



Our Story is of Solutions

5 Years of
System Change
Impact



ASHOKACANADA

2023 **Impact** Report



The world has seen profound changes in the past five years, exposing the cracks in our broken systems. Wars, wealth gaps, health crises, pandemics, and climate change are among the many challenges that have worsened existing disparities and made marginalized communities even more vulnerable.

Despite the scale of these issues, Ashoka Canada is actively responding, driving positive change to address these critical challenges.

Our story is of solutions, imagined by humble changemakers who see a better way forward towards building a more just and sustainable Canada.

Cover Photo Courtesy:
Ashoka Fellow Joel Heath, Founder Arctic Eider Society



Photo Courtesy: Ashoka Fellow Al Etmanski, PLAN

Welcome to our 2023 **Impact** Report

It is a reflection on our last five years of progress, a celebration of the partnerships that launched us on our new impact pathway, and a tribute to the inspiring network of Fellows and Changemakers whose work we commit to amplify every day.

We are excited by the opportunity to leverage our learning with our partners into even greater impact for the next five years. And we extend an invitation to new vision aligned partners to join and work alongside us in creating a better future for Canada.

We hope that you enjoy and learn from this report as much as we did from writing it. This is the story of the Ashoka Network, one of Canada's best kept secrets.

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Photo Courtesy: Ashoka Fellow Dr. Gilles Julien, Fondation Du Dr. Julien

PART ONE

Our Impact

The backdrop to our story

In 2018 we launched a 5-year campaign to accelerate the impact of the Ashoka network in Canada. Our network was comprised of 51 elected Fellows, 6 designated Changemaker Campuses and a small number of supportive partners committed to advancing our programs and initiatives. The network was structured in regional hubs that lacked an overarching national strategy and a communications plan.

During this time, the social innovation field was exploding. Through its pioneering efforts, Ashoka Global contributed to inspiring a worldwide changemaker movement connecting foundations, governments, and media to innovations that advance system change. In Canada, this growth was driven by investments from national organizations such as The McConnell Family Foundation, Social Innovation Generation, MaRs, The Tamarack Institute, and several post-secondary programs.

Advocacy by these organizations and others led the federal government to make a commitment of more than \$20 million to social innovation and social finance.

Ashoka Canada's 5-year plan was developed in response to a cross-country listening tour completed in 2018. The tour helped clarify the unique value of the Ashoka Canada network and potential areas to prioritize. This led to development of a focussed strategy and impact outcomes framework, a well-informed bilingual website and new broader vision for change. Key partnerships were aligned with the RBC Foundation, the Mirella and Lino Saputo Foundation, the Suncor Energy Foundation and other committed supporters who contributed more than \$5,000,000 required to bring our 5-year plan to life.

Our goal was to grow the impact of the network while better representing the diversity of Canada, with a special focus on supporting Indigenous Innovators and advancing reconciliation goals.

We are committed to improving equity and inclusion in our organization and across our programs.

By the end of 2023, Ashoka will have elected 72 Fellows, representing a 40% increase since 2018. The Fellowship now better represent Canada's geography, language, and culture, with over 40% bringing diverse perspectives and important lived experience from across the country.

And, we launched the Foundation Academy for Collaboration in response to the desire of foundation leaders to fund for greater impact through systems change. The Academy produced field building research, and triggered important new movement building initiatives.

As we reflect on our impact over the past 5 years, we see more clearly our unique contribution as a leading catalyst for social innovation systems change in Canada.



Photo Courtesy: Ashoka Fellow Elsie Amoako, Mommy Monitor

PART TWO

Research & Experiential Learning

Positioning Ashoka Canada for our next five years.

Fellows

Ashoka's 2021 global study confirms the impact that Fellows have on shifting systems.

- ◎ **64%** of Canadian Fellows have impacted public policy since their election
- ◎ **58%** of Canadian Fellows have shifted market systems since their election
- ◎ **95%** of Canadian Fellows have shifted societal mindsets and cultural norms
- ◎ **85%** of Fellows report that Ashoka Canada has helped them increase impact



Photo Courtesy: Ashoka Fellow Candice Lys, FOXY

Our Fellows are Driving Significant Impact

A glimpse into our Fellowship community:

Al Etmanski, one of Canada's first Fellows, plays a critical role in advocating for public policies supporting individuals with disabilities. He successfully lobbied for the adoption of the Canadian Registered Disability Savings Plan in 2008. He now co-leads the development of the Disability Without Poverty initiative, working to realize the world's first Disability Benefit program to address the disproportionately high poverty rates among Canadians with disabilities.

