



About the Martin Family Initiative

MFI is a registered Canadian charity that works alongside First Nations, Métis and Inuit People in Canada to help foster Indigenous children and youth's education and wellbeing. MFI works with Indigenous People to adapt successful existing programs and create new programs tailored to local needs.



About CPA Canada

Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada) is the national organization established to support a unified Canadian accounting profession. CPA Canada represents highly qualified professionals who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to providing the highest standards of accounting, ethics and best business practices.



The CPA Martin Mentorship Program for Indigenous High School Students





The CPA Martin Mentorship program provides mentoring to support Indigenous students through their high school years.

Through personal and team mentorship, students gain a better appreciation of the benefits of completing high school and pursuing post-secondary education.

Mentors introduce students to the world of business and potential career paths, including roles in business, finance and the accounting profession.

The Martin Family Initiative and Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada have partnered to provide the program in schools across Canada since 2008.

How the program works

The CPA Martin Mentorship program is administered by CPA Canada and delivered in partnership with local school boards and schools in most provinces.

School boards identify schools that could benefit from the program. Schools that choose to participate recommend promising Grade 9 or 10 students to take part in the program throughout their high school years.

Mentorship activities take place an average of five or six times throughout the school year. They are generally held at the school, after regular school hours. Some activities include field trips to local businesses.

While the mentors deliver the program, schools play an essential role, working alongside the mentorship team to help guide the curriculum, and oversee program delivery in line with school policies.

Important benefits for students and schools

Indigenous students gain:

- the support of a committed mentor through high school
- increased business and financial literacy
- a better understanding of business and future career options

Schools gain:

- learning opportunities for teachers
- increased student engagement, development, and improved graduation rates
- professional and business community involvement

The role of schools

Our experience has shown that school involvement is essential to the program's success. We ask participating schools to provide the following:

- principal sponsorship
- a lead teacher coordinator to co-develop the program with mentorship team, participate in activities, and be responsible for the program on behalf of the school
- indigenous support services assistant, where available, to support communication with students and arrange transportation as required
- liaise with parents/guardians
- provide policies and protocols re. student/mentor interaction and insurance that these are followed

Mentors from the community

Mentors are CPAs and other local business leaders who choose to volunteer for the program. They are supported by regional coordinators who connect with them and with participating schools throughout the school year.

All mentors undergo appropriate background checks.

Certificate of completion

At the high school graduation ceremonies, each participant receives a certificate signed by The Right Honourable Paul Martin to recognize their accomplishments.