



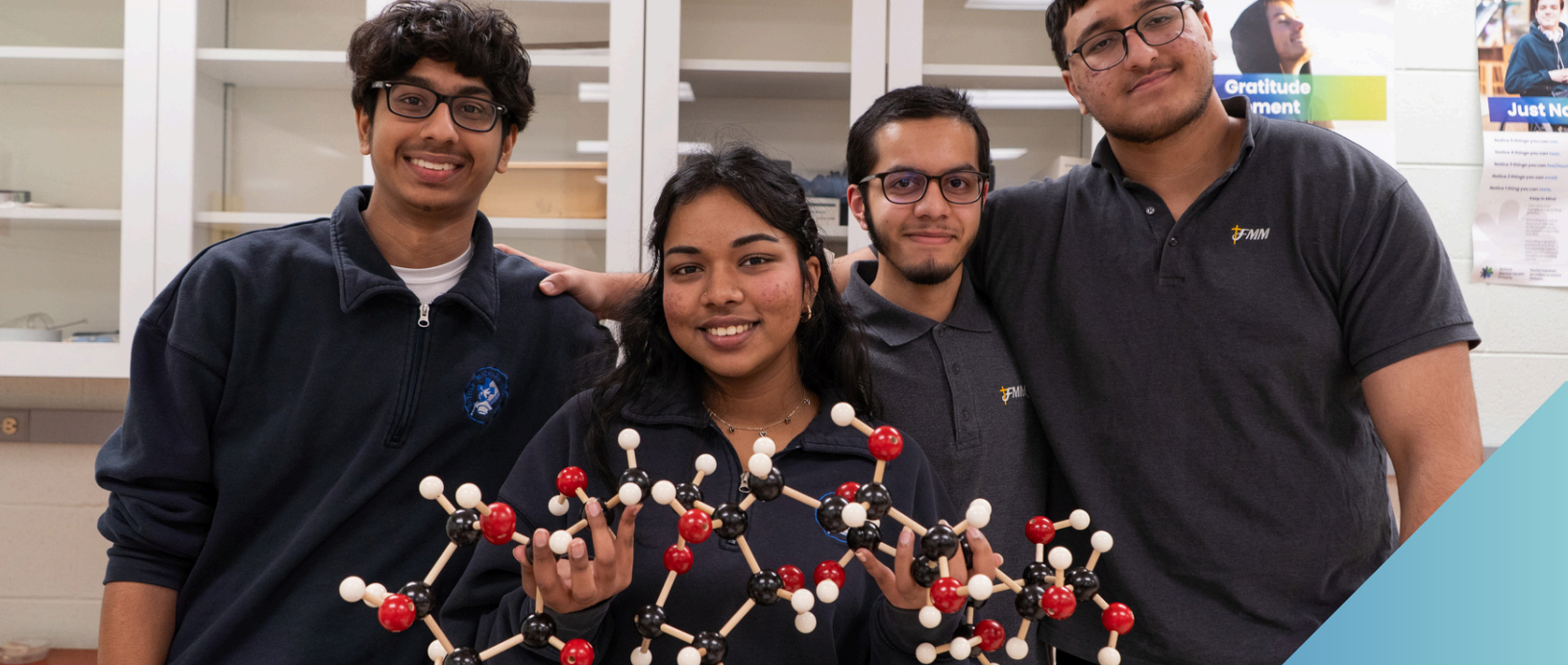
**York Catholic
District School Board**

2024-2025 DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT



We are diverse.
We are one in Christ.

www.yorkcatholic.ca



Director's Message

It is my honour to present the 2024–25 Director's Annual Report. This report reflects a year of faith-filled learning, selfless service and joyous accomplishments by York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) students, staff and the wider community.

I am profoundly grateful to our Senior Team for their servant leadership, our trustees for their governance, our staff for their daily dedication to their vocation and to our families for their trust and collaboration. Most importantly, I thank our students who fill us with hope through their daily efforts to learn and grow.

There were many joyful celebrations during the 2024-25 school year. In October 2024, we had the official blessing for our new schools in Stouffville, Blessed Chiara Badano Catholic Elementary School and St. Katharine Drexel Catholic High School. We celebrated the official renaming of St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini Catholic School in February 2025, recognizing the canonization of the school's namesake.