Mary Gordon, one of Canada's first Fellows, is the founder of Roots of Empathy. Her organization has reached over one million children globally through school-based programs which centre babies as teachers. The Roots of Empathy program reduces aggression, increases sharing, caring, and inclusion, and promotes resilience, well-being, and positive mental health.

Candice Lys was elected in 2018 as our first Fellow from The Northwest Territories. As founder of FOXY, Candice brokered a formal partnership with the Department of Education in the Northwest Territories to secure official accreditation of these programs so that youth can receive high school credits for completing leadership training. Candice wants to see FOXY adopted as the gold standard for sexual education among all genders, cultures, and locations.

Ashoka Canada Fellows are fighting poverty, promoting inclusion, and building healthier and more sustainable systems to make Canada a more resilient country. The Ashoka Fellow network represents one of our country's largest coordinated responses of social innovators.

Changemaker Education Preparing Young People to Build a Better Canada.

Ashoka Canada and Ashoka U are committed to preparing young people to build a better Canada by fostering a community of Changemaker Campuses. In just five years, this program has grown significantly, with seven designated campuses, over 30 campuses engaged through events and outreach, and with many more reached through publications. As a result, more campuses are integrating social innovation and entrepreneurship into their operations and approach to meet the needs of students and society. Over 250,000 students have been reached, and 50,000 have been engaged in developing changemaker education skills. Our research indicates that 60% of students from Changemaker Campuses feel better prepared for the future and have a greater understanding and appreciation for social entrepreneurship.

Changemaker Education is transformative because it builds students' capacity to create positive and purposeful social change. Through civic engagement, social innovation, and social entrepreneurship, students develop and hone essential skills such as empathy, teamwork, collaboration, leadership, and creative problem-solving. This educational framework prepares students to be effective changemakers who can create meaningful impact in their communities and beyond.



Photo Courtesy: Georgian College Change Campus

Social innovation is more than just an educational framework; it is also a strategy for institutional change. By embracing social innovation, colleges and universities become more adaptive, innovative, resilient, and relevant. This approach equips students with 21st-century skills, mindsets, and experiences, enabling them to become practical visionaries who can imagine new ways of being and collaborate with others to bring their ideas to life.

Through the Changemaker Campus network, Ashoka U is empowering students to solve social challenges and make a positive impact on society.



Photo Courtesy: Ashoka Fellow Jeff Cyr, Raven Indigenous Capital Partners

Building Trust & Shifting Power: Collaborating for Impact

To achieve meaningful systems change, it's critical to prioritize building trust with communities and shift the power balance.

Ashoka Canada's Foundation Academy for Collaboration is a peer-to-peer action learning space that brings together high impact social change leaders, philanthropists, and community organizers alike, to listen to each other, learn together and collaborate on our country's most intractable challenges.

Philanthropic foundation leaders from across Canada convene in a variety of learning experiences with Fellows and youth innovators to explore ways to become stronger allies for systems change. The gatherings focus on exploring partnership-based philanthropy and emerging possibilities to support systems change.

From these facilitated engagements, a clear and powerful opportunity has emerged to improve the impact of foundation leadership. Ashoka Canada's Foundation Academy for Collaboration envisions supporting and empowering underserved citizens to determine their own needs, identify solutions, and allocate resources, while experimenting with new ways to leverage Fellow insights for greater impact.

"The Foundation Academy for Collaboration has opened up a unique space for Foundation Leaders to learn from and with Ashoka Fellows about how to make change on some of our most urgent social challenges."

Claude Pinard, President and Executive Director at Centraide of Greater Montréal

System Catalyst – Leading to Advance Social Innovation in Canada

Over the past five years, Ashoka Canada has played four interconnected roles as a field catalyst to amplify systems change efforts.

First, Ashoka has a deep understanding of the field of social innovation and has built relationships with the majority of Canada's leading social innovators. We work deliberately to engage, connect, and support system actors.

Second, Ashoka strengthens the capacity of social innovation initiatives by convening social innovators to learn together. We identify core knowledge areas relevant to Ashoka Fellows, conduct research, and provide learning opportunities to advance innovation. More importantly, Ashoka links social innovators to support and mentor each other.

