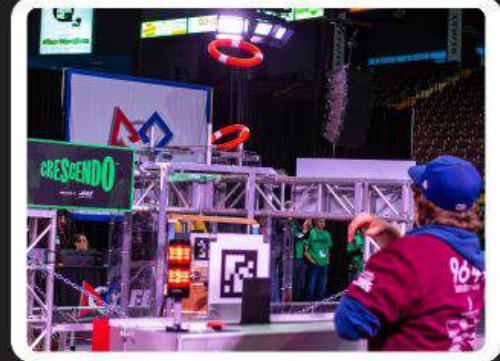


2023 - 2024 Annual Report



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What an incredible year! Our programs had over 1400 students participate in FIRST programs in British Columbia with every program surpassing pre-pandemic student numbers for the first time! Students participated in four FIRST programs ranging from high school to kindergarten, and our alumni continue to become more engaged in many ways, including volunteering at events, where they make up 15% of all volunteers!

FIRST Robotics British Columbia was founded in 2016 to bring FIRST programs to British Columbia and provide the structure necessary to run events in BC. Since then, we have continued to advance our vision for all youth in British Columbia to have the opportunity to enjoy science, technology, engineering and math through FIRST programs. In 2024 we served 193 teams and 1400+ students across BC and the Yukon, across all four FIRST programs.

As you'll see in the coming pages, we firmly believe in the power of FIRST programs to bring tremendous change and impact to the lives of our participants. We know that our success would not be possible without the incredible support of our community, who live and breathe the mission of FIRST Robotics British Columbia every day.

Thank you for your support through the years. Without our partners, alumni, volunteers and supporters we could not make these programs happen. We look forward to many more years of learning, growing and building amazing students through robotics, together.

All the best,



Ian Koscielski
Executive Director
FIRST Robotics British Columbia



Cynthia Shippam
President
FIRST Robotics British Columbia

Meet the Team at *FIRST* Robotics British Columbia

Board of Directors

Cynthia Shippam-Brett, President
Marc de Asis, Secretary/Treasurer
Lucy Mears, Director
Julia Zhu, Director

Scott Smith, Vice-President
Sanjay Maharaj, Director
Jon Nakane, Director

Staff & Key Volunteers

Ian Koscielski, Executive Director & Program Delivery Partner - FRC
Christine Nicholls, Program Delivery Partner - FTC
Uschi Leslie, Program Delivery Partner - FLL
Teri Wright, Program Delivery Partner - FLL
Barish Golland, FIRST Senior Mentor
Krysta Peralto, Partnerships & Fundraising Manager



Mission: To inspire young people in British Columbia to pursue further studies and careers in the field of science, technology, engineering and math through robotics competitions for school-aged students.



Vision: For all youth in British Columbia to have the opportunity to enjoy science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

2023-2024 Season Recap: *FIRST* in Show

FIRST is a global movement that offers leadership & hands-on experience to kids - putting the spotlight on innovating using STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math).

Founded upon the ethos of **Gracious Professionalism®** and **Coopertition**, it's an inspiring sport where every kid can go pro. This season, youth participants applied their skills & '**More Than Robots**' attitude to meet the challenges of *FIRST® in Show*SM presented by Qualcomm.

Across British Columbia & the Yukon territory, our community of nearly **550** mentors, educators, & event volunteers, helped nearly **1,700** students gain the self-confidence to build a better future. Our mentor-guided, team-based programs allow young people to ignite their innate innovative spirit recognize their self-worth, achieving more than they ever imagined.




PRESENTED BY  Qualcomm



PRESENTED BY  RTX



PRESENTED BY  HAAS
Saw-Bea Tooling

FIRST: How it Works & its Programs

A global organization hosting competitive robotics challenges alongside a strong core value set. Designed to introduce STEM concepts to school aged children starting as early as Pre-K until they graduate high school.



Grades: PreK-8

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) has 3 sub-programs; **Discover**, **Explore**, & **Challenge**.

**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**

DISCOVER

Grades: Pre K-1

**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**

EXPLORE

Grades: 2-4

**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**

CHALLENGE

Grades: 4-8

Discover introduces students to engineering concepts through LEGO building.

Explore is where students build & program moving LEGO models.

Challenge, robots interact autonomously with up to 15 LEGO mission models on a 4ft by 8ft table. Each year, these students design & pitch an idea that could solve a real world problem.



