

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA



ARTIFICIAL

INTELLIGENCE

Building the future in British Columbia

British Columbia is emerging as a global hub of AI enterprise and research. We are attracting AI companies with our exceptional talent pool, business-friendly environment, supportive government programs and the cutting-edge research generated by our universities and research labs.

As one of the largest AI hubs in Canada, our province is a national leader in applied and commercialized AI. Made-in-B.C. products and services are transforming the natural resources, fintech and healthcare sectors. And we're just getting started.

We invite you to grow your AI business in British Columbia and join us in shaping the future.



BritishColumbia.ca



British Columbia is a growing hub of AI enterprise and research.

B.C.'s home-grown AI companies are confident about what's ahead, with 80 per cent anticipating job and revenue growth and 40 per cent looking outside North America for their primary market.

Established international technology companies are also turning to B.C. to grow their AI capacity, enhancing the province's reputation as a hub of digital technology and innovation. Amazon, Tableau, Fujitsu, Change Healthcare and CrowdEmotion are all building their AI capabilities here in B.C.

TOP RANKINGS FOR TECH INNOVATION

Vancouver is ranked as one of the world's most tech-friendly cities. In 2019, it was named a top 25 city globally for its startup ecosystem, and the number one city for high-tech job growth in Canada and 15th globally. With our culture of innovation and supportive business environment, we have what AI companies need to succeed.

SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENT

The Canadian and British Columbian governments offer a range of initiatives to support the AI sector, including:

- ▶ The BC Tech Fund, a \$100-million venture capital fund investing in emerging technology companies such as D-Wave, the world's first commercial supplier of quantum computers.
- ▶ A provincial small business venture capital tax credit that encourages investors to make early-stage capital investments.
- ▶ The federal Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy, the world's first national AI strategy, which aims to establish Canada's leadership in AI with \$125 million in funding.
- ▶ British Columbia is investing \$42 million to add about 2,900 tech-related spaces that will result in 1,000 additional grads per year by 2023.
- ▶ Fast-tracked immigration programs like the federal Global Talent Stream program and B.C. Provincial Nominee Program enable companies to hire qualified talent in a shorter amount of time.
- ▶ A strong regulatory framework around information privacy.

QUALITY OF LIFE

B.C. is one of the world's most multicultural, safe and dynamic places to live. Our province has vibrant cities, some of the world's best universities, free universal health care and unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation. Mercer's 2019 Quality of Living Ranking rated Vancouver as the top city in North America and number three in the world. And the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for 2019 ranked Vancouver sixth out of 140 cities.

STRATEGICALLY LOCATED

Companies in British Columbia are in the same time zone as those in Washington State, Oregon and California, giving them a competitive advantage when collaborating with partners and colleagues to the south. British Columbia is also ideally positioned for conducting business with colleagues in both Asia and Europe.

ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS PROPEL GROWTH

Accelerator programs play a vital role in helping companies connect entrepreneurs to mentors who can provide guidance on accessing capital and building revenue sources. British Columbia's accelerator programs include Creative Destruction Lab, Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology & Entrepreneurship Council (VIATEC), entrepreneurship@UBC, Accelerate Okanagan, SFU VentureLabs and Expa Labs (which chose Vancouver for its first Canadian location).

COMPETITIVE OPERATING COSTS

British Columbia offers lower operating costs than other innovation hubs, with a competitive corporate income tax rate and the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning up to \$125,000.



A dynamic industry

British Columbia's thriving AI industry has more than 150 companies transforming traditional industries across a range of AI segments.

MACHINE LEARNING

It's the heart of AI: building machines that learn from data to improve their performance over time. Minerva Intelligence uses a proprietary AI platform to enable mining companies to identify promising underground resources. Variational AI builds algorithms to help companies solve complex business problems and derive greater value from their data. 1QBit's quantum algorithms aim to solve problems not possible using classic computing.

DEEP LEARNING

A subset of machine learning, deep learning systems are built on neural networks of complex rules and abstract variables. UrbanLogiq is using deep learning to help communities across North America design better transportation networks to boost economic development. Xtract AI's expertise in deep neural networks is benefiting clients in sectors ranging from health care to telecommunications.

NATURAL LANGUAGE PROCESSING AND GENERATION

Bringing together machine learning and natural language processing, Finn AI is leveraging AI and banking domain expertise to deliver personalized conversational banking experiences for its clients' customers.

Artificial Intelligence network of British Columbia (AIInBC) is a cross-sector organization established by business and academic leaders to catalyze the growth of the artificial intelligence and machine learning communities in British Columbia and establish the province as a global leader by 2022.

