Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **NOVEMBER 1, 2026**

JEAN LUMB FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES the 29th ANNIVERSARY of The JEAN LUMB AWARDS with 19 WINNERS FROM ACROSS CANADA

Toronto & GTA, ON – From city to city, step by step, the Jean Lumb Awards winners are growing across Canada. This year's winners represent the bright minds and passions of young Canadians across the country. The winners are from communities nationwide, including 9 recipients from Ontario (Markham, Oakville, Ottawa, Windsor, Toronto), 8 recipients from British Columbia (Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Abbotsford, Richmond, Port Moody), 1 recipient from Alberta (Calgary) and 1 recipient from Manitoba (Winnipeg). The winners exemplify the dreams and ambitions of today's youth.

In athletics, we're making history by awarding, for the first time, the sailing prowess of two sisters from Victoria, BC: one from high school, the other in university.

Future healthcare leaders are in no shortage, including Cadence Tam from Calgary, Ryan Ho from Hamilton, and four winners from Toronto: Selina Chow, JJ Mao, Harrison Gao, and Jocelyn Lee.

In music, Verity Leung, a piano virtuoso from Vancouver, and Leon Xiang from Richmond, who champions concerts to foster community, are both from BC.

Innovating for the future is a common theme, with Hebbe Yuan from Coquitlam, BC, Benjamin Ru from Windsor, and Freddie Zhang from Vancouver, BC, all creating new ideas, applications, and products to build a better society.

Finally, future community voices will be stronger with Selina Ma from Nanaimo, BC, and representing Ontario, Isabel Shang from St. Catharines, Edith Rene from Ottawa, Joshua Han from Toronto, and Winston Lee from Toronto.

"I am so honoured to recognize this year's record number of winners and to welcome them as Jean Lumb Award alumni," said Arlene Chan, eldest daughter of Jean Lumb and President of the Jean

Lumb Foundation. "Their fresh energy and ideas will serve our communities positively for generations. I would also like to thank our judging panel, who, year after year, invest many hours reviewing hundreds of applications from students across Canada. Finally, I can never say enough thanks to our sponsors who make the awards possible, notably the University of Toronto Scarborough and Murphy & Chung Chartered Accountants, two of our longest-serving sponsors. Among our newest sponsors are Ample Ace Holdings Ltd/Playdexk and AMIwealth Group."

The Jean Lumb Foundation celebrates 29 years of awarding scholarships to recognize excellence in students of Chinese heritage from across Canada. Since the awards' inception in 1998, over 185 award alumni have gone on to work in their chosen fields and make positive contributions to our communities. They work as lawyers, medical doctors, entrepreneurs, engineers, graphic artists, educators, accountants, artists, performers, dentists, and much more across Canada, as far north as Nunavut, and worldwide.

The Jean Lumb Awards celebrate the hopes and dreams of the early generations of Chinese Canadians, whose hard work and sacrifice paved the way for today's generations. Jean Lumb was the first Chinese Canadian woman to receive the Order of Canada for her tireless community work as a voice and advocate for Chinese communities across Canada.

The 29th Annual Jean Lumb Awards will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. EDT, at the Great Hall, Hart House, University of Toronto, 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto, Ontario.

Media are welcome to request advance interviews via videoconferencing or in person on November 1, between 1:00 p.m. and 1:45 p.m.

The 2026 Jean Lumb Award winners:

2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS – UNIVERSITY

Chinese Canadian Studies Award
Winston Lee

Winston has been recognized in the Asian Canadian Studies program as an outstanding student immersed in learning about the Chinese Canadian community and its substantial contributions to Canadian culture and society. Despite his full academic workload, he has been active in the community, including Chinese outreach, translation, and fundraising.

Winston is enrolled at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto, with a Double Major in Contemporary Asian Studies and Peace, Conflict, and Justice.

Michael Yu Award - Medicine, University of Toronto
Harrison Gao 高瑞森

Harrison joined a COVID-19 research team and published six papers. He co-founded Students for Music and Wellness (SFMW) and received the Drs. Carl and Ann Witus Award and the Fulford Scholarship. He was elected VP Advocacy for the Ontario Medical Students Association, represented Ontario and UofT at the Federal Day of Action in Ottawa, and won the Ontario Medical Association Medical Student Achievement Award. He delivers presentations at national and international conferences. He leads or co-leads seven research projects across numerous hospitals and aspires to become a surgical oncologist and researcher.

Harrison is pursuing a dual-degree in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He is currently a fourth-year medical student on a visiting elective in Alberta.

