

# LIFE SCIENCES

| Business  
Events


Your guide to Canada's centres  
of excellence, sector innovations  
and economic strengths for  
business events

**Where bright ideas come to life**  
[businesseventscanada.ca](http://businesseventscanada.ca)



# CANADA IN FOCUS



 Vancouver, British Columbia

**Canada  
in Focus**

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

## Choose Canada for Business Events

“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 ideas – creating unforgettable conferences that inspire attendees, spark breakthroughs and leave a truly lasting legacy.”



**Virginie de Visscher**  
Executive Director, Business Events,  
Destination Canada

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**41M**  
TOTAL POPULATION

**20.5M**  
TOTAL WORKFORCE

**2nd**  
LARGEST COUNTRY  
IN THE WORLD

**10th**  
LARGEST ECONOMY  
IN THE WORLD

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
IN THE G7 FOR  
**Quality of life**

**Social purpose**

**Open for business**

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



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.

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Meet with Purpose in Canada

Canada is a global leader in the life sciences — and we can’t wait to share our knowledge with you. Across the country, biomanufacturing, medical device, research and development, digital health, and pharmaceuticals and medicine sub-sectors are thriving, while our Global Innovation Clusters are generating bold new ideas to build the health care of tomorrow. Canadian visionaries are pushing the industry forward in groundbreaking, unconventional directions, and life sciences hubs from coast to coast to coast are attracting the world. Whatever your life sciences business event — from a cutting-edge conference for leading clinicians to an extraordinary incentive reward for an elite R&D 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](mailto:businessevents@destinationcanada.com) →

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# WHY CANADA

## FOR LIFE SCIENCES CONFERENCES



From insulin and stem cell discovery to HIV and smallpox vaccine development, Canada has a long history of achievement in the life sciences. This **leadership** not only makes Canada a global competitor, but a groundbreaking innovator, accelerating progress and inspiring the new ideas so critical to the life sciences sector – and to the lives we can save around the world.



Supported by the federal **Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy** and some of the world’s brightest minds in the field, Canada is a natural draw for business events dedicated to the development of medtech, pharmaceutical, medicine and digital health solutions. Life sciences teams who meet here do so surrounded by the groundbreaking work of Canada’s research and development centres, as well as world-leading clinical trials.



Montréal, Quebec

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Québec City, Quebec



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 Moderna, Sanofi and Roche to Boston Scientific, AstraZeneca and 3M, the architects of modern medicine 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.



Ottawa, Ontario



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 life sciences 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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# CANADA'S LIFE SCIENCES CENTRES



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# GLOBAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS

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 AI and ocean.

Canada's Global Innovation Clusters demonstrate our commitment to growing life sciences innovation ecosystems and promoting investment in application and commercialization. We are collaborating to deepen the impact of life sciences and acting as a catalyst for skills and talent development across the sector. Ultimately, we are expanding the global presence of our life sciences 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.

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## 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 and environment, and workforce development.

## Health Compass II uses AI to support healthcare providers and improve patient outcomes

A new \$15m investment by DIGITAL is supporting [Health Compass II](#), a project to advance the development and deployment of AI-powered technologies in the healthcare system, led by ORX in collaboration with a pan-Canadian team of Tali AI, HEALWELL AI, Phelix AI, WELL Health Technologies and Simon Fraser University. The project will introduce an innovative suite of four AI-driven modules to increase patient engagement, reduce administrative burnout, assist healthcare providers with documentation and enhance clinical decision making.

## Canada's AI-Powered Supply Chains Cluster (Scale AI)

Based in Montréal, the [Scale AI Cluster](#) is bringing together the retail, manufacturing, transportation, infrastructure, healthcare and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors 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 AI is the central pillar of Canada's AI ecosystem.

