

SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

REPORT 2025



IndigenousTech.ai

Canadian Government (PSIB) Certified Indigenous Controlled Company

“EDUCATION is what got us here, and EDUCATION is what will get us out.”

The Honourable Murray Sinclair

EAMON SHEPPARD, DIYAKO GILIBAGU, CREEDAN AWASIS, LEONARDO LOZANO

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2025-11-18

Page 1 of 28

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For more information on IndigenousTech.ai

10520 Yonge St.
Unit 35B Suite 322
Richmond Hill, ON
L4C 3C7

Leonardo Lozano – leonardo@indigenoustech.ai

Or call – (613) 274-0000 Ext. 111

Or visit our website at <https://www.indigenoustech.ai/>



Executive Summary

The 2025 IndigenousTech.ai Summer Internship Program successfully continued its mission of empowering Indigenous youth through technology and professional development. This year welcomed a new cohort of talented interns and the addition of five new partner communities: Nlaka’pamux Nation Tribal Council, Shuswap Band, Beardy’s and Okemasis’ Cree Nation, Lake Manitoba First Nation, and Curve Lake First Nation. In total, 15 communities participated, with 31 interns engaging in the program.

The Internship Program was designed to introduce Indigenous youth to rapidly evolving, technology-driven industries while equipping them with the qualifications and hands-on experience necessary to thrive in their careers. We are proud to have the continued support of BC Hydro Southeast Indigenous Employment & Training, Ontario Power Generation, TransUnion, and Playground, whose sponsorship helps us strengthen our commitment to preparing Indigenous youth for future opportunities—particularly in the technology sector.

During the program’s first four weeks, interns completed professional certifications to develop essential skills in areas such as marketing, Python coding, customer service, accounting, problem solving, and cybersecurity. These certifications provided a strong foundation of knowledge and confidence for each participant as they considered pathways into the tech industry.

Building on this foundation, interns applied their learning through capstone projects in partnership with the University of Ottawa and the NORDIK Institute. These projects expanded on work from 2024, offering interns both real-world experience and the opportunity to give back to their communities in meaningful ways.

Beyond certifications and capstones, interns engaged in a variety of enrichment activities, including résumé development workshops with Career Foundations, music creation through *Your Voice is Power*, IndigenousTech.ai’s financial literacy and business fundamentals courses, AI and robotics workshops, and an introductory Python course.

A highlight of the program was the IndigenousTech.ai Speaker Series, where interns engaged directly from respected leaders across industries and communities. This series broadened perspectives on the diverse career paths available today while reinforcing the values, insights, and skills necessary for long-term success.



A Letter from the Chairman

Photo by: Grant Harder

Networking, either for personal or professional gain is one of the most important responsibilities we hold as leaders—especially with our own people. In today’s world, those relationships must also align with the realities of technology. The IndigenousTech.ai Internship Program is our vessel for inspiring and preparing Indigenous youth to step into that field, ensuring they are active participants in shaping the future.

I extend my sincere gratitude to IndigenousTech.ai for successfully concluding the fifth year of this summer internship program. I would also like to thank the facilitators, and above all, the students and interns who dedicated themselves to this journey. This year, three facilitators supported 31 interns representing 15 First Nations—seven from British Columbia, five from Ontario, one from Quebec, one from Saskatchewan, and one from Manitoba.

Over the course of the summer, our students gained a wide range of practical skills, including financial literacy, business fundamentals, customer service, Python coding, and cybersecurity. These are not just skills for a summer program, but tools for life. I always remind our interns: you can carry these skills with you for the rest of your life. My hope is that each of you continues to pursue technology, because that is where the world is moving, and our communities must move with it.

On behalf of all of us, I extend heartfelt thanks to BC Hydro, Playground, Ontario Power Generation, and TransUnion for their invaluable support. This program could not exist without the generosity of our sponsors I would also like to acknowledge Simpcw First Nation and St’át’imc Government Services for directly sponsoring their own communities.

I am filled with pride as this fifth summer was a success. I trust our interns will carry forward the knowledge, skills, and experiences they have gained, applying them both in their communities and in their future careers. I wish each of you success in the year ahead and encourage you to remain engaged in technology, where your voices and talents are needed most.

Liímlímtx

Clarence Louie

*Chief
Osoyoos Indian Band*

October 1st, 2025

Letter from CEO & President

“Another fantastic year is in the books. IndigenousTech.ai has once again proudly delivered an outstanding nationwide internship program. The team and facilitators poured their energy and passion into expanding opportunities for Indigenous youth in the IT industry and empowering their communities. These are exciting times, and the company is deeply committed to continuing this program for Indigenous communities across the country, fueling their bright future and economic sovereignty.”