E. Ling Kwong Family Award - Medicine, McMaster University
Ryan Ho

Ryan is researching an HIV cure at Western University concurrently with McMaster medical school, where he is VP of External Affairs. He represented 3,500+ medical students in the Ontario Medical Association's provincial "We Won't Give Up" media campaign in 2025/2026. Ryan presented at a recent provincial leadership conference and disseminated this 'institutional memory' nationally to all medical student councils across Canada. Ryan served marginalized communities by assisting with hygiene kits (linked), harm reduction, annual destigmatization advocacy, and naloxone training that fostered human connection through outreach events.

E. Ling Kwong Family Award - Medicine
JJ Mao

JJ taught Grade 9 Science in the Toronto District School Board (DSB) and contributed to curriculum reform, working with teachers at Queen's University to create an inquiry-based learning

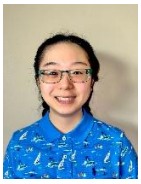
curriculum. At UBC PGME, JJ worked with physicians to develop Anti-Racism in Health Professions Education Modules and Academic Half Day workshops. JJ is working with clinical psychologists and researchers at Toronto Metropolitan University to develop a mental health teaching tool. JJ began volunteering in 2019 at the Sexual Assault Centre Kingston crisis line and also serves as a Board Member with the Women's Health Clinic.

JJ is in Year 3 at the University of Manitoba Max Rady College of Medicine.

E. Ling Kwong Family Award - Medicine, Toronto Metropolitan University
Jocelyn Lee

Growing up in a family shaped by immigrant and refugee experiences and conducting needs assessments at the Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care steered Jocelyn to pursue a Master of Public Health. She contributed to a study at the University Health Network on a co-designed, culturally tailored cancer prevention intervention for ethnoculturally diverse immigrant women, resulting in a peer-reviewed publication. She serves on TMU School of Medicine's Equity-Deserving Admissions Pathway Subcommittee, developing an original social medicine textbook, contributing chapters on migrant health and liberation medicine, and co-authoring social prescribing research manuscripts through the Canadian Social Prescribing Student Collective.

E. Ling Kwong Family Award - Athletics
Alexis Kuo 郭華一



Alexis sails with the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, excelling in 29er racing, and was recognized by the 2025 Trudy and Doug Peden Women in Sports Award. She and her sister won a silver medal at the 2021 BC Summer Games and debuted in the 29er Open Worlds in Aarhus, Denmark, where they secured a silver medal in the Purple fleet. They competed at the 29er European Championships in Italy, achieving Bronze Fleet. In 2024, they sailed on the Canadian Youth Squad and in 2025, won Gold at the Canada Summer Games, becoming the first sailors of Asian heritage to do so in the 29er class.

Alexis is enrolled at the University of Victoria in Neuroscience for a combined Major BSC in Biology-Psychology.

E. Ling Kwong Family Award – Family Medicine
Selina Chow

As the 2018 recipient of the Jean Lumb Dignity of Life Award, Selina is now studying to become a Family Physician. From 2022-23, she mentored an immigrant youth with autism, organized pediatric hearing screening clinics in Toronto's marginalized communities, and researched barriers to autism care for immigrant families in Canada. In 2024, she published a first-author study, analyzing suicide events on the Toronto Transit Commission subway system. She spearheaded UofT's inaugural Addictions Medicine Conference and now serves as the resident representative on faculty committees. She chaired the 2025 Séguin Canadian POCUS Education Conference, received the 2025 Medical Student of the Year Award from the Ontario College of Family Physicians, received an $8,000 Family Medicine award at her UofT medical school graduation, and received the Golden Stethoscope Award.

Selina is a PGY2 Family Medicine Resident at the University of Toronto.

2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS – HIGH SCHOOL

University of Toronto Scarborough Academics Award
Joshua Han TDSB Virtual Secondary School, Toronto, ON

Through perseverance and determination, despite many obstacles, Joshua achieved a 99.7% academic average, a level he has maintained throughout high school. He received the Student of the Year award, seven Academic Excellence Awards, the Certificate of Distinction, and the School Champion Medal. He won the monthly goIT app competition hosted by Tata Consultancy Services. Because community support was so crucial during his childhood, he is dedicated to community leadership. He serves as President of the Student Council and United Way Simcoe Muskoka, Co-Chair of the Youth Council, and a member of the Community Impact and Engagement Standing Committee.

Joshua continues his studies at the TDSB Virtual Secondary School.

Chung-Kotcheff Family Arts Award

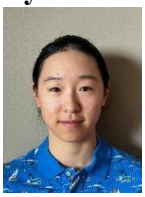
Verity Leung 梁善靈 Vancouver Independent School for Science and Technology, Vancouver, BC

Verity is a classical pianist who performed for local nursing homes before entering competitions, where she won the Most Promising Senior Pianist Award and Placed First in the 2021 and 2022 Canadian Music Competition. She was a three-time Gold Medalist of the Royal Conservatory of Music in 2018, 2022, and 2024 for the National ARCT Piano, earning the highest examination mark in Canada. She was a finalist in the 2024 Kaufman International Youth Piano Competition in New York and was awarded the Morningside Music Bridge scholarship in 2025. In 2026, she was a semi-finalist in the 2026 Hilton Head International Piano Competition. She released a piano CD, Childhood Memories through the Ages, and in June 2024 gave a solo piano charity concert, In Veritate et Caritate, both of which raised money for charity.