Third, Ashoka makes the work of social innovation initiatives more visible, coherent, and robust by promoting the work of social innovation in general and specifically the work of Ashoka Fellows. Our network represents one of Canada's largest coordinated responses of social innovators to meet the current challenges.

Fourth, Ashoka nudges systems to change by helping individual social innovation initiatives move beyond the incremental improvements of traditional approaches. We commit to solutions that challenge existing paradigms and generate significant impact.

As a field catalyst, Ashoka Canada has the capability to recognize and seize opportunities to advance systems change, spot promising people and strategies as they emerge, help translate strategies into practical actions that can be disseminated, and convene system players to build and maintain the commitment to action over several years.



“Being elected an Ashoka Fellow is a life-changing experience. I’m grateful for the immense support Ashoka Canada’s community of Fellows, team members, and supporters have provided on my journey growing Tamarack Institute. It’s humbling, it’s inspiring, and it’s deeply connecting experience.”

Ashoka Fellow [Paul Born](#), Co-Founder Tamarack Institute



PART THREE

From Milestones to Goals

Charting our Next 5 Years

Over the past two decades, Ashoka Canada has developed a specialized skill in identifying and selecting the most impactful social entrepreneurs (Ashoka Fellows) to tackle Canada's most pressing challenges. We have extended this expertise to support young changemakers through Changemaker Education, equipping them with the skills and experiences required to become leaders of social change in Canada. As a result, we have also honed a core skill in field building, utilizing the Ashoka network across Canada and globally to drive systems change and build capacity to accelerate it. We envision this as a key area of focus for our next five-year plan.

These three core skills are important because they de-risk investment in Social Entrepreneurs. Ashoka excels at identifying and inviting individuals with promising ideas to leverage Ashoka's valuable resources to dramatically increase their success. We have built a system of support that increases the probability that social innovation and social entrepreneurs will flourish when supported by our high impact, welcoming and caring peer network.

The next five years will be crucial
for Canada's social and environmental systems.

We urgently need our community's social innovation ideas and impact to spread quickly. And we must continue to identify and support social entrepreneurs with high-impact solutions. By reflecting on the past five years, we have identified what we believe to be the most promising areas of focus. We welcome your input. We invite you to help us discern if these are the ideas we should focus on in the next 5 years.

- 1. Grow the Ashoka Fellow network and deepen connections.** There are numerous avenues available to assist Fellows in making an even greater impact and driving systemic change. This includes providing greater financial support at the start-up, growth, and scaling phases of their innovations. We recognize a distinctive opportunity to bring social innovators together around specific challenges or opportunities, enabling them to collaborate and develop unique solutions to Canada's most pressing issues. By connecting key social innovators with governments and foundations, we can enhance investment strategies and formulate ideas that have the potential to make a significant impact. Ashoka Canada has already tested innovative methods for bridging social innovators with system leaders, and we are committed to strengthening this skill over the next 5 years.

2. **Tip the post-secondary sector towards Changemaking.** Over the past 5 years, Ashoka Canada has grown the number of Ashoka Changemaker Campuses from 6 to 7, gaining valuable insights on how to select and support universities to increase their impact. We have responded to increasing demand for Changemaker Campus designation, with universities and colleges eager to join the program. The growing interest of young people in social innovation presents a remarkable opportunity for us to expand the Changemaker Campus network and empower thousands of graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to create meaningful social change. In the next 5 years, Ashoka Canada aims to lead this effort and develop new programming that will enhance the capacity of Changemaker Campuses to prepare young leaders for the field of social innovation.
3. **Expand the Ashoka Foundation Academy for Collaboration.** Working directly with Foundation leaders and other funders to advance systems change holds great promise. By connecting the aspirations and expertise of foundations with those of social innovators, we can work together towards greater impact. With a desire to accelerate positive change, and to experiment with new ways to surface Fellow insights, Ashoka's experiential learning experience allowed the Academy members to identify and prioritize a set of strategic "shifts" in the landscape where they could have the greatest impact. We are convinced that we want to do more of this work in the next 5 years.
4. **Continue to diversify the Ashoka Canada network.** Our commitment to diversify the Ashoka network, strengthen participation of underrepresented communities, and expand to new geographies has been a driving force of our work in the past 5 years. We made important commitments to Indigenous Elders and leaders from across the country during a learning circle shortly after the launch of our strategy. Centering equity, diversity, and inclusion in our practices has required connecting with our communities, committing to deep learning, and taking meaningful action. We aim to embed diversity, equity and inclusion across all that we do at Ashoka Canada and this will remain a top priority for us over the next five years and beyond.
5. **Contribute to the Social Innovation field.** Ashoka is Canada's only national network of organizations that are advancing social and environmental systems change. To do this well, we must be able to recognize opportunities to advance systems change, spot promising strategies as they emerge, translate these strategies into actionable plans and bring together the system players needed to collaborate for long-term high impact change. These are emerging skills for us. We are excited to continue our work to advance the field, and truly leverage the Ashoka network for maximum positive change over the next 5 years.