Highlights:

- 31** First Nation interns / Graduates
- 15** First Nations
- 16** Average Age

The name of the game is scalability

Throughout the year, our team expanded the program to thirteen communities across Canada, aiming to guarantee internships for youth nationwide. In addition to our standard offerings, we introduced more workshops to enhance both soft and hard skills and provided industry projects focused on climate change and water data quality analytics. The inspiring success stories from our community leads and former interns—who have found jobs in the field or excelled in their studies—continue to motivate us. Our growing network of industry partners and sponsors not only recognizes the talent our program develops, but their increased support has also allowed us to reach even more interns.

Key takeaways

A main lesson from the 2025 IndigenousTech.ai Summer Internship Program was the importance of building confidence in basic digital skills. While many students are eager to explore advanced technology, strengthening foundational tools like Word, PowerPoint, and Excel proved equally critical. Ensuring interns are comfortable with these essentials prepares them for future academic, professional, and community opportunities.



Beyond technical training, the program emphasized narrowing the school-to-work skills gap by bridging classroom learning with real-world practice. To foster professional growth, the program provides opportunities for interns to develop essential workplace skills and build supportive networks. Through the speaker series and employee involvement, interns gain access to mentors, role models, and valuable career connections that extend beyond the summer. These relationships are central to supporting the next generation in gaining experience, confidence, and meaningful connections for their professional journeys.

Community involvement from the outset is essential to maximize the benefits for interns and ensure successful outcomes. Partners and participating communities recognize that early and continuous engagement leads to better communication, stronger commitment, and greater impact on the community through IT-focused opportunities.

Success stories

Our vision is for Indigenous youth across Canada to access high-quality technology jobs without leaving their home communities. The Summer Internship Program has proven this possible: many students have been inspired to pursue computer science, cybersecurity, and engineering degrees, building on the momentum gained here. By delivering the program in Indigenous communities, we highlight local talent and expand opportunities and support networks. This impact is evident—some students have earned the opportunity to speak at national events to discuss the effects of AI on youth in the workplace, demonstrating what can happen when talent meets opportunity. Former interns have returned to speak at the 2025 opening ceremonies, inspiring the next cohort and showing new interns the paths within their reach.

Together, we are making the future of youth more achievable and successful, and we remain grateful for your ongoing support.

Murray Rowe

CEO & President
IndigenousTech.ai
October 1st, 2025



Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is one of the fastest growing industries in Canada for the past five years. Despite the growth, Indigenous people are highly underrepresented in this field in Canada. Every industry across the country leverages technology and we are facing a shortage of highly skilled individuals to help us address the challenges that Canadians is facing today.

Mission

Our mission is to assist our customers by addressing their business challenges and needs through their existing processes, so they can enhance individual and community wellness.

IndigenousTech.ai is leveraging and developing innovative software and data solutions. Through our various divisions, we assist public entities such as law enforcement agencies, EMS, Fire, First Nation, Inuit and Metis communities, local and provincial governments, and federal departments. Our solutions are developed by Canadians and hosted in Canada.

Our Mandate

Our mandate is to empower Indigenous youth by developing skills in several technology fields.

Hence, we built an 8-week online curriculum intended to encourage the participants to pursue a career and a life-long learning journey in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). These skills build local capacity and often result in launching businesses that create higher income jobs on-reserve.





Indigenous Tech.ai Team



Nuzio Ruffolo | Chief Technology Officer

Bio Summary

Nuzio is responsible for driving innovative and impactful solutions while collaborating with key stakeholders and executive leaders across private sector, public sector, policing, and Indigenous communities across Canada. Nuzio has more than 27 years of experience in the technology industry spanning product development, services, sales, and customer success. Nuzio joined IndigenousTech.ai in 2020 and is a licensed Professional Engineer.

Role

Nuzio took on the principal role of creating and implementing the curriculum for the internship program, along with being the lead supervisor of hardware and software acquisition for the program. Nuzio was crucial to ensure the procurement of funds for the program through industry partners as well as building relationships with communities. Nuzio was constantly engaging with participating Indigenous community leads and leveraged partners to help with funding and project development for the program.



Rob Glover
Vice President of Professional Services

Bio Summary

Rob has over 30 years of experience providing solution development and implementation at an enterprise level. Robert has a strong background facilitating change within complex and cross functional operations, providing senior counsel, and creating and implementing custom solutions. Over the last 10 years he has honed his experience in the implementation of best practices and data quality rigor in a variety of private and public initiatives.

Role

Rob’s responsibilities included the oversight of the program’s budget, potential partners, the interns, and Financial Literacy Programs for Indigenous youth. He was also responsible for engaging with new participating communities and building relationships to create new capstone projects, as well as bringing in new workshops.



Brandon Guilmette
Chief Innovation Officer

Bio Summary

Brandon has been with IndigenousTech.ai for over seven years. He began as an intern performing sales and data

collection in 2017. Presently, as Chief Innovation Officer, he helps manage partner relationships, customer retention, procurement and sales, mentorship and project management. Brandon created the IndigenousTech.ai Financial Literacy and Business fundamentals course. He has worked with over sixty Municipal and First Nations Police Services.

