

# Impact Report 2022



LEAGUE *of*  
INNOVATORS

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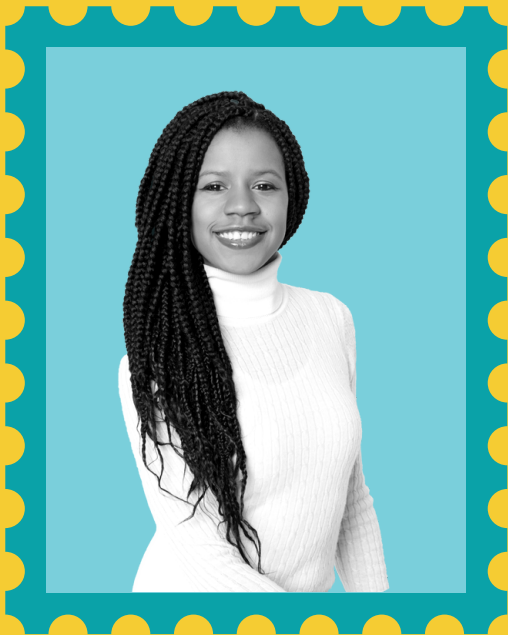
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## A Message from our Executive Director



As we reflect on a post-pandemic 2022, it's clear that despite the economic climate and market shift, we've made great strides in fulfilling our mission to empower and support the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators.

Our team came together and took this opportunity to revisit our programs, and refresh and update them to ensure that we continue to provide relevant and critical resources to young people, helping them to develop the skills and confidence needed to launch and scale successful ventures. We've also continued to expand our reach to new communities, and increased our impact through strategic partnerships and collaborations with conferences such as Collision and SaaS North.

We were also pleased to welcome LOI Venture to our community. LOI Venture provides even more targeted support to fast-growing startups at the pre-seed stage, offering them access to the funding and mentorship they need to succeed.

As we look ahead to the future, we know there is still much work to be done. Our team remains committed to supporting the next generation of innovators, and we thank each and every one of you for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.

With gratitude,  
Melissa Allen, Executive Director, League of Innovators

# What is League of Innovators?

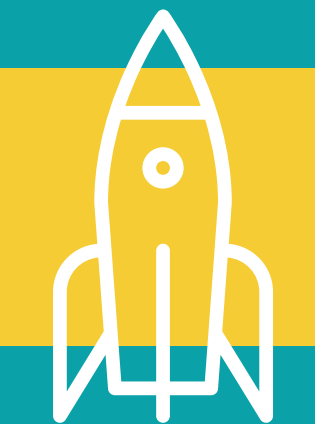


*We are a national Canadian charity accelerator that empowers youth to be their own bosses. We offer accessible programs and education for entrepreneurs aged 15 to 30, from discovery through acceleration. Our founders have gone on to become Y Combinator participants, Peter Thiel Fellows, Forbes Top 30 Under 30, and Fast Company Most Innovative Companies of the Year*



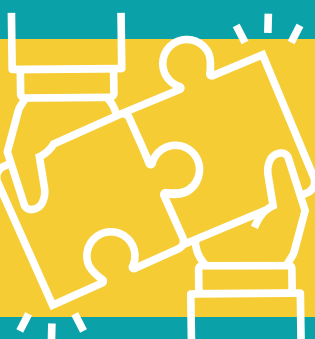
## OUR VISION

Mobilize the next generation of entrepreneurs to build tomorrow's businesses today with a social purpose and an entrepreneurial mindset.



## OUR MISSION

- **Empower youth** and youth-led businesses.
- **Develop entrepreneurial acumen** at scale and across regions.
- **Champion the dynamic contribution** and forward thinking of young entrepreneurs.
- **Build future-proof skills** through an entrepreneurial mindset and social purpose.



## OUR VALUES

- **CULTIVATING** A RESILIENT MINDSET
- **NURTURING** COMMUNITY & CONNECTION
- **GROWING** THROUGH COLLABORATION
- **BREAKING** BOUNDARIES & INSPIRING INNOVATION
- **CREATING** ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE SPACES
- **BUILDING** PURPOSE-DRIVEN LEADERS

# Our Impact

LOI's impact on founders is significant, providing them with the support, resources, and mentorship needed to build successful businesses. Some of the ways in which LOI impacts founders include: mentorship, educational resources, networking opportunities, investment readiness training, and access to potential funding opportunities. No matter their location, economic, or socio-demographic background, LOI provides founders with the support needed to thrive in the competitive world of entrepreneurship.

