Shaping Futures:
45 Years of Shad

The Lasting Impact of Shad: A Journey Through the Decades

Message from Tim Jackson, Shad Canada's President and CEO

For decades, Shad has been a catalyst for growth— empowering young Canadians to think differently, push boundaries, and create meaningful change. What began as a bold experiment has evolved into a thriving movement that has impacted over 24,000 lives, sparking innovation and inspiring leadership across the country.

The essence of Shad has always been about more than just STEM. It's about unlocking potential—challenging bright minds to think critically, act boldly, and embrace collaboration. Over the years, I've had the privilege of witnessing students not only solve problems but redefine what's possible, tackling challenges like sustainability, healthcare, and technology with a fresh perspective and unrelenting passion.

As we reflect on Shad's legacy, we see that its impact is not just measured in numbers but in the stories of youth who found their purpose and communities transformed by their contributions. This history is not just something to celebrate—it's a foundation upon which to build. Looking ahead, we are more committed than ever to expanding our reach, breaking down barriers, and equipping Canada's youth with the skills and confidence to shape the future. With the support of our dedicated team, mentors, donors, postsecondary partners and alumni, we will continue to grow, innovate, and empower the next generation. Here's to the future of Shad—and the limitless possibilities ahead.

Tim Jackson
Shad Canada's President and CEO

Message from Jennifer Stott, Shad Canada's Board Chair

The longevity of Shad is not just a testament to its ability to positively shape the lives of individual students, but a tribute to its transformative impact on Canada's youth, industries, and communities. Reflecting on Shad's remarkable journey, I am struck by the unwavering commitment of everyone who has contributed to its success: the passionate educators, the visionary founders, the generous donors, and most importantly, the talented students who have walked through Shad's doors.

As Chair of the Board, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how Shad transforms bright young minds into confident leaders and changemakers. The program's emphasis on experiential learning, inclusivity, and collaboration creates an environment where students not only excel academically but also grow as individuals ready to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

Our success, however, is not ours alone. It belongs to the communities we've impacted, the industries we've helped shape, and the countless lives touched by Shad's alumni. As we look back at our impact, we also renew our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion ensuring more opportunities for youth in underrepresented communities to participate in Shad's life-changing programs.

Looking ahead, I am excited for what's to come. Together, let's continue to nurture innovation, empower youth, and shape a future where Canada leads with creativity, compassion, and ingenuity.

Jennifer Stott
Shad Canada's Board Chair

Legacy

Shad's Legacy: 45 Years of Innovation, Impact, and Inspiration

Forty-five years ago, in the small community of Aurora, Ontario, an audacious idea took root: what if young Canadians could be empowered to think boldly, tackle real-world problems, and redefine what it means to lead? In 1980, STEM wasn't a buzzword, and hands-on learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math were scarce. Yet, Shad's founders saw beyond the classroom, envisioning a program where students didn't just learn about possibilities—they created them. Over time, this vision expanded as STEM evolved into STEAM, integrating the arts to foster creativity and innovation, reinforcing the idea that true problem-solving thrives at the intersection of disciplines.

Today, Shad thrives as a cornerstone of innovation, operating on 30 post-secondary campuses across Canada and inspiring over 24,000 alumni who are shaping industries, communities, and futures. From its earliest days as "Shad Valley" to its evolution as Shad Canada, this program has proven that learning isn't just about theories—it's about doing. Students dive into experiential projects, solve pressing challenges, and build resilience, all while connecting with peers and mentors who share their passion for making a difference.

