

Ottawa, Ontario

of excellence, sector innovations and economic strengths for business events

Where bright ideas come to life

businesseventscanada.ca

Vancouver, British Columbia



Digital Industries

"Canada is a land of innovation—and our centres of excellence in the sectors shaping the world have elevated the global perception of Canada as industry leaders. This intellectual capital, combined with our vibrant urban centres, welcoming nature, global perspectives and cooperative approach, makes us a top choice for international business events.

We have a wealth of knowledge to share with the world—and our sector brochures show why, providing the latest insights into our thriving industry hubs, transformative Global Innovation Clusters and trailblazing sub-sectors. This sector expertise can supercharge agendas, build enduring connections and spark innovative ideascreating unforgettable conferences that inspire attendees, spark breakthroughs and leave a truly lasting legacy."



Virginie de Visscher

Executive Director, Business Events, **Destination Canada**

> Canada in Focus

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Incentive Rewards



41M
TOTAL POPULATION

20.5M
TOTAL WORKFORCE

2nd
LARGEST
COUNTRY
IN THE WORLD

10th

LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD

1st IN THE G7 FOR Quality of life

Social purpose

Open for business

Sources: Statistics Canada, World Bank, 2023 Best Countries rankings



Canada in Focus

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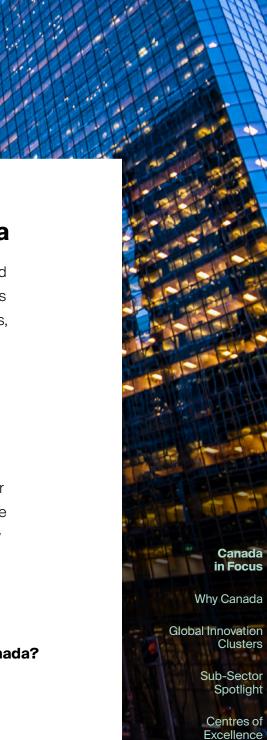
Destination Canada's Business Events team is charged with growing Canada's share of international business events by promoting the country's unique meeting, convention and incentive event possibilities.



Canada is a global leader in the digital industries—and we can't wait to share our knowledge with you. Across the country, artificial intelligence, telecommunications, cybersecurity, fintech and digital media sub-sectors are thriving, while our Global Innovation Clusters are generating bold new ideas to build the technology of tomorrow. Canadian visionaries are pushing the industry forward in groundbreaking, unconventional directions, and digital industries hubs from coast to coast to coast are attracting the world. Whatever your digital industries business event—from a cutting-edge conference for creative delegates to an extraordinary incentive reward for an elite digital team—you'll find inspiration here.

Isn't it time for you to meet with purpose in Canada? Connect with us to learn how.

businessevents@destinationcanada.com →



Destination Canada

Business Events

WHY CANADA

Business Events

FOR DIGITAL INDUSTRIES CONFERENCES





Canada was the first country in the world to introduce a national AI strategy and has the third largest tech cluster in North America, behind San Francisco and New York in the US. This leadership across the digital industries not only makes Canada a global competitor, but an innovation leader, accelerating progress and inspiring the new ideas so critical to the digital industries sector.



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Supported by the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Canada is a natural draw for business events dedicated to the advancement of Al. Our centres of excellence are home to some of the world's brightest minds in the field, including the University of Toronto's Geoffrey Hinton, winner of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work training artificial neural networks. Researchers and entrepreneurs who meet here do so surrounded by the groundbreaking work of Canada's national Al institutes and innovative Al businesses.



Digital Industries



Business events are a fundamental source of research, learning and knowledge sharing and in Canada, our radical openness means this kind of collaboration comes naturally. Organizations that meet here gain access to Canadian innovation and thought leadership through speakers and keynotes for conferences, business-to-business exchanges, site tours and sharing of best practices.





From Amazon, Google and Microsoft to Meta, Shopify and Samsung, the architects of the global tech revolution live, work and play here. Their depth of knowledge not only helps draw internationally renowned conferences to Canada, but also helps to build and maintain productive networks that can generate economic benefits such as talent attraction for organizers, host industry champions and host destinations.





Business events have the power to **inspire the next generation**, who want to make a positive difference and create innovative solutions to today's problems. In Canada, our national Global Innovation Clusters are fuelling the next generation of digital startups on their quest for these solutions, providing the perfect ecosystem for your own trailblazers to find inspiration, transform the sector—and shape the future.

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Digital Industries

CANADA'S DIGITAL INDUSTRIES CENTRES



Québec City

- > Artificial Intelligence
- > Telecommunications Services
- > Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce

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GLOBAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS

Canada

Global Innovation

Sub-Sector

When companies of all sizes, academic institutions and not-for-profits come together, they generate bold new ideas. Ideas that wouldn't have otherwise come to light. That's why the Government of Canada has invested nearly \$2 billion in our five Global Innovation Clusters: digital industries, protein industries, advanced manufacturing. scale Al and ocean.

Canada's Global Innovation Clusters demonstrate our commitment to growing digital industries innovation ecosystems and promoting investment in digital commercialization. We are collaborating to deepen the impact of digital industries and acting as a catalyst for skills and talent development across the sector. Ultimately, we are expanding the global presence of our digital industries sector and want to share this wealth of knowledge with the world. We welcome organizations meeting here to leverage that knowledge, create global partnerships and empower us all to shape the future together.