## AI-driven solutions aim to streamline patient journey to personalized care

Two new projects funded by Scale AI – a Patient Segmentation Model and an Adherence Forecasting Model – are leveraging AI to predict patient needs and ensure they receive individualized care. This approach by Bayshore HealthCare will reduce the time to initiate recovery and increase the consistency and safety of medication usage, ultimately elevating the standard of home and community health care services in Canada.

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# SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT



## Biomanufacturing

### Hotspots

- › Calgary
- › Edmonton
- › Montréal
- › Saskatoon
- › Toronto
- › Vancouver

Canada has a rich tradition of biomanufacturing, from the historic discovery of insulin to the modern development of a preventive vaccine for HIV. Since 2021, through Canada’s Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy, government, researchers and industry have been working together to strengthen our life sciences ecosystem and grow a strong, competitive biomanufacturing sector with cutting-edge capabilities.



**\$2.2B**  
FEDERAL FUNDING

Source: Invest in Canada

## Noteworthy Innovations

With federal and provincial support, [Northern RNA](#) in **Calgary** is expanding its biomanufacturing capacity to include commercial-scale lipids, a critical component of mRNA vaccines and therapies.

In 2023, the [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization's \(VIDO\)](#) Vaccine Development Centre at the University of **Saskatchewan** won a seven-year, \$30-million contract to support the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). VIDO is also a member of the global Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations’ (CEPI) preclinical research network.

In 2024, [Sanofi](#) opened Canada’s largest biomanufacturing facility on its **Toronto** campus, to produce vaccines for pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria and tetanus. The global vaccine exporter is also investing \$900 million to build a second new facility in Toronto, due to open in 2026, to boost supply of its flu vaccine to Canada, the US and Europe.

## Did You Know?

[IVANO Bioscience](#) in **Québec City** provides customizable pseudoviruses to life sciences researchers to expedite the development of vaccines or antiviral drugs.



## Conferences

The [2022 International Society for Vaccines Annual Congress](#) in Québec City brought together vaccinologists from all disciplines to share the latest research on therapeutic vaccination and immunotherapy, explore topics of global importance and build partnerships.  
*2022 Québec City, Québec*

The [2023 International Conference on Biofabrication](#) in Saskatoon gathered researchers, clinicians and industry leaders to address themes including biomaterials, bioinks, biofabrication methods, technologies and applications, advanced biomedical imaging, machine learning and modelling, technology translation and commercialization.  
*2023 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

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# SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

## Medical Devices

### Hotspots

- › Calgary
- › Montréal
- › Ottawa
- › Québec City
- › Toronto
- › Vancouver

With strengths in medical and diagnostic imaging, cardiovascular devices, robotic surgery, wearables and assistive and rehabilitative devices, Canada has a world-class medical technologies industry – with more than 2,000 medtech companies developing and manufacturing solutions for better health.

**35,000+**  
MEDTECH EMPLOYEES

Sources: Medtech Canada

**8th**  
LARGEST MEDTECH MARKET

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## Noteworthy Innovations

Calgary's [Fluid Biomed](#) is commercializing the world's first stent made of dissolving polymer and metal to cure brain aneurysms.

At the [Université Laval](#) in **Québec City**, researchers have discovered a way to elicit a stronger immune response by using tattoo tools to inject vaccines into the skin, rather than muscle.

Researchers from the University of Windsor used the [Canadian Light Source \(CLS\)](#) synchrotron at the University of **Saskatchewan** to develop a compound of ionic fluids and copper nanoparticles that can coat surfaces and provide longer-lasting germ-free protection.

### Did You Know?

[Boston Scientific invested \\$2.4 billion to acquire Mississauga's Baylis Medical Company](#), which creates medtech to support catheter-based left-heart procedures.



