

 **first tee**[®]
premier départ
canada



Annual Review

'25



First Tee is Golf Canada's youth development program that uses golf as a vehicle to instill life skills and core values in children from all backgrounds.

Golf Canada partnered with First Tee to launch First Tee – Canada in 2021, which now has six regional chapters that deliver programming at schools, community centres, and golf facilities nationwide.

The program supports Golf Canada's objective to ensure that the sport reflects the strengths of Canada's multiculturalism, while empowering youth to be the best version of themselves on and off the course.



A year of continued growth

I am extremely proud of the continued growth and positive impact that First Tee – Canada is making through golf on the lives of youth in every province across Canada.

Golf participation in our country is experiencing multi-year highs, and more people are engaging with the game than ever before. As the National Sports Organization, Golf Canada is committed to the long-term future and overall health of our sport, and First Tee – Canada is a major driver.

First Tee – Canada is providing an accessible and affordable entry point into the game for youth who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to enjoy the sport. To sustain and grow Canadian golf participation, a larger share of golfers must reflect the strengths of multicultural Canada including groups historically underrepresented in our sport.

In 2025, First Tee – Canada delivered programming to over 106,000 participants, its highest participation numbers in a single year and a 25 per cent year-over-year increase. Since its inception in 2021, more than 276,000 young Canadians have engaged with youth golf programming across the country. Over 480 locations (schools, community centres and golf facilities) offered First Tee – Canada programming, conducted by 347 coaches across Canada.

Through the efforts of six First Tee chapters nationwide, youth participation is becoming more reflective of Canada's diversity with 42 per cent of on-course participants identifying as female and 36 per cent as BIPOC. Through partner golf facilities, 59 per cent of programming was delivered at no cost to participants, and 74 per cent of partner schools and community centres serve equity-deserving communities. The growth of First Tee – Canada across the country is having a tremendous impact on the continued advancement of golf nationwide.

The program's continued momentum would not be possible without the outstanding efforts of the Golf Canada Foundation and its network of corporate partners and enthusiastic philanthropic champions. A special thank you as well to the coaches, volunteers, program ambassadors, and First Tee – Canada chapter staff across the country for their continued commitment and meaningful support of this incredible program.

Laurence Applebaum
CEO, Golf Canada

National Scorecard

276,307

participants engaged
since inception
in 2021

6

chapters operating
programming in
every province

42%

of on-course
participants identified
as female

36%

of on-course
participants identified
as BIPOC

59%

of on-course
programming was
provided at no cost
to participants

74%

of program locations
serve equity-deserving
communities



106,229

participants

26% increase from 2024

101

golf facilities

20% increase from 2024

261

schools

24% increase from 2024

119

community centres

31% increase from 2024

347

coaches

45% increase from 2024

141

outreach events

More than **29,300**
children were introduced
to golf at a no-cost
community event



Community Junior Golf



RBC Community Junior Golf is an initiative launched by RBC in partnership with Golf Canada that strengthens access to the game by delivering First Tee and Youth on Course programs at 36 municipal and publicly accessible golf facilities nationwide.

Supported by nearly 150 committed coaches and 218 community partners, the initiative reached more than 48,000 young people in 2025 – a 42 per cent increase from last year – with nearly half of all participants identifying as BIPOC. Since its launch in 2022, RBC Community Junior Golf has proudly engaged more than 100,000 youth.

Thanks to RBC Community Junior Golf, all First Tee programming at supported locations is delivered at no cost to participants and program administrators.



Canadian Tire Jumpstart

Canadian Tire Jumpstart has been a valued supporter of First Tee – Canada since 2022, helping expand the program into schools, community centres and golf facilities across the country.

Thanks to the organization's support, thousands of Canadian youth from underrepresented communities have participated in First Tee programming nationwide.

Canadian Tire Jumpstart's commitment ensures First Tee – Canada can continue creating more accessible entry points to the game for families who would not otherwise have the chance to play.



First Tee – British Columbia

17,706

participants

3% increase from 2024

19

golf facilities

19% increase from 2024

44

schools

26% increase from 2024

24

community centres

14% increase from 2024

53

coaches

32% increase from 2024

70%

of on-course programming was provided at no cost

56%

of on-course participants identified as BIPOC

38%

of on-course participants identified as female

74%

of program locations serve equity-deserving communities



A heartfelt thanks to the following donors and community supporters:

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Boomi
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Phil Algra & Algra Bros Development
Shelly Appleton-Benko
Tony Mauro
Viet Le
Wes and Brenda Koop
White Rock Beach Brewing



My daughter really enjoyed the classes, always coming home excited to share what she had learned. Our family thanks First Tee – British Columbia and Coach Yanni for the kindness, patience, and enthusiasm that radiated through each lesson.