The Ashoka Canada story is one of solutions, developed over decades of searching, selecting and supporting our country's highest impact Social Entrepreneurs.

Together we represent Canada's largest coordinated responses to solve our most urgent challenges. This report is intended to start a conversation about how we can focus our efforts over the next 5 years to achieve the greatest impact. We invite your ideas as we envision building a better Canada together.

Our Fellows

Transforming
Communities,
Revitalizing Canada

Meet a selection of our 74 Fellows



“Intersectoral action to address the policy gaps is key to eradicating economic abuse and supporting women’s financial recovery and empowerment.”

Meseret Haileyesus

FOUNDER OF CANADIAN CENTRE FOR WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

A decade ago, Meseret, an Ethiopian midwife, moved to Canada with her former spouse. After the birth of her child, she left her abusive husband but continued to be burdened by his massive credit card debt.

Adding to her already immense struggles, Meseret’s bank revealed her location to her ex-spouse leading to a heartbreaking forced separation from her child. When she attempted to access social support, her ex-husband’s assets made her ineligible.

Refusing to let the insidious impact of economic abuse control her and others, Meseret is catalyzing a seismic shift in the way society thinks about and addresses economic abuse, providing hope for survivors.

The Challenge

95% of domestic violence survivors suffer economic abuse, yet it’s rarely reported. This includes sabotaging jobs, withholding money, and denying basic necessities. Even after leaving, ruined credit, mental health, and homelessness make economic safety a challenge.

The Solution

Meseret leads the Canadian Centre for Women’s Empowerment, uniting stakeholders and victims’ experiences to build a safety net against economic abuse. She works across silos to eradicate economic injustice, from bank managers to landlords. She is successfully advocating for policy change empowering women’s financial recovery.

The Impact

- ⦿ Established November 26 as Canadian Economic Injustice Awareness Day – recognized in 31 cities across Canada
- ⦿ Successfully advocated for economic abuse to be included in Canada’s National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence
- ⦿ Developed and led financial literacy workshops in women’s shelters across Canada
- ⦿ Developed Canada’s first Economic Abuse Screening Tool for banks, shelters, lawyers, and healthcare providers

[VIEW PROFILE](#)



“My call to foundations is, you need to match your charitable purposes with your investing strategy.”

Jeff Cyr

CO-FOUNDER RAVEN INDIGENOUS CAPITAL PARTNERS

Born and raised Métis, from the White Horse Plains area of Southern Manitoba, Jeff draws inspiration from his community's resilience and creativity. Living in Germany and India as a youth expanded his understanding of social innovation in addressing chronic poverty. He is committed to challenging social norms and systems to drive positive change.

The Challenge

Indigenous entrepreneurs and communities face systemic exclusion from building equity and accessing venture capital, which perpetuates poverty. Discriminatory policies treat indigenous communities as “wards of the state” rather than full economic citizens. For example, reserve land cannot be used for collateral, making loans difficult to obtain. Lack of nearby banks hinders credit ratings and financing. These barriers pose significant challenges for Indigenous economic development resulting in forced dependency.

The Solution

Raven Partners' Indigenous Impact Fund, the world's first of its kind, connects Indigenous businesses with investors and provides crucial funding and support. Raven's innovative model empowers communities to prioritize their development goals and pursue Indigenous-led solutions, using the outcome purchasing approach to shift power dynamics from dependency to self-determination. They also help communities leverage the federal government's “pay-for-performance” policy that rewards organizations that achieve desired social and environmental outcomes.

