

# 25TH ANNUAL LEACOCK DEBATE



2026 Sponsorship Package

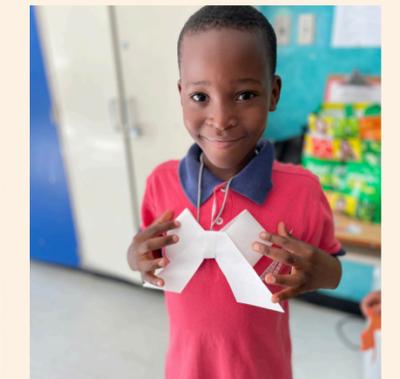
# Unlocking Hidden Greatness

Every child holds immense potential, yet too many lack the opportunity to realize it. LiftED Literacy and Leadership bridges that gap, offering students in underserved communities the tools, resources, and support to thrive.

LiftED's mission is to boost the confidence of students aged 5-17 in underserved Toronto communities by providing free, out-of-school literacy and leadership programs where students learn new skills in a safe and engaging environment.

All proceeds from the Leacock Debate support students from kindergarten to grade 12 through literacy, math, recreation, and leadership programs led by Ontario Certified Teachers.

By supporting the Leacock Debate, you are investing in education, opportunity, and the power of education to help every child rise to their full potential.



# Sponsorship at a Glance

## Date and Location

- Thursday, October 1, 6pm at The Carlu, 444 Yonge Street, Toronto

## Audience

- 350 business and community leaders including:
  - Senior leaders in finance, real estate, law, philanthropy
  - Board members, CEOs, senior executives
  - Longstanding Toronto influencers and donors

## Sponsorship Range

**\$5,000 – \$50,000**

This year's Debate aims to raise \$275,000 to support approximately 770 children across LiftED's literacy and leadership programs.

## Impact of Your Support

### Every sponsorship level changes a child's story

- **\$50,000** brings caring educators and youth leaders into classrooms where confidence and curiosity grow.
- **\$30,000** anchors literacy programming at one community site, giving children consistent support to thrive.
- **\$15,000** creates mentorship opportunities to inspire students through guidance and small group learning.
- **\$7,500** ensures students arrive ready to learn with food, books, and materials that build confidence.
- **\$5,000** places high-quality literacy and math resources directly into children's hands.



# About LiftED



Reading performance among 15-year-olds in Canada has declined since the year 2000, with 1 in 7 students scoring at the lowest reading level.

LiftED helps students aged 5-17 in Toronto communities boost their confidence by:

- Providing free community-driven out-of-school literacy, math, recreational, and leadership programs in an engaging and safe environment;
- Allowing students to close the “opportunity gap” through creative classroom and experiential learning experiences; and
- Empowering students to better explore and realize their full potential, and be valued members of the community.

**LiftED is changing this story.**

For 34 years, LiftED has worked to change this trajectory by providing fully subsidized literacy, math, recreational, and leadership programs to children and youth in Toronto’s highest-need communities.

*“LiftED is providing equal opportunities to kids as I feel we would not have been able to afford something so incredible for my kids.”*

- LiftED Parent





### **Saturday Morning Literacy Club:**

Year-round literacy programming led by Ontario-Certified Teachers.



### **LEAP into Literacy:**

An intensive summer literacy camp designed to prevent learning loss.



### **March Math Literacy:**

A week-long program boosting numeracy and financial literacy.



### **JUMP Math:**

Branksome Hall high school students tutor Grades 4-5 students in JUMP Math for two hours per session, building confidence and resilience.



### **Reading Buddies:**

Branksome Hall students mentor Rose Avenue Jr. Public School Grades 2-3 students through reading and cooperative games, fostering literacy and leadership.



### **Take the LEAD:**

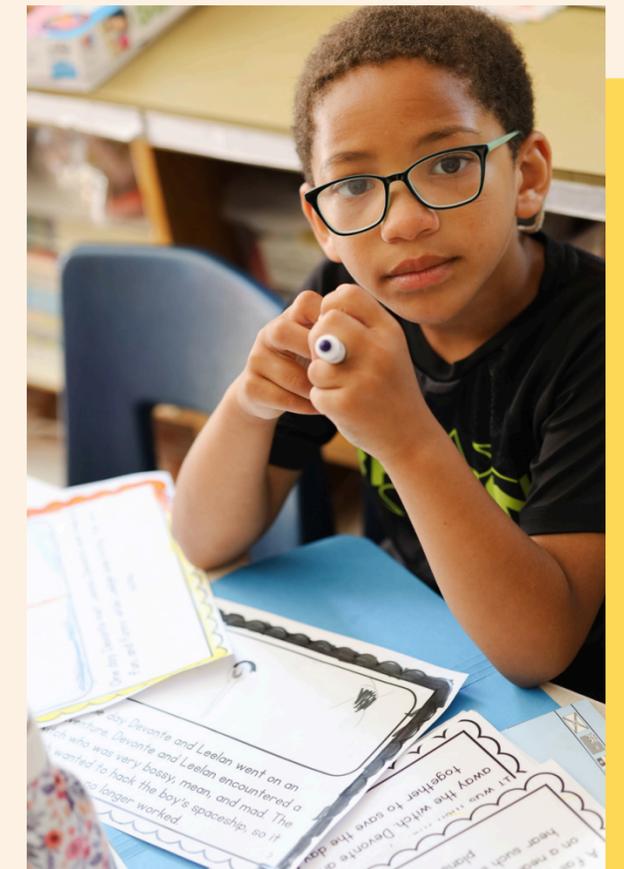
Leadership programs for youth in Grades 5-8, fostering advocacy, self-confidence, and real-world experience.