— Dorothy Fong, First Tee parent



Queen Elizabeth Pitch and Putt takes First Tee All-Girls programming to new heights

After a successful pilot in 2024, the First Tee All-Girls program at Queen Elizabeth Pitch and Putt expanded in 2025, giving 72 young golfers more than a place to work on their swing. The program seamlessly integrates golf instruction with life-skills development, confidence-building activities and opportunities to form new friendships that last long after the round.

Queen Elizabeth Pitch and Putt has been integral to First Tee's growth in British Columbia. Staff ensure every participant feels welcome, and the course's scale supports players of all abilities. The result is a safe, inclusive environment for learning and personal development.

Supported by RBC Community Junior Golf, the program was offered at no cost. Equipment was also provided to participants, helping remove barriers and encouraging more girls to take up the game.

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Kelly Baker-Pabla, Development Officer
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british columbia

First Tee – Alberta

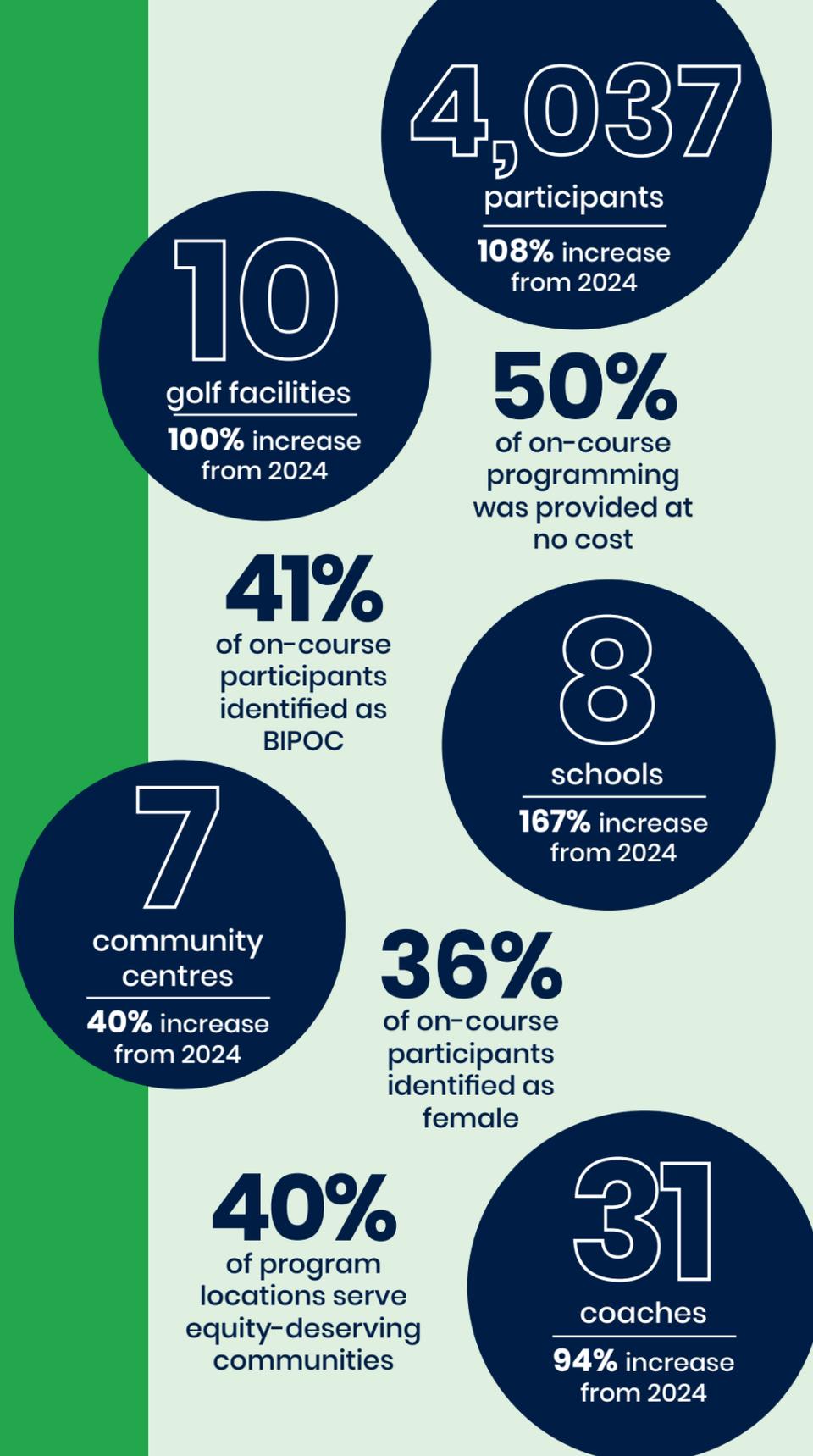
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First Tee – Alberta and 7 Generations Golf share a powerful mission: to make golf more accessible and inclusive for Indigenous youth. It's inspiring to see how our efforts are already making a lasting impact in communities across the province.