The Impact

- ⦿ Initial Indigenous Impact Fund raised \$25M (Closed 2021)
- ⦿ Second Indigenous Impact Fund raised \$100M (Closed January 2023)
- ⦿ Fund I and Fund II have thus far secured 17 investments to 13 Indigenous social enterprises
- ⦿ Soon to be launching a first of its kind \$50M Indigenous Outcomes Fund
- ⦿ Raven's novel community-driven outcomes contracts directly work with 12 Indigenous communities

[VIEW PROFILE](#)



“This is about normalizing culturally safe and accessible maternal care and creating a positive impact in the lives of Black women and birthing persons globally.”

Elsie Amoako

FOUNDER OF MOMMY MONITOR

Elsie’s understanding of racialized healthcare first took shape in Grade 11 during a trip to Ghana with her family. A relative with sickle cell disease contracted malaria, which compounded the devastating impact of this inherited genetic disorder compromising the health of Black communities. This experience informed Elsie’s system lens on racialized health challenges in Canada. She observed that while other communities with race-specific healthcare issues had support networks, resources, and infrastructure, Black communities did not.

The Challenge

Maternal health disparities have a devastating impact on African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) women and birthing persons in Canada. Colonialism and systemic racism shape a birth system that is often unsafe for ACB parents-to-be, resulting in maternal health outcomes up to four times worse than white populations. This is compounded by Canada’s lack of adequate data for best practices and policies to support ACB moms and birthing people.

The Solution

Mommy Monitor links Black birthing individuals with culturally safe care providers, including midwives, doulas, and pelvic floor therapists of colour. Elsie’s partnerships and funding expand access for low-income Black parents, increasing demand for Black birth professionals and incentivizing more to join the maternal healthcare workforce. Mommy Monitor also offers birth justice workshops to educate Black parents on their rights and navigating the healthcare system.

The Impact

- ◉ Developing certified, university-accredited, social-competency birth curriculum for new and existing birth professionals
- ◉ Delivery of an annual national Racialized Maternal Health Conference integrating racialized care into provincial and federal health policy, culminating in Canada’s first Black Maternal Health Caucus
- ◉ Addressing the dearth of race-based data on pregnancy and birth outcomes in Canada
- ◉ Building the credibility necessary to ethically collect data from the communities it engages, to create effective policies and programs to support Black maternal health

[VIEW PROFILE](#)



“Younger Inuit are uniquely positioned to work within the contexts of both cutting-edge technologies and their Elders’ language, stories and knowledge systems.”

Joel Heath

CO-FOUNDER OF SIKU: THE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SOCIAL NETWORK, WITH ARCTIC EIDER SOCIETY COLLEAGUES

Joel is a scientist, filmmaker, and social entrepreneur. Originally from Newfoundland, Joel has been committed to the environment from a young age. During his doctoral thesis, he relocated to the small Inuit community of Sanikiluaq to research the rising eider duck mortality rates. This led to his award winning documentary [People of a Feather](#). For twenty years, Joel has combined his ecological expertise with Inuit knowledge, acting as a translator between different knowledge systems and building bridges.

The Challenge

Climate change is shifting Inuit culture and livelihood. Vanishing sea ice and unpredictable conditions affect travel safety requiring new ways to adapt and share knowledge that was traditionally transferred through oral history. Despite being the most affected by climate change, the Inuit are often excluded from research and environmental stewardship efforts in the Arctic, which prioritize Eurocentric knowledge and methods.

The Solution

Joel Heath and his colleagues at the Arctic Eider Society developed SIKU, an Indigenous Knowledge Social Network that leverages traditional knowledge and environmental terminology to empower Indigenous-led solutions and mitigate the effects of climate change in the North. This initiative offers new opportunities for local conservation economies that prioritize Inuit self-determination.

The Impact & Milestones

- ⦿ The SIKU application is utilized by over half of the 51 Inuit communities in the region and has been involved in numerous research collaborations engaging thousands of people across the Canadian Arctic
- ⦿ Develop functionality for travel safety, climate-change monitoring and gender equity in environmental stewardship and Inuit self-determination
- ⦿ Expand globally to other Indigenous circumpolar communities

[VIEW PROFILE](#)

A photograph of three young adults sitting on the grass outdoors. On the left, a young man with glasses and a red hoodie is looking at a laptop. In the center, a young woman with long dark curly hair is smiling and looking at a notebook. On the right, a young man with short dark hair and an orange fuzzy jacket is smiling and looking at a notebook. They are all engaged in their work and appear to be in a collaborative environment.