Shad is a testament to what happens when imagination meets action. This report captures the stories, the outcomes, and the enduring impact that has inspired generations to ask: **What's possible?**
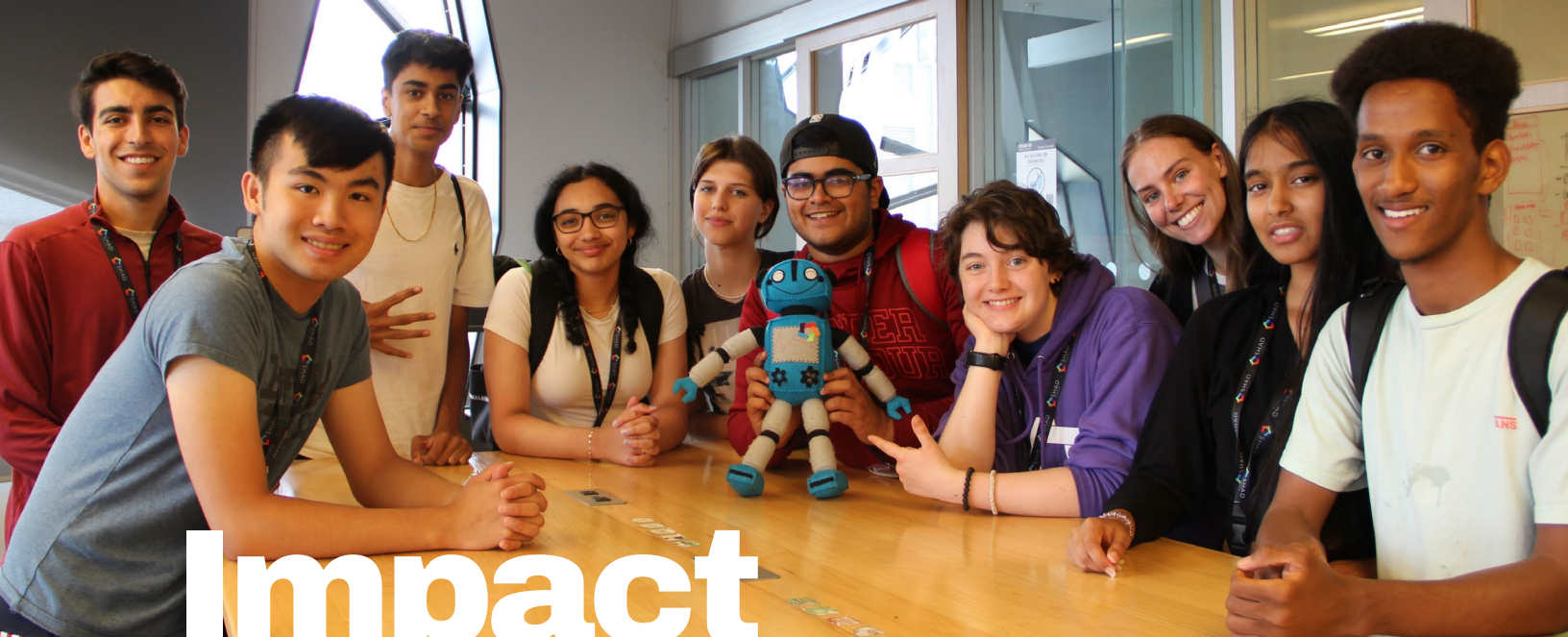
>24,000
alumni network

30 Campuses
across Canada

1800 students
engaged in immersive summer STEAM programming this year with plans to grow to 3,350 participants by 2030.

"RBC believes in the power of ideas to support people and planet. That's why we're focused on supporting important programs that help prepare the next generation with skills for a thriving future. With the right tools and resources, we can help them reach their full potential so they may contribute big ideas that strengthen our collective prosperity."

Andrea Barrack, Senior Vice President, Sustainability & Impact, RBC

Impact

Lasting Impact: Empowering Canada's Future Leaders

Shad has been igniting the potential of Canada's brightest young minds, empowering them to meaningfully lead and innovate for more than four decades. With over 24,000 alumni to date, the program's impact speaks for itself—93% of students surveyed rave about their experience and would recommend it to others. Every year, Shad brings together extraordinary grade 10 and 11 students from across the country, reflecting the diversity of perspectives, interests and strengths of youth from across Canada. The competitive selection process means that cohorts are filled with curious, driven, and creative thinkers ready to make their mark in fields like technology, medicine, education, and clean energy.

Shad alumni don't just excel—they thrive. Equipped with critical skills like problem-solving, effective communication, and leadership, these changemakers pursue careers and post-secondary paths that shape industries and communities. An impressive 91% of participants say Shad improved their critical thinking, and 90% report feeling more confident in their ability to collaborate and communicate. Even during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Shad's online programs stood out as engaging and impactful, proving its adaptability and unwavering commitment to excellence.

What truly sets Shad apart is its emphasis on community and collaboration. Students dive into design projects and activities that bring diverse perspectives together, fostering a culture of inclusion and mutual respect. These experiences create lasting bonds and prepare participants to tackle real-world challenges with creativity and confidence. By uniting young leaders from coast to coast, Shad strengthens Canada's social and economic fabric, ensuring that the next generation is equipped to drive progress, innovation, and positive change. Through these deep connections, Shad alumni continue to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and forward-thinking nation.