Role

For the internship, Brandon took a management position collaborating with the Manager of Education and Compliance, partook in stakeholder and sponsors engagement, and moderated some speaker series sessions.

Eva Fowler
Office Manager



Bio Summary

Eva has been a member of the Forrest Green team since 2015, where she worked alongside Murray Sr. before his retirement. In her current role, Eva plays a vital part in supporting the organization by meticulously managing travel arrangements for conferences and meetings. Moreover, she contributes to updating data related to new Indigenous businesses and financial statements. Additionally, Eva provides invaluable general administrative support to the Forrest Green/IndigenousTech.ai team.

Role

Eva was an essential team member guaranteeing the management of hardware and software distribution. She worked closely with the IT team and the Manager of Education and Compliance to ensure interns received a laptop and their software in record time and in excellent condition.



Cheyenne Aitken | Project Coordinator

Bio Summary

Cheyenne, an Ontario band member from Mississauga of the Credit, began working with Indigenous Tech.ai as an intern in 2023 and has since advanced to the position of Project Coordinator. She has been growing our Database of Indigenous Businesses as well as the outreach for the Financial Literacy Courses recruiting participants for the courses from

communities all across Canada. She is now developing Marketing content for IndigenousTech.ai.

Role

Cheyenne was a crucial asset by producing marketing material such as flyers to promote the program around the communities. Additionally, she supported by overseeing products created by facilitators for the program and social media. Cheyenne was also responsible for the design of the final report.

IndigenousTech.ai

Summer Internship Program Team



Leonardo Lozano | Manager, Education and Compliance

Bio Summary

Leonardo holds a Master in Science, Technology and International Development from the University of Edinburgh, and a Master of Public Policy from McGill University. His experience includes Indigenous consultations on renewable energy projects in Mexico, consulting in financial and economic inclusion policy, partnerships with environmental NGOs in Quebec, advising First Nations on self-sufficient natural resource management, and event manager with C-Suite business stakeholders and senior government officials worldwide.

Role

Leonardo was the project manager of the Internship Program. He created and reviewed the budget of the program, while ensuring that the curriculum and delivery of the material was kept in quality standards. He was the direct stakeholder manager regarding sponsorship, community leads, and capstone leads. He administered the hiring and training of facilitators, the content of the curriculum, the enrollment of interns to the program, the marketing process, and the program execution.

Facilitators

Eamon Sheppard | Senior Facilitator



Bio Summary

Eamon recently graduated from the University of Guelph studying Commerce. At Guelph, he was accepted into the co-op program and is motivated to pursue careers within the field of finance. Eamon loves to express his knowledge of business and technology with others, which is encouraged to take part in this program.

Role

Eamon worked as one of three facilitators for the IndigenousTech.ai Internship program. His role focused on program enrollment, tech support, and overall communication. He was also assigned to work on both capstone projects and help the interns along the way as some of them embarked on their first experience working a job.

Creedan Awasis | Facilitator



Bio Summary

Creedan grew up in Surrey BC and is from Thunderchild First Nation. He is pursuing an arts degree in psychology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. He was an intern for the Indigenoustech.ai internship program from 2021-2023. In the Summer of 2024, Creedan worked for the program as an assistant facilitator, and this year, he will mentor as a facilitator. His interests are psychology, Cree culture, and Indigenous rights.

Role

Creedan was one of three facilitators for the IndigenousTech.ai Internship program. His role focused on managing Teams calls, technical set-up, and engaging with the interns. He was also assigned to assist with the Digital Echoes project. This experience allowed him to help interns as some embarked on their first experience working a job.

Diyako Gilibagu | Facilitator



Bio Summary

Diyako grew up in Kitchener, Ontario, and is studying a double degree in Math and Business Administration at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University. He was a Facilitator for the Summer. Diyako is interested in the intersection of technology and business and is committed to using his skills to support and inspire Indigenous communities through education, mentorship, and collaboration.

Role

Diyako worked as a facilitator for the IndigenousTech.ai Internship program. His role focused on managing the speaker series, training assistant facilitators, and polishing course material. This year, he traveled to Kahnawà:ke to help the interns setup their laptops. Diyako supervised the Water Capstone project along with Eamon.

Program Overview

The 8-week internship program was divided into five main pillars that helped the interns improve their technical, professional, and networking skills. It will also expose them to inspirational leaders and to a work experience with an industry partner.



A typical job posting offers a particular role in a company where one or two interns report to a manager. The hired intern then arrives at an office to deliver a specific outcome. The intern works for that manager and team for two months and then returns to school.



Our approach is somewhat different. We worked with an industry sponsor to participate in the program, lending their support in several ways. We then partner with communities in a province, and those communities recruit interns. Once recruited, the interns participated in the program we created, which was delivered virtually.