Our Ashoka Canada Changemaker Campuses

Enabling Canada's
young changemakers
to thrive

Canadian post-secondary institutions prioritize changemaking knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience to empower the transformational leaders our world is seeking.



Georgian is the first — and only — Canadian college designated as a Changemaker Campus by Ashoka U. As Ontario's top-ranked co-op college and a recognized leader in student work experience, we are leaders in social innovation and changemaking in post-secondary education and have one of the highest graduate employment rates among Ontario colleges. Today's economy demands new kinds of knowledge, competencies and skills. We ensure that all our students — both domestic and international — are prepared for the global realities of the workplace, now and in the future. **Changemaker Campus Designation 2017**



Kevin Weaver
PRESIDENT AND CEO

"Changemaking has always been part of Georgian's DNA. It's evident in the myriad ways our students and employees make an impact, whether through volunteering, solving complex challenges with community and industry partners, tackling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or furthering our commitments to Truth and Reconciliation. Together, we're fostering a place where everyone's contributions, ideas and voice matters – and that sense of belonging is what will truly help to make our world a better place."



HEC Montréal drives social innovation and changemaking through vehicles like IDEOS (our social entrepreneurship hub); management programs in social innovation, sustainable development and creativity; and our international academic competition on social entrepreneurship. We are committed to creating the generation of business leaders who understand themselves as social entrepreneurs, and for whom the bottom line is defined by creating a better world. **Changemaker Campus Designation 2019**



Federico Pasin
DIRECTOR

"In 2019, HEC Montréal became the first francophone Changemaker Campus. As the new Director, I am proud of that designation and I will make sure that our goals and strategic objectives will be aligned with the Ashoka philosophy. Our ambition is to place changemaking, social innovation and sustainable development at the forefront of our achievements. Our partnership with Ashoka U and Ashoka Canada is a major driver to achieve this objective and to prepare our future managers to become engaged in building a better world."



At Laurier, student success is measured by quality of life, meaningful purpose and positive change. For four straight years, Laurier has been ranked number one for student satisfaction by Maclean's magazine. We bring classroom teaching into the outside world through hands-on, experiential learning opportunities like Community Service-Learning and our C3 Innovation Labs, and support social impact entrepreneurship through our LaunchPad accelerator. **Changemaker Campus Designation 2016**



Deborah MacLatchy
PRESIDENT & VICE
CHANCELLOR

"The guiding principle of Wilfrid Laurier University is to deliver academic excellence and experiential learning that inspires lives of leadership and purpose. This approach aligns perfectly with Ashoka Canada's commitment to cultivating a community of change leaders. Laurier builds thriving communities by graduating students committed to this mission."



Calgary's Mount Royal University has a history built upon a strong liberal education and a connection to community. Our designation as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus speaks to that foundation and reflects our continued commitment to positively shape our increasingly interconnected society. We are dedicated to Indigenous reconciliation, exceptional undergraduate experiences, socially and environmentally conscious operations, and to advancing postsecondary institutions in creating and sustaining a better world for everyone. **Changemaker Campus Designation 2017**



Tim Rahilly
PRESIDENT

"Mount Royal University's Ashoka U designation reinforces our commitment to changemaking, student community service, experiential learning and Indigenization, and sheds light on the way forward. Being part of the Ashoka Canada network fosters an open, engaged environment in which our students, staff and faculty have the freedom to innovate."



Royal Roads UNIVERSITY

At Royal Roads University, changemaking is part of our DNA. Changemaking and social innovation at Royal Roads begin with our holistic, student-centred approach to flexible admissions. It is inscribed in our university-wide learning and teaching model, and in our groundbreaking blended learning and digital delivery systems. Our applied research responds to global, national, and community-based problems. Changemaking extends through our culture of mentorship and collaboration to create opportunities for students not only to learn, but to contribute with purpose and impact. **Changemaker Campus Designation 2017**



Philip Steenkamp
PRESIDENT

"Our involvement in the Ashoka network has brought changemakers at Royal Roads closer together in inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration, and has also attracted changemaking students and community members to us. We are particularly excited about our work with other changemakers throughout the Canadian and global Ashoka network, both within and beyond the Canadian landscape."