Shad Alumni go on to earn prestigious awards and scholarships

41
alumni named
Rhodes Scholars

129
alumni named
Schulich Leaders

115
alumni named
Loran Scholars

41
alumni selected
as TD Scholars for
Community Leadership

5
alumni held positions on the Prime
Ministers Youth Council

The Value of a Shad Summer: An Investment in Your Child's Growth

When we asked families why they chose Shad, their answers were clear: it's a program that ignites curiosity, builds confidence, and offers an unmatched experience for young Canadians eager to discover their potential. More than just a summer program, Shad is a transformational journey—one that empowers students with the skills, connections, and mindset to thrive in school, their careers, and beyond.

1. Preparation for Post-Secondary and Careers

Shad is the perfect stepping stone, giving youth a taste of post-secondary life, the independence to grow, and the clarity to make confident decisions about future academic and career paths.

2. Hands-On, Holistic Learning

Students dive into hands-on activities led by industry experts, Indigenous Elders/Knowledge Keepers, professors, and researchers in science, technology, arts, engineering, and math.

3. Immersive exploration

As an immersive journey, students tackle real-world challenges, blend creativity with problem-solving, and discover their unique potential in a supportive environment. It's where curiosity meets confidence and dreams become action. Shad's programming is intentionally designed to reflect the diversity of its participants by having voices meaningfully represented in the experiences, stories, and perspectives woven into the program.

4. Building Community and Lifelong Connections

Shad creates an unparalleled sense of community. Students connect with like-minded peers from across the country, forming friendships, networks, and a shared sense of purpose that lasts far beyond the program.

5. Reputation and Proven Impact

With a legacy of 45 years and countless success stories, Shad is trusted to deliver a life-changing experience that builds confidence, leadership skills, and a problem-solving mindset that sets students apart.

Why families choose Shad

83%
of parents believed that attending Shad had influenced their child's post-secondary pathway

88%
of parents believed that attending Shad was valuable for their children

What Shad participants say about our programs

2024 Survey Results

97%
of participants said **they would recommend the Shad program to others**

93%
of participants said **Shad increased my readiness for post-secondary**

96%
of participants said **Shad helped them connect with their peers**

91%
of participants said **Shad helped me to think critically**

90%
of participants said **Shad helped them to see themselves as a changemaker**

90%
of participants said **Shad helped them think like an entrepreneur**

What our students are saying

Shad helps students make valuable connections

"I went into Shad so excited to get to work, it just seemed like something suited for me; it was interdisciplinary and involved a group of students who shared my interests. I met some of my best friends at Shad, connections I will have for life. I just can't say enough good things about the network of amazing people from the program."

Luke McCarvill, Prince Edward Island

"The friendships and connections you form through Shad is something that just doesn't compare to other programs I have done. You become a member of a national network of amazing people. The program teaches you a lot about STEAM and enriching yourself with science, but it also teaches you the interpersonal aspects of building your own community and having a network of people across Canada who you're able to connect with."

Katherine Dibbons, Newfoundland and Labrador

Shad helps prepare students for post-secondary

"Shad taught me about all the opportunities available if you just look for them. It was just mind blowing to see how many programs exist that I didn't know about but would love to try."

Noah Cappelle, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan

"Shad is great because you get to meet all these amazing people while living out this awesome opportunity to experience life on campus and go to classes and meet different professors to see what you're interested in studying."

Brooklyn Ouellette, Métis Nation of Alberta

Shad as a transformational program

"It's a very special setting at Shad, where everyone is collaborating and working towards common goals, which was very inspiring to me. It helped me to appreciate what can happen when people come together with a common resolve to create solutions to big issues."

Armand Lupien, Québec

Community

Shad and Inclusivity: Embracing Diversity, Empowering Minds

At Shad, community is the foundation of everything we do. We believe exceptional young minds exist everywhere, and it's our mission to discover and empower them. And we do.

Shad brings together students from across Canada, blending rural and urban perspectives, diverse backgrounds, and unique life experiences. Each campus is a space filled with diverse ideas and perspectives challenging youth to embrace and learn from others while exploring different ways of thinking. These powerful connections foster collaboration, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging that extends far beyond the program, and inspires youth to grow into thoughtful leaders.