— Andrew Fox, First Tee coach

First Tee – Alberta expands access to the game for Indigenous youth

First Tee – Alberta made significant strides in expanding the program's reach into Indigenous communities in 2025. Led by Coach Andrew Fox and supported by the 7 Generations Golf Association, the program introduced more than 250 First Nations youth to golf at Grand Centre Golf & Country Club, through Cold Lake First Nations community events, and in several Indigenous schools across the province.

Through First Tee, young participants are developing new skills, gaining confidence and building character, while discovering a love for a sport many had never accessed before. Coach Andrew's commitment has helped deepen relationships with Indigenous community leaders and families, creating a welcoming, inclusive environment for learning.

With this foundation in place, First Tee – Alberta will continue to strengthen its relationships with Indigenous communities by increasing access to the program across the province in 2026.



First Tee – Prairies

14,535 **9**

participants

9% increase from 2024

32

golf facilities

29% increase from 2024

10

schools

19% increase from 2024

29

community centres

67% increase from 2024

29

coaches

32% increase from 2024

79%

of on-course programming was provided at no cost

46%

of on-course participants identified as BIPOC

42%

of on-course participants identified as female

81%

of program locations serve equity-deserving communities



A heartfelt thanks to the following donors and community supporters:

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Laura Small
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RLF Advisory
Rob Lindquist Memorial Golf Tournament
Rob MacDonald
The Sask Lotteries Community Grant Program – Prince Albert
The Sask Lotteries Community Grant Program – Saskatoon



Coaching the First Tee program has been an amazing experience. The training and my work at Tuxedo Golf Club helped me grow and step outside my comfort zone. I'm proud to be coaching golf – something I never imagined I'd do.

– Ruth Blanca Lopes Sejas, First Tee coach



From Bolivia to the Prairies: Ruth's journey to growing the game around her new home

In 2025, First Tee – Prairies strengthened its coaching team to support growing participation across its program locations. A standout addition was Ruth Blanca Lopes Sejas, who moved to Canada from Bolivia just one year earlier. Ruth's daughter was first introduced to golf in Bolivia, inspiring Ruth to help create similar opportunities for young newcomers in her new community.

Thanks to First Tee, Ruth became a certified coach and led spring and summer programs at Tuxedo Golf Club in Winnipeg, offering sessions at no cost to participants. Ruth also provided support at other program locations across the city, quickly becoming a valued leader for the chapter. Ruth's commitment reflects First Tee – Prairies' mission to make golf welcoming and accessible for all youth.

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First Tee – Ontario

19,501

participants

27% increase
from 2024

26

golf facilities

8% increase
from 2024

42

schools

24% increase
from 2024

34

community centres

6% increase
from 2024

82

coaches

5% increase
from 2024

70%

of on-course
programming
was provided at
no cost

47%

of on-course
participants
identified as
BIPOC

46%

of on-course
participants
identified as
female

92%

of program
locations serve
equity-deserving
communities



A heartfelt thanks to the following donors and community supporters:

3 From the Tee
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Tee the North Open
Thorpe Family Foundation
Toronto Golf Club
Will Edwards
Women in Sport Next Play
Zael Miranski

Amber Aquin, Chapter Head
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First Tee – Ontario expands programming for girls across the province

First Tee – Ontario prioritized expanding opportunities for girls across the chapter's programming in 2025. Creating dedicated, girls-only spaces helps participants feel safe, supported and confident – especially when trying golf for the first time. These programs also foster social connection, life-skills development, and fun, active play.

