

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) to transition JA Ottawa programming to JA Canada in 2025

Ottawa, ON - October 2024 -

The Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE) has announced that as of June 30, 2025, JA Ottawa will no longer be delivered by ONFE and JA programming in the Ottawa area will return to JA Canada's oversight. The ONFE Board of Directors made this difficult decision following a comprehensive review of the evolving needs within the local education landscape and an assessment of its operational model.

Since 2012, ONFE has delivered JA programs to students in the Ottawa region and provides close to 9,000 learning experiences across 108 Ottawa schools on an annual basis.

“We have strong demand for JA programming in our schools. We are appreciative for the many years of working with ONFE and look forward to continuing to support JA programming with JA Canada” said Pino Buffone, Director of Education, Ottawa Carleton District School Board. All four school boards look forward to exploring opportunities with JA Canada.

JA Canada has a network of licensed Charters and affiliates from coast to coast, which deliver more than 400,000 hands-on classroom-based and digital student learning experiences annually.

“JA Canada is committed to ensuring JA programming continues in Ottawa in both English and French and will work closely with ONFE to develop an effective transition

plan ahead of the September 2025 school year,” said Scott Hillier, President and CEO, JA Canada.

“We are incredibly proud of the work JA Ottawa has done in our community to strengthen skills and build capacity of our children and youth in areas of financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship” said Heather Norris, President and CEO of ONFE. “This decision aligns with our broader organizational strategy and allows us to continue to serve the needs of local students through our other programs. In the meantime, JA programming for Ottawa remains unchanged for the balance of the current school year. We are grateful to our JA Ottawa staff, donors, community partners, volunteers, mentors, schools, teachers, and students for their dedication to this program,” said Norris.

While JA Ottawa will no longer be offered through ONFE, the organization remains committed to supporting the success of students across Ottawa through its wide array of programs, including the School Breakfast Program, Classroom Gardens, Volunteers in Education, OttawaReads, and STEP for Youth in Schools Community Coalition.

For more information about this transition or to inquire about continued access to JA programs, please contact:

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