



# CHANGE LIVES WITH THE AWARD

*Make a Difference as an Award Leader*

# Beyond the Classroom: Equipping Young People for Life

What skills are essential for young people to prepare them for upcoming opportunities and challenges in today's dynamic landscape? How can we ensure they are adaptable and resilient to fast-paced change?

Formal education models have been helping to prepare young people for their futures for generations. An ever-changing world sees this continue to evolve. Many recognise that a less structured form of learning (though still with defined outcomes), delivered through non-formal education, also needs to play a key role in the development of young people.

## Is classroom learning alone enough?



*\*Source: World Ready Discussion Paper- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award*

## That's where the Award comes in - we're a catalyst for a million possibilities.

Our research at the Award shows that through engaging in voluntary service, taking part in physical recreation, discovering personal interests and talents, and learning about leadership through adventurous activity, young people become confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged learners - in school and for the rest of their lives.

“

As a high school teacher and long-time Award Leader, I see the Award as an incredible opportunity for personal development for young people that will help them be successful throughout their lives. While learning about outdoor survival and expedition skills, participants are contributing service to their home communities, improving physical fitness, developing personal interests, and building leadership skills. **Seeing the pride and sense of accomplishment displayed on the faces of award recipients and knowing that you've made a difference in the lives of these young people is what being an Award Leader is all about.**

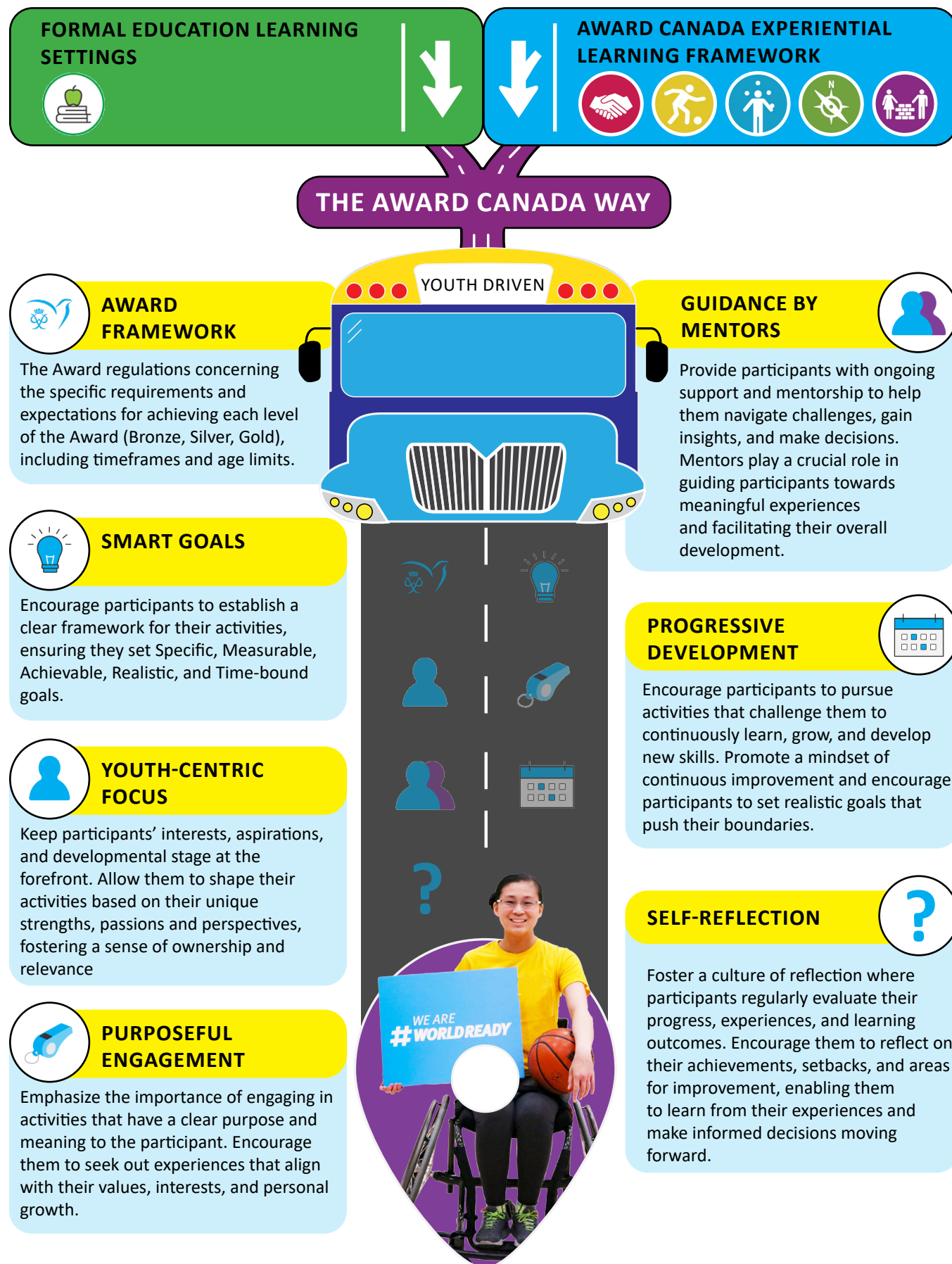
Dave Maynard, Duncan  
MacMillan Rural High  
School, Sheet Harbour,  
Nova Scotia