We are purposeful in reaching youth in underrepresented communities, including Black, Indigenous, 2SLGBTQI+ communities, and students with disabilities, ensuring that every voice and perspective is valued.

Shad partners with Pathways to Education, Black Boys Code, and other STEAM organizations serving youth, as well as collaborates with educators and guidance counselors to reach students from all corners of Canada. With over $5 million in annual bursaries and scholarships funded by generous donors, financial barriers are dismantled, giving talented young Canadians the chance to pursue their goals and meet their potential.

"Our school is an isolated, northern Indigenous school and opportunities to meet with and work with students of like interests are not readily available. At Shad, our students were able to build their self-confidence and feel like they belonged. The chance to see new places and have new experiences was invaluable. It was also an opportunity for the other Shad participants to interact with a First Nations person and to learn from them."

Barbara Traxe, Former principal at Hector Thiboutot Community

Kento
Shad alum
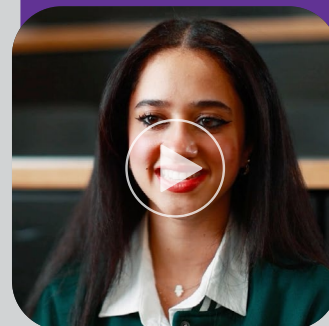Western University student with dreams to be in the medical field

Scan QR codes to watch their stories

Insaf
Shad alum
University of Waterloo student, dreams to open her own tech company

Student
Success Story

Raina Garland
Métis
Shad2024 alum
from Winnipeg, MB
Recipient of Shad's Entrance Scholarship for Indigenous Students

In the summer of 2024, Raina attended Shad's live-in program at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta. Entering the program as a grade 11 student, she embraced the opportunity to explore her interests in STEAM.

Reflecting on her Shad experience, Raina shared that it taught her the importance of authenticity and openness to new experiences. "Normally I try to change my personality to fit others around me, but at Shad I realized that acting like myself will connect me with great people," she said. This realization led her to form meaningful connections and seize new opportunities within the program.

Looking ahead, Raina plans to leverage her passion for STEAM to make a positive impact in the medical field. She aspires to inspire and create opportunities for women and young Indigenous girls in STEAM, embodying Shad's commitment to social innovation.

To future Shad participants, Raina advises: "Talk to as many people as possible because no one there will judge you... open up to people and make as many connections as early as you can." Her experience underscores the supportive and inclusive environment that Shad fosters, empowering students to be themselves and pursue their passions.

See Tyrin's Shad experience

Scan QR code to watch

100%
of Indigenious participants said
that Shad was meaningful

100%
of Indigenous participants agreed
that they were aware of pathways to post-secondary

80%
of Indigenous participants agreed
that Shad increased their interest in Sciences

87%
of Indigenous participants agreed
that Shad increased their interest in Arts and Humanities

100%
of Indigenous participants agreed
that they would recommend Shad and stay connected to others in the Shad network

73%
of Indigenous participants agreed
that participating in Shad helped to solidify career goals and aspirations

Donors

Empowering Future Leaders: The Impact of Donor Support at Shad

Shad's transformational programs are powered by the generosity of donors who believe in the boundless potential of Canadian youth. As it has grown and developed, Shad has invited public and private organizations to create an environment where students can thrive as future leaders, innovators, and changemakers. Donor support ensures that Shad continues to provide immersive, hands-on experiences that equip students with the skills to adapt, lead, and drive Canada's economic and social progress.

When organizations invest in Shad, they are not just supporting a summer program—they are building Canada's talent pipeline. Shad alumni are better prepared to excel in post-secondary education, equipped with the skills that employers value most. By embracing risk, fostering innovation, and developing an entrepreneurial mindset, Shad alum emerge ready to tackle the challenges of the future. They leave with not only academic achievements but also the resilience and agility required to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Donor contributions create lasting impact by opening doors to transformative opportunities. Shad connects young people with mentors, peers, and a network of alumni across the world in diverse sectors, including business, technology, medicine, energy, government and sustainability. This network is more than a resource—it's a community where students find mentorship opportunities to build out their careers and develop lifelong connections that enhance their personal and professional growth. Our donors ensure that every student can access these opportunities, turning potential into action and ideas into impact.