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SFU is home to transformational leaders and changemakers who challenge the status quo and seek to contribute positively to our ever-changing and complex world. As an institution, we are committed to being leaders in meaningful engagement, which we define as the dynamic integration of education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU's faculty and staff have created some of the most ambitious experiential education programs in Canada. And our changemaking spirit extends beyond our academic, research and community engagement to our operational functions. SFU is a Fair Trade Campus and a member of the B.C. Collaborative for Social Infrastructure. **Changemaker Campus Designation 2017**



Dr. Joy Johnson
PRESIDENT & VICE-
CHANCELLOR

"Simon Fraser University is honoured to be an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus. Being part of the dynamic Ashoka network and learning community dovetails with our mission to be Canada's most community-engaged research university, and has helped us enhance our social innovation and changemaking capacities. We are especially proud that our student teams have topped Oxford's 'Map the System' global challenge twice in the past three years."

As the comprehensive innovation university, Toronto Metropolitan University (formally Ryerson University) was designated Canada's first Changemaker Campus in 2013. Being innovative is true to who we are, a community that embraces unconventional, creative thinking and approaches to learning, teaching, scholarly research, and creative activities, and day-to-day operations. The university's social innovation and social entrepreneurship initiatives are led by the Office of Social Innovation and Social Ventures Zone. **Changemaker Campus Designation 2013**



**Mohamed
Lachemi**

PRESIDENT AND VICE-
CHANCELLOR

"As a downtown campus, Toronto Metropolitan University has the rare privilege of being a part of, and supporting, a wide array of social partnerships and initiatives. Commitment to innovation, including social innovation, is a part of who we are as a university and through our partnerships with Ashoka, we aim to create transformative solutions to challenge complex local and global social issues through teaching, learning and research."

Ashoka Canada is built for this moment

Our network has shown over the past five years that we have the vision to create a more equitable society — and the rigour, passion and strategic determination to continue to make this a reality for the next five years.

We look forward to hearing from you on the ideas shared in this report.



Reference List

This collection showcases a range of innovative research, strategies, and **solutions** inspiring & informing our Ashoka Canada Network

Fellow Impact

Ashoka Canada's commitment to developing and applying impact research over the past 5 years has resulted in a deep understanding of our strengths and challenges, enabling our network to drive resilient social change in a more effective and sustainable way.

- ⦿ [Meet our Canadian Fellows \(2023\)](#)
- ⦿ [The Unlonely Planet \(2022\)](#)
- ⦿ [Leading Social Entrepreneurs \(2022\)](#)
- ⦿ [Ashoka Canada Fellow Research \(2018\)](#)

Changemaker Education Impact

In pursuit of our 'Everyone a changemaker' vision, Ashoka Canada has formed partnerships with post-secondary institutions to embed the culture and skills of changing making into their curriculum, preparing students for success in an ever-changing world. Here is a selection of publications that inspire and guide our program.

- ⦿ [Evaluating Changemaker Education: A Practitioner's Guide \(2019\)](#)
- ⦿ [Preparing Students For a Rapidly Changing World \(2019\)](#)
- ⦿ [Becoming a Changemaker Institution \(2020\)](#)

Foundation Academy for Collaboration Research

Ashoka Canada's experiential learning Academy brings together philanthropic leaders, experts, and Fellows to discuss and strategize on the root causes of thematic social issues. These research reports highlights the program's impact on Canada's philanthropic sector and on the larger ecosystem of change. By examining the lessons learned from this unique program, we can gain insights into how future collaborative efforts can create meaningful and trusted connections and advance systemic change.

- ⦿ [Mobilizing Philanthropy for a Transformative COVID Recovery \(2020\)](#)
- ⦿ [Youth Allyship \(2023\)](#)
- ⦿ [Scaling Deep \(2023\)](#)

We are deeply grateful for the support and encouragement provided by our partners over the past five years. It is an honour to have worked alongside you in creating the lasting change highlighted in this report.

Barb

Barb Steele, Executive Director, Ashoka Canada



SPECIAL THANKS:



SUNCOR

SUNCOR
ENERGY
FOUNDATION



ASHOKA CANADA

www.ashokacanada.org