We also welcomed back alumni and past staff members for Milestone Anniversary ceremonies in five of our elementary schools:

- Blessed Trinity CES in Vaughan (25 years)
- Corpus Christi CES in Richmond Hill (25 years)
- Guardian Angels CES in Vaughan (10 years)
- St. Peter CES in Woodbridge (50 years)
- Sir Richard W. Scott CES in Markham (25 years)

These ceremonies were excellent opportunities to reflect on how each school's Christ-centred community is woven into the rich history of the YCDSB.

The YCDSB also worked hard to provide good stewardship of the financial resources provided to us by the Government of Ontario. As directed by the provincial government, our school board will balance our books by the 2026-27 school year and eliminate our accumulated deficit by the 2030-31 school year.

Director's Message (Cont'd)

This is a challenging task, but the YCDSB is committed to ensuring that any decisions regarding the Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP) have as little impact on the classroom as possible.

We consulted with our community in creating our latest Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP), which was approved by the Board of Trustees and will guide the YCDSB through 2029. The LTAP includes exciting projects such as a new elementary school in Queensville, as well as a new elementary school in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre, which will be built collaboratively with the York Region District School Board (YRDSB). While York Region's school enrollment numbers are falling overall, there are centres of population growth in our communities, and the YCDSB will be prepared to provide excellent schools where they are needed.

During this school year, we also worked with our local partners to provide safe and welcoming schools. The YCDSB signed an updated Joint Police Protocol with the York Regional Police and the YRDSB. This updated protocol created a shared understanding of the police's role in schools that comes from a trauma-informed, anti-racist and anti-oppressive approach.

To provide our staff with important information and news, we launched a new intranet. This new site, which is only accessible to staff, has already improved internal communications and made it easier for employees to find the resources they need.

The work of the YCDSB is guided by the Gospel and our Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). Our mission is clear: "With Jesus Christ as our model, we provide all students with a Catholic education rooted in equity, well-being and learning." To support this mission, our MYSP makes strategic commitments to Catholic Faith, Student Achievement, Equity and Inclusion, and Well-Being. In the pages that follow, you will find highlights of the 2024–25 school year, framed around those four strategic commitments.

I am proud that the YCDSB community is building a culture where every learner feels known, safe and loved; where achievement is celebrated and supported; and where faith animates everything we do. Thank you again to everyone who made this possible.

Yours in Catholic Education,



John De Faveri

Director of Education, Foundation Chair and Secretary of the Board





Our Catholic Faith

Creating a supportive, inclusive community rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ is at the heart of the YCDSB's mission and identity. The YCDSB cultivates school environments where every learner is seen as a beloved child of God with unique gifts and a call to serve.

This year, YCDSB schools celebrated the liturgical seasons, guided students in prayer and social justice, and strengthened the connection among home, school and parish. The Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, which show the higher purpose of education, were incorporated into everything students did. Employees also had many faith formation opportunities, including the annual Faith Day during the September PA Day, which builds team spirit and supports staff in being models of Christ for students.

There were many major events for the Catholic Church during the 2024-25 school year. In December 2024, there was great joy when the Archbishop of Toronto, Frank Leo, was elevated to the College of Cardinals. On Easter Monday, Catholics around the world were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Pope Francis, who had faithfully led our faith community for 12 years. Then, Catholics had an even greater surprise when Pope Leo XIV was elected the successor of St. Peter on May 8, becoming the first American pope. The YCDSB's staff shared and explained these events to students so these young people would understand their significance.

Throughout the year, schools integrated faith and service across the curriculum. In partnership with local parishes and Catholic agencies, many schools organized food drives, winter clothing collections and Lenten almsgiving campaigns. These experiences showed students that they are capable of making the world a better place, just as Jesus called them to do.

Here are a few of the highlights of how the YCDSB lived our Catholic faith during the 2024-25 school year:





Eighteen new paintings are now prominently displayed in the Catholic Education Centre's Boardroom. Every YCDSB secondary school, along with educational partner the Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers, submitted these canvases, which illuminate different elements of the Catholic faith. It is wonderful to highlight the talents and devotion of young artists in this prominent place.