Canada's Digital Technology Cluster

Based in Vancouver, the **Digital Technology Cluster** (DIGITAL) accelerates the development and adoption of digital innovations as a catalyst to grow Canadian companies, advance human and environmental health and build an inclusive, skilled workforce for the digital world. It has developed a robust and engaged ecosystem of collaborators, attracting members from the areas of digital health, natural resources

Smartice Facilitates Ice Travel for Inuit in Arctic Communities

One of the projects being funded through DIGITAL is SmartICE, which operates the world's first set of climate change adaptation tools to integrate traditional Inuit knowledge of ice with advanced data acquisition, remote monitoring technology and earth observation mapping in northern Canada's icy Arctic. Their ice-monitoring technology uses SmartBUOYS, stationary sensors inserted into the ice to measure ice thickness and snow using thermistors. As well, sled-based sensors towed behind snowmobiles provide real-time ice and snow thickness measurements to the operator along community trails.

Mappedin Uses Al to Create Groundbreaking **Indoor Digital Maps**

SCALE AI has invested in Mappedin, a company specializing in indoor mapping and spatial data management. The project focuses on revolutionizing last-mile delivery by developing automated tools for creating and annotating indoor maps in complex environments. Using a computer vision model, the initiative will digitize building plans, allowing delivery personnel to mark Points of Interest (POIs) like parking and drop-off locations. The outcome will be precise, annotated maps that facilitate courier navigation, ready for export or integration into existing routing systems.



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and environment, and workforce development.

Canada's Al-Powered

(Scale AI)

Supply Chains Cluster

Based in Montréal, the Scale Al Cluster is bringing

together the retail, manufacturing, transportation,

communications technology (ICT) sectors together to

accelerate the integration of intelligent supply chains,

scaling large and small organizations along the way.

A consortium of private entities, research centres,

academia and high-potential startups, Scale Al is

the central pillar of Canada's Al ecosystem.

infrastructure, healthcare and information and

in Focus

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SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT Artificial Intelligence Hotspots Global companies with a Canadian presence are taking part in Al

- → Calgary
- > Edmonton
- > Montréal
- > Ottawa
- > Québec City
- > Toronto
- > Vancouver

Global companies with a Canadian presence are taking part in Al hubs across Canada, giving them access to some of the world's brightest minds in Al. The national Al Strategy is driving growth in the industry through government investments in Al and skills development, support for a national research community, and connecting nodes of scientific excellence in Canada's major centres for Al.

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45
AI RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTRES
SET UP BY OVERSEAS

COMPANIES SINCE 2014

Montréal

WORLD'S LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS IN DEEP LEARNING

Sources: Scale Al, 2023, Mila, 2021, Toronto Global, 2021

Toronto

HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF AI STARTUPS IN THE WORLD

Noteworthy Innovations

Toronto-based InteraXon develops brainwavesensing technology designed to help people live a happier, healthier, more connected life. Their flagship product is the Muse headband, which senses when users' minds are distracted, neutral or at rest during meditation and provides biofeedback audio.

The Artificial Intelligence Network of British Columbia was founded by business and academic leaders to unify, organize and catalyze the Al and machine learning communities in British Columbia.

Al4Good Lab in **Montréal** champions gender inclusivity in the Al industry, providing training programs for women and gender diverse people, so they can develop the skills to build their own machine learning projects and prepare for a career in Al.

The International Center of Expertise in Montréal on Artificial Intelligence (CEIMIA) is an international non-profit organization promoting the development and responsible use of Al for the benefit of humanity, in the areas of the environment, climate change, global health, data, governance and human rights.

Independent Research Centres

The **Toronto**-based <u>Canadian Institute for</u>

<u>Advanced Research (CIFAR)</u> is leading the Canadian
Government's \$440 million Pan Canadian Artificial
Intelligence Strategy, the world's first AI strategy
on supporting research and developing talent.

Three national Al institutes are strengthening Canada's leadership in Al: Amii in Edmonton, Mila in Montréal and the Vector Institute in Toronto.

Together, all three hubs are collaborating with some of the world's top academic institutions specializing in Al and machine learning research to solve real-world challenges.

Samsung Al Center - Montreal (SAIC-Montreal),

led by McGill University's Gregory Dudek, conducts research in Al-based network intelligence ("Al for 5G") and is focused on applying advanced Al to telecommunications, machine learning and robotics.



Conferences

The Collision Conference rapidly became the fastest-growing tech conference in North America. In the 2024 edition, the "godfather of Al" Geoffrey Hinton and tennis legend Maria Sharapova shared their insights on the transformative impact of Al on their worlds. Now rolled into the Web Summit series of events, the 2025 conference will be the first Web Summit in North America, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia.

2022, 2023, 2024 Toronto, Ontario

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SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Telecommunications Services

Hotspots

- → Calgary
- > Edmonton
- > Montréal
- > Ottawa

The telecommunications sector is a significant contributor to the Canadian economy, both directly and through enabling greater productivity across other sectors. Providing coverage across Canada's vast landscape, Canada's wireline and wireless networks are consistently ranked amongst the global leaders in network performance. This driving force in the Canadian economy is due to significantly higher capital investments by the sector, enabling Canadians to interact with each other in more ways than ever before—and fully participate in the digital economy.

