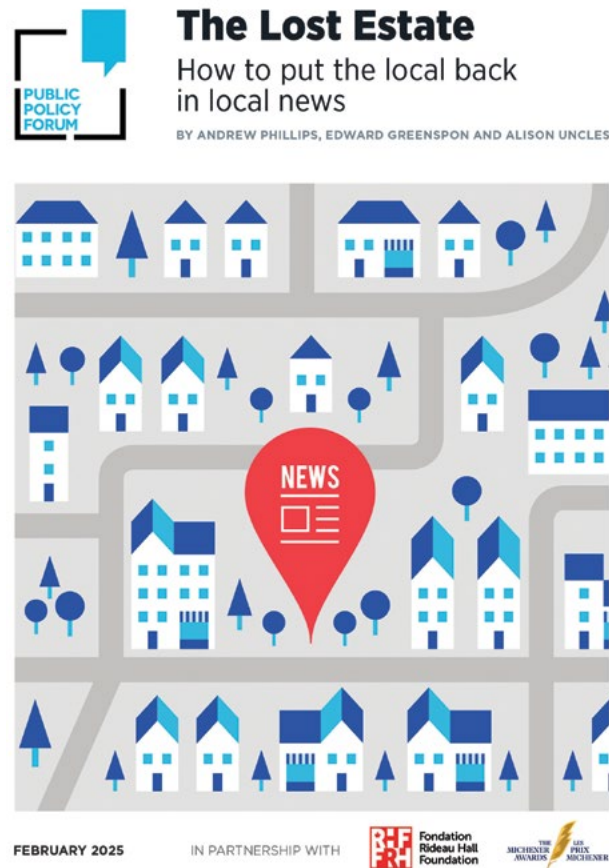
- Matthew, Alberta, Forum 2025



Michener Awards for Public Service Journalism

The RHF is honoured to serve as the delivery partner for the Michener Awards for Public Service Journalism, which recognize outstanding and unbiased journalism that results in positive change for the public good. Local newsrooms play a vital role in fostering informed, engaged and connected communities, and are a key lever for a healthy democracy. Now more than ever, it is critical that we act to safeguard and reimagine the sustainability of local news.

This commitment has been realised through the new Norman Webster Fellowship, which recognizes that many important accountability stories aren't being told. We are delighted to announce that the inaugural winners of the Norman Webster Fellowship are Cabin Radio for their investigation into the circuit justice system in the Northwest Territories and Le Droit for their deep dive into chronic water quality issues in and around the national capital region.



MICHENER AWARDS IMPACT STORY

The RHF and Michener Awards, in partnership with the Public Policy Forum, launched a report called *Lost Estate: How to put the Local back in Local News*, that stemmed from a conference organized and held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., with more than 60 local news publishers and broadcasters from across the country.

The *Lost Estate* report highlights several factors contributing to the crisis in local news. But despite the challenges, the report also notes resilient green shoots, citing examples of local news organizations that are finding innovative ways to serve their communities. From media to government, and from the charitable sector to individual citizens, there is a role for everyone in ensuring the success of local news.

PRIORITY 4

Strengthening civil society and Canada's culture of volunteerism

Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference (GGCLC)

In 2024, the RHF was delighted to welcome to GGCLC to its family of nation-building programs. The GGCLC brings together Canada's emerging leaders from business, labour, government, NGOs, education and the cultural sector for a unique two-week experience aimed at broadening their perspectives on work, leadership, their communities and their country. This transformational experience plays a vital role in shaping Canada's future leaders, fosters cross-sector collaboration, and deepens participants' understanding of Canada.

The next GGCLC will be chaired by Monique Leroux, former Chair and CEO of Desjardins Group, and will take place in May 2026.



"The Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference plays a crucial role in shaping Canada's future leaders by connecting them with diverse communities and perspectives. I look forward to working with participants, volunteers and partners from all across the country to make the 2026 Conference a transformative and life changing experience."

-Monique F. Leroux, Chair of the 2026 Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference

Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

During National Volunteer Week 2025, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, presented the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers to 61 deserving individuals during a ceremony at Rideau Hall. Through tireless and selfless volunteerism, the recipients of the Medal have made their communities a better place and have also brought honour and pride to Canada.

The medal recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers. Any living person who is a Canadian citizen and who has made significant, sustained and unpaid contributions to their community in Canada or abroad is eligible.

The RHF is committed to supporting the Governor General of Canada to operationalize the priorities of her mandate. We are honoured to help support the SMV program and other programs and initiatives of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General aimed at connecting, honouring and inspiring Canadians.



Photo: P0 2 Louis Dubé, Rideau Hall

Extending our thanks

We offer our deep gratitude to our supporters in every corner of the country. By donating to the Rideau Hall Foundation, you are choosing to write a positive narrative for Canada.