## The Award Canada Way bridges the gap:

The Award Canada Way helps young people build and develop the skills that will support them as they navigate the transition from youth to adulthood. It bridges what they learn in the classroom to what they'll do outside of it.



# Why Deliver the Award as a Teacher or Educator














We believe that the Award can reignite teachers' passion for teaching by offering a unique opportunity to mentor and support students. Importantly, this initiative does not require extensive training, making it accessible and easy to integrate into existing educational practices.

The Award allows teachers to make a true difference in a student's life – something that many educators cite as the primary reason they entered the profession, but often feel they haven't been able to fully achieve. By participating in the Award, teachers can connect with students on a deeper level, helping them discover their passions, build resilience, and develop essential life skills.

The Award provides a structured framework for teachers to guide and inspire students. It fosters meaningful relationships and creates opportunities for students to grow emotionally, socially, and academically. Teachers can see first hand the positive impact that they have on their students' lives, reigniting their own enthusiasm for teaching and mentoring.

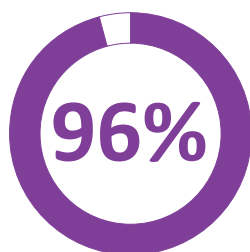
The Award plays a pivotal role in the development of young people. But, it's not limited to the young person doing the Award. Award Leaders experience a new way to make a difference as well - **it's an opportunity to give their students a holistic education that they see as so important.**

**The Award is a personal development experience and this is the Way to get there.**

AWARD ACTIVITY SECTIONS	 <b>Voluntary Service</b> Participants volunteer in their communities, making a positive contribution to society and demonstrating social responsibility.		AWARD LEVELS
	 <b>Physical Recreation</b> Young people improve their fitness and performance, and build a healthy lifestyle which encourages good mental health and physical well-being.		
	 <b>Skill Development</b> Participants develop their talents, broadening their abilities, increasing their self confidence and improving their employability.		
	 <b>Adventurous Journey</b> Young people discover a spirit of adventure and discovery while planning and undertaking a journey with a peer group.		
	 <b>Gold Project</b> Participants broaden their experience by staying in an unfamiliar environment with other young people, taking part in a purposeful project and building new relationships.		
			 <b>26 weeks</b> at the Bronze Level
			 <b>52 weeks</b> at the Silver Level
			 <b>78 weeks</b> at the Gold Level

## A great Award begins with a Great Award Leader.

In recent research done by McCrindle, they found that **67% more teachers found it more important to teach for the holistic development of their students** compared to the academic development of the student.



In the 2020 Education Future Report, it was found that...

**of educators believe schools should provide individualised education to some extent.**

Through the Award, teachers and educators have a great opportunity to help provide students with more unique pathways towards their personal development, complimenting what they learn academically with what they'll learn with the Award.

## The difference you'll make...

When young people do the Award, they'll develop skills and attitudes they need to become more rounded and confident people. These skills and attitudes make a difference today, in and outside the classroom, and they'll make a difference throughout their lives. These are qualities that colleges, universities, and employers are attracted to. When you're supporting young people's pursuit of the Award, you're making a difference and helping them walk a new path through life. **In an ever-changing world, the skills and abilities students learn through the Award will help complement the things they achieve academically and find success in the workforce of tomorrow.** The Award program helps young people develop the following skills with the support of amazing Award Leaders and Mentors, our Resources and Pedagogy, an Award Culture for them to thrive in, and with the tools and resources to progress through the Award program.

