

Melissa Sariffodeen



Pronunciation: Sair-if-o-dean

Long:

Described as “unstoppable” and a “trailblazer”, Melissa Sariffodeen is an award-winning entrepreneur, educator, and advisor who has spent her career building organizations that change how people live, learn, and work.

She is best known as the Co-Founder and CEO of Canada Learning Code (CLC), where she grew a grassroots idea into one of the country’s most recognized education movements. Under her leadership, CLC reached nearly one million people, raised more than \$50M and attracted Shopify founder Tobi Lütke to its board. In 2025, she led the organization through a successful acquisition,

marking a significant exit in Canada’s education and technology space.

Melissa’s work has been featured by CBC, CTV, BNN, and the Globe & Mail, and her contributions have been recognized through the Governor General Award, RBC Entrepreneur of the Year, WXN Top 100, and Canada’s Top 40 Under 40. She was also one of only 12 women globally inducted into Mattel’s Barbie Role Model program, receiving a one-of-a-kind doll in her likeness.

Today, Melissa applies her expertise through a portfolio of ventures and roles and she teaches New Venture Creation and Leveraging Information Technology at the Ivey Business School at Western University, equipping students with entrepreneurial mindsets and digital strategies to solve real-world challenges. Increasingly, she is also sought after as a speaker, advisor, and board member to founders, executives, and investors building the next generation of companies.

Melissa taught herself to code at age 11 and has been building ever since. Today, she continues to blend technology, entrepreneurship, and education in everything she does - all while raising her young daughter who inspires her mission to create healthier, more sustainable futures for the next generation. Her personal mission is simple: to build, and help others build, things that matter. And, she’s just getting started.

Short:

Melissa Sariffodeen is an award-winning entrepreneur, educator, and advisor who has spent her career building organizations that change how people live, learn, and work.

She is best known as the Co-Founder and CEO of Canada Learning Code (CLC), which she grew into one of Canada’s most recognized education organizations reaching nearly one million people and raising over \$50M in funding. In 2025, she led CLC through a successful acquisition, marking a notable exit in Canada’s education and technology sector.

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Headshots are accessible [here](#).

Trailer Speaking video [here](#).