Every YCDSB school and office received a “We Are Diverse. We Are One in Christ” banner to demonstrate that everyone is welcome in this community of faith. These banners build on the “We Are Diverse. We Are One in Christ” stickers that were introduced with much praise during the 2023-24 school year.



In partnership with York Region chapters of the Knights of Columbus, every YCDSB school received a portrait of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart of Jesus offers the opportunity to reflect on Christ's unconditional love for all. This excellent idea came from YCDSB teachers Josephine Pienso and Dina De Santis.



New “Catholic Virtues” infographic posters are now displayed in classrooms throughout the system as an additional teaching tool. There is a new poster every month, corresponding to the Catholic virtue being highlighted in schools at that time. These virtues will guide students long after they graduate.



Father Michael McGivney Catholic Academy in Markham welcomed Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary of the Northern Pastoral Region, to celebrate a Mass in honour of the 125th anniversary of the founding of Ontario's first chapter of the Knights of Columbus. Trustees and the executive of Ontario's Knights of Columbus were present to recognize the outstanding charitable work done by this organization, which Father Michael McGivney founded.



Ontario's new religious education curriculum, Blessed and Beloved, was implemented in all Grade 1 classrooms to enhance the ways our students grow in their faith.



Student Achievement

The YCDSB is recognized throughout Ontario for its students' exceptional academic performance and outstanding achievements. YCDSB staff deserve special recognition for the excellent educational outcomes that its students enjoy. The wider community must also be thanked for their varied contributions to the academic success of YCDSB students. Catholic education is special because it encourages home, school and parish to come together to support young people in developing the skills and virtues that will help them be successful for the rest of their lives.

Throughout the 2024–25 school year, educators promoted strong literacy and numeracy foundations, modelled a lifelong love of learning and highlighted the importance of Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts and Math (STREAM) to be prepared for a rapidly changing world.

Here are some of the highlights of the YCDSB's successes in student achievement during the 2024-25 school year:

Artificial Intelligence

The Curriculum and Assessment Department provided staff with guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Later in the school year, the department also released an AI information sheet for parents and guardians. These documents explored ethical and privacy considerations, as well as curriculum and assessment factors, and AI tools available. Guided by our Catholic faith, these documents help the YCDSB's community to use this transformational technology responsibly.

Student Vote Canada

During the 2025 federal election, students in Grades 4 to 12 learned more about democracy and the need for civic engagement through the Student Vote Canada program.

Student Achievement (Cont'd)

Math Newsletter

YCDSB families received regular math newsletters, which included activities and resources to help students improve their numeracy skills. One of these newsletters included a video that explained the math course options available during a secondary student's educational journey. These newsletters are making our students and families more comfortable and confident with math.

STREAM Centres

Every elementary school visited a YCDSB STREAM Centre. These centres provide fun, hands-on experiences and promote a lifelong love of learning. The lessons learned in STREAM Centres help students know that they can solve some of humanity's greatest challenges and make the world a better place.

International Extended Day Program

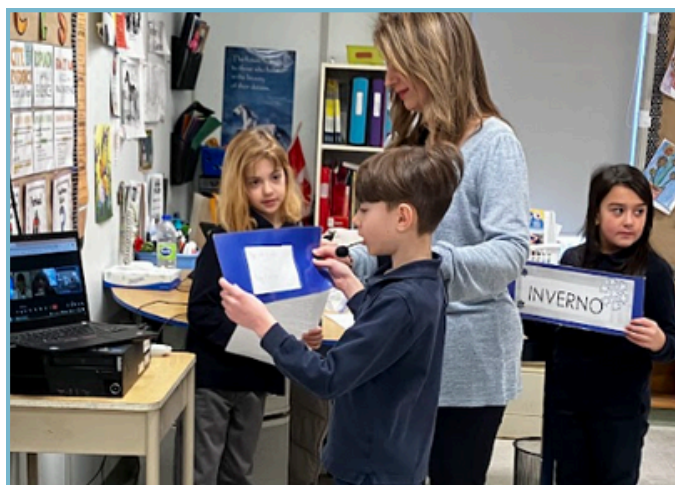
In June 2025, the YCDSB received a \$305,000 one-time grant commitment from the Italia Lingua Cultura Association to continue the International Language Extended Day Program. This long-running program provides more than 5,000 students in 21 elementary schools with the opportunity to study Italian during an extended school day. Trilingual education helps students excel throughout the elementary curriculum while also opening up a world of possibilities.