### Helping to unlock

### Key Award Outcomes



Resilience & Determination



Relationships & Leadership



Confidence



Physical Fitness



Interpersonal Skills



Health & Safety Mindset



Socialization Skills



Problem Solving Skills



Empathy



Success at School



Volunteerism



Treat Others with Fairness



Honesty & Trustworthiness

#### Award Leaders and Mentors:

Adults delivering the Award who will guide and support participants.

- Guidance and support | Providing feedback and encouragement | Support to overcome challenges

#### Award Culture for Participant Support:

Ensuring participants have the support, environment, and culture to thrive in the Award.

- School support | Engaged and supportive parents | Like-minded peers working alongside each other

#### Resources and Pedagogy:

Delivering a high-quality Award experience to every participant, regardless of background and level.

- The Award Canada Way | The Award Framework | Resources and support for participants to craft their own Award | Modern | Flexible Award pathways with an eye to the future

#### Resources and Pedagogy:

Participants track their own progress, completing and advancing to the next level.

- Online Record Book to keep track of progress and logs | Three levels, Bronze Silver and Gold, increasing in challenge as participant's progress

# Differences you'll see as an Award Leader

- ✓ **Enhanced Student Engagement:** Award framework extends learning beyond the classroom, increasing student enthusiasm and motivation aligned with the 7 Elements of the Award Canada Way.
- ✓ **Stronger Student-Teacher Relationships:** Teachers act as mentors, building stronger bonds with students, offering personalized guidance and support.
- ✓ **Enriched Curriculum:** Integrating the Award into teaching provides experiential learning, enriching the educational experience with structured goals and diverse activities.
- ✓ **Holistic Skill Development:** The Award fosters skills like resilience, leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills beyond academics.
- ✓ **Recognition of Non-Formal Learning:** Teachers appreciate non-formal learning's value, recognizing skills gained through volunteering, recreation, and skill development.
- ✓ **Professional Development Opportunities:** Involvement with the Award offers professional growth, expanding educators' skills and knowledge through leadership roles and teaching practices.
- ✓ **Adventure awaits:** Teachers get a break from traditional academic routines and lead students on thrilling educational journeys, creating lasting memories through hands-on learning experiences and exciting adventures.
- ✓ **Community Engagement:** Schools partnering with the Award promote social responsibility and community service. Teachers empower students to make a positive impact outside school.
- ✓ **Improved Student Outcomes:** The holistic approach of the Award leads to increased confidence, resilience, and motivation. Students show academic success and personal growth.
- ✓ **Alignment with Educational Principles:** Award principles align with positive youth development and student-centered education. Integrating these principles enhances the overall educational experience.
- ✓ **Contribution to School Culture:** Embracing the Award promotes a positive school culture emphasizing empowerment and community engagement. Teachers are instrumental in instilling Award values within the school.
- ✓ **Preparation for Future Success:** The Award prepares students with life skills for success in education and work, including resilience and leadership for future challenges.
- ✓ **Personal Fulfillment and Job Satisfaction:** Teachers find fulfillment and satisfaction in mentoring students and seeing their success. Involvement with the Award can reignite passion for education and boost purpose and achievement.

“

The Duke of Ed gave me the skills to succeed academically and professionally. **I learned how to persevere, be dedicated, be flexible and step outside my comfort zone. It made me a person who loves and lives for helping others, helping me become the best teacher I can be.**

Erin Maitland, Teacher and Camp Coordinator for TCDSB





# Hear the impact of the Award from young people themselves!

Each year, we ask young people who complete an Award level to share their experiences and the personal impact of the Award. Their feedback consistently highlights the profound, positive changes they've undergone. From building confidence and resilience to developing leadership skills and a sense of community, our participants' stories are a testament to the life-changing benefits of the Award.

## As a result of completing their Award...



**85%**  
felt challenged



**94%**  
feel they made new friends  
since starting the Award.



**85%**  
feel more satisfied with  
their lives after completing  
the Award



**92%**  
tried something new



**87%**  
believe they can make a  
difference in their community



**83%**  
of Award Holders feel  
they have improved their  
physical fitness



**75%**  
feel the Award helped prepare  
them for the next stage of their life



**81%**  
said they would recommend  
the Award to a friend

## READY TO BECOME AN AWARD LEADER?

[CLICK HERE](#)

### Contact Us:

437.747.0449  
[support@dukeofed.org](mailto:support@dukeofed.org)  
[www.dukeofed.org](http://www.dukeofed.org)

[@dukeofedcanada](#)



Charitable Registration Number: 12391 6751 RR0002  
©2024 The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Canada  
Back cover image © 2024 The Duke of Edinburgh's International