Grades: 7-12

FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) students build robots within the volume of an 18 inch cube.

This game is designed so that teams play in 2v2 matches on a 12ft by 12ft field. They build a new robot to play a new game each year; under strict rules, with limited resources, & within time limits.

They use marketing skills & create new ways to reach out & inspire others. Students display strong technical communication skills & develop a portfolio to showcase their experience.



Grades: 9-12

FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) has robots that are 2 1/2 by 3 feet by 5 feet tall, with a maximum weight of 135lbs.

Students on teams in this program build a robot to play in 3v3 matches against other teams on a 27 by 54ft field. Structured similarly to FTC, they build a new robot to play a new game each year.

The teams share their experiences over the season while fundraising to cover the cost of their registration, robot, & travel. Students show what they've learned & communicate how they impact their communities.

MASTERPIECE

885 students competed in **FIRST LEGO League** this season!



124 teams in BC & the Yukon registered for MASTERPIECESM

36 Explore Teams

88 Challenge Teams

24 events hosted by FIRST BC: qualifiers, festivals, mini-tourneys, & workshops for teams

5 Festivals

7 Qualifiers





CENTERSTAGE

PRESENTED BY  RTX



440 students competed in **FIRST Tech Challenge** this season!

49 teams in BC & the Yukon registered to compete in CENTERSTAGESM

FIRST was brought to students in educational institutions using **2** classpacks

11 events hosted by FIRST BC: including Scrimmages, Qualifiers, Remote events, & Kickoff

2 teams & **2** high school students qualified to compete at FIRST World Championship

94% of surveyed students reported an improvement in teamwork & critical thinking skills





CRESCENDOSM

PRESENTED BY **AAAS**
Eagleman Foundation

364 students competed in **FIRST Robotics Competition** this season!

20 BC teams registered to compete in this year's challenge, CrescendoSM

1 kickoff event hosted at BCIT & **1** regional held in Victoria; hosting **38** teams from BC, Alberta, across the US, Chinese Taipei, China & Brazil

1 BC team, from Kelowna, our Regional Winners, qualified to attend the **FIRST World Championships** in Houston

95% of students surveyed reported an increased confidence in STEM classes & improved understanding of STEM concepts



FIRST BC & our Region-wide Impact

1689 students participated in *FIRST* across our region!

This season **31.5%** of our student participants identified as non-male

193 teams across BC & the Yukon registered as a part of *FIRST* in ShowSM

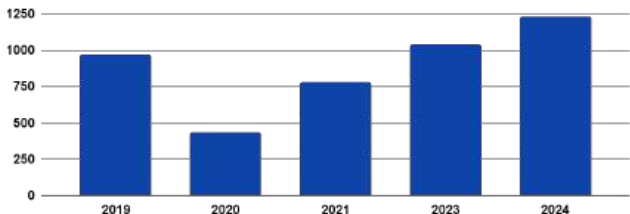
Across the province we had programs in **35%** of public school districts

37 total events & workshops hosted by FIRST BC this season

15% of all of our mentors & event volunteers are FIRST alumni

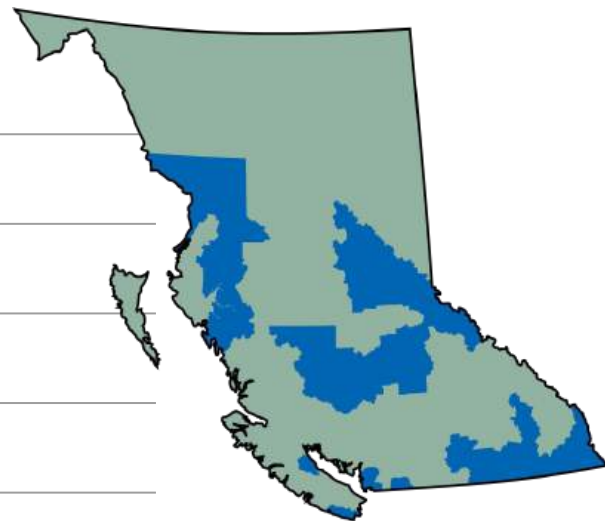
96% of surveyed high-school students report: FIRST exposed them to more STEM-related careers

As of last season, we have returned to our Pre-Pandemic Registration numbers*!



