



Open Minds Foundation

Annual Report

2025-2026



OUR TIMELINE

- **June – September 2025** — Founded in Vancouver, BC. Built the organisational infrastructure — website, templates, contracts, structures. Developed a **team of 20+ passionate youth** (internal) dedicated in supporting our mission.
- **October – December 2025** — First funding secured. Real operations begin. Created **3 programs** and **6+ events** that support youth-led initiatives and business education, engaging **300+ volunteers and event participants**.
- **Today** — Connected with **20+ partners**, supporting their initiatives and organizations, with 5 annual case competitions engaging over 3,000 students across North America.

Programs

- Individual Development Program
- School Clubs & Community Projects Program
- Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Partnership Program

Case Competitions

- Momentum Case Competition
- Velocity Case Competition
- Lord Byng Case Competition
- Inspire Case Competition

Events

- First fundraiser
- Lightbulb Learning Program
- VSB Youth Ambassador Workshop
- Lord Byng Case Competition
- Lord Byng Bubble Tea Fundraiser

Projects

- Open Arms Project
- STRIDERS EDU
- Beachside Clean-up
- Project 3B Book Review Project
- Open Forums
- Open Academy

2026 RECAP & FUTURE PLANS

Events Completed

- Open Arms Project
- Open Currents Project
- Kitslano Beach Side Clean Up
- STRIDERS EDU Financial Literacy Project
- 3B VPL Books Exchange Project
- Merge & Acquisition of Lord Byng Case Competition
- Inspire Case Competition Opportunity Fair
- MiniEnterprise Opportunity Fair
- Momentum Case Competition
- Spark! Opportunity Fair
- Merge & Acquisition of Inspire Case Competition

Upcoming

- Open Market Project
- Velocity Case Competition – September 19th @ Victoria
- Lord Byng Case Competition – December 5-6th @ UBC Sauder (3rd iteration)
- Inspire Case Competition 2026 (3rd iteration)
- Momentum Case Competition 2027 (2nd iteration)
- IMPACT Toronto Case Competition – Our first out-of-province case competition
- NYC finance club collaboration – Providing summer financial literacy workshops for youth
- Open Minds Foundation x HERS Math collaboration

OUR Y1 IMPACT

3

programs dedicated to
empowering youth
initiatives

5

large-scale case
competitions across
Canada

\$5,000

in annual cash prizes & funding

100,000+

people reached through events

200+

team members

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

This year marks the inaugural year of Open Minds Foundation, an initiative that has gone way beyond what any of us had envisioned a year ago. Leadership & business opportunity accessibility has always been my focus. The first sweet spot that I've experienced related to leadership dates all the way back to the year 2022, when I first started Amusing Plane (amuzingplane.com), a WeChat Official account focused on aviation & diecast model resale. In less than a year, we gained over 10k followers and averaged 100k+ reads for our articles. However, as our team scaled, constraints started to become apparent, and no one was there to guide me. Only walking in that pair of shoes made me realize how desperate youth like me might need support. Ever since Grade 8, I have had the honor of supporting and guiding newcomers hands-on through the VSB SWIS program. Serving as the leader in the program, I realized how large the gap is between the “well-established” youth and the youth struggling — including myself. Ideas were often blocked or unexecutable; applications to other organizations were often obstructed; and the direction in which we should pursue was vague.

Seeing this gap not only encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone and get myself “out of the wild”, but also made me reflect on the opposite side of the coin. What if I didn't try as hard? What if I gave up on myself in the discouragement? These concerns ultimately led to the founding of Open Minds Foundation, an organization aimed at bridging the gap between youths deserving support and the well-established organizations and opportunities.

Starting with this simple initiative, we fell into the trap we were trying to avoid for others. Meetings that led to nothing, continuous hiring and retirement of people, and fundraisers that always led to a loss. That was the darkest time of the foundation.

It was not until our generous sponsors — Ocean Wise, Divercity, Service Canada, and Frontlines Foundation stepped out and supported the foundation that it led to meaningful events such as the Open Arms Project, the Open Currents Project, STRIDERS EDU Financial Literacy Workshop, 3B Book Exchange Workshop, etc. However, it was not until February that Brayden, our events director, proposed Momentum Case Competition — our first-ever case competition.

(A fun fact here: back when I was still a participant in Lord Byng Case Competition, our team name, which placed 3rd, was team Momentum, and that was where the inspiration for the name came from.)

Momentum started as an idea no bigger than the 2nd iteration of Inspire Case Competition — a school case competition with 50-ish participants, hosted at Windermere Secondary School. Momentum was not only the take-off move in terms of the scale and impact of our organization, but also demonstrated the organizational support we can really offer to a fresh idea.