COLLECTIVE ENTERPRISE VALUE  
OF ACCELERATION STARTUPS

\$1B+

For every

\$1

of funding received  
LOI has helped create  
\$328  
in enterprise value

923

Youth founder  
accelerated

15,000

Youth engaged in  
LOI Programs

\$23,814,505

Collectively raised by our  
acceleration startups at cohort start

# Our Impact

22,569

Founders  
strong in our  
community

Participants are....



Other/ Prefer  
Not to Say  
1%

6%

Are neurodivergent

10%

Self-identify as an  
immigrant

10%

Self-identify as an  
International Student

5%

Identify as  
LGBTQIA2S+

3%

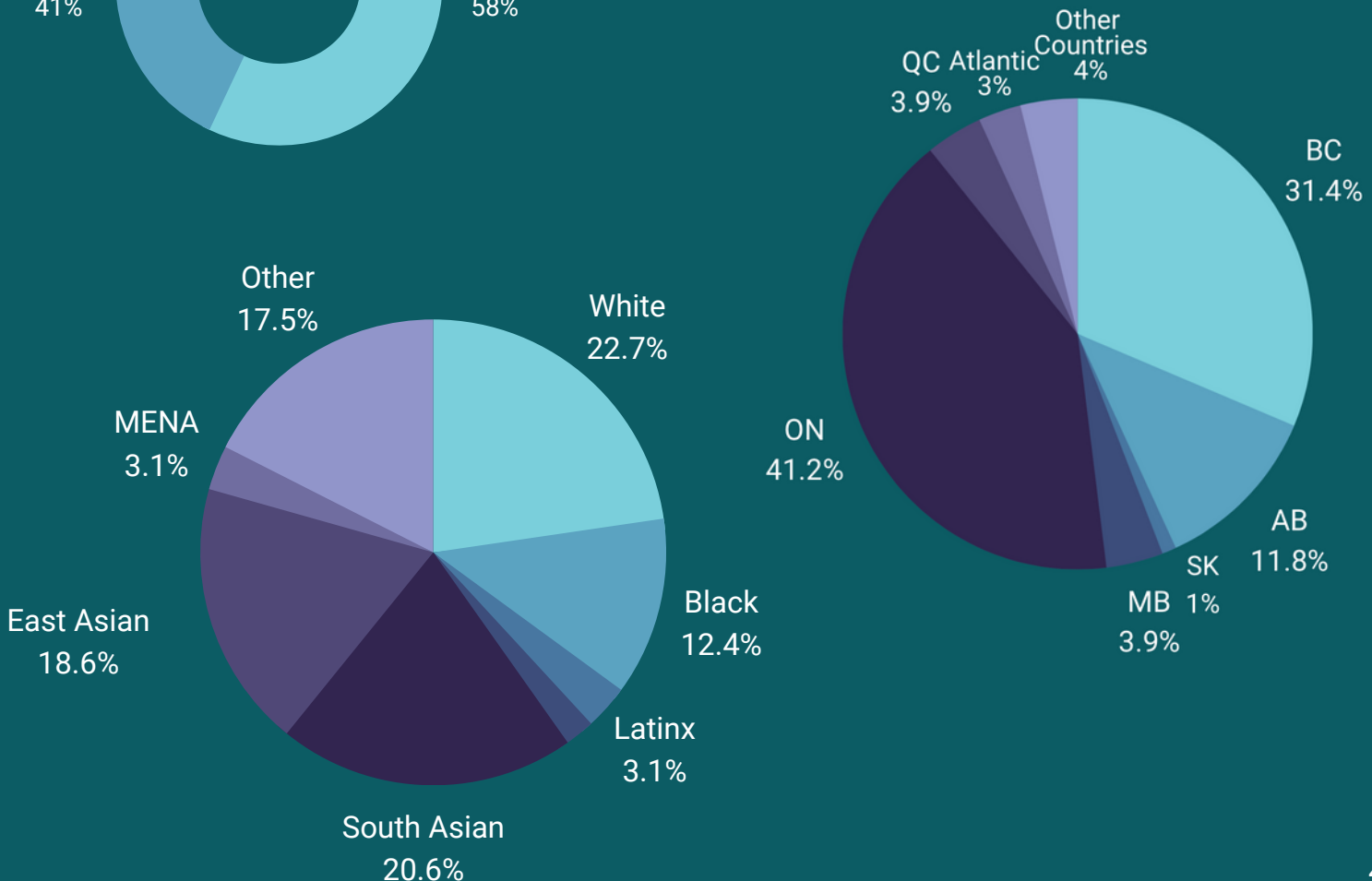
Are physically  
disabled



Female  
41%



Male  
58%

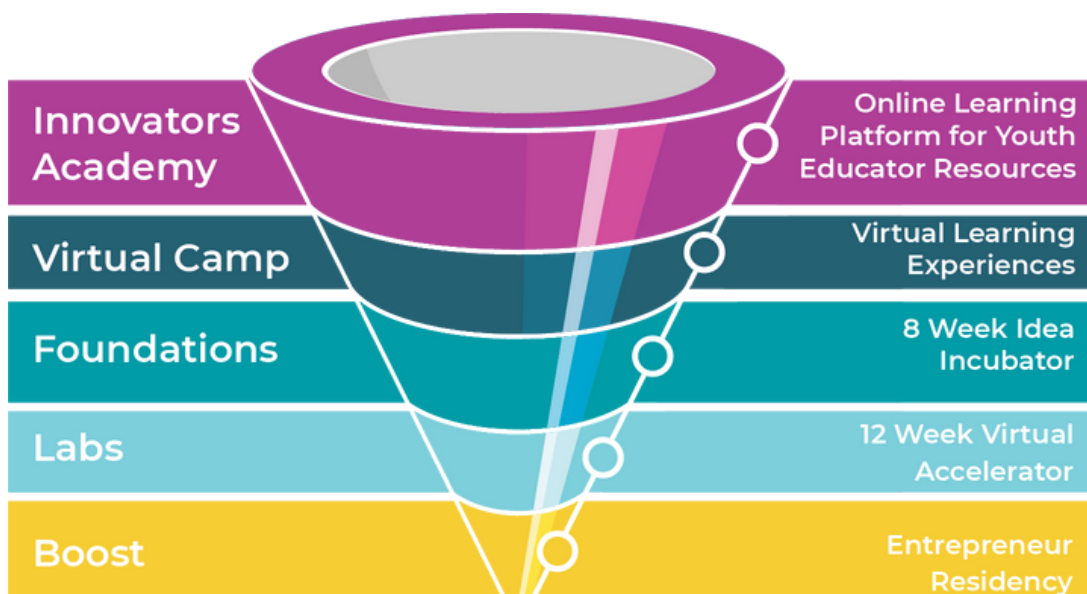


# The LOI Difference



In addition to supporting the personal development of young people, our programming and education contributes to tangible economic success. League of Innovators helps bolster Canada as a hub for innovation and growth with our unique approach:

1. Alternative entrepreneurial curriculum created specifically for youth ages 15–30.
2. Connection to a national network—in person and online.
3. Free, equitable access regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, location or socioeconomic situation.
4. Prioritizing drive, curiosity and passion over academic standing or institutional affiliation.



# A Year in Programs

In 2022, LOI doubled down on providing founders with high-touch, high-quality mentorship and resources to support their entrepreneurial endeavors, no matter the stage of their business, whether it be ideation or scale up.

## DISCOVERY

The support LOI provides in the earliest stages of entrepreneurship is critical, as it helps founders navigate the challenges and uncertainties that come with starting a new venture. Access to LOI's discovery programming helps founders overcome obstacles, build confidence, and increase their chances of success. In 2022 we welcomed **102** founders into our camp and **59** participants in our challenge.

## INNOVATORS ACADEMY

An online platform to help youth and educators build entrepreneurial acumen.  
<https://loiinnovators.academy>

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMER CAMP

A virtual camp that leads budding entrepreneurs through the process of finding their personal why, identifying and understanding problems they want to solve, building and validating solutions, and sharing their ideas.

## IMPACT INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Helps young changemakers validate their unique ideas, gain access to a national network of resources and mentors, and gives them the confidence to work on tangible solutions to personal, economic and social issues.

"Participating in the innovation challenge was one of the best decisions I've made! Not only because I was able to present alongside such accomplished entrepreneurs and received such transformative feedback from a distinguished panel of judges, but thanks to the help of the LOI network and its credibility, it got our organization the exposure it needed to the point where investors began reaching out to us instead of us trying to get a hold of them!"