Lego Robotics Challenge

The YCDSB hosted its inaugural LEGO Robotics Challenge, where elementary school students learned more about coding and engineering while having a lot of fun.

Student Services Workshops

In partnership with STEM MINDS and Boreal Farms, the YCDSB provided a series of workshops for students with exceptionalities to help bridge skill gaps and foster interest in the AgriTech sector. This opportunity allowed YCDSB students with exceptionalities to earn certifications and enhance their employability in agriculture, horticulture and environmental studies.





EQAO and OSSLT Excellence

TEST	YCDSB AVGERAGE	PROVINCIAL AVERAGE
GRADE 3 READING	79%	74%
GRADE 3 WRITING	72%	65%
GRADE 3 MATH	69%	64%
GRADE 6 READING	92%	86%
GRADE 6 WRITING	91%	85%
GRADE 6 MATH	60%	51%
GRADE 9 MATH	73%	58%
GRADE 10 LITERACY ASSESSMENT	90%	84%

The YCDSB continues to exceed provincial averages in all areas of provincial standardized testing.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) are the yardsticks used by the Ministry of Education to monitor and compare academic proficiency across all schools in the Province of Ontario.



Equity and Inclusion

The Catholic faith implores the YCDSB to treat every person with dignity and love. As a Catholic learning community, the YCDSB is committed to building welcoming school communities where every student can experience safety, belonging and success.

Equity work is everyone's responsibility, and staff at all levels of the YCDSB were engaged in professional development focused on inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility. The YCDSB is grateful for the leadership of the Superintendent of Inviting and Inclusive Schools and the Office of the Human Rights and Equity Advisor in these areas. At the end of the 2024-25 school year, the Board of Trustees approved a new Superintendent of Indigenous Education and System Priorities position to further promote equity and inclusion for everyone in the YCDSB.

Advancing equity and inclusion is not easy work, but it is necessary for every student and staff member to know that they are valued members of this community.

Here are some of the highlights of the YCDSB's work on equity and inclusion during the 2024-25 school year:

AODA Compliance

A thorough review of the YCDSB's compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) was started, which will enable the system to serve all community members. Staff members received new training, and a review of the YCDSB's website compliance was initiated.

Joint Police Protocol

When updating the Joint Police Protocol – an agreement on police practices in schools among the York Regional Police, the YRDSB and the YCDSB – the YCDSB ensured that the document was centred on a trauma-informed, anti-racist and anti-oppressive approach.

Equity and Inclusion (Cont'd)

Anti-Black Racism Strategy

The Board of Trustees approved a dismantling anti-Black racism strategy. With the assistance of community members, experts and available data, this strategy will ensure that the YCDSB fulfils its obligations under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Education Act to provide an inclusive and discrimination-free learning and working environment.

The Frost and Fire Games

The Frost and Fire Games were expanded. This is a day when secondary students and local Indigenous community partners and knowledge keepers lead elementary students through a fun program of learning about Indigenous cultures. By playing traditional Indigenous sports and games, students are encouraged to develop a deeper respect for Indigenous peoples and their histories. The Frost and Fire Games were held at Our Lady of the Lake CA in Keswick in January 2025 and St. Brother Andre CHS in Markham in March 2025.

Employee Equity Audit

Working with an independent, third-party organization, the YCDSB completed its first Employee Equity Audit, which was released in January 2025. By surveying staff and reviewing policies and procedures, this audit has already been put to good use in furthering equity in the YCDSB. The audit's recommendations have already led to updates to job postings, revisions to the Meta Policy and ongoing reviews of accessibility and equity-related policies.

Classroom Technology Equity Committee

Since October 2024, the Classroom Technology Equity Committee (CTEC) has been working to create equity in access to technology and digital literacy. During this school year, the CTEC used data to identify six priority schools, which received updated technology and enhanced staff training in technology.