This delivery approach allowed the interns to stay in the community—they did not have to leave to take advantage of this learning opportunity. In other words, this was a completely turnkey program for our industry sponsors.

Our ultimate goal was to encourage interns to continue their career journey by finishing a post-secondary education and increasing their employability. We also aimed to equip interns with sufficient skills to start a small business.

Participating Communities and Interns

The IndigenousTech.ai Summer Internship aimed to offer remote work to Indigenous Youth across the entirety of Canada, and the 2025 program strongly accomplished that goal. This year, we had 15 communities across Canada with 31 total interns.

British Columbia

Community	Description
Osoyoos Indian Band	<p>The Osoyoos Indian Band is located in Osoyoos in British Columbia, outside of the township of Oliver. Osoyoos is known for their focus on creating economic prosperity, most notably through investments in vineyards and wineries, a multi billion-dollar resort, and a premier golf course alongside the Okanagan Mountain range.</p> <p>This is Osoyoos’s fifth year in the Summer Internship Program. Two interns joined this summer.</p>
Simpcw First Nation	<p>The Simpcw First Nation, located in Thompson Country, British Columbia has entered many different areas of economic development, such as the construction of highway corridors, developing new natural resource mines, and a variety of archaeology projects.</p> <p>This is Simpcw’s fourth year in the Summer Internship Program, and they had three interns join for the summer.</p>
Westbank First Nation	<p>The Westbank First Nation is in South Central British Columbia. In 2005, Westbank elected to sign the WFN-Self Government Act and is now proud to host over 500 businesses on reserve.</p> <p>This is Westbank’s third year in the Summer Internship Program, and they had two interns join the program.</p>
Tk’emlups te Secwepemc and Skeetchestn	<p>Tk’emlups te Secwepemc and Skeetchestn is located in Kamloops, BC. They aim to use economic development to create long term sustainability of the land, people, and culture. Notably, they own a non-reserve grocery store with high quality deli seafood, meats, and more. Additionally, there is an innovative waste management facility on reserve.</p> <p>This is Tk’emlups te Secwepemc and Skeetchestn’s fourth year in the Summer Internship Program. Two interns joined the program.</p>

<p>St'at'imc Nation</p>	<p>St'at'imc Nation from the southern Coast Mountains and Fraser Canyon region of British Columbia. Recently, St'at'imc implemented a capital planning program where they host quarterly meetings to review new business opportunities and decide how to use funds. They have a close relationship with BC Hydro that helps them set up St'at'imc businesses for potential contract opportunities.</p> <p>This is St'at'imc's second year in the Summer Internship program, and three interns joined the program.</p>
<p>The Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC)</p>	<p>The Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) represents five Nlaka'pamux communities in the Fraser and Thompson Canyon regions of British Columbia. The council works to protect rights and culture while advancing economic development and environmental stewardship. Member bands include Boothroyd, Oregon Jack Creek, Lytton, Skuppah, and Spuzzum.</p> <p>This is NNTC's first year in the summer internship program, and two interns joined the program.</p>
<p>Shuswap Band</p>	<p>The Shuswap Band is a Secwepemc First Nation located near Invermere, British Columbia, in the East Kootenay region. Through Secwepemc, they are part of the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council due to their location in Ktunaxa territory. The band focused on cultural preservation, community services, and economic development.</p> <p>This is Shuswap's first year in the summer internship program, and two interns joined the program.</p>

Ontario

Community	Description
<p>Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte</p>	<p>Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte are located in Hastings County, Ontario. They have a large population on-reserve, with a wide variety of business such as auto repair, gas stations, e-commerce, and more.</p> <p>This is Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte’s second year in the Summer Internship Program. They had two interns join us.</p>
<p>Hiawatha First Nation</p>	<p>Hiawatha First Nation is located just outside of Peterborough, Ontario. The Hiawatha are a vibrant, proud, independent, and healthy people balanced in the richness of their culture and traditional way of life.</p> <p>This is Hiawatha’s second year in the Summer Internship Program, and we had two interns join us.</p>
<p>The Chippewas of Rama First Nation</p>	<p>The Chippewas of Rama First Nation is located in Orillia, Ontario. Rama has inked many major economic partnerships over the years, such as the solar partnership with the province of Ontario where they generate revenue for the green energy they produce. Additionally, they co-own Casino Rama Resort with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, which is one of the biggest casinos in Canada.</p> <p>This is Rama’s second year in the Summer Internship Program, and they picked one intern to join us.</p>
<p>Curve Lake First Nation</p>	<p>Curve Lake First Nation is a Mississauga Ojibway community located near Peterborough, Ontario. It has around 2,400 members and is known for its strong cultural revitalization efforts. The nation is also notable for having Canada’s first female First Nation Chief, Elsie Knott.</p> <p>This is Curve Lake’s first year in the Summer Internship Program, and they had one intern join us.</p>
<p>The Mohawks of Akwesasne</p>	<p>The Mohawks of Akwesasne from Akwesasne, Quebec, Ontario, and U.S believe in “<i>protecting and exercising their inherent rights while creating sustainable partnerships and building a strong community for future generations.</i>”</p> <p>This is Akwesasne’s second year in the Summer Intern Program, and they had four interns join us.</p>