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Up to 782,000
JOBS SUPPORTED BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SERVICES

AMONG G20 COUNTRIES FOR MOBILE NETWORK QUALITY MOST 5G NETWORKS IN THE WORLD, BEHIND

Source: Canadian Telecommunications Association

Noteworthy Innovations

Calgary is the first city in Canada to build and own an industrial grade LoRaWAN network to enable local IoT innovations.

The network enables testing, development and proof of concept deployment of IoT solutions of up to 30,000 sensors.

Semiconductor chip manufacturer TSMC's

Design Center in Ottawa was the world's first and largest dedicated integrated circuit foundry. There, innovators are shaping the semiconductor technology landscape to help deliver cuttingedge mobile, Internet of Things (IoT), high-performance computing, Al and automotive products.

Post-Secondary Academic Institutions

The Ericsson-Carleton Mobile Wireless
Lab at Ottawa's Carleton University
will be the first location in Canada to
provide researchers and students with
access to a private standalone 5G RDS
network, to enable development, testing
and optimization of state-of the-art 3D
localization solutions, techniques and
algorithms.

Independent Research Centres

The <u>Communications Research</u>
<u>Centre Canada (CRC)</u> in **Ottawa** is the
Government of Canada's client-driven
applied research centre for advanced
telecommunications.



Conferences

The IoT North Conference brought together industry, government and association leaders to examine the state and challenges of the Canadian IoT and AI (AIoT) ecosystem. Now evolved into the Society 5.0 Summit, the event will bridge the gap between senior decision makers and digital transformation, beginning in 2025 in Calgary.

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Cybersecurity

Hotspots

- Calgary
- Montréal
- > Québec City
- > Toronto
- > Vancouver

With funding of more than \$500 million, Canada's National

Cybersecurity Strategy and its supporting 2019-2024 Action Plan aim to ensure security and resilience, support cyber innovation, and demonstrate leadership and collaboration with allies to shape the international cybersecurity environment. As the need for cybersecurity grows increasingly important, Canada's cybersecurity sector has grown, thanks to support for advanced research, digital innovation, and the development of cyber skills and knowledge to position Canada as a global leader in cyber security.

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\$3.2B
CONTRIBUTION TO GDP

29,000 JOBS

MOST PREPARED COUNTRY AGAINST CYBER SECURITY THREATS

 $Source: Innovation, Science \ and \ Economic \ Development \ Canada, \ National \ Cyber \ Security \ Index$

Noteworthy Innovations

At the Cyber Excellence Awards in 2023, Cyderes in **Toronto** was recognized for their talent, innovation and growth, ranked the Cybersecurity Recruiter of the Year, Best Cybersecurity Company and Fastest Growing Cybersecurity Company.

Post-Secondary Academic Institutions

The Cyber Security Analyst program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary is the first program in North America to offer apprenticeshipstyle training in cybersecurity, with 51% of all learning being done on the job.



Conferences

The <u>Cyber Future Summit</u> takes the format of an interactive leadership exercise, where leaders and futurists from different walks of life gather to share ideas and create actionable guidance and frameworks to build a collaborative and trusted global platform for cyber.

2023 Ottawa, Ontario

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SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT **Fintech and E-Commerce**

Hotspots

- → Calgary
- > Edmonton
- > Montréal
- > Ottawa
- > Québec City
- > Toronto
- > Vancouver

Fintech in Canada has been seeing tremendous growth in recent years and is expected to continue expanding exponentially. Such innovation is bringing exciting new efficiencies to the financial services market, improving the speed and accuracy of transaction processing, building on the size and stability of Canada's financial system healthiest in the G7 and the sixth most sound in the world.

\$1.8B **VENTURE CAPITAL**

BACKED FINTECH **INVESTMENT IN 2022**

1,286 FINTECH COMPANIES

Toronto RANKED SECOND LARGEST FINANCIAL **CENTRE IN NORTH** AMERICA, AFTER **NEW YORK**

Sources: Pitchbook, KPMG, Conference Board of Canada

Noteworthy Innovations

Jobber in **Edmonton** empowers service providers to quote, schedule, market, invoice and get paid through one appand is the second fastest growing software company in Canada.

Borealis Al, a research institute at the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), is working to advance the field of machine learning, designing Al products and technologies to transform banking businesses and shape the future of financial services.

The Canadian Blockchain Consortium was founded to unite Canada's diverse community of blockchain business owners, developers and adopters.

Did You Know?

In 2016, ATB Financial in Calgary sent one of the world's first real-time payments from Canada to Germany using blockchain technology. The payment took around 20 seconds.

Conferences

The annual international SIBOS conference brings together the global financial community to debate and collaborate in the areas of payments, securities, cash management and trade In 2023 in Toronto, SIBOS focused on "Collaborative finance in a fragmented world."

2023 Toronto, Ontario

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SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Visual Effects (VFX) and Digital Media

Hotspots

- > Edmonton
- Montréal
- > Québec City
- > Toronto
- > Vancouver

Canada's world-leading digital media industries have a long highlight reel. Fuelled by world-class talent, industry innovation and beneficial tax credits in Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal, Canada continues to develop as a major hub of the global film and visual effects industry. Meanwhile, the Canadian video game industry has also established itself as a global leader, renowned for its creative prowess and technological advancements. Looking ahead, extended reality (XR), augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and mixed reality (MR) are set to underpin the next iteration of the internet—the metaverse—and boost Canada's growth and productivity across multiple sectors.