COMPUTER VISION

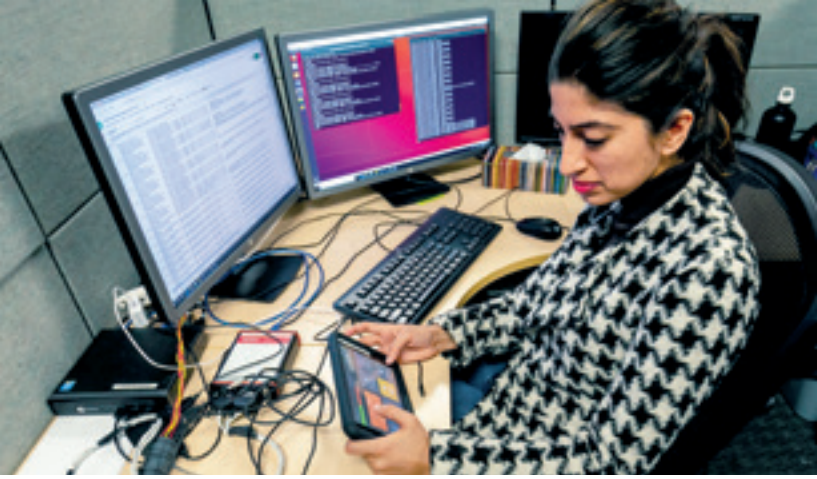
British Columbia's deep expertise in game development has translated into leading-edge work in computer vision, with applications found in everything from manufacturing and navigation to medical image analysis. Companies making a mark in this area include MetaOptima, Borealis AI, ScopeMedia, Change Healthcare, Altumview Systems, Intuitive AI, Motorola and FLIR.

ROBOTICS

We're quickly moving to a future where robots will work alongside people, performing tasks in both predictable and unpredictable environments. A&K Robotics is transforming manual machines into self-driving robots for the janitorial sector, and Cellula Robotics is designing and producing subsea robotic systems for geotechnical applications across the globe. As computers come to act and think more like humans we approach what is termed Artificial General Intelligence. Companies like Sanctuary AI are working in an exciting field where a computer has the possibility of becoming equivalent or superior to a human mind.

FUJITSU CHOOSES VANCOUVER FOR ITS GLOBAL AI HEADQUARTERS

Looking for a location for its global AI operations, Fujitsu chose Vancouver. Its top reasons? Vancouver's prime location, access to the North American market, strong depth of local talent and close proximity to leading quantum computing firm 1QBit, in which Fujitsu led a \$45-million financing in 2017. The two companies are currently collaborating on digital annealers, quantum-inspired products that are solving large-scale combinatorial optimization problems, from logistics and finance to drug discovery.



Our innovation advantage

British Columbia is home to a thriving tech ecosystem where both small startups and multinational tech giants benefit from our culture of innovation with the new Quantum Algorithms Institute strengthening B.C.'s talent pool and supporting technological advances and industry-leading research.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SUPERCLUSTER

Since 2018, Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster brings together the private and public sectors to collaborate on data-driven innovation in big data collection, analytics and visualization. One of the first projects out of the Vancouver-based Supercluster is using AI-powered medical imaging software to help speed diagnoses and expedite care for patients with skin cancer. The Digital Technology Supercluster is expected to create over 13,500 jobs and add more than \$5 billion to the Canadian economy over the next decade.

TOP UNIVERSITIES AND EXCEPTIONAL TALENT

British Columbia's universities are consistently ranked among the leading post-secondary institutions in Canada. The University of British Columbia (UBC) and Simon Fraser University (SFU) each have 2,000 undergraduate students enrolled in computer science programs and 200 graduate students pursuing advanced research and applications in data science, visual computing and other AI-related fields. There are also nearly 1,000 researchers working in computer science at the two universities. The provincial government is supporting STEAM programs through new funding

commitments that will see an additional 1,000 students graduating from tech programs by 2023 and investments of more than \$200 million in tech- and science-related capital projects at BC's post-secondary institutions.

RESEARCH CENTRES

BC's research centres are creating opportunities for industry and academia to collaborate in advancing knowledge. UBC's Centre for Artificial Intelligence Decision-Making and Action Lab (CAIDA) has \$225 million in funding and 400,000 citations to date. Its 500 students and more than 80 faculty develop, analyze and apply AI systems for decision-making and action. UBC is home to other AI research clusters and groups — from the Computer Vision and Robotics Lab to the Biomedical Imaging and Artificial Intelligence Research Cluster.

SFU's Natural Language Laboratory is one of the largest in North America working in the field of computational linguistics, and the university's Big Data Initiative is at the forefront of advanced research computing and data visualization.

The University of Victoria's Matrix Institute for Applied Data Science is partnering with industry, government and other academic institutions on applications that span drug candidate identification, wildfire detection, mobile health strategies and pollution modelling.

Ready to be part of this dynamic AI hub?

Whether you are collaborating on industry-leading research, partnering with a B.C.-based company, getting in on the ground floor by investing in a startup, or launching your venture here, B.C. is where you can grow your future in AI.

Trade and Invest British Columbia has international representatives in 17 locations around the world. **Come talk to us!**

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