Equity and Inclusion (Cont'd)



Bocce Canada

The YCDSB continued its partnership with Bocce Canada, which provides students with exceptionalities opportunities to play this fun, social sport. Approximately 180 YCDSB students with exceptionalities participated in the program, which culminated in an East-West bocce tournament. Thanks to the support of Bocce Canada, six students were recognized with scholarships.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The YCDSB hosted its first annual International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Fundraiser. This initiative raised more than \$41,000 to help remove barriers to regular school attendance among students. There were immediate benefits from this fund, which helped 41 families with school supplies, transportation, nutrition and other essential needs for attending school every day. Those who received support celebrated an average attendance increase of 76 per cent.





Well-Being

Nurturing the whole person is the core mission of Catholic education. The YCDSB isn't just focused on an individual's academic or work performance; it aims to create an environment where everyone can thrive.

During the 2024–25 school year, the YCDSB approached well-being from multiple perspectives. The well-being of students and staff is affected by their physical and mental health, their safety in the community and their relationship with digital media. The YCDSB examined all these factors, among others, in support of improved well-being for everyone in its community.

Here are some examples of the work the YCDSB did to promote positive well-being in the YCDSB:

Policy/Program Memorandum 128

Staff implemented the Ministry of Education's Policy/Program Memorandum 128, which bans vaping and cell phone use in schools. The YCDSB welcomed this direction, as it had long banned cell phone use in class. Mental health staff hosted parent information sessions on vaping and cell phone use. Also, new posters were displayed in YCDSB schools to remind students of the rules surrounding cell phone use, and new vape detectors were installed in schools.

Sharing Mental Health Tools

Mental health workers were busy helping students in their schools. Over 5,000 students in Grades 3–6 participated in classroom-based workshops on anxiety. More than 1,800 students completed a "Kids Have Stress, Too" session. One thousand students learned about peer acceptance in classroom workshops. More than 3,600 students received classroom programming on anger management, cyber-bullying, self-esteem and friendships.

Well-Being (Cont'd)

Mental Health Ambassadors

To promote positive mental health throughout the system, every YCDSB school had a Mental Health Ambassador during the 2024-25 school year. These dedicated staff volunteers implemented mental health initiatives focused on reducing stigma, promoting mental health literacy, increasing awareness of available resources and teaching individuals how to help a friend.

Employee Wellness Newsletter

The Human Resources department introduced a new Employee Wellness newsletter. These weekly emails to all staff provided small, achievable actions that can greatly improve one's wellness.

Attendance Taskforce

To further assist employees' well-being, the YCDSB's Attendance Taskforce continued to find ways to better support staff and reduce absences from work.

Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign

In collaboration with the York Regional Police, anti-human trafficking and online exploitation presentations were offered in five secondary schools. These after-school presentations provided community members with valuable information on how to identify and respond to online exploitation attempts. Due to popular demand, these presentations are being introduced in secondary schools during school hours in the 2025-26 school year.

Mental Health Professional Development

YCDSB staff were dedicated to learning more about mental health. Twenty per cent of YCDSB educators attended mental health-focused professional development sessions, which helped strengthen the culture of mental health literacy. This included over 350 secondary staff who voluntarily completed suicide prevention and intervention training. More than 200 Educational Assistants received training on emotional validation. Additionally, 25 lunch and learn sessions were delivered on mental health topics.



Well-Being (Cont'd)

Fit Body, Fit Mind Camp

The Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Mental Health teams collaborated to deliver the Fit Body, Fit Mind camp. This program is designed to support students with physical disabilities who are able to direct their own care, and it was met with great enthusiasm.

Exited X (formerly known as Twitter)

After X (formerly known as Twitter) changed its policies to allow pornographic content on their platform, the YCDSB became the first school board in Ontario to stop posting on the site. This decision is grounded in the Catholic faith's understanding of the dignity of the person and in the YCDSB's responsibility to keep students safe.

Active School Travel Leads

To promote physical activity and reduce pollution, every YCDSB school had an Active School Travel lead, who was responsible for communicating the benefits of walking or rolling to and from school.