Investing in Shad is an investment in Canada's future. It fuels innovation, strengthens the workforce, and ensures that the leaders of tomorrow are prepared to thrive in an interconnected, ever-evolving global economy. By supporting Shad, donors are helping to shape a nation of bold thinkers, compassionate leaders, and resilient changemakers.

Donor Spotlight

Aaron Bennett & Karen Chu

Shad Alumni Donors

Aaron Bennett, a Shad alumnus, donates to the Shad program because of the profound impact it had on his life and career. Shad not only introduced him to his wife, Karen, but also helped his son, Isaac, find his academic stride and explore his passion for engineering and entrepreneurship. Aaron reflects on how Shad taught him valuable lessons in problem-solving, teamwork, and integrating feedback from peers, which are critical skills for navigating complex challenges in the real world.

"It's an opportunity in a fairly short period of time that can have such a huge impact on every student and can really change their perspective in a way that you don't get from other programs. When you see what these kids go on to do you just can't ask for better proof of the value."

In 1991, Aaron attended Shad at the University of Calgary during the first technology boom of the 1990s. The program helped him realize his potential and broadened his career aspirations. After Shad, he pursued a degree in Biology at Queen's University, followed by work in the sciences and later an MBA from Western Ontario's Ivey School of Business. Aaron's professional journey led him to become the Chief Investment Officer for University Pension Plan Ontario.

Aaron also credits Shad for bringing him and Karen together, an event that has shaped each of their lives in the most meaningful way. In 2023, their son Isaac attended Shad and showed a growth in focus and ambition that Aaron knows will serve him well as he moves along his academic and career path. Motivated by the program's impact on his family, Aaron believes in supporting Shad to help other students reach their full potential. He views it as an essential investment in Canada's future, offering young people a unique and transformative experience that shapes their personal and professional development.

Access

Breaking Financial Barriers: Ensuring Access for All

At Shad, we believe that financial barriers should never stand in the way of a love of learning. Donor support ensures that the program is not just for the few who can afford it—but empowers students from rural and remote communities, low income communities and underrepresented communities to take their place among Canada's next generation of changemakers.

Shad must raise over $5 million annually to help offset program fees and provide targeted bursaries and scholarships. More than 30% of participants receive targeted financial assistance ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent participation. As we continue to expand, the need for fundraising will grow accordingly.

These funds enable youth to focus on learning, connecting, and growing. The impact is profound—not only for the participants themselves but for the broader communities and industries they will one day serve. By investing in access and opportunities for students, donors help Shad foster an ecosystem where diverse perspectives lead to stronger solutions and students reaching their full potential.

> **Shad participants receive $5 million of fee assistance each year.**

Donor Spotlight

Shad Alum Parent Donor Meghan Sharir and her family know firsthand the impact of Shad on the lives of students and the ways their donation to the program will provide life-changing opportunities to deserving Canadian youths.

"One of the most impactful parts of the program for our daughter was the kids she met from all corners of the country. She made so many great friendships with students who were at Shad on a scholarship and who shared with Zoe how much it meant for them to be there. So, we know from firsthand account the concrete impact our donation is having on a student's life, it feels very personal."

Meghan Sharir describes her daughter Zoe's experience with the Shad program as "transformational." Seeing the lasting impact of Shad on her daughter, Meghan and her family decided to donate to the program to help other students access the same life-changing experience. The Sharir family have been impressed by Shad's commitment to access, ensuring students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to grow and explore post-secondary education and meet their potential. Meghan believes that supporting young, ambitious students is one of the most impactful ways to drive positive change for the future.

"If there's anything, any small thing that we can do to help a student who deserves an opportunity, it's hard to think of a better way to do that than giving to Shad. Our experience tells us that our donation will give at least one kid an experience that hopefully will open up a door in some way that wouldn't have happened otherwise."

Invest

Donor Dividends: Why Donors Invest in Shad

1. Building Canada's Talent Pipeline
Donors help prepare students to excel in post-secondary education and future careers by developing critical skills like problem-solving, adaptability, and entrepreneurial thinking.

2. Fueling Innovation and Economic Growth
Investments in Shad enable youth to contribute meaningfully to industries like AI, clean energy, and healthcare, driving social and economic progress in Canada.

3. Creating a Community of Changemakers
Shad provides access to a vast network of mentors, peers, and alumni, fostering collaboration and insights into broader ecosystems that enhance personal and professional success.