Verity continues her studies at Vancouver Independent School for Science and Technology.

Murphy & Chung Chartered Accountants Athletics Award

Ayden Kuo Glenlyon Norfolk School, Victoria, BC



Ayden was recommended to the Junior and then Senior Race Team and qualified for the 2022 BC Summer Games, earning a Silver medal. She and her older sister won the 2023 and 2024 29er West Coast Grand Prix and, in 2024, SailCanada selected them as members of the Canadian Sailing Youth Squad. They won the 2025 29er European Championships in Italy, where they placed in the bronze fleet. They won Gold at the 2025 Canada Summer Games. Ayden continues volunteering and coaching as Junior Executive. The 2025 Thomas Golby Perpetual Award recognized her contributions for sportsmanship and service to the RVicYC community.

Ayden is studying Biology and Psychology at the University of Victoria.

Dorothy and Jung Shao Lu Community Services Award

Isabel Shang 尚函冰 Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School, St. Catharines, ON

Isabel founded and serves as Chair of The Catalyst for Vancouver Foundation, which addresses Vancouver's opioid crisis. Two hundred youth volunteers were mobilized to distribute over 300 care packages. They raised over $10,000 and reached more than 7,000 students and community members. As Director of Operations and Finance for the British Columbia Youth Council, she led a province-wide network of 600 youth across 20 clubs, providing at-risk youth with private tutoring. Her community service record focuses on supporting vulnerable communities, expanding educational access, and building youth-led services.

Isabel is studying Commerce at the University of British Columbia.

AMIwealth Group Dignity of Life Award
Leon Xiang McMath Secondary School, Richmond, BC

Leon has dedicated himself to restoring a sense of worth, belonging, and joy to vulnerable sectors. With the Vancouver Young Pianist Club (VYPC), he organized a concert series that bridged local youth and seniors. They have raised $120,000+ for charitable causes, including $25,000 for local hospitals such as BC Children's Hospital and Lions Gate Hospital. As President of his school's McMath Jazz Club, he created structured concert opportunities that allowed younger students to perform alongside the senior band. His goal is to champion "Service Above Self" by using his passions to foster genuine human connection.

Leon continues his studies at McMath Secondary School.

Fay and John Wong Defence of the Environment Award
Hebbe Yuan **袁子茵** Gleneagle Secondary School, Coquitlam, BC

Hebbe co-founded Rescue-A-Plan(e)t, a nonprofit that repurposes invasive plants into eco-friendly candles to support environmental initiatives, and was recognized with the Healthy Habitats Community Service Grant. Hebbe co-founded the Lower Mainland Debate Society (LMDS), which offers free weekly lessons and has served more than 2,000 students worldwide. As Marketing Director, Hebbe managed online presence and served as an equity officer to help ensure competitions remain fair and respectful. Hebbe also served as Art Club President and as an executive of the Photography Club.

Hebbe is enrolled in Science at the University of British Columbia.

Kwai Chun Wong Award of Excellence

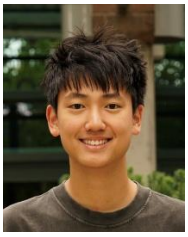
Carina Wai **梁承启** Rick Hansen Secondary School School of Science, Abbottsford, BC

Carina devoted over 450 hours to community service for Youth Central, Calgary Public Library, Canucks Place Children's Hospice, Abbotsford Hospice and Grief Support Society, and Global Partners Institute North America. As President of Student Voice Council and an Executive Member of Key Club, she led volunteer initiatives such as the Smile Cookie Campaign for Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fraser Valley Gleaners Society, Reach Gallery, and UNICEF. She founded a peer-tutoring club and led school-wide discussions on mental health, time management, and addiction awareness.

Carina is enrolled at the University of British Columbia to study Computer Science.

Choi King and John C. Mah Memorial Innovation Award

Freddie Zhang 张晓丰 Prince of Wales Secondary School, Vancouver, BC



Freddie built his own academic curriculum and earned 100% in Physics 12, now serving as a teaching assistant for the course. He conducted Alzheimer's research at UBC and earned Sanofi and CIHR awards at the Greater Vancouver Science Fair. His team placed 7th in the province at the UBC Physics Olympics and placed 4th in Fermi Questions. He tutored over 200 low-income students in AP Economics, Computer Science, French, and Physics, helping students who don't have access to these courses. He wanted to study cognitive Science and keep creating the opportunities he once had to pursue independently.