Our donors, just like Canadians, are varied and hail from across the country: from family foundations in Québec which fund public-service journalism to sustain our democracy, to ambitious Calgarians who know innovation makes us strong. We are blessed with support from corporations in Yukon who champion Northern excellence, alongside philanthropists in Toronto who are increasing youth access to education. From coast-to-coast-to-coast, we are united through our efforts to realize shared ambitions for Canada. We could not do it without you.

Thank you!

Our Donors' Ambitions



"As a radiologist and entrepreneur, I am passionate about innovation in the healthcare field because I have seen first-hand how innovation can tangibly improve the lives of Canadians. I donate to the Johnston Fund for Canada in honour of the Right Honourable David Johnston, knowing that my support enriches the lives of Canadians and helps sustain a broad suite of programs, including several that promote and celebrate innovation in Canada. I know my giving will have far-reaching impacts for Canadians for years to come."

Dr. Chen Fong, C.M.



"At Power Corporation, our mission in philanthropy is to make Canada better. We are proud of Canada—proud of the strength of its democracy, of its unique history and geography, and of the vibrancy of its many people and communities—and believe that through charitable giving we can continue to strengthen an already remarkable country. Our longstanding partnership with the Rideau Hall Foundation represents alignment in our shared vision for Canada."

Julie L'Heureux, Associate Vice President, Philanthropy and Community Relations, Power Corporation of Canada



"I attended the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference in 2012. The opportunity to share with other participants our diverse perspectives and experiences shaped me into the leader I am today. I am proud to be President of the Canadian Labour Congress, an organization that has donated to support the GGCLC consistently since 2004. By supporting the GGCLC, the Canadian Labour Congress will continue to cultivate leaders who unite diverse Canadians and build communities where everyone can share fairly in the opportunities that Canada has to offer."

Beatrice Bruske, GGCLC Alumna and President of the Canadian Labour Congress

"Hewitt Foundation is committed to bringing about meaningful and sustainable social, economic, and cultural change, particularly in eastern Canada and the north, across communities that made the Hewitt family business a success over 65 years. We are proud to partner with the Rideau Hall Foundation to improve the lives of Canadians through Innovation and the Ingenious+ youth innovation program. We're investing to help young Canadians build skills and problem-solve, giving them the supports they need to become changemakers in their own communities."

Kim Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Hewitt Foundation

Realizing Canadian Ambition

The RHF has been delivering real impact to Canadians since 2012. Now, we are embarking on a campaign to accelerate our collective ambitions for Canada. *Realize Ambition* is a \$150 million campaign to connect and empower people, causes, and organizations who share a common commitment to a better Canada for all. Together, we will create opportunities for all Canadians to contribute and to succeed. We will empower youth and champion innovation. We will strengthen Canadian institutions and democracy. We will elevate Canada's culture of volunteerism, and our national can-do spirit.

Together, we will realize ambition for Canada.

"Canadians deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. As a mother of two and the CEO of Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation, I care deeply about creating environments and opportunities for young people to thrive. The RHF's Realize Ambition campaign presents a unique opportunity to unite under the shared purpose of strengthening our country. Together, we can ensure that when young Canadians look towards the future, it is with curiosity and confidence in the great things this country has to offer."

**- Zeba Ahmad, CEO, Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation;
Member of the RHF Board of Directors and Chair of the
Development Committee**



Special Thanks to the Webster Family Foundations

We are profoundly grateful to the R. Howard Webster Foundation and the Eric T. Webster Foundation, who have partnered in support of the Michener Awards, which honour, celebrate, and promote outstanding public service journalism. Their transformative joint commitment launched the Norman Webster Fellowship, a brand-new funding opportunity for small newsrooms across Canada.

The need for credible, fact-based journalism has never been greater in our democracy. We extend our deepest thanks to the Webster Family Foundations for recognizing the critical role small newsrooms play in our communities and responding with their generous support and thoughtful action.

"On behalf of our entire family, as well as the Eric T. Webster and R. Howard Webster Foundations, I'm thrilled to see my father's legacy preserved in the Norman Webster Fellowship, which will have a positive and lasting impact on Canadian journalism. Providing newsrooms, in both English and French, with the opportunity to take on something they wouldn't have otherwise been able to do, is a perfect way to honour my father's curiosity and deep commitment to always finding an interesting story to tell."

- Derek Webster (above), Trustee, Eric T. Webster Foundation

Thank You to Our Donors

The following contributors have invested a minimum of \$10,000 in the Rideau Hall Foundation's nation-building work, supporting both programming and operations. We thank you for your commitment and support.