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Upto

240.000 **FILM PRODUCTION JOBS**

OF THE METAVERSE TO **CANADA'S ANNUAL GDP** BY 2035

Sources: Deloitte, Entertainment Software Association of Canada, Canadian Media Producers Association, Facing Reality: Canada Needs to Think about Extended Reality and Al

Noteworthy Innovations

Based in Montréal, Moment Factory is a leading startup in the realm of creative multimedia productions, including the mesmerizing Las Vegas Sphere shows.

Some of the world's most famous video game franchises, such as Assassin's Creed, Splinter Cell and Prince of Persia were developed by **Ubisoft Montréal**.

Post-Secondary Academic Institutions

The Centre for Data Management and Visualization at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in **Edmonton** specializes in simulation, motion and performance capture, GIS analysis, and data analytics and visualizationworking with industry partners to develop innovative tools and content.

At the School of Interactive Arts and Technology (SIAT) at Simon Fraser University near **Vancouver** technologists, artists, designers, and theorists combine the science of human experience, the analysis of media and culture, the creation of original and experimental works of art and the implementation of new technologies.

Did You Know?

Montréal and Vancouver are among the top hubs worldwide for visual effects and animation, alongside Los Angeles, US and London, UK.



Conferences

SIGGRAPH is one of the biggest computer graphics and interactive techniques conferences in the world, bringing together a diverse global community of innovators to showcase the latest advancements in animation, VFX, new realities and Al. 2022 Vancouver, British Columbia

The SiGMA Group is an events and media organization focused on gaming, emerging tech, digital health, and affiliate marketing. In 2022, SiGMA Americas offered a high-energy agenda spotlighting the rapidly growing iGaming sector. 2022 Toronto, Ontario

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115,000 TECH JOBS

9,400+SAAS EMPLOYEES

18+
AI COMPANIES

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22+
CYBERSECURITY COMPANIES

Almost 1,000
DIGITAL MEDIA COMPANIES

170+
VIDEO GAME DEVELOPMENT
STUDIOS

EC

Up to 72,000
VFX WORKERS IN BRITISH
COLUMBIA

40,000+

DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT AND INTERACTIVE GAMING JOBS

Sources: Vancouver Economic Commission, Latka, TechBehemoths, BestStartup

Vancouver sits between the Pacific
Ocean and the 26 individual peaks that
make up the North Shore Mountains.
It's the third most populous city in
Canada and the country's fastestgrowing major metropolitan area
because of the quality of life it offers,
the active lifestyle it encourages, the
diversity of its residents and the city-

wide commitment to sustainabilitythe world's first city-level carbon tax

was instituted here in 2008.

Did you know?

In 2023, Amazon opened its newest Vancouver office, The Post, located in a mid-century, historical building which previously housed Canada Post and occupies an entire city block.



Noteworthy Innovations

Blockchain @UBC is a multidisciplinary research cluster focusing on blockchain technology as a central component in investigating the broader research question "How can emerging technologies be leveraged to benefit Canadians and the world?"

Vancouver's **Simon Fraser University** and the **University of British Columbia** are ranked #1 and #2 in Canada for computer vision and computer graphics publications, by CS Rankings.



Companies

- > Telus Corporation
- > Hootsuite
- > Samsung R&D Canada
- > Slack Canada
- > Fortinet
- Sony Pictures Imageworks
- > Electronic Arts Canada



Conferences

The IEEE / CVF Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Conference is the leading annual computer vision event, including a conference, several workshops and short courses. In 2023, speakers addressed Al's history, future and impact on computer vision possibilities.

2023 Vancouver, British Columbia

SIGGRAPH is one of the biggest computer graphics and interactive techniques conferences in the world, bringing together a diverse global community of innovators to showcase the latest advancements in animation, VFX, new realities and Al. 2022 Vancouver, British Columbia

The annual International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB) is a major global forum for data management researchers, vendors, practitioners, application developers and users to discuss the technology and research underpinning today's emerging applications.

2023 Vancouver, British Columbia

"Vancouver provides a perfect mix of excellent infrastructure, diverse culture, unbeatable nature and a world-class technology ecosystem making it a perfect destination for leading academic conferences like the International Conference on Very Large Data Bases (VLDB)."

TIANZHENG WANG

Assistant Professor, School of Computing, Science Simon Fraser University

Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms 13,000

Downtown

23,000

Citywic

Vancouver Convention Centre

43,339 sq m

466,500 sqft



Sub-Sectors

- Artificial Intelligence
- > Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce
- > Visual Effects (VFX) and Animation



Post-Secondary Institutions

- > University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University

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Sources: CBRE, Statistics Canada

The Western spirit that helped build Calgary is very much alive and well. You hear it in the music. You see it in the streets. You experience it every July at the world-famous Calgary Stampede. You see it in the architecturally spectacular expansion to the BMO Centre-Western Canada's largest convention centre. And you feel it in the entrepreneurial attitude. It's why Calgary has Canada's highest per capita head office and small business concentration in Canada.

Did you know?

A Calgarian, James Gosling, is credited as the inventor of the Java programming language in 1994, creating the original design of Java and implementing its original compiler and virtual machine.

Calgary's technology and innovation ecosystem has been rapidly expanding and has seen a 462.5 per cent increase in the number of accelerators and incubators since 2015.

The University of Calgary has been repeatedly ranked the top startup creator in Canada out of 32 Canadian academic and non-profit research institutions.