That commitment has led to meaningful growth. Female representation in Ontario programs has increased from 34 per cent in 2023 to 46 per cent in 2025. This season, all-girls programming expanded to four on-course locations: Orr Lake Golf Club, Tam O'Shanter Golf Course, Humber Valley Golf Course and Pine View Golf Course, alongside special events and experiences designed specifically for girls.

First Tee – Ontario continues to work toward its goal of achieving 50 per cent female participation in 2026.



Having women coaches helps girls feel more comfortable and willing to learn the sport. They see us as role models – that gets them excited to participate and improve.

– Michelle Ruiz, First Tee coach



First Tee – Premier départ Québec

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Simeon Pompey
Teneo
The Aune Foundation
The Henri Family Foundation
The Oka and Gregoire Foundation
The Royal Montreal Golf Club
Valsoft

29,645

participants

39% increase from 2024

16

golf facilities

12% increase from 2024

31%

of on-course programming was provided at no cost

26%

of on-course participants identified as BIPOC

75

schools

14% increase from 2024

18

community centres

100% increase from 2024

41%

of on-course participants identified as female

75%

of program locations serve equity-deserving communities

61

coaches

85% increase from 2024



Empowering girls through introductory golf clinics

This year, First Tee – Premier départ Québec hosted an all-girls introductory golf event, engaging more than 30 young girls from surrounding schools and community groups. Programming took place at Parcours du Cerf Golf Club in Longueuil. The event was delivered at no cost to participants, and all equipment was provided, creating an inclusive, accessible opportunity for girls to try the sport.

Many participants, including students from École Adrien-Gamache, were trying golf for the first time. Led largely by female coaches, the workshop offered a supportive environment that encouraged learning, confidence and fun. For many, the event was their first experience on a real golf course.

First Tee – Premier départ Québec remains committed to breaking down barriers and helping more girls build life skills, confidence and meaningful connections through golf.



What I find most rewarding is seeing the girls progress throughout their participation. Our coaching helps them develop not just golf skills, but life values and a positive attitude towards others.

— Angélique Maire, First Tee coach



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First Tee – Atlantic

20,805

participants

35% increase
from 2024

21

golf facilities

17% increase
from 2024

60

schools

30% increase
from 2024

26

community centres

44% increase
from 2024

86

coaches

87% increase
from 2024

58%

of on-course
programming
was provided at
no cost

46%

of on-course
participants
identified as
female

60%

of program
locations serve
equity-deserving
communities



A heartfelt thanks to the following donors and community supporters:

Allie Beckwith
Ashburn Golf Club
Atlantic Senior Ladies Golf Association
Bishop's Cellar
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Dr. Graham Nickerson
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Sheriff Sports
The Church Brewing Company
The Grant Family Foundation

 ***There is so much more to golf than swinging a club. Golf is a wonderful lifetime activity but without programs like First Tee, many may never get the chance to learn.***

— Michelle Phillips LeBlanc, First Tee teacher



First Tee – Atlantic teacher receives First Tee Teacher of the Year network award

Each year, First Tee, in partnership with Golf Digest, honours outstanding leaders through the First Tee Network Awards. In 2025, First Tee – Atlantic recognized Michelle Phillips LeBlanc of Forest Glen School in Moncton, N.B., as the First Tee Teacher of the Year. The award celebrates educators who go above and beyond in delivering the First Tee School Program and strengthening connections between their school and regional chapter.

Since launching the program in 2021, Michelle has expanded access to golf for youth in one of Moncton's most culturally diverse and underrepresented communities. She has introduced more than 400 students – many newcomers, unfamiliar with the sport – to a welcoming, inclusive learning environment.

Through multilingual signage, adaptive equipment and flexible lesson plans, Michelle ensures all students, including those with behavioural or physical challenges, can participate fully in the character-building experiences at the heart of First Tee.