Quebec

Community	Description
Kahnawà:ke	<p>Kahnawà:ke is located just outside of Montreal, Quebec. They have a business consulting company called Tewatohnhi'saktha that provides employment support, guidance and funding to new businesses and community initiatives focused on economic growth and well-being. These plans are summarized in a yearly strategic planning report audited by an external consulting company.</p> <p>This is Kahnawà:ke's second year in the Summer Internship Program, and they had five interns join the program.</p>

Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Community	Description
Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation	<p>Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation is a Willow Cree community located near Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, within Treaty 6 territory. It is named after Chiefs Beardy and Okemasis, who settled the area before Treaty 6 was signed in 1876. The Nation focused on cultural revitalization, economic development, and community wellness for its over 3,500 members.</p> <p>This is Beardy's and Okemasis' first year joining the summer internship program, and they had one intern join the program.</p>
Lake Manitoba First Nation	<p>Lake Manitoba First Nation, is a treaty 2 Ojibwe community located on the northeast shore of Lake Manitoba. It is part of the Interlake Reserves Tribal Council and has over 2,000 registered members. The nation focuses on community development, education, and cultural preservation.</p> <p>This is Lake Manitoba's first year joining the summer internship program, and they had one intern join.</p>

Sponsors

Sponsor	Description
	<p>BC Hydro is the main provider of electricity in British Columbia. They oversee generating, purchasing, and delivering electricity to most of British Columbia’s businesses and residents. This was the fourth year sponsoring the program.</p> <p>This year, BC Hydro southeast Indigenous employment & training sponsored 14 interns: Two (2) each from Nlaka’pamux Nation Tribal Council, Westbank, Shuswap, Tk’emlups te Secwepemc and Skeetchestn, Simpcw and St’át’imc.</p>
	<p>Ontario Power Generation is one of the largest providers of electricity in North America. They have a diverse range of generation methods, such as nuclear, hydroelectric, natural gas, and more. This was the second year sponsoring the program.</p> <p>This year, Ontario Power Generation sponsored ten (10) interns from Ontario: Two (2) each from Hiawatha First Nation and Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. As well as four (4) from Mohawks of Akwesasne and one (1) each from the Curve Lake First Nation and Chippewas of Rama First Nation.</p>
	<p>Playground is a prestigious casino located just outside of downtown Montreal in the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawà:ke. Their building features over 60 poker tables and 900 slot and gaming machines, as well as other amenities such as deep tissue massages and complimentary food. This was their second year sponsoring the program</p> <p>This year, Playground sponsored four (4) interns from Kahnawà:ke. This was their second year sponsoring the program.</p>
	<p>TransUnion is a Canadian credit reporting agency. They work with banks and other appropriate agencies to provide accurate information on Canadian citizens. This was their second year sponsoring the program.</p> <p>This year, TransUnion sponsored four (4) interns; two (2) from Osoyoos Indian Band, and one (1) each from Beardy's and Okemasis' Cree Nation, and Lake Manitoba First Nation.</p>

Example of Flyers

Facilitator Internship 2025 BUSINESS & TECH

Network with industry and **Indigenous Leaders** working on technology, business and finance.

Gain practical experience with project management, leadership, communication, information technology standards, procurement, and more!

Work directly with Indigenous youth, teaching them vital skills to secure their future education, employment, and an entrepreneurial mindset.

Boost your resume with a wide range of high value, marketable skills!

For more information, Please Contact: Leonardo Lozano leonardo@indigenoustech.ai

IndigenousTech.ai
Canadian Government (PSB) Certified Indigenous Controlled Company

IT SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Attention all aspiring IT professionals!

Are you ready to dive into the world of cutting-edge technology and gain invaluable skills? Look no further! Playground Cares' Summer Internship Program is here to catapult your career.

Join us for an immersive 8-week journey filled with hands-on learning, inspiring keynote speakers, and a chance to tackle a real-world industry projects. Don't miss this opportunity to turbocharge your future.

Apply now with Compliance@playground.ca and seize your chance to shine in the world of IT.

Visit <https://tewa.ca/looking-for-a-summer-job/> for more details.

JULY 7TH - AUGUST 25TH	PLAYGROUND PROPERTY
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	LUNCH PROVIDED

KANORONHKWÁTSHERA PLAYGROUND

IndigenousTech.ai Internship 2025 BUSINESS & TECH

Calling all Indigenous High School Students

Network with industry and **Indigenous Leaders** working on technology, business and finance.

The Program Details

July 2nd - August 22nd

Monday - Friday 10AM - 3PM

Limited Spots Available!
No Previous Experience Required.