Noteworthy Innovations

Calgary is the first city in Canada to build and own an industrial grade LoRaWAN network to enable local IoT innovations. The network enables testing, development and proof of concept deployment of IoT solutions of up to 30,000 sensors.

Denvr Dataworks is creating a more sustainable future by developing a data centre design that has waterless cooling and energy-efficient servers. Only four per cent of the power used goes towards operations, while 96 per cent goes to computing.

The Institute for Quantum Science and **Technology** at the University of Calgary

conducts leading research in key theoretical and experimental topics of quantum science and technology.

Calgary is a hub of activity in the quantum field, with **Quantum Horizons Alberta** advancing interdisciplinary foundational quantum research, Quantum City at the University of Calgary leveraging quantum physics and computing to tackle real-world challenges, and Quantum Alberta acting as a catalyst for advancing and commercializing quantum research.

Companies

- Attabotics
- Benevity

Digital Industries

- > CoolIT Systems
- > Critical Mass
- > Denvr Dataworks
- → Helcim
- Neo Financial
- > Shareworks by Morgan Stanley
- > SMART Technologies
- > Tektelic
- > Vizworx



Conferences

Quantum Days unites students, researchers, industry professionals, policymakers, investors in the quantum field with interactive sessions designed to inform, connect and advance breakthroughs in Canada's quantum landscape. 2024 Calgary, Alberta



Sub-Sectors

- > Artificial Intelligence
- > Telecommunications Services
- > Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce



Post-Secondary Institutions

- > The University of Calgary
- > AI/ML Centre of Excellence by AltaML



"The main driver of international activity is because the problems are hard... We need to find the people across the planet that can help us to solve the problems we need to solve and advance the field in the way we need to advance it... As Buckminster Fuller once said, on planet Earth there are no passengers, we are all crew. We all have to do our part. So, I want to share the passion with everybody I can."

DR. BARRY SANDERS

Director of the Institute for Quantum Science University of Calgary

Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

4,700

Downtown

15,000

Citywide

Calgary TELUS Convention Centre

11,334 sq m

122,000 sqft

BMO Centre

46,452 sqm 500,000 sqft

Canada in Focus

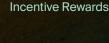
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Noteworthy Innovations

emerging technology sectors.

Companies

> AltaML > Jobber > SeriousLabs > Drugbank

Granify

Drivewyze > Inflexion Games

> Beamdog

Conferences

Jobber, a scheduling software and app—and

in Canada—is headquartered in Edmonton.

Alberta IoT is a non-profit, member-based

association that exists to nurture and support the growth of Alberta's Internet of Things and

The 2022 From Earth to Space Conference explored the impact of emerging technologies

like quantum, nanotech, biotech and Al, and the need to collaborate internationally to find solutions to the planet's most pressing

challenges, including health and sustainability.

The 2023 DeepTech in Health + Medical

innovation, opening up the possibility

of advanced diagnostics, personalized

Innovation Event focused on the role of deep tech in revolutionizing health and medical

treatments and improved patient outcomes.

the second fastest growing software company

Digital Industries

Business Events



"As the organizers of Upper Bound, a worldto grow year-on-year, Amii appreciates the support of Explore Edmonton in ensuring

STEPHANIE ENDERS

Edmonton Expo Centre

48,495 sqm

Edmonton Convention Centre

13,416 sq m 144,406 sqft

renowned, annual Al conference that continues our continued success."

Chief Delivery Officer, Amii

Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms 3,197

13,000

522,000 sqft

31,100

Destination Canada

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TECH EMPLOYEES

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2,631

Sources: CBRE. Statistics Canada

On the biggest stages of sports and business, Edmonton comes to play and punches above its weight. These days, Edmonton is leading Canada's exploration of Al, with the University of Alberta ranking third globally in Al research. This, and the surge of fresh talent into Edmonton, led Coldwell

Banker Richard Ellis (CBRE) to name it the fastest-growing tech hub in North America.

Did you know?

EDMONTON

Since 1970, the University of Alberta has published more papers on AI than any other university in North America, except Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, US.



Sub-Sectors

> Artificial Intelligence

2023 Edmonton, Alberta

2022 Edmonton, Alberta

- > Telecommunications Services
- > Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce



Post-Secondary Institutions

- > The University of Alberta
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)

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Destination Canada Digital Industries TORONTO 285,000+ 24,000+

TECH EMPLOYEES

Sources: Toronto Global, City of Toronto

As one of the fastest-growing tech markets and the second-largest finance hub in North America. Toronto is attracting the world. More than 200 languages are spoken in the city, and nearly 45 per cent of Toronto residents speak something other than English or French at home. Waves of immigration over the last 50 years have made Toronto the biggest city in Canada and the fourth biggest on the continent.

Did you know?

The Toronto region's technology community has grown by 44 per cent over the past five years and is now the largest in Canada and the third largest in North America.

Noteworthy Innovations

Toronto-based InteraXon develops brainwave-sensing technology designed to help people live a happier, healthier, more connected life. Their flagship product is the Muse headband, which senses when users' minds are distracted, neutral or at rest during meditation and provides biofeedback audio.

MaRS is North America's largest urban innovation hub, supporting more than 1,200 technology and science startups and offering 1.5 million square feet of office, lab, meeting and event space in downtown Toronto.

Borealis Al, a research institute at the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), is working to advance the field of machine learning, designing Al products and technologies to transform banking businesses and shape the future of financial services.