This season, we forecasted that 940 students would be registered on teams. We had a grand total of **1229** students register to compete in FIRST programs!

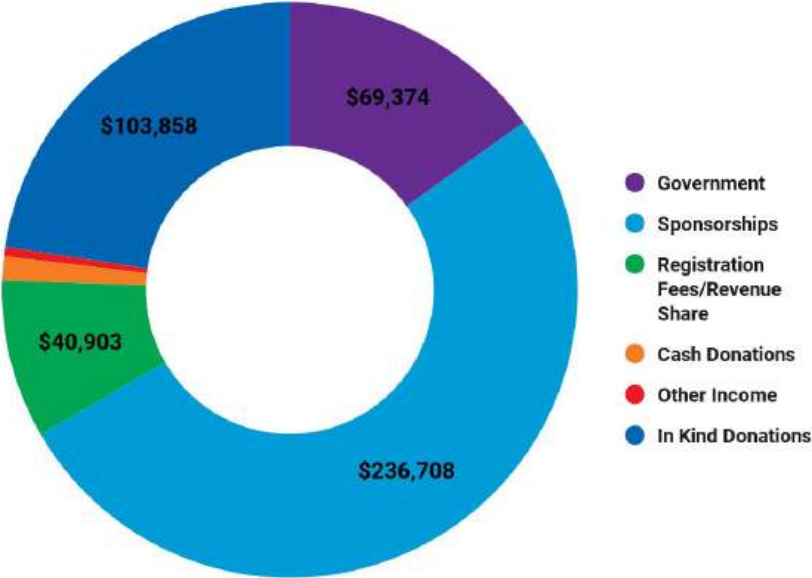
*this only includes students registered on teams & does not include classpacks or estimates



Map of FIRST teams in BC School Districts, coloured areas indicate the 21 of 60 districts we are in

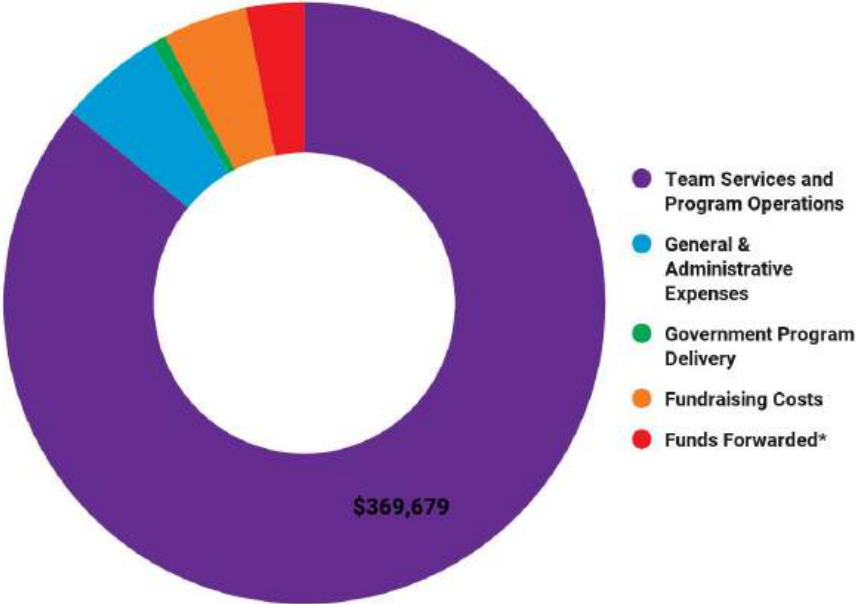
2023-2024 Financial Overview: Organization Wide

2023-2024 Organization Wide Revenue



Total Revenue: \$459,449

2023-2024 Organization Wide Expenses



Total Expenses: \$430,231

Thank You to all those who sponsored *FIRST* in Show this season!

Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Corporate Team Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Thank You for supporting *FIRST* in Show!

Moving into 2024-2025, this is where our focuses lie across the Organization:

1. Develop a Team Success Program for adults & educators, delivering a pilot program to rookie teams
2. Increase student participants minimum of 15% year over year
3. Achieve a team retention rate of at least 95%
4. Continued team growth at a rate of 15% year over year in northern & interior regions
5. Have 50% of our participants; students, event volunteers, & mentors, be non-male

Feel free to Contact Us with any Questions or Inquiries

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