

2025-2026

experiences
CANADA



90
Years/Ans

Annual Report



Celebrating 90 Years of
Connecting Young Canadians

90 YEARS OF CONNECTION, LEARNING, & IMPACT

For nine decades, Experiences Canada has connected youth, helping them discover new perspectives, build lasting friendships, and develop a deeper understanding of Canada and one another.



1936

Founded as Visites Interprovinciales by James H. Biggar



1981

Became SEVEC through merger with Bilingual Exchange Secretariat



2015

Rebranded as Experiences Canada to reflect evolving impact



2026

Celebrating 90 years of connecting young Canadians

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BY THE NUMBERS

Another year of meaningful exchanges, leadership, and **lasting impact for youth across Canada.**



1,900+
Youth
Participants



103
Exchange
Groups



15%
Indigenous
Youth



11
Provinces &
Territories

These numbers represent **thousands of moments** of discovery, friendship, and personal growth experienced by young Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

LEADING WITH PURPOSE



Message from our CEO, Gail Bowkett

As Experiences Canada celebrates its 90th anniversary, I reflect with pride on nine decades of connecting young people and communities across our country. Since our founding, we have believed that bringing young Canadians together through shared experiences builds understanding, strengthens communities, and helps create a more united and inclusive nation.

Today, our youth exchanges, forums, and virtual learning opportunities give thousands of young people each year the chance to explore different cultures, languages, histories, and perspectives. At a time when social division, misinformation, and isolation can create barriers, our work has never been more important. These experiences inspire curiosity, confidence, leadership, and a deeper appreciation for Canada's diversity.

We are deeply grateful to the Department of Canadian Heritage for its longstanding support of youth engagement, cultural exchange, and national unity. Together, we proudly celebrate 90 years of creating connections and strengthening Canada.

“The 90th anniversary of Experiences Canada is taking place at a time where our mission has never been more important. We continue to support youth gaining new experiences through travel exchanges, building lifelong friendships and connections across Canada. Thank you to the thousands of volunteers - and especially Group Organizers - that help bring these experiences to life.”

Adam Young
Board Chair

PARTICIPANT VOICES



“To see our future leaders walk together, learn from one another, laugh together, and lead with pride made this experience deeply meaningful. These are the moments that create lasting impact, strengthen our nations, and remind us that **our cultures are alive, strong, and connected** from the Prairies to the Arctic.”

Jay-Cee Brass
Group Organizer of The Key First Nation, SK x Igloodik, NU exchange



“We just wanted to say thank you for this enriching opportunity which has truly given us a lifetime of friendship. We realized that we've now **known each other for 30 years!**”

Laura Charette
Alumni from 1994



“If someone told me a few months ago that I'd get the chance to ski in one of the prettiest places in the world, I wouldn't have believed them. **This adventure was an experience of a lifetime.**”

Sinead G.
Youth Participant of Gatineau, QC x Calgary, AB exchange

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Responsible stewardship and strong partnerships enable us to deliver meaningful experiences that inspire and connect young Canadians.

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026



85% of all funding was dedicated to the **Youth Exchange Program**



75k was invested into Special Measures Funding, which ensures participation from Indigenous youth, youth from low-income families, visible minority youth, and youth with disabilities

LOOKING AHEAD

For 90 years, we've brought young Canadians together to discover, learn, and connect. We're excited to continue that work and see you again for our 100th anniversary!



CREATE MORE CONNECTIONS

Continue bringing young Canadians together across communities and cultures.



REACH MORE CANADIAN YOUTH

Support accessible exchanges for youth from communities across Canada.



BUILD ON 90 YEARS OF IMPACT

Carry the lessons and connections of the past 90 years into the next generation.



THANK YOU

We extend a heartfelt thanks to our participants, educators, host families, partners, and staff. **Together, we are empowering youth for the future of Canada.**