Companies

- > 1Password
- > Ecobee
- > BoomerangFX
- > EventMobi
- > Borrowell > Brim Financial
- > Influitive
- > SAP Canada

Microsoft Canada

- > Coinsquare
- > Deep Genomics

Conferences

The SiGMA Group is an events and media organization focused on gaming, emerging tech, digital health, and affiliate marketing. In 2022, SiGMA Americas offered a high-energy agenda spotlighting the rapidly growing iGaming sector.

2022 Toronto, Ontario

The Collision Conference rapidly became the fastest-growing tech conference in North America. In the 2024 edition, the "godfather of Al" Geoffrey Hinton and tennis legend Maria Sharapova shared their insights on the transformative impact of AI on their worlds. Now rolled into the Web Summit series of events, the 2025 conference will be the first Web Summit in North America, to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. 2022, 2023, 2024 Toronto, Ontario

The annual international **SIBOS** conference brings together the global financial community to debate and collaborate in the areas of payments, securities, cash management and trade. In 2023 in Toronto, SIBOS focused on "Collaborative finance in a fragmented world." 2023 Toronto, Ontario

Sub-Sectors

- > Artificial Intelligence
- > Telecommunications Services
- Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce

Post-Secondary Institutions

- > University of Toronto
- > Toronto Metropolitan University
- York University

"I consider Toronto to be one of the top choices for a conference like Hospitality Industry Technology Exposition and Conference (HITEC)...I was deeply impressed by the logistics, the tremendous effort put in by all team members, and how well everything was organized. We delivered an excellent program, and I felt a great sense of pride and honour in being a part of this."

IRA VOUK

Founder of Hospitality 2.0 and HITEC Advisory Council Member

Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

36,000+

Citywide

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

65,032 sq m 700,000+ sqft

Exhibition Place

114,456 sq m

1.2 million sqft

Canada in Focus

Why Canada

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Incentive Rewards

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Why Canada

Global Innovation

Business Events

"The selection of Ottawa's Area X.O as a NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) Test Centre and the Canadian-**Dutch Cyber Soft-landing Program are key** developments that reinforce Ottawa's reputation

LESLEY PINCOMBE

Vice-President, Meetings & Major Events, Ottawa Tourism

Conference Infrastructure

5,400

Downtown

Digital Industries

Noteworthy Innovations

Ottawa is home to 65 federal labs, many of

which are under the umbrella of the worldrenowned National Research Council of

of Canada's largest science and research

staff representing 87 nationalities.

automotive products.

semiconductor foundry.

Companies

Kinaxis

> Calian > Shopify

> Mitel

> Telesat

Conferences

2023 Ottawa, Ontario

product and sales.

2023, 2024 Ottawa, Ontario

organization, with 4,263 full-time equivalent

Semiconductor chip manufacturer **TSMC's** Design Center in Ottawa was the world's

first and largest dedicated integrated circuit

foundry. There, innovators are shaping the semiconductor technology landscape to help deliver cutting-edge mobile, Internet of Things (IoT), high-performance computing, Al and

The Canadian Photonics Fabrication Centre (CPFC) is Canada's only pure play compound

The triennial, international **IEEE Sections**

Congress brings together section leaders to collectively shape the future of IEEE. In 2023, the conference focused on achieving

future sustainability, empowering volunteer

SAAS NORTH is the Canadian hub for

enterprises, bringing together founders,

teams, investors and seasoned industry

experts to connect and exchange ideas

around leadership, the workplace, finance,

rapidly-scaling Software as a Service (SaaS)

engagement and enriching member experience.

Canada (NRC). The Council is the Government

11,000

Rogers Centre Ottawa

- > Telecommunications Services
- > Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce



as a hub of innovation and research excellence."

Guestrooms

Citywide

17,837 sq m 192,000 sqft

Sub-Sectors



Post-Secondary Institutions

- University of Ottawa
- > Carleton University

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94,400 **TECH EMPLOYEES**

Canada

in Focus

Clusters

Centres of

Excellence

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Sources: CBRE. Invest in Ottawa

The intellectual prowess of Canada's capital city is in large part due to its exceptional post-secondary options, including the largest university in the world to offer a fully bilingual English and French program. Around half of Ottawa's adult population has

and a large percentage of Ottawans work in creative, science or digital industries. With Canada's federal government as neighbours, these trailblazers are well positioned to lead from the front, close to the country's key decision-making hubs.

a post-secondary education



190,000+

Source: Statistics Canada



Montréal stands alone in Canada. Its mix of European culture and new world cool gave rise to a vive la différence attitude that has allowed unique excellence to shine in art, music, film, dance, food and fashion. More recently, the spirit of innovation behind the achievements in those areas has made Montréal a global aerospace centre, a top-five city for video game production and the most sustainable destination in North America, according to the Global Destination Sustainability Index.

Did you know?

Some of the world's most famous video game franchises, including Assassin's Creed, Splinter Cell and Prince of Persia were developed by **Ubisoft Montréal**.

Noteworthy Innovations

Oasis Immersion at the Palais des congrès de Montréal offers virtual reality experiences with stunning visuals, relaxation, and meditation spaces for visitors.

The only one of its kind in the world, the Cyberjustice Laboratory at the Université de Montréal, is an innovative virtual court that helps jurists better understand the challenges of integrating information technologies that will play an increasingly greater role in the administration of justice.

