



August 1, 2023

To whom it may concern:

Re: Reference for Andy Zhang

I am pleased to provide this reference for Andy Zhang - a valued member of the Shad Alumni Network.

Shad Canada's program attracts students from across the country, with high aptitudes for risk taking, curiosity, excellence, and resilience, and prepares them to take on social and economic challenges.

Acceptance into the Shad program is an extremely competitive, application-based process, and Andy successfully secured a place at Shad in 2023. For one month in July, he was part of an intense, life-changing, life-directing experience, committing to test his intellectual, social, and emotional limits, emerging from the program with the confidence and skills to thrive as a changemaker.

Shad equips youth to take on social and economic challenges with a STEAM lens. As part of a Design-Entrepreneurship Project, teams are assigned mentors and work together to develop STEAM-based solutions to tackle a real-world problem. Andy excelled in this entrepreneurial experience, working with his team to develop prototypes and pitches, and to make presentations to panels of experts and industry professionals.

Shad empowers exceptional youth to make the world a better place. Andy rose to every challenge throughout the program and upon conclusion successfully entered the Shad Alumni Network. Our alumni are active, well-rounded leaders who are committed to the values of community, diversity, creativity, responsibility and excellence. I believe Andy is destined to create positive change where he lives, studies, and works.

Shad alumni are an asset wherever they go. I recommend Andy Zhang without hesitation, but please feel free to connect with Deborah Currie, Director of the Shad Alumni Network, debbie@shad.ca, 519 884-8844 x224, if you require more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Jackson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim Jackson
President and CEO