### **Youth Volunteers:**

Across all programs, youth volunteers support Ontario-Certified educators, gaining leadership, confidence, and mentorship skills while creating pathways from learner to leader.

**95%** of parents say our programs positively impact their child, **80%** build stronger literacy skills and the confidence to thrive in school and beyond.



# Why Partner With Us?

**Through education, LiftED opens doors to brighter futures.**

Toronto remains the child poverty capital of Canada, with one in five children growing up in poverty. Literacy is not only about reading and writing, it is about empowerment, confidence, and the belief that every child's future can be different. When we invest in literacy, we change lives. We open minds, nurture potential, and strengthen entire communities.

Your sponsorship of the Leacock Debate helps make this possible. It supports programs that give children the opportunity to dream bigger, achieve more, and see themselves as leaders, ensuring that no child's future is limited by their neighbourhood.

**By partnering with LiftED through the Leacock Debate, your organization benefits from:**

- Opportunities for meaningful employee engagement and volunteering, connecting your team directly to the impact of your support
- Strong alignment with education, equity, and community investment priorities, advancing outcomes that matter to Toronto families
- High-visibility association with a trusted Toronto charity and flagship philanthropic event, alongside senior business and community leaders

**Together, we can create a future where every child has the tools to learn, lead, and thrive.  
Partner with us today to help make that future a reality.**



# About the Event

An evening where laughter inspires learning and opportunity.

The annual Leacock Debate is a signature fundraising event on Toronto's philanthropic calendar, blending sharp wit, spirited humor, and unforgettable entertainment. Each year, 350 guests gather including business and community leaders, philanthropists, and longtime supporters united by a shared belief in the power of education.

Guests enjoy a remarkable dinner followed by a lively debate that tackles timely and thought-provoking topics with intelligence and charm.

All proceeds from the evening support LiftED's literacy and leadership programs. These initiatives spark curiosity, build confidence, and open doors to brighter futures for children and youth across the city.

**Event Co-Chairs:** Jessica Oliver & Jessica Arakgi

**Debate Events Committee:** Rachael Factor, Joanne Pickard, Catherine Pringle, Cyrus Zahedi

**Chair:** Laura Regehr

**Debate Talent Committee:** Jessica Oliver, Lee Pitts, Laura Regehr, Shawn Micallef, Ian Brown, Anne Fenn



 Thursday, October 1, 2026

 The Carlu, 444 Yonge Street, Toronto

 6:00pm

# A Full Circle Story:

## From Participant to Leader



*“When I look back on my childhood in St. James Town, I never imagined I would one day be sharing my story with all of you. My parents first signed me up for LEAP into Literacy so I wouldn’t spend the summer at home, missing out on learning or making friends. I still remember feeling nervous that first day, but everything changed because of the incredible staff and volunteers who welcomed me.*

*That experience inspired me to come back, first as a volunteer and later as a program assistant. **Through LiftED, I found my voice and my purpose.** The connections I made opened doors I never expected, including an internship at Wealthsimple after their foundation ran tax workshops for families in our programs. LiftED has been part of every step of my journey, helping me grow as a student, a leader, and a community member. Thank you for believing in young people like me and for making sure every child has the chance to learn, lead, and thrive. ”*

*— Hannan, Currently at University of Toronto*

# Sponsorship Levels

## PRESENTING PARTNER

\$50,000

- 16 tickets to the Debate.
- Acknowledged as Presenting Sponsor.
- Premium front row table.
- Recognition on ALL table signs on event website, tagged social media posts, and evening materials.
- Exclusive lunch for two on the day of the Debate at The Carlu with members of the Debate Committee and select debaters.
- Custom-designed volunteer day.

## PREMIER LITERACY PARTNER

\$30,000

- 10 tickets to the Debate.
- Verbal recognition at the event.
- Premier table.
- Recognition on ALL table signs, on event website and evening materials.
- Choice of dessert or cocktail hour sponsorship.
- Employee volunteer day or site visit for staff.

## EDUCATION PARTNER

\$15,000

- 10 tickets to the Debate.
- Preferred table.
- Recognition on the table sign, on event website and evening materials.
- Employee volunteer day or site visit for staff.

## STUDENT PARTNER

\$7,500

- 10 tickets to the Debate.
- Recognition on the table sign, on event website and evening materials.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER

\$5,000

- 5 tickets to the Debate.
- Recognition on the table sign, on event website and evening materials.

## SILENT AUCTION

\$5,000

- Recognition on event website.
- Logo incorporated into the silent auction platform and evening materials.

**Tickets: \$300/person**

**Early Bird Tickets: \$275/person (Purchase before June 30th)**

\* All levels of support will receive a donation receipt for maximum allowable amount, where applicable.

Custom sponsorship options available upon request.

For more information on these opportunities, or LiftED, please contact Jessica Murphy at: [jessica@liftededucation.org](mailto:jessica@liftededucation.org) or 416-906-9837.

# Together, we can create lasting impact for Toronto's students that reaches far beyond the Debate.

**Contact us today to secure your sponsorship opportunity!**

To discuss sponsorship opportunities or customize a package aligned with your organization's priorities, please contact Jessica Murphy.

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✉ [jessica@liftededucation.org](mailto:jessica@liftededucation.org)

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📷 @liftededucation

📘 LiftED Literacy and Leadership

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