The 8-Week Program Includes

A **STIPEND** and a **LAPTOP** to Keep

Learn Technology & Professional Skills
Cloud | Cybersecurity | Data Analytics | Customer Service | Financial Literacy

Speaker Series with Inspirational Leaders
Chiefs | Indigenous Leaders | Industry Executives

Work Experience through an Industry IT & Data Project

Network with High School Interns across Canada

"Our future relies on our youth embracing technology and bringing together diverse ideas that drive transformation in every industry. I am pleased to support the Indigenous Internship Program and look forward to youth achieving amazing outcomes."
- Chief Clarence Louie, Osageoys Indian Band

For more information, Please Contact: Leonardo Lozano leonardo@indigenoustech.ai

Learn more about OPG's Indigenous Opportunities Network (ION):

"Adapting technology for Indigenous community needs is an exciting opportunity for our youth. Education, work and life experience will help Indigenous students create a pathway towards shaping their future."
Emily Whetung, Director, Indigenous Relations, OPG and Chief Emerita, Curve Lake First Nation

Ontario Power Generation

Summer Internship Program

IndigenousTech.ai and **Ontario Power Generation (OPG)** are thrilled to collaborate for another Summer to offer internships to Indigenous High School youth.

Why join this 8-week internship?

- Earn a pay and a laptop (TO KEEP)
- Gain Technology & Professional Skills — Cloud, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, Customer Service, Financial Literacy, and more.
- Meet Inspirational Leaders — Chiefs, Indigenous Leaders, Industry Executives.
- Work Experience through an Industry IT & Data Project
- Network with other High School Interns across Turtle Island

Who can apply?

- Youth between 16 – 19 years of age
- No previous experience is required

Success stories? Our former interns they:

- can apply for better paying jobs and other opportunities
- continue their post-secondary studies in the fields of science technology, engineering, and math, among other areas
- improved their networking skills, broadening their future
- are becoming leaders and influential among their friends and schoolmates

The Program Details:

July 2nd - August 22nd

Monday - Friday 10A M - 3 PM

Limited Spots Available!
No Previous Experience Required.

Don't snooze and enjoy the tech ride!
Join IndigenousTech.ai's Summer Program and enter the world of technology and a brighter future!

Learn more about IndigenousTech.ai at:

For more information Please Contact: Leonardo Lozano leonardo@indigenoustech.ai



2025 Speakers

Speaker Series

The Speaker Series was a virtual fireside chat in which IndigenousTech.ai invited Indigenous and business leaders to share their personal and professional journeys, aiming to inspire students participating in the program. During these one-hour sessions, speakers provided professional recommendations, life experiences, and valuable lessons for interns. Since its inception, IndigenousTech.ai has hosted over 100 fireside chats featuring professionals from diverse fields, including information technology, artificial intelligence, video game development, business management, government, finance, environmental science, life sciences, law enforcement, and more.

2025 Speakers

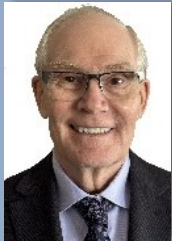


Chief

Osoyoos Indian Band

Chief Clarence Louie is a sought-after speaker and a successful entrepreneur who has been Chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band for over 36 years. As Chairman of IndigenousTech.ai Corporation and majority owner of IndigenousTech.ai, Clarence is one of the longest running chiefs in Canada, elected in 1984, leading his community for four decades. He is known for focusing on economic and business independence to strengthen his community. Clarence has received regional, national, and international recognition such as the Order of British Columbia, the Order of Canada and in 2019 became the only Indigenous Inductee into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame. Chief Louie is also an accomplished author with his book *Rez Rules*.

Clarence Louie



National Vice President

Forrest Green

Clive Weighill, C.O.M., is the National Vice President at PoliceSolutions.ca with a distinguished career in public safety. He served as Chief of the Saskatoon Police Service from 2006 to 2017 and later as Chief Coroner of Saskatchewan from 2018 to 2024. A former President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Clive brings decades of leadership experience in policing, community engagement, and justice reform.

Clive Weighill



*Senior Vice President of
Indigenous Markets*

CIBC

Jaimie, an Onondaga from the Haudenosaunee community of Six Nations of the Grand River, brings extensive knowledge on legislation and financial services.

She graduated from Queens University with a Bachelor of Laws, going on to become an associate at Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, eventually becoming a Leader of National Indigenous Law at Gowling WLG. Currently Jaimie is a Senior Vice-President of CIBC's Indigenous Markets team where she leads the Indigenous Trust Services and Indigenous Lending teams, tailoring to the unique needs of retail clients. Jaimie is also the co-chair of the bank's reconciliation action committee and member of their inclusion and diversity leadership council.