Al4Good Lab in Montréal champions gender inclusivity in the Al industry, providing training programs for women and gender diverse people, so they can develop the skills to build their own machine learning projects and prepare for a career in Al.

Independent Research Centres

Meta's Fundamental Al Research (FAIR)

lab in Montréal is led by McGill University's Joelle Pineau, whose research focuses on developing new models for planning and learning-and applying these to robotics, health care, games and conversational agents.

Google's DeepMind research laboratory in Montréal houses a diverse team of research scientists and engineers on a mission to "solve intelligence" under the leadership of McGill University's Doina Precup, whose research specializes in reinforcement learning.

At the Microsoft Research Lab - Montréal, a team of researchers specializing in machine learning, reinforcement learning and FATE (fairness accountability, transparency and ethics in AI) are focusing on advancing deep learning to have a positive impact on society.

Companies

- > Nuvei
- > Moment Factory
- > CGI
- > Hopper
- > Ubisoft
- > Cinesite
- Bell Canada
- > Behaviour



Conferences

Recognition attracts scientists, researchers and practitioners to listen, learn, educate and exchange ideas. The 2022 event focused on Al, machine learning, robotics and intelligent systems—and potential uses for this technology.

2022 Montréal, Québec

The Internet Measurement Conference

focuses on discussing advancements and exchanging ideas around data-driven insights into internet performance, to foster the development of innovative approaches to traffic and system management. 2023 Montréal, Québec

"Microsoft is very excited about the idea of collaborating with professors, students and the extensive tech community in Montréal. The city is becoming a global hub for research and innovation in Al."

BRAD SMITH

President, Microsoft

Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

16,300

Downtown

36,800

Citywide

Palais Des Congrès De **Montréal Convention Centre**

47,265 sq m

508,756 sqft

Sub-Sectors

- > Artificial Intelligence
- > Telecommunications Services
- > Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce
- > Visual Effects (VFX) and Digital Media



Post-Secondary Institutions

- > McGill University
- Université de Montréal
- École de Technologie Supérieure (ÉTS)

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QUÉBEC CITY

per capita—turning it into an emerging

cent of the jobs created in the city over

the past decade are knowledge-based,

boosting Québec City's standing in life

sciences, finance/insurance and green

technology.

hub in cutting-edge fields. Forty per



"We chose Québec City [for the 2023 Optica Design and Fabrication Congress] because of its thriving optics-photonics industry and its proximity to research centres and institutes, its mix of European flair and cutting-edge technology, and the incredible value of the Canadian dollar for international travellers!"

KIMBERLY L. COERR

Director, Meeting Operations, Optica

Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

5,000+

17,250

Citywide

Québec City Convention Centre

27,340 sq m

294,290 sqft

Noteworthy Innovations

Linearis Labs' new laboratory in Québec City offers Al analysis of biomarkers to better identify metabolic diseases including cancer, diabetes, and antimicrobial resistance.

The National Optics Institute (INO) is the largest centre of expertise in optics and photonics in Canada, controlling light using everything from laser and fiber optics to imaging technologies to innovate solutions that capture, identify, predict or transform the real world.



Companies

- > TeraXion
- > Coveo
- > Mirego
- > <u>Libeo</u>
- → <u>iX media</u>
- Beenox
- > Ubisoft



Conferences

Dedicated to advancing optics and photonics worldwide, the Optica Design and Fabrication Congress brings together the best and brightest in the science of light to share the latest innovations in the design, manufacturing and application of optics. 2023 Québec City, Québec



Sub-Sectors

- > Artificial Intelligence
- > Telecommunications Services
- Cybersecurity
- > Fintech and E-Commerce



in Focus Why Canada Global Innovation Clusters Sub-Sector Spotlight **Centres of** Excellence Incentive Rewards

36,000+

COMMUNICATIONS

TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Source: Québec International

PROFESSIONALS

Destination Canada

Business Events

Québec City has been charming visitors with its unique brand of joie de vivre since the city was incorporated in 1608 as the capital of Frenchspeaking Canada. Nowadays, the five universities and 16 colleges in the greater Québec City area give it Canada's highest ratio of researchers

1,059

Post-Secondary Institutions

> Université Laval

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WHY CANADA FOR DIGITAL INDUSTRIES INCENTIVE REWARDS



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In Canada, our legendary incentive experiences offer true transformation, captivating and motivating teams from far and wide, applauding and rewarding employees across industries.

With diverse cosmopolitan cities, a kaleidoscope of rich cultures, and our mountain, coastal and spa resorts,
Canada is the perfect place for growth and enrichment. Here, wide-open spaces inspire awe, open hearts build belonging, and open minds spark new ideas.

Here are four unforgettable experiences handpicked for digital industries top performers, to help you blow away your team—and the competition.

Off the Grid

Blachford Lake Lodge, Northwest Territories

There's no better place than the wild Arctic shoreline to keep outside distractions at bay, clear busy minds and blow corporate cobwebs away. In summer fish for pike, canoe under the midnight sun, and hike a boreal forest. In winter, snowshoe on a wonderland of trails, learn the art of igloo building or play hockey on a frozen lake. When waves of light flash over the sky you'll know the Aurora have arrived...and so has your team.

Learn more →

Fire and Ice Dinner

British Columbia

Give your top performers a mile high celebration to lift the spirits. They'll ride the gondola to the top of Whistler Mountain and savour a glass of bubbly at mid station, while photo stops of snowcapped mountaintops punctuate the party. A fire and ice ski show, a torch light ski parade—the sky is the limit for celebration animation up here. The very best in regional wines and farm and ocean cuisine feed high altitude appetites.