4. Maximizing Impact and Effectiveness
With a proven track record of leveraging donor dollars effectively, Shad ensures that every contribution leads to measurable outcomes for students and long-term benefits for Canada.

5. Transforming Potential into Action
Donors empower young Canadians to take bold steps, embrace challenges, and create meaningful change, ensuring a brighter future for the nation and the world.

Donor Spotlight

Peter Gilgan Foundation

Foundation Donor

1) Why does the Peter Gilgan Foundation (PGF) feel it's important to invest in Canadian youth and STEAM education?

The Peter Gilgan Foundation believes in empowering organizations that enable underserved young people and families to overcome systemic barriers to academic success, economic prosperity, and health and wellbeing. By investing in education and economic opportunities for youth, we hope to inspire other philanthropists and foundations to join us in creating a more sustainable, healthy, and prosperous future.

2) Why did the PGF think Shad was an effective way to achieve that impact?

Shad's focus on experiential learning, problem-solving, and community building resonates with the Foundation's goals of supporting children, youth, and families across Canada access the tools to succeed on their own terms.

3) What aspects of the Shad program made the PGF feel their donation would benefit the communities they hoped to impact?

The Foundation proudly partners with organizations that support equity-deserving youth, address root causes of problems, offer comprehensive solutions, and demonstrate measurable social impact. Shad's focus on youth who are from rural and remote communities, are economically vulnerable, and/or underrepresented in the STEAM industries make it a compelling organization for our Foundation to partner with.

Furthermore, Shad's curriculum emphasizes tackling real-world challenges through STEAM-based solutions, fostering critical thinking and innovation among participants – these are indicators of outcomes we want to support, such as high school graduation, access to postsecondary, and routes to entrepreneurship and employment.

Student
Success Story

Natalie Mitchell
Shad2023, Founder

Shad Alum, Natalie Mitchell, turned the passion for using STEAM for social good she cultivated at Shad into an award-winning community project called **Tech for Community** that adapts generic children's toys into ones that can be used by children with disabilities.

At Shad's University of Western Ontario campus, Natalie not only gained valuable technical and career skills, but also gained the confidence needed to put those skills into practice making an impact in the world. Following her time in the program, she saw a need in her community and an opportunity to put what she'd learned at Shad into practice. She began adapting toys for children with special needs by modifying their circuits and creating larger buttons using a 3D printer, which she offered by request to parents of children with special needs. Following its initial success, the project has expanded to include other volunteers who help with toy adaptations and school workshops, where students learn how to modify toys for the project and build empathy for peers with disabilities to encourage them to continue their own community giving. "I would have never been able to do what I've done with the project if I didn't learn the skills that I learned at Shad, if I didn't gain the confidence I did, and if I didn't meet the people that I met. It really was a life-changing experience," shared Natalie.

Natalie was awarded the Ingenious+ National Award for her **Tech for Community** project, which provided $10,000 in funding and has enabled Natalie to further grow her project and widen her positive impact on some of Canada's most vulnerable.

> **"I would have never been able to do what I've done with the project if I didn't learn the skills that I learned at Shad, if I didn't gain the confidence I did, and if I didn't meet the people that I met. It really was a life-changing experience."**
>
> **Natalie Mitchell,**
> Newfoundland and Labrador

Student
Success Story

Joshua Liu
Shad2005, Founder

When Josh entered the Shad program in 2005, he already knew he loved STEAM exploration. What he discovered was how this passion could be combined with entrepreneurship to solve real world challenges affecting everyday Canadians.

At Shad's McMaster University campus, Josh was introduced to inspiring mentors and field experts who showed him how to bring an innovative idea into fruition by tapping the resources around him and building a business plan that can inspire others to embrace his vision.

These lessons proved vital when, following his start at medical school, Josh realized his interest lay in solving systemic issues rather than pursuing a specialty and he began exploring ways to improve patient outcomes, such as reducing hospital readmissions. His entrepreneurial spirit, nurtured during his time at Shad, led him to create SeamlessMD, a platform that connects patients with healthcare providers throughout their entire journey, from pre-surgery to post-surgery recovery. "Shad gave me a taste for the excitement of starting a business. You had to learn about products and draft the financial reports and format a business plan, learn about manufacturing... it set me up for putting the two together in creating SeamlessMD."