Jaimie Lickers



**Product Owner / Senior
Automation Analyst**

BCLC

Darrin Brager is a Product Owner/Senior Automation Analyst at BCLC, where he has contributed to gaming technology and process automation for over 18 years. A proud Métis person, Darrin is deeply committed to Indigenous language revitalization and is fluent in English and two dialects of Chinook Wawa/Jargon. Outside of work, he leads a Chinook Jargon learning community and meets weekly to support language preservation. His advocacy helped bring Indigenous languages into BCLC’s GameSense materials, reflecting his belief that language builds identity, connection, and cultural resilience.

Darrin Brager

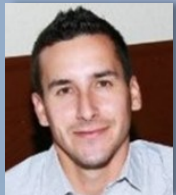


**Chief Business
Development Officer**

Ranovus

Mr. Hojjat Salemi is a Silicon Valley Executive. He has been working in the high-tech field for more than 35 years. His background is in Systems and Semiconductor Developments. Currently he is Chief Business Development Officer at Ranovus, responsible for Technology and Business Partnership. Throughout his career, Hojjat has helped drive innovation and strategic growth across multiple global tech organizations.

Hojjat Salemi

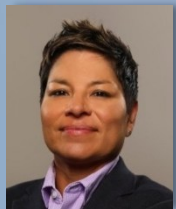


**Chief Compliance
Officer**

Playground

Mackenzie Kariwake:ron Kirby (Mohawk - Wolf Clan) is the Chief Compliance Officer of Playground based in the Mohawk Territory of Kahnawà:ke. With nearly 14 years of experience in the industry of Gaming and Entertainment, he specializes in ensuring the day-to-day operation remains compliant with all of the laws and regulations that govern the territory. “Mack” also assists in other areas of his community such as serving as the Chairman of the Board for the Kahnawà:ke Youth Center as well as a Board Member for Tewatohnhi’saktha (local economic development commission). He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Bishop’s University.

Mackenzie Kirby



**Consultant |
Vice President of
Corporate Services /
Business Development**

**Sky-Deer Consulting |
Panorama |
Dable Advisory and
Consulting Services**

Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer (she/her) is the former Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke. She made history in 2021, when she was the first woman who also identifies as 2SLGBTQ+ to ever be elected to the position. Prior to that she served her community on the Council for 12 years in 4 consecutive 3-year-terms of office. During her tenure she penned a historic deal with Hydro Quebec for a partnership to bring clean renewable electricity to New York City. She was also a guest of the President of Mexico at the 500 years of Indigenous Resistance Commemoration. In July 2024, she launched her own consulting business called Sky-Deer Consulting and continues to work in advancing the issues faced by First Nation communities.

**Kahsennenhawe
Sky-Deer**

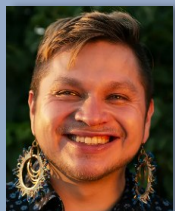


Lee Smith

President / Partner

Reliable Logistics

Lee Smith is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of experience in the logistics industry. As President of Reliable Logistics, he excels in driving business growth, optimizing freight costs, and delivering innovative solutions tailored to meet customer needs. Lee's expertise spans sales strategy, supply chain management, and team leadership, characterized by a strong commitment to client satisfaction and building enduring partnerships. His proactive approach and strategic vision continue to set benchmarks in the logistics sector, ensuring operational excellence and sustainable business success.



Abraham Francis

Senior Policy Analyst

Chiefs of Ontario

Abraham Francis, a member of the deer clan from Akwesasne, is a PhD candidate in Environmental Science and Engineering at Clarkson University and recently became a Senior Policy Analyst with the Environment Sector at the Chiefs of Ontario. He holds a BSc in Microbiology and an MSc in Natural Resources from Cornell University. Francis has taken on various roles within his community, primarily in the environmental sector. His research focuses on the intersection of environmental studies, Indigenous methodologies, community engagement, education, health, social services, law, and cultural foundations to support empowerment and healing within Indigenous communities. His passion and network led him to establish the Aronia Collective, a consulting company dedicated to ensuring Indigenous expertise is recognized and properly compensated. He is committed to culturally grounded environmental stewardship, striving to ensure future generations have access to clean land and water.

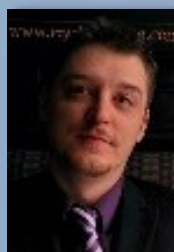


Maryam Sadeghi

CEO and Co-Founder

MetaOptima

Dr. Maryam Sadeghi is the CEO and Co-Founder of MetaOptima Technology Inc., a leading Canadian Digital health company. She earned her PhD in computing science from Simon Fraser University and co-developed the DermEngine and MoleScope platforms for intelligent dermatology. Under her leadership MetaOptima has expanded globally and earned multiple innovation awards/ Dr. Sadeghi has been recognized among BC's most influential women and Canada's top 25 immigrants for her contributions to digital health and tech commercialization.