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Province of Ontario

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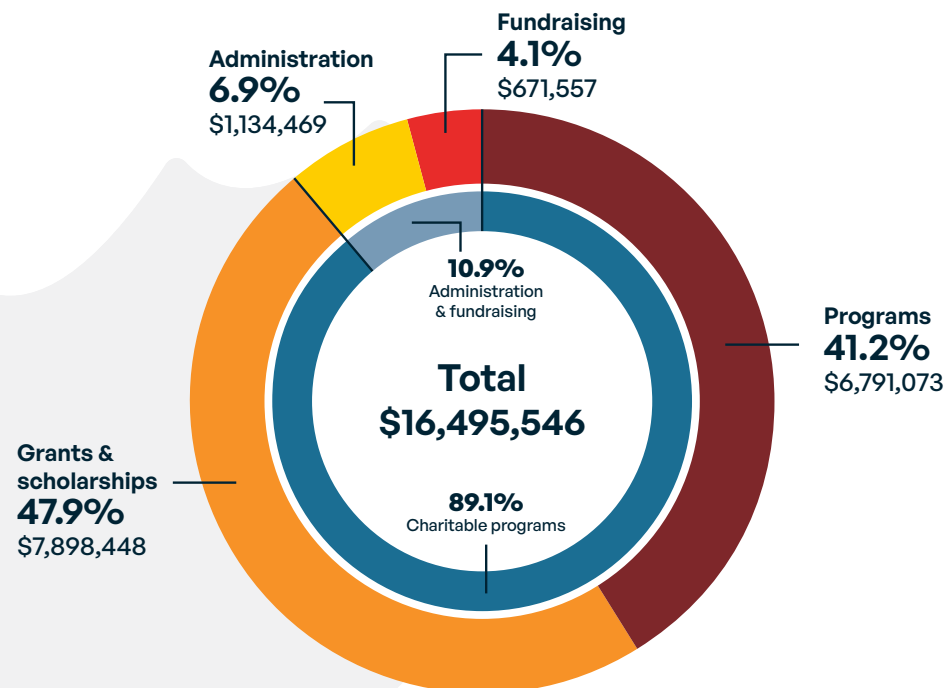
Operations and endowment

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Assets	45,381,468	99,882,622	92,929,990	118,542,225	132,310,383
Contributions to Endowments for programming and sustainability	2,323,908	2,063,745	1,724,330	20,990,270 *	851,769
Liabilities	13,848,938	62,201,974	56,084,189	57,951,719	68,769,847
Revenue	8,249,957	11,448,130	10,478,926	18,432,942	25,868,290
Charitable Programs	2,836,326	3,389,196	3,600,086	8,333,793	8,439,339
Grants and scholarships	1,069,431	2,416,577	7,612,975	5,675,936	10,406,433
Administration	1,096,670	1,129,589	1,198,224	974,430	1,230,752
Fundraising	345,048	428,217	626,817	580,189	807,664

*Government of Canada one-time contribution in honour of Queen Elizabeth II for QES programming

Expenses by function

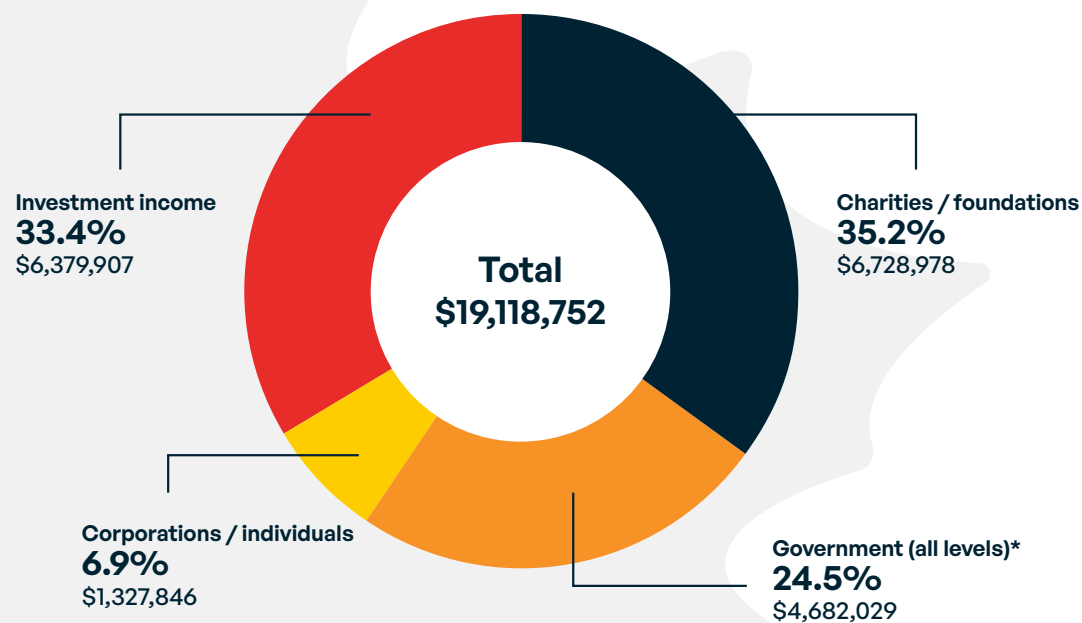
Three-year average numbers



Sources of funding


Three-year average numbers


**refers to contributions in support of Queen Elizabeth Scholars and Catapult Canada programming*






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