Learn more →

Ice Canoeing

St. Lawrence River, Québec

The magnificent frozen waterscape of the St.

Lawrence River in the heart of Québec City,

Québec will get your team pulling together on
this introduction to the traditional winter activity of
ice canoeing. A lesson in rowing and scootering
across the frozen riverscape is enhanced by a
hot chocolate stop on drifting ice. An invigorating
reward you'll find nowhere else in Canada.

Learn more →

Ancient Waters

Iceberg Quest, Newfoundland and Labrador

There's nothing like seeing your first iceberg.

Dangerous sparkle. Turquoise, white and emerald ice spires. 10,000-year-old water and light, frozen in time. Sail your team from St.

John's Narrows to Iceberg Alley, where towering slabs of frozen water drift along the horizon, a moving mountain range on the ocean. Navigate amongst ice sheets, as playful pods of dolphins and humpback whales arise from the deep, enticing you with their blows, clicks and whistles. This is one ocean-bound adventure your group won't ever forget.

Learn more →

Looking for more inspired incentive ideas?

businessevents.destinationcanada.com/en-ca/plan/incentive →

Canada in Focus

O Igaluit, Nunavut

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN CANADA

Thanks to the development of the first national artificial intelligence (AI) strategy in the world, pioneering government programs and public funding, Canada has leading AI R&D institutions and a healthy AI workforce.

In 2024, the Government of Canada announced a \$2.4 billion package of AI measures to accelerate job growth in Canada's Al sector, boost productivity by helping researchers and businesses develop and adopt AI – and ensure this is done responsibly.

CANADA'S AI ADVANTAGES

Talent Development: Since its launch in 2017, the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy has established the foundations of the sector by:

- Supporting over 100 Al research chairs at universities across Canada to develop the next generation of Canadian Al talent.
- Training more than 1,500 graduate students at Canada's three national AI institutes
- Attracting over 45 new commercial AI labs globally

Al Hubs: Canada has three national Al research institutes that train hundreds of interns, graduate students and post-docs and conduct various research projects with the private sector.

- 1) Amii (Edmonton) Based at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Amii aims to enhance understanding and innovation in machine intelligence.
- 2) Mila (Montréal) A partnership between the Université de Montréal and McGill University, Mila was founded in 2017 by Professor Yoshua Bengio, one of the leading experts in artificial intelligence globally.
- 3) The Vector Institute (Toronto) An artificial intelligence research institute in Toronto, Vector focuses primarily on machine learning and deep learning research.

Canada ranked 1st in the G7 for year-over-year growth of Al talent

Source: Government of Canada, 2024

Canada has 10% of the world's top-tier Al researchers, the second most in the world

Source: MacroPolo, "The Global Al Talent Tracker," 2023

38%

Average growth in Canada's cohort of AI talent each year since 2018, outpacing the U.S., U.K., Germany, France and Italy

Source: OECD – Al Policy Observatory, 2024

Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal

Featured among the top Al tech talent markets in North America, accounting for 60% of Canada's total Al-specialty talent

Source: CBRE, 2024

KEY AI HUBS IN CANADA



PROGRAMS

- Scientific Research and Experimental **Development (SR&ED) tax incentives** offer a 15% non-refundable federal tax credit for eligible R&D activity.
- Mitacs matches companies with top-tier researchers and talent to successfully deliver innovation projects and contributes to the cost of talent.
- Global Skills Strategy helps businesses access skilled workers from around the world with faster application processing times.
- Global Innovation Clusters fund consortium-led projects to advance innovations in five clusters: Digital Technology, Next Generation Manufacturing, Scale Al, Protein Industries and Ocean.

RECENT INVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Quantiphi Analytics (United States), an Al-first digital engineering company, announced an expansion of its operations centre in Fredericton, New Brunswick, reflecting an investment of \$17.6 million. (June 2024)

Wayve Technologies (United Kingdom) announced it has opened a new AI hub in Vancouver to advance embodied AI for self-driving technology. (April 2024)

IBM (United States) will open a new cloud multizone region (MZR) facility in Montréal. The facility will help address evolving regulatory requirements and leverage technology such as generative Al. (April 2024)

Unilever (United Kingdom) launched "Horizon3 Labs," a new global AI lab in Toronto to accelerate the generation of new Al concepts, designs and projects that can be deployed across its business globally. (November 2023)

NOTABLE COMPANIES















Invest in Canada promotes, facilitates and accelerates foreign direct investment (FDI) into Canada. It is the global investor's primary point of contact. Reach out to speak with a dedicated advisor.

info@invcanada.ca | investcanada.ca

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SAMSUNG





















Canad'a



No One Knows Canada Like We Do

Destination Canada's Business Events

Team offers in-depth knowledge of Canada.

Our team can help you deliver compelling
content audiences want to consume when
they meet in Canada. Connect with us for
solutions and support on the fundamentals of
meeting in Canada, including where to meet,
recommended innovation hubs best suited
to your specific event, introductions to our
cross-country network of meeting and event
partners, digital industries experts, leaders and
innovators, and those who can help champion
your event, augment your program, grow your
membership and event audiences, and deliver
a return on your event investment.

Make Destination Canada your first point of contact when considering Canada for your event.

Find out more → #meetincanada

Ucluelet, British Columbia

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