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

As Open Minds Foundation acquired Momentum Case Competition fully, we were able to put on full speed for the competition: the venue changed from Windermere to UBC; impact and projected participants increased from 50 to 200, etc.

(I would like to acknowledge, though, that the success of Momentum Case Competition would not be possible without the work and continuous support of our sponsors, partners, and our dedicated staff.)

The success of Momentum Case Competition truly demonstrated the need for accessible business opportunities such as case competitions in Vancouver. It was then that Open Minds Foundation dedicated itself to two streams of operations, which we currently operate on: The corporate side of the organization and the conference side of the organization. As we acquire more business case competitions across Canada, Open Minds Foundation is thrilled to see what comes next and the impact we can make in this country by offering more accessible business opportunities.

This year was a year of mass scaling and expansion, and a year through massive tides. I would like to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude to the staff of Open Minds Foundation — either director or chief — who have traveled through such tides with me. Just like what I say at the end of each meeting, at Open Minds Foundation we strongly believe that nothing is impossible, and there is only what you dare not think of. I look forward to leading the organization to increased scaling and growth, guiding it towards broader grounds that need to be cleared up or additional support, so that we can support and empower more youth.

Just like our intro, we cultivate youth leadership, unite chapters, and empower youth.

Warren Ran,
Founder & CEO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



WARREN RAN

Chief Executive Officer

Co-Chair Of Board (Momentum Case Competition, Velocity Case Competition)

Chair Of Conference (Lord Byng Case Competition, Inspire Case Competition)

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Being part of Open Minds Foundation since its very founding, and still serving the organization today, is a tremendous privilege. I have grown so much alongside this organization, and watching it thrive from the ground up to where it stands today has been incredibly rewarding.

This year, I had the opportunity to be involved in every project Open Minds Foundation undertook, including the Open Arms Project, the STRIDERS EDU Project, and the Book Exchange Project, as well as the Momentum Case Competition, the Lord Byng Case Competition, the Inspire Case Competition, and now the Velocity Case Competition and the third iteration of the Lord Byng Case Competition.

This role has taught me so much — not only about leadership and how to run an organization, but also about how to face loneliness, how to push through challenges when no one else is around, and how to become a stronger person.

That said, I am tremendously grateful to have worked alongside such an incredible team: Alisa Du, with whom I share the titles of "day-ones" and "best duo possible"; Selena Xi, with whom I've built a deep friendship from the ground up — one that has grown well beyond the scope of this organization; Jordan Mak, who I bother far too much with both work and personal matters, but who is always there to support and help me regardless; Boke Borjiet, our organization's very own "Mongolian Man," who has served as my personal emotional support system; and Austin Wang, who insists on calling me "husband" despite already being in a relationship with Boke.

There is so much more I could say — from Bernice's dedication and her ability to deliver work right on time and at the quality needed, to Eric's unshakable calm and his talent for enduring our "freshman jokes," to Jay's impromptu cooking lessons during our meetings, and to our "ABG CMO," Mandy Zhang — all the best to you.

Thank you all for sticking with me through this turbulent year. Whether you joined us at the very start or somewhere along the way, we made it through together.

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER



ALISA DU

Chief Operations Officer

Co-Chair Of Board (Momentum Case Competition, Velocity Case Competition)

Internal Vice Chair (Lord Byng Case Competition, Inspire Case Competition)

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"Yes" is a consequential word to say too often, I learned that the hard way. But I would say it again in a heartbeat.

What started as a “yes, I can help with that” turned into a full-time commitment to building something from the ground up, and I wouldn't trade that away for anything.

As COO, I've had the privilege of being a part of every event and case competition we've taken on. There's something extraordinary about being present for all of it: planning logistics, last-minute troubleshooting, and putting out fires nobody saw coming; all of it comes to reveal the organization's tremendous growth and how much the quiet behind-the-scenes work makes every win possible.

Saying yes to building Open Minds Foundation alongside our CEO, who I am grateful to call my “duo for life” and the best leader and friend the organization could've ever asked for, has been one of the most defining moments of my life. Some people build organizations with a plan, but we've built one with a lot of yeses and not enough sleep. Through turbulence, we kept persevering and figuring it out together, sometimes late at night over a shared google doc, sometimes in the middle of a case competition descending into chaos. My role helped me realize that growth comes from saying yes before I feel ready, and trusting that I'll figure the rest out along the way.

I am so proud to support a passionate team that has poured their heart out into our mission, trusted the process even when it wasn't solidified, and showed up again and again even when things were hard or unclear. To be growing alongside them is something I will always say yes to.

If this year taught me anything, it's that saying yes can lead me to more opportunities than I'll ever know. Here's to whatever I say yes to next.