Caleb Wardell

Software Developer

Forrest Green

Caleb, based in Gatineau, QC, is a graduate of the British Columbia Institute of Technology, where he specialized in 3D graphics and digital audio through the Digital Processing program. He is currently a Software Developer at Forrest Green, contributing to a wide range of projects, including the police solutions record check software. With over 13 years of experience running his own firm, Caleb also provides freelance services in web development, data management, and IT solutions. His previous gaming experience includes roles starting in QA, and then as a producer and designer at Electronic Arts, as well as a variety of smaller companies.



**Communications
Security
Establishment**

Redacted



Professor Emeritus

University of Toronto

Peter Singer

Dr. Peter Singer is a recognized leader in global health and innovation, with more than 35 years of experience building high-impact institutions. He currently serves on the boards of Grand Challenges Canada and the Azrieli Foundation and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto. Dr. Singer co-founded the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics and Grand Challenges Canada. From 2017 to 2023, he served as Special Advisor to the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

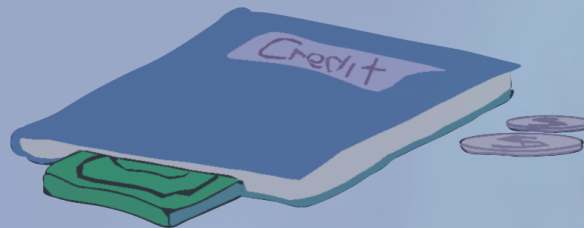
He is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, and the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS). He received the Michael Smith Prize as Canada's Health Researcher of the Year. Dr. Singer has published over 300 articles, secured more than \$50 million in research funding, and mentored hundreds of students. He holds an MD from the University of Toronto, an MPH from Yale University, a Fellowship in Bioethics from the University of Chicago, and an AMP certificate from Harvard Business School.

IndigenousTech.ai E-Learning Platform

The IndigenousTech.ai e-learning platform is a website that provides access to multiple education courses including Financial Literacy 101 and Business Fundamentals 101. The courses are designed for Indigenous youth interested in having a point of departure to understanding credit and to learn how to use it. It also offers the fundamentals of starting a small business. It is never too late to take these courses.

Upon completion of each course, students are awarded a certificate that affirms their passing of the course and applauds their efforts.

Financial Literacy 101



The financial literacy course is intended for anyone aged fourteen (14) or above, specifically those who would like to learn about credit and how to use it to their advantage. The seven-module course identifies common types of credit available and provides the fundamentals of a credit report and credit score.

Furthermore, the course teaches about credit, its varieties, and why it is practical. It also teaches about the information that credit reporting agencies use to make their credit reports. Lastly, the course reviews best practices for improving and maintaining a solid credit score. Upon completing this course, students understood the intricacies of credit and gain practical skills. Interns learnt how to calculate their credit score, improve it, access their credit report, or credit score, and effectively manage a budget.



Business Fundamentals 101



We are also interested in supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs across Canada. This course is intended for people aged eighteen (18) and above. However, anyone over fifteen (15) can complete it with additional time.

We designed this course into six modules. The course discusses managing cash flow and the relationship between revenues and expenses and later teaches the importance of bookkeeping. Next, the course stresses the importance of maintaining good credit and how it helps to build a healthy relationship with financial institutions. The course also highlights the importance of solid cybersecurity and mitigating potential attacks. Lastly, some popular business structures are explained as well as much-needed business considerations such as raising capital and generating successful ideas.



BC Hydro Kamloops Office – Strategic Portfolio Optimization Tool Team

At the end of July, interns based in British Columbia visited the BC Hydro office in Kamloops. They learned about advancements in technology utilized by BC Hydro's Stations Field Operations Team (SPOT), including how SPOT patrolled critical infrastructure such as substations for security inspections and maintenance. The interns also explored potential career paths and opportunities within this area of work.





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SKEETCHSETN



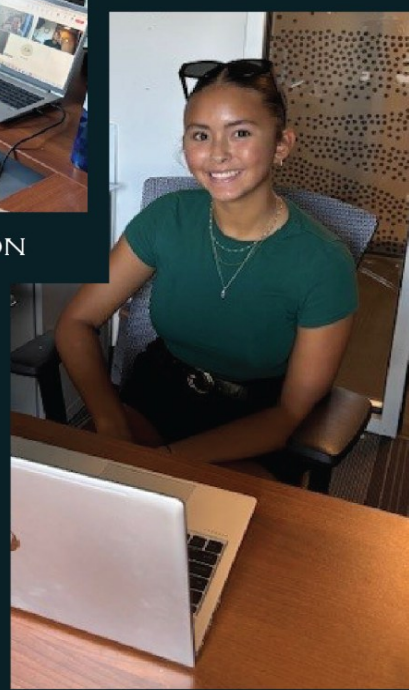
CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION



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OSOYOOS INDIAN BAND

PHOTO ALBUM



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2025-11-18

Page 28 of 28

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