Freddie continues his studies at the Prince of Wales Secondary School.

Leadership Award in Memory of Jeffrey W. Lem and Susan Chong Lem

Selina Ma 马正瑄 Dover Bay Secondary School, Nanaimo, BC

Selina has demonstrated exemplary leadership at school, through music, and in her role in building platforms for student voices in her community. She co-founded Chords of Care and led over 500 members across more than 40 cities in seven countries. She received the Most Volunteer Hours Award for completing over 400 hours of service in one year, served as President of Student Council and Model UN, and helped establish the Student Voice Advisory Council. She founded Nanaimo Model United Nations, engaging over 100 students from twelve schools. She led a petition advocating for free youth bus passes and worked with her local MLA to draft a proposal for a Nanaimo-Lantzville Youth Council. She spoke at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities about the importance of student voices while serving on the Student Leadership group at the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Board.

Selina is studying Health Science at Queen's University.

Marilyn Lee Journalism and Communications Award
Edith René École secondaire catholique Franco-Cité, Ottawa, ON

During the COVID lockdowns, Edith created an online newspaper that serves as a platform for student voices. Her work has been published by French for the Future and the Vimy Foundation, Ottawa Public Library, Telegraph-Journal, Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est, and Shad Canada. She translated resources for Shad Canada, was a member of the EQAO Student Committee, a Junior Leader with the 8th Ottawa Embers, and the head of her school's inclusion club. Other awards include the University of Toronto National Book Award, Queen's University's Chancellor's scholarship, and the 2026 Vimy Pilgrimage Award.

Edith is studying English and French literature at McGill University.

Foon Hay Lum Commemorative Award for Overcoming Adversity
Cadence Tam 譚紫妍 Ernest Manning High School, Calgary, AB

Cadence emailed her portfolio to an animation company called Rubber Boy Academy, landing an internship designing a Vitasoy aeroplane chess cover and a hospital app storyboard. She launched an Instagram account of food-art reels to raise health awareness for girls who'd lost their appetite for more than just food. At 15, she hand-drew colouring books in her aunt's basement, cold-emailed Alberta Children's Hospital and local daycares, and showed up with illustrations teaching kids yoga and box breathing. She posted a reel every Saturday for eight months, consistently hitting 2K views, while babysitting to fund her schooling and maintaining a 93% average. Despite the hardships of moving seven times, attending five schools in five years, and her family living on welfare under threat of foreclosure, Cadence prevailed.

Cadence continues her studies at the Ernest Manning High School.

Ample Ace Holdings Ltd/Playdexk Innovation in Technology Award
Benjamin Ru Vincent Massey High School, Windsor, ON

Benjamin earned Outstanding Scholastic Achievement from the University of Windsor and achieved Honour Roll with Distinction at Vincent Massey Secondary School for four consecutive years. He received the "Best Use of Generative AI" award for creating a fitness app. He also received the "Best Education" award for creating an app that uses AI to help students learn. He placed in the Top 5 at SSPC 2025 and was part of his school's Robotics Competition Team, qualifying for the provincial level in 2024-2025. He taught in both CodeReach and his school's Computer Science Club.

Benjamin is enrolled at Western University in Biomedical Engineering.

A Pioneer Chinese Canadian Woman

Jean Lumb (nee Wong), one of twelve children, was born in Nanaimo, BC. She left school at the age of 12 to work and support her family. In 1935, she moved to Toronto and opened her own grocery store at the age of 18. She married Doyle Lumb, her husband of 50 years. The mother of six children, grandmother of nine grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren, Jean Lumb, was the co-owner and director of the Kwong Chow Restaurant in Toronto for 23 years.

Jean Lumb was the first Chinese Canadian woman and the first restaurateur to receive the Order of Canada for her tireless community work. Most notably, she was recognized for her pivotal role in changing Canada's immigration laws that separated Chinese families and for her contribution to saving Chinatowns in Toronto and other cities. She achieved additional firsts in the community:

First Chinese woman on the board of governors of the Women's College Hospital
First Chinese woman on the board of University Settlement House

First Chinese restaurateur and first woman to receive the Fran Deck Award for outstanding achievement in Toronto's restaurant industry
First Chinese Canadian woman to sit on the Board of Rotary Laughlen Centre

Through her life, we get a glimpse of the history of Chinese Canadians in Canada. She represents generations of Chinese Canadians whose hard work and sacrifice made it possible for the present generation to enjoy the benefits they have today. Learn more about the Jean Lumb story at jeanlumbfoundation.ca.

For further information, please contact Stephen Wong at (416) 817-5237 or via email at stephen@linkwoodgroup.ca or info@jeanlumbfoundation.ca.

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