SeamlessMD uses technology to engage, monitor, and provide real-time support to patients via smartphones, tablets, or computers. This innovative platform is currently used by doctors and hospitals in almost all provinces across Canada and has proven successful in reducing readmissions, emergency visits, and overall healthcare costs, while improving patient care. By combining his medical expertise with the engineering skills of his co-founders, Joshua channelled the lessons and skills he gained at Shad, using tech to transform healthcare delivery.

> "Shad gave me a taste for the excitement of starting a business. You had to learn about products and draft the financial reports and format a business plan, learn about manufacturing... it set me up for putting the two together in creating SeamlessMD."
>
> **Joshua Liu,** Ontario

Student
Success Story

Scott Malcom
Shad1993, Surgeon General

When Shad alum Brigadier-General Scott Malcolm, Canada's Surgeon General, spoke to Shads in the summer of 2024, he shared valuable lessons on leadership, personal growth, and overcoming challenges that he gained during his own Shad experience, lessons that have continued to meaningfully inform his personal and professional life since. "Shad really set the stage for me... you have to trust yourself and the people around you, understanding that it comes down to teamwork."

As a young student from a small town in Cape Breton, Scott never imagined the professional heights he'd reach when he arrived at Shad's Acadia University campus in the summer of 1993. But the mentorship and demonstrations of good leadership Scott experienced at Shad played a pivotal role in his development. Those positive influences underpinned his pursuit of an undergraduate degree at Harvard University, followed by medical school at Dalhousie University and his enrollment in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), where he rose through the ranks and managed medical teams during critical deployments in Bosnia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic. His exceptional work and leadership led to him being elevated to the role of Surgeon General, the professional head of the Canadian military health jurisdiction and head of the Royal Canadian Medical Service.

Scott's leadership philosophy stresses the importance of teamwork and innovation, core values he experienced at Shad. Acting as a mentor to current Shads, Scott uses his own experiences to encourage young leaders to trust in their abilities, work collaboratively, and rise to challenges with an open mind and resilience.

> **"Shad really set the stage for me... you have to trust yourself and the people around you, understanding that it comes down to teamwork."**
>
> **Scott Malcom,** Ontario

Future

Shaping the Future:
Shad's Impact and the Power of Support

As we reflect on our legacy, we also look forward to the future—a future where Shad's impact continues to grow.

The next generation faces a future that requires a unique blend of creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking—and access to programs like Shad ensures they are prepared to rise to the occasion.

By prioritizing experiential learning, cultivating an entrepreneurial spirit, and promoting practical problem-solving, Shad is preparing the next generation of leaders to address the challenges of tomorrow. From driving innovation in clean energy and advancing sustainable agricultural practices to enhancing healthcare and leveraging artificial intelligence, the future calls for strong, independent thinkers and collaborators.

Our ability to meet these challenges relies on the continued support of corporate, governmental, and philanthropic partners. Your investment in Shad is an investment in Canada's future— strengthening our workforce, driving innovation, and ensuring that youth across the country have access to the tools they need to succeed.

Together, we are creating a generation of leaders ready to solve the world's most pressing issues.

National Research Council

Long-time Shad Donor

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) plays a meaningful role as a donor and supporter of Shad, aligning with its mission to foster innovation and develop Canada's future in science and technology. The relationship is rooted in a shared vision: nurturing youth through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) education and empowering them to pursue impactful careers in research and innovation.

"I'm not aware of a lot of other programs in Canada that do what Shad does," said Matteo Bernabo, a Science Policy Fellow at the NRC. "Shad is the next level as a national program at university campuses, engaging students in real research with professionals affiliated with university research centers."

Through both financial support and active engagement, NRC contributes to Shad by:

- Providing expert researchers to deliver lectures and workshops across Shad campuses.

- Participating in program elements like the Design Challenge, where NRC professionals support students tackling real-world problems.

- Fostering a culture of curiosity and innovation, directly engaging with youth during a formative stage in their development.

According to Matteo Bernabo from the NRC, Shad attracts highly motivated students, making it an ideal investment for NRC's talent development goals. The NRC's involvement is seen not just as a donation, but as a strategic partnership aimed at growing Canada's scientific and technological capacity.

The NRC and Shad relationship is collaborative, mission-driven, and mutually beneficial, with NRC investing time, resources, and expertise to cultivate a future generation of innovators aligned with national priorities.