-Ishaan Kohli, founder of SkyAcres AgroTechnologies Inc., Winner, Impact Category, Impact Innovation Challenge 2022



# A Year in Programs



"I was excited and nervous when selected to participate in the Impact Innovation Challenge. During the event, I was fortunate to learn about the amazing work and vision young entrepreneurs in Canada have in mind for our country and future. I was even more fortunate to be awarded one of the winners at the competition. The cash prize and connections has taken our business, Street Food World, to the next level. We were able to procure a large piece of equipment that has reduced our production costs by 40%. In addition, I had the unique opportunity to meet and connect with industry professionals which has snowballed into multiple, impactful connections and opportunities. LOI's Impact Challenge has helped me understand the true value in every opportunity, which is infinite."

- Anthonia Iveren Gom, founder of Street Food World Inc., Winner, Startup Category, Impact Innovation Challenge 2022



The LOI Summer Camp is a fantastic initial introduction to the world of entrepreneurship for youth and young professionals. The program provides young people with structure, next steps, and motivation for their ideas. Personally, although I had an idea going in, the community stood out to me the most. LOI was able to immediately provide me with an environment and resources to continue building. Founders can burnout fast without having the right conditions, LOI really focuses on ensuring that founders feel supported and have a sounding board to bounce ideas off of. I'd highly recommend the Summer Camp to early founders looking to get the initial taste of the world of entrepreneurship."

-Mobeen Lalani, founder of Passageway, Summer Camp Participant & Audience Choice Winner, Impact Innovation Challenge 2022

# A Year in Programs

## ACCELERATION

Our acceleration programs are designed to support founders in every aspect of accelerating their business, from operationalization, to launch and go-to-market, to scale-up. In 2022 we welcomed **227** startups into our 2022 cohorts.

## FOUNDATIONS

An immersive 6-week program delivered online for any young person wanting to test their impact idea, startup, or non-profit.

## LABS

A 12-week accelerator focused on supporting youth entrepreneurs ready to launch and grow their startups.

## BOOST

A 12-month residency for high-growth youth-led startups across Canada, led by founders under the age of 30.



"Highly recommend LOI for any early-stage founder! I was able to learn life-changing insights from successful founders, get support from impressive peers, and get advice on overcoming my obstacles. LOI helped me build a foundation of knowledge that has accelerated my startup progress. You won't regret joining it."

-Dragos Cada, founder of PathPeer, Labs Batch 8

# A Year in Programs



"LOI was one of the most helpful networks we were a part of during the early days of Jobify. Prior to having any sort of significant traction, their accelerator welcomed us and introduced us to a vast amount of professionals who have helped grow the business. Investors, mentors, partners, etc. Melissa, specifically, invited me to industry events she thought I should be attending. They even got us complimentary tickets and a booth at one of the biggest tech conferences in the world—Collision. All in all, LOI in my opinion, is a great place to start for any young entrepreneur looking to take their business to the next level."

Tony Downey, founder of Jobify, Labs Batch 8

"The League of Innovators Boost program helped us meet founders facing similar challenges so we can work through them together, faster. Even after the program ended, we still had calls with Boost founders to share learnings. On a larger scale, the LOI community has a strong "pay it forward" mentality. For example, we've found the "Asks and Offers" Slack channel extremely beneficial where founders have been responsive to helping each other. Working with the program team themselves has been invaluable; they have shared many online resources and planned in-person events to help Apricotton scale and have been our biggest advocates."



Jessica Miao and Chloe Beaudoin, co-founders of Apricotton, Boost 2022

# Our Ecosystem



## OUR TEAM



Melissa Allen, Joanna Buczkowska-McCumber, Lachlan Burr, Carly Chartier, Kallisté Grissa, Rob Ironside, Jonathan Lerner, Alana Mackenzie, Erin O'Halloran, Mashal Pouya, Shikhank Sharma



## ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

Elliana Bravos, Samantha Gardner, Youssef Gendy, Livia Han, Alykhan Kara, Ryan Kelly, Rhys Lawson, Annie Lo, Varun Sharma



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chad Bayne, Joanna Buczkowska-McCumber, Cheesan Chew, Swish Goswami, Ryan Holmes, Manny Padda

# Partners

League of Innovators and its partners work closely together towards a common goal: a better future for young Canadian innovators. Our partners' support makes our distinct programming possible and allows youth under 30 to learn the skills necessary to best approach innovation; building their capacity and skills to activate world-changing ideas, products and services.