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Steve Healy, Development Officer
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Professional Championships

RBC Canadian Open

- As the tournament's charitable beneficiary, Golf Canada Foundation's 50/50 raffle raised **\$109,388** in support of First Tee – Canada.
- The 72' Putt Challenge raised over **\$44,000** in support of First Tee – Canada.
 - ◊ **More than 2,000** spectators attempted to recreate Nick Taylor's historic putt, and 17 lucky winners walked away with a Scotty Cameron putter!
- At Mono Hills Country Club, **30** youth from BGC Peel participated in an introductory golf clinic – many swinging a club for the first time.
- **47** youth took part in RBC Community Junior Golf's Walk With a Pro, walking the iconic Rink hole alongside PGA TOUR professionals.
- **50** students from Royal Orchard Middle School received a behind-the-scenes look at the Championship Pro-Am, meeting PGA TOUR players and witnessing the game at its highest level.
- **More than 600** youth visited the First Tee Game Changers Pavilion, engaging in family-friendly activities, and learning more about the game.
- **Jim Nantz, First Tee's new Honorary Chair**, visited the First Tee Game Changers Pavilion to share a glimpse of his golf journey and inspire local participants to build lifelong connections through the game.



CPKC Women's Open

- The tournament's 50/50 raffle raised **\$37,038** in support of First Tee – Ontario.
- First Tee – Ontario received **\$25,000** through the Audi Precision Award
- The First Tee Long Putt Challenge raised **nearly \$8,000** for the program.
 - ◊ **Nearly 400** spectators attempted the challenge, and two lucky winners walked away with a YETI Tundra 45 Hard Cooler.
- **48** youth took part in RBC Community Junior Golf's Walk With a Pro, walking alongside LPGA professionals at the Rink hole.
- **28** girls from BGC Peel enjoyed a hands-on clinic and exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the grounds.



Coach Appreciation

At First Tee, coaches are more than instructors — they are mentors who teach the game's skills and etiquette alongside meaningful life lessons that develop young golfers on and off the course.

The impact of First Tee is made possible through the commitment of nearly 350 certified coaches and volunteers who support the program across Canada.



First Tee not only provides an affordable entry into golf — it also helps shape the future generation by teaching respect and discipline in a fun and engaging environment. It's rewarding to see the impact our sessions have on the growth of young participants.

— Graham Turrentine, First Tee —
Ontario coach



First Tee Coach Pathway

- Mandatory Safe Sport Certification**
- Mandatory First Tee Assistant Coach Online Training**
- Mandatory Level 1 Community Golf Coach In Person Training**
Completion allows individuals to coach First Tee to children ages 7-9.
- Complete Level 2 First Tee Coach In Person Training**
Completion allows individuals to coach children ages 10-13.
- Complete Level 3 First Tee Coach In Person Training**
Completion allows individuals to coach children ages 14-18.

Contact firsttee@golfcanada.ca to learn more about First Tee coaching and volunteering opportunities near you.



First Tee helps change people's mentality towards golf by enabling children from different backgrounds to participate more easily. By introducing more children to golf, we can expand the community of golfers.

— Maéva Therrien, First Tee – Premier départ Québec coach



Coaches Building Game Changers

First Tee – British Columbia

Alan Fairweather
Alex Webber
Anthony Prince
Blake Ceron
Brian Hann
Brian Johnson
Brian Boyes
Cam Fergusson
Colin Lavers
Cooper Alexander
Crystal Wells
Derek Thornley
Doug Brown
Eva Kovacs
Fabio Molina
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Jackie Hellard
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Ty Daniels
Tyson Gavin
Wayne Allen
Youssef (Joseph) Hanna



The team behind First Tee – Canada

Alongside donors, committed coaches and volunteers, and partner golf courses, schools and community centres, First Tee staff across the country work tirelessly to support youth and shape the next generation of golfers.

Empowering young Canadians from coast to coast

- | | |
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| Kelsey Chadwick | Youssef Idriss Zarrouk |

Thank You

First Tee – Canada is proudly supported by corporate and individual donors who share our mission of providing life-enhancing opportunities to children through golf. This generous network of partners remains vital to First Tee’s ongoing success and growth across the country.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all supporters – near or far, large or small – who have helped First Tee – Canada achieve new milestones in 2025.



Thank you to the Provincial Golf Associations for their continued partnership and support as First Tee expands its programs across their regions.



Help us Build Game Changers

Play a role in impacting the lives of youth across the country, one swing at a time:

- 1 **Donate to your local First Tee chapter to grow the game in your province.**
- 2 **Become a First Tee coach or volunteer.**
- 3 **Help recruit a new program location (golf course, school or community organization).**
- 4 **Host or participate in a fundraising event supporting First Tee.**
- 5 **Implement Green Fees to Grow the Game at your course.**
 - Add a \$1 donation to your green fees to directly support First Tee in your region.
- 6 **Spread the word about our mission.**





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