## Conferences

The International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (ISMRM) and International Society of MR Radiographers and Technologists (ISMRT) [2023 Annual Meeting & Exhibition](#) included a special focus on imaging neuroinflammation and diagnosing its causes.  
*2023 Toronto, Ontario*

The [Annual Meeting of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand \(ASSH\)](#) includes scientific and industry sessions, symposia, instructional courses and debates.  
*2023 Toronto, Ontario*

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# SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

## Research and Development

### Hotspots

- › Calgary
- › Edmonton
- › Halifax
- › Mississauga
- › Montréal
- › Ottawa
- › Québec City
- › Saskatoon
- › Toronto
- › Vancouver

Global companies choose Canada as an ideal testing ground for life sciences and clinical trials, due to our high-quality education system, internationally recognized networks dedicated to clinical trials, and government investment in public research infrastructure. Canada also has a world-class contract research sector with strong capabilities in phase I to IV clinical trials. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has invested \$1 billion in health research funding, including \$250 million for a new CIHR Clinical Trial Fund.

**4%**  
OF GLOBAL CLINICAL TRIALS

**#1**  
AMONG G7 COUNTRIES FOR  
CLINICAL TRIAL PRODUCTIVITY

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## Noteworthy Innovations

In 2019, the [Clinical Trials Unit](#) at Foothills Medical Centre in **Calgary** performed the first direct intravenous gene replacement therapy for urea cycle disorder in Canada.

The work of researchers at **Québec City's** [Université Laval](#) paved the way for the “genetic scissors” which were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020.

In 2020, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of **Toronto** launched the [Institute for Pandemics](#), one of the world's first academic centres dedicated to preventing, preparing for, fighting and recovering from pandemics.

### Did You Know?

The [Neurodevelopment Cluster](#) at the Brain Repair Centre at Dalhousie University in **Halifax** is investigating how genes and environment shape brain development. Areas of research include neurodevelopment disorders, epilepsy, mood disorders, autism spectrum disorders, aging, stress, bipolar disorder, attention, memory, learning and genetic disorders.



## Conferences

The [Annual Metabolomics Association of North America \(MANA\) Conference](#) plays a crucial role in advancing research and innovation in the metabolomics field.  
*2022 Edmonton, Alberta*

The biannual [International Glycoconjugates Symposium](#) brings together scientists from around the world to discuss glycoconjugates chemistry, biochemistry and glycotechnology.  
*2025 Edmonton, Alberta*

The [2022 International Congress on Infant Studies](#) addressed developmental cascades – the intersection of behaviours, abilities and processes on childhood development.  
*2022 Ottawa, Ontario*

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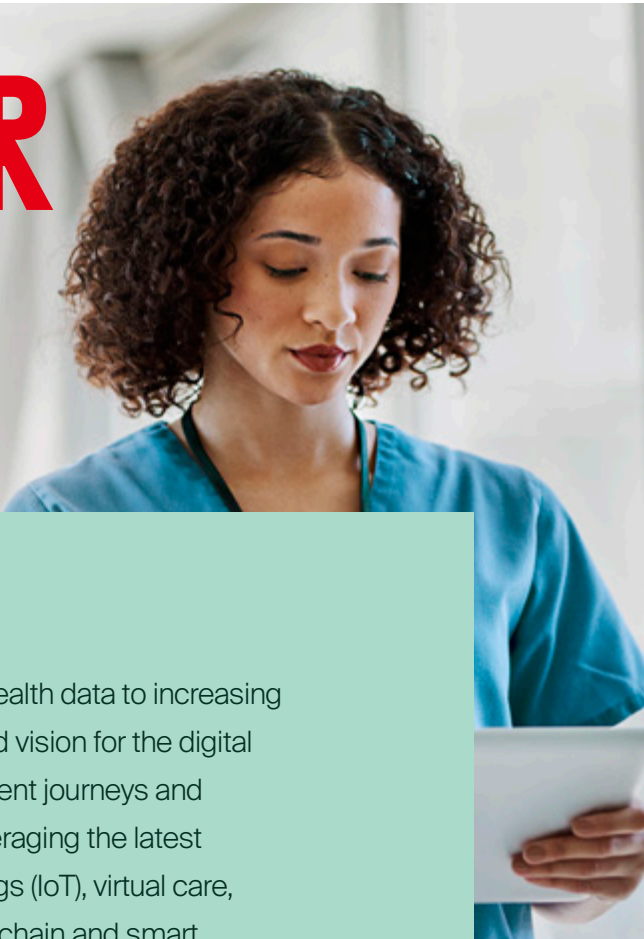
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# SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT



## Digital Health

**Hotspots**

- › Edmonton
- › Montréal
- › Ottawa
- › Toronto
- › Vancouver

From modernizing Canada’s public health data to increasing access to e-Health services, a shared vision for the digital future of healthcare is enhancing patient journeys and outcomes. This transformation is leveraging the latest advancements in the Internet of Things (IoT), virtual care, remote monitoring, AI, big data, blockchain and smart wearables to ensure the digital health ecosystem in Canada is at the forefront of innovation.

**\$1.3B**

RAISED BY PRIVATE VENTURE CAPITAL-BACKED DIGITAL HEALTH COMPANIES

**90%**

CLINICIANS USING ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS

**51%**

CANADIANS WHO USE REMOTE MONITORING DEVICES

Sources: Canadian Digital Health Survey, Digital Health Canada, Deloitte

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## Noteworthy Innovations

Created by University of Alberta researchers, [DrugBank](#) in **Edmonton** is the world’s most comprehensive biomedical knowledge base, using AI to compile data on 500,000 drugs.

The [School of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare \(SAIH\)](#) at the Centre hospitalier de l’Université de **Montréal** (CHUM) is the first of its kind to focus on human capacity development and the use of AI in a real health environment to improve population health.

**Québec City’s** [diaMentis](#) has developed the first ever eye test to help diagnose mental health disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder.

**Toronto** startup [Deep Genomics](#) has created the world’s first large AI model that analyzes genetic mutations, identifies therapeutic targets and evaluates potential treatments.

## Did You Know?

The University Health Network in **Toronto** is the first hospital in Canada to introduce a Chief AI Scientist role and build an [AI Hub](#) to accelerate the use of AI in healthcare.



## Conferences

The [International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Medicine \(AIME\)](#) presents the latest theoretical, methodological and applied results related to the use of AI in medicine.  
*2022 Halifax, Nova Scotia*

The [eMental Health International Collaborative’s \(eMHIC\) Digital Mental Health International Congress](#) connects leaders, clinicians and innovators driving cutting-edge developments to find tangible solutions to improve global mental health care.  
*2024 Ottawa, Ontario*

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# SUB-SECTOR SPOTLIGHT



## Pharmaceuticals and Medicine

### Hotspots

- › Mississauga
- › Montréal
- › Québec City
- › Toronto
- › Vancouver

The world's top pharmaceutical companies call Canada home. With a responsive and efficient regulatory environment, Canada offers a welcoming climate for pharmaceutical operations. In Ontario and Québec, large life sciences centres serve as research and innovation hubs, bringing together hospitals, business incubators, research organizations and post-secondary institutions.

8<sup>th</sup>

LARGEST PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET IN THE WORLD

33,000

PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN MANUFACTURING PHARMACEUTICALS

Source: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

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## Noteworthy Innovations

University of **Alberta** virologist Michael Houghton won the [2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine](#), with Harvey J. Alter and Charles M. Rice, for discovering the hepatitis C virus.

The [Edmonton Protocol](#), which uses islet transplants to reduce insulin dependency for people with Type 1 diabetes, was invented by researchers at the University of **Alberta**.

During the pandemic, the global supply of the antiviral drug Remdesivir, used to treat COVID-19, was manufactured at [Gilead](#) in **Edmonton**.