## NATIONAL PARTNERS



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS



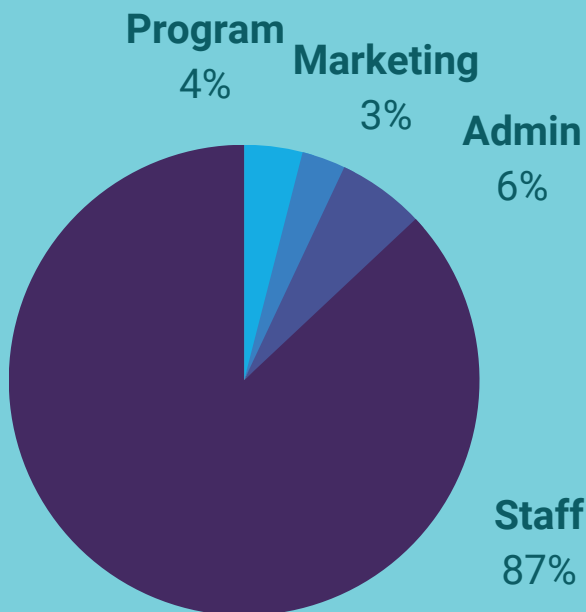
# Financial Highlights

In addition to entering the third year of the pandemic, LOI welcomed new leadership and a new team. Additionally, we refreshed our accelerator programming to ensure that youth founders across Canada felt supported as we navigate the complex, post-pandemic world.

The LOI community is forever grateful for the support of Western Diversification Fund/PacifiCan, ESDC, RBC Future Launch, SAP, eBay Foundation, Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP, Telus Friendly Future Foundation, Canada Summer Jobs and Venture for Canada.

**\$598,243**

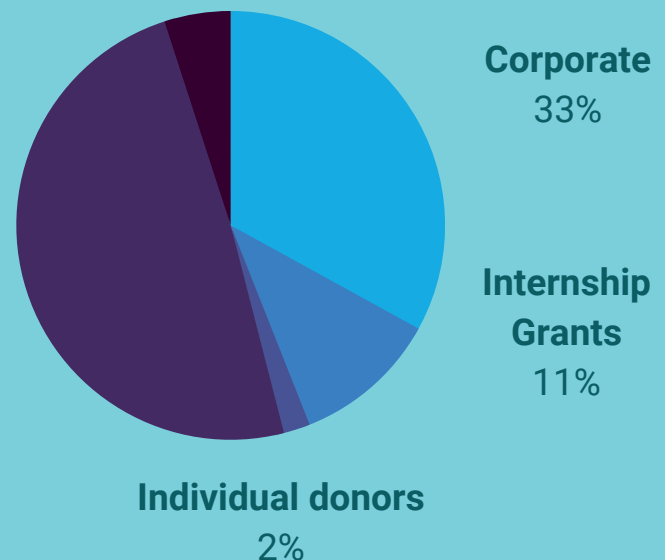
**Investment in Impact**



**\$456,429**

**Total Revenue**

**Community Grants**  
5%





# Looking Ahead

To continue to achieve success in 2023 and beyond, League of Innovators is committed to:

1. **Expanding its reach:** partnering with more organizations, schools, and universities to reach a wider audience of youth entrepreneurs.
2. **Continue DEI focus:** building on its inclusivity and accessible, barriers-free programming.
3. **Adapt and develop new programming:** address the evolving needs of young entrepreneurs to better equip them for an increasingly dynamic and complex world.
4. **Leverage technology:** to better engage and reach more young entrepreneurs and provide them with better resources and support, as well as improve engagement, data management and tracking.
5. **Continue to measure impact:** to ensure that the youth founders LOI serves is a true reflection of Canada's diverse population.

By expanding its reach, fostering diversity, continuously improving programs and resources, leveraging technology, and measuring impact, LOI will continue to empower and support young entrepreneurs and innovators in Canada, and ensure success in 2023 and beyond.



## Get Involved

Help empower conscious, thoughtful leaders. Some of the most powerful innovations are youth-driven—and you can start fuelling tomorrow's leaders today. For a thriving future, support the next generation.

**Join  
Us!**



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