Psychological Services Department

To provide an equitable distribution of psychological services, as outlined in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read report, the YCDSB's Psychological Services Department transitioned to a centralized intake system. In the first year of this new system, the YCDSB received 1,400 requests for psychological services.





2024-2025 Fiscal Information

In the 2024-25 school year, the YCDSB's Board of Trustees approved a Multi-Year Financial Recovery Plan (MYFRP) that will balance the books by the 2026-27 school year and eliminate the accumulated deficit by the 2030-31 school year.

Trustees and staff of the YCDSB take the MYFRP process very seriously. They are doing everything possible, within the confines of collective bargaining agreements and without jeopardizing student achievement, to eliminate the deficit.

Through monthly reporting to the provincial government, the YCDSB demonstrated that its deficit is declining and is expected to continue declining during the 2025-26 school year. To provide transparency on the MYFRP process, financial updates are published in the agenda of every Regular Board Meeting.



Fiscal Information (Cont'd)

2024-2025

Operating Expenditures By Function	(\$ Millions)	%
School Classroom	512.0	75%
School Operation	72.0	10%
School Non-Classroom	65.6	9%
Transportation	21.2	3%
Administration	21.3	3%
Total	692.1	100%

Operating Expenditures By Type	(\$ Millions)	%
Salaries & Wages	533.8	77%
Benefits	88.2	13%
Supplies & Services	30.8	4%
Fees & Contract	38.3	6%
Other Expenditures	1.0	0%
Total	692.1	100%

2023-24 (Prior)

Operating Expenditures By Function	(\$ Millions)	%
School Classroom	555.7	75%
School Operation	74.0	10%
School Non-Classroom	65.1	9%
Transportation	21.6	3%
Administration	22.4	3%
Total	738.8	100%

Operating Expenditures By Type	(\$ Millions)	%
Salaries & Wages	577.3	78%
Benefits	93.8	13%
Supplies & Services	32.0	4%
Fees & Contract	34.0	5%
Other Expenditures	1.7	0%
Total	738.8	100%



Drawing New Maps of Hope

We are diverse. We are one in Christ.



"Education is not merely the transmission of content but an apprenticeship in virtue, it forms citizens capable of serving and believers capable of bearing witness — people who are freer, not more isolated."

-Pope Leo XIV

YCDSB Board of Trustees (Cont'd)



ELIZABETH CROWE

Aurora / King /
Whitchurch-Stouffville



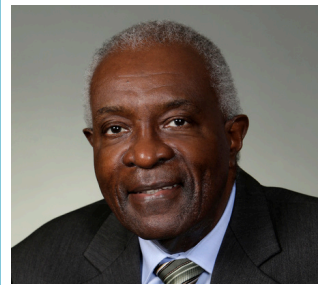
THERESA MCNICOL

East Gwillimbury /
Georgina / Newmarket



CAROL COTTON

Markham Area 1:
Wards 1, 2, 3 & 6
Thornhill / Unionville



FRANK ALEXANDER

Markham Area 2:
Wards 4, 5, 7 & 8
Milliken / Markham /
Unionville



MARIA IAFRATE

Richmond Hill



JOSEPH DIMEO

Richmond Hill



ANGELA SAGGESE

Vaughan
Area 1, Ward 1



MICHAELA BARBIERI

Vaughan
Area 2, Ward 2



JENNIFER WIGSTON

Vaughan
Area 3, Wards 3, 4, 5



ANGELA GRELLA

Vaughan
Area 3, Wards 3, 4, 5



MONICA GALSTYAN

Senior
Student Trustee



SABINE CUESTA

Junior
Student Trustee

2025 Distinguished Alumni



DURING CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

— The York Catholic District School Board Salutes Our: —

2025 DISTINGUISHED **ALUMNI**



David Coletto

Founder and CEO



Sgt. Julian Alexander Doria

Sergeant, Canadian Armed Forces



Nathan Gaba

Specialist (Accessibility),
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



Stephen Pastore

Research Fellow at SickKids Hospital
Adjunct professor at York University



Cloey Uddenberg

Soccer player for AFC Toronto



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