



## THE ROTARY TOM JACKSON STAY IN SCHOOL PROGRAM



(Photo Credit: Skills Ontario, [www.skillsontario.com](http://www.skillsontario.com))



(Photo Credit: YWCA Vancouver, <https://ywca.org>)

## WHO WE ARE

The Rotary Tom Jackson Stay in School Program (RTJSIS) provides mentors and financial support for vulnerable Indigenous youth to keep them motivated in life and to continue their education to graduate high school and beyond.

8

Years of history

## OUR HISTORY

The initiative began in 2010 with discussions between Rotarians, United Way, other non-profit service providers and Indigenous leaders. Tom Jackson has been involved in these meetings from the beginning and lent his influential name to the initiative.

The RTJSIS Program was launched at the Rotary District 5360 Conference in 2011 with a speaker series including Awareness of the Issue (Marie Delorme -past United Way 2010 Campaign Co-Chair), The Business Case for Investing in Education (Blaine Favel – President and CEO One Earth Resources Inc), History and Awareness (Tom Jackson) and How the Story affects each one of Us (Rob Cardinal – the life of....and where he is today). Their presentations were educational and very powerful.

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Students

## THE NEED

The Alberta School Board Association published a report in 2011 addressing the achievement gap of Indigenous students in Alberta. The report highlights the dropout rate for Indigenous students (11.2%) is more than twice as high as the rate for students overall (4.3%). The report emphasizes the vital need for this achievement gap to be addressed.

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Mentors

## OUR MISSION

To positively impact urban Indigenous children's high school graduation rates through mentoring, tutoring and general support; We aim to provide opportunities for indigenous youth that are equivalent to the rest of our community to encourage equivalent outcomes.

## OUR PROCESS

Partner schools identify Indigenous students who would benefit from the RTJSIS Program

A meeting is held with the RTJSIS Chair, mentors, teachers and family. A 'Needs Assessment' is completed and the student is matched with a co-mentor team

The RTJSIS Program and co-mentors work with students to keep them motivated in life and in school



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*"Mentoring at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter." (The National Mentoring Partnership)*

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## Our Milestones

- ❖ 3 Partner Schools in Calgary (West Dover, Ian Bazalgette and Valley View)
- ❖ All students in the Program since 2010 are still in school and engaged with their mentors
- ❖ Strong funding base built with support from The Rotary Club of Calgary, Art Talks, Calgary Foundation and private donors
- ❖ Recognized as a unique program addressing a vital need in the community by partners such as United Way, Boys & Girls Club, YMCA, Duke of Edinburgh and Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ❖ Partnered with TELUS Spark Community Connections Program
- ❖ Partnered with Alberta's Promise



## OUR COMMITMENT

We never give up! Even if students walk away for awhile, our door always remains open ready to connect again.

Our co-mentor teams are carefully matched, training is provided and direct support is available 7 days a week.

Many community resources are available and the co-mentor teams are empowered with the knowledge of how to access them for our students.

## OUR IMPACT

The RTJSIS Program highly values the mentor/student relationship and the mutual benefit that comes from it. Mentoring positively impacts youth through personal growth and development as well as social and economic opportunity. Mentors also grow through the relationship, as they learn more about themselves, gain a deeper understanding of other cultures, and feel that they are making a difference.

*"Mentorship provides a unique opportunity for growth of all those involved. The RTJSIS program harnesses this, and magnifies it. The relationship my mentee and I have will only become stronger, and coupled with the resources available, will bring her to greater heights."*  
(RTJSIS Mentor)

*"Every year I am more interested, committed and thankful for the support from the Tom Jackson Stay in School Program. Next year I hope to improve my studies, learn better study skills, make lots of new friends and have a lot of fun. Thank you for everything you do."*  
(RTJSIS Student)

## OUR ART TALKS SUPPORTERS

We are very proud of and grateful for our partnership with ArtTalks. ArtTalks is a series of art-focused events intended to heighten interest in and knowledge about art in its many forms with the underlying purpose of raising money to support the educational success of Calgary's Indigenous students.

Since 2014, the ArtTalks group have contributed \$77,724, matched by Calgary Foundation to combine to **\$130,942!**

## OUR GOALS FOR GROWTH

Add 8 new students per year

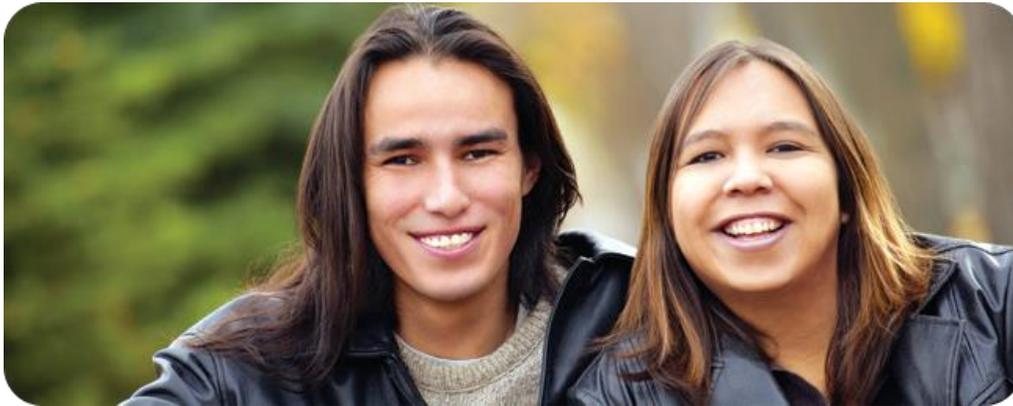
Build funding support from existing and new donors

Build on partnerships with Enough for All, Calgary Foundation, YMCA and other Rotary Clubs

Develop corporate partnerships for employee engagement and volunteer programs

Increase our student access to community resources

Add capacity for mentors through ongoing training and support



Thank you to our generous Sponsors & Donors

The Rotary Club of Calgary (SIS Golf Tournament)

Art Talks

The Calgary Foundation

Ashcor

TELUS

Individual Donors

Total funds raised

\$219,850

## PRACTICAL WAYS WE SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS

- ❖ Transit Passes
- ❖ Tutoring
- ❖ Computers
- ❖ Exam Preparation Courses
- ❖ School Supplies
- ❖ Participation in Liyika'kimaat Program\*
- ❖ Fees & Supplies for extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Summer Camps
- ❖ Event tickets from Kids Up Front
- ❖ Admission to TELUS Spark

\*The Liyika'kimaat Program is offered through the Boys and Girls Club and provides Indigenous youth, aged 12 - 21 years, an opportunity to reach their full potential through culturally relevant and leadership-specific components and activities. A key focus of the program is to encourage a youth's sense of belonging, identity and social inclusion from an Indigenous worldview. The program is set up as a "healing journey" to mediate the impact of intergenerational trauma through strong cultural content and participation. Youth attend regular weekly activities and the program runs from September – June.

## OUR VALUES