SENIOR VP OF OPERATIONS



KAROLINA LEE

Senior VP Of Operations

Director Of Marketing (Velocity Case Competition)

Internal Vice Chair (Inspire Case Competition)

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hi guys my name is karolina and im the senior vp of operations at open minds foundation.

being able to work for open minds has been such a wonderful experience.

i will always be grateful to warren ran, for giving me this opportunity.

to him im a slave.

open minds has been such an impact on my life.

ts changed my life completely and set me on such a different path

ive made so many friends, gained so much knowledge and experience, and had such positive work habits, all curated from this very organization

something more abt

the genourosity of everyone in the org

such

positive moments and memories created

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANCE



SELENA XI

Executive Assistance

Internal Vice Chair (Momentum Case Competition, Velocity Case Competition)

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It has been a true honour to work alongside such passionate and inspiring people. This year has been filled with meaningful experiences, personal growth, and unforgettable memories that reinforced the power of community and collaboration.

I'm grateful to every member, volunteer, partner, and supporter whose dedication makes our mission possible. Open Minds has let me contribute to real impact while growing as a leader and as a person. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together, and I can't wait to see how much further we go.

CHIEF OF STAFF



BERNICE WU

Chief Of Staff

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I'll always be grateful to Alisa, who reached out one day and asked if I wanted to join OMF as a C-level. Being Chief of Staff has strengthened my teamwork and communication, and given me the confidence to lead groups and bring my own ideas to life.

I never would have believed our team would grow past 200 members, and watching them collaborate and support one another has been a rewarding milestone. Special thanks to my human resources directors for their work interviewing and welcoming our strongest applicants.

CHIEF OF STAFF



ERIC LI

Chief Of Staff

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This year, my job as Chief of Staff was less about owning one project and more about making sure Open Minds Foundation's teams stayed pointed in the same direction. That meant catching gaps before they became problems and keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes.

What I'm most proud of isn't any single moment. It's that things ran smoother by the end of the year than they did at the start. None of that happens solo: thank you to the leadership team for making the coordination side of this role so much easier than it could have been.

Heading into next year, my focus is on transparency and efficiency: keeping decisions and progress visible to the team, and cutting out the friction that slows things down as we grow. It's been a genuinely good year to help hold this together.

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER



AUSTIN WANG

Chief Finance Officer

Director Of Administration (Momentum Case Competition, Velocity Case Competition, Inspire Case Competition)

Internal Vice Chair (Lord Byng Case Competition)

a-wang@openmindsfnd.org

Hi guys, it's Boke's husband here. We at finance have been in a tough spot. Because of this, I would like to remind all generous amazing readers that my e-transfer is open to all donations. Hit me up at a-wang@openmindsfnd.org. The top donor gets a cameo from Boke and I.

From the undisclosed Caribbean private island purchase that our beloved CEO spent 5000 dollars on that has not begun construction, to management's totalitarian crackdown on one finance member, I could not have wished for a more amazing team to work with. I love the chill and laid back atmosphere all of our executives have in our weekly meetings, especially Warren's rants about random tangents 10 minutes in. Their daily commitment to achieving spectacular, unmitigated chaos is a great marvel to witness. And I have no idea how we get anything done.

CHIEF OF CONFERENCES



BOKE BORJIET

Chief Of Conferences

Director Of Logistics (Momentum Case Competition, Velocity Case Competition, Lord Byng Case Competition, Inspire Case Competition)

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Looking back at how far we've come as an organisation and as a team has been my greatest pleasure. I've been lucky to be here since the start, witnessing our milestones firsthand and learning from each team member's experience.

A year ago I could never have imagined the impact this organisation would have on my community. I've been part of keystone events like Momentum and community-building ones like OMF Spark. This role has taught me to work collaboratively and stay consistent under pressure — and my sights are now fixed on Velocity in September.

CHIEF OF EVENTS



JORDAN MAK

Chief Of Events

Director Of Outreach (Momentum Case Competition, Velocity Case Competition, Lord Byng Case Competition)

External Vice Chair (Inspire Case Competition)

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It has been a pleasure to be part of this team. Being Chief of Events has been wonderful — I was so glad to join the Momentum team, and grateful for the connections it brought.

Serving as Director of Outreach for Momentum, then being promoted to Chair of Conference two days before the conference, was a genuinely wild experience and a real opportunity. I may be out of high school, but I'm glad to have met people this dedicated. There are so many memories with you all, from Momentum itself to the panel meetings that built it.

NGO & GRANT PARTNERS



The foundation's darkest stretch ended when these organisations stepped forward. Everything that followed — the Open Arms Project, the Open Currents Project, STRIDERS EDU, the 3B Book Exchange, and Momentum itself — grew out of that support.

Thank you.

OUR TEAM



200+ HQ Members involved

Not featured in package:

Jay Fung – Chief Marketing Officer
Carine Lo – Chief Marketing Officer
Aadyabir Singh – Chief of IT



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