## Conferences

The [International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Congress](#) is the largest in the field, promoting important scientific discourse to improve the lives of patients globally.  
*2023 Montréal, Québec*

The [International Society for Vaccines Annual Congress](#) welcomes vaccinologists from all disciplines of prophylactic and therapeutic vaccination and immunotherapy.  
*2022 Québec City, Québec*

The [Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging \(SNMMI\) Annual Meeting](#) provides physicians, technologists, pharmacists, laboratory professionals and scientists with the latest research and development in the field and its practical applications.  
*2022 Vancouver, British Columbia*  
*2024 Toronto, Ontario*



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# VANCOUVER

28,470

LIFE SCIENCES EMPLOYEES  
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Sources: British Columbia Life Sciences Labour Market Intelligence Study

1,800+

LIFE SCIENCES BUSINESSES  
WITH EMPLOYEES IN  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

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 fastest-growing 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 sustainability – the world's first city-level carbon tax was instituted here in 2008.

### Did you know?

The [Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health](#) at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver brings together experts in neuroscience, neurology, psychiatry and rehabilitation to advance brain health through innovative research, education and patient care.



### Noteworthy Innovations

Vancouver's [Acuitas](#) has a global reputation for its innovative lipid nanoparticle delivery systems that enable the Pfizer/BioNTech Comirnaty® COVID-19 vaccine to work.

Vancouver biotech company [AbCellera's](#) new state-of-the-art campus, set for completion in 2025, will accelerate the development of new antibody treatments.



### Companies

- › [AbCellera](#)
- › [STEMCELL Technologies](#)
- › [Acuitas Therapeutics](#)
- › [Zymeworks](#)
- › [Chinook Therapeutics](#)
- › [Precision Nanosystems](#)
- › [Kardium](#)
- › [MetaOptima](#)
- › [RepliCel Life Sciences](#)
- › [Boreal Genomics](#)



### Conferences

The [International Conference on Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery \(ICOMS\)](#) educates surgeons, trainees and health professionals about the latest research, theory and issues affecting the quality of oral and maxillofacial surgery healthcare worldwide.

2023 Vancouver, British Columbia

The [Society for Neuro-Oncology \(SNO\) Annual Meeting](#) is the world's largest conference in the field, attracting more than 2,600 researchers and clinician scientists from 40 countries.

2023 Vancouver, British Columbia



### Independent Research Centres

[TRIUMF](#), Canada's particle accelerator centre, produces commercially unavailable radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals for researchers to aid the design and synthesis of radiotracers – and develop novel tracer imaging systems.

The [BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS \(BCCfE\)](#) is Canada's largest HIV/AIDS research, treatment and education facility, serving all British Columbian health authorities.



### Sub-Sectors

- › Biomanufacturing
- › Medical Devices
- › Research and Development
- › Digital Health
- › Pharmaceuticals and Medicine



"British Columbia's world-class science drives the discovery and commercialization of innovative products, solutions and services. BC has been home to the fastest-growing life sciences sector in Canada for the past six years, with life sciences surpassing the growth of BC's overall economy across major indicators. The recently launched BC Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy and significant investments are creating more opportunities for companies to anchor and scale in BC. The sector is well positioned to continue to attract record investment, drive economic growth, and create jobs while solidifying BC as a global powerhouse in life sciences research and innovation for the wellbeing of British Columbians and people around the world."

WENDY HURLBURT

President and CEO of Life Sciences British Columbia

## Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

13,000

Downtown

23,000

Citywide

Vancouver Convention Centre

43,339 sq m

466,500 sq ft

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### Post-Secondary Institutions

- › University of British Columbia
- › Simon Fraser University

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23,192

LIFE SCIENCES EMPLOYEES IN ALBERTA

Sources: BioAlberta, Statistics Canada

448

LIFE SCIENCES BUSINESSES IN CALGARY



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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?

Opening in 2024, the [Arthur J.E. Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre](#) is Canada’s largest cancer care and research facility and the second largest in North America.



Noteworthy Innovations

Calgary’s [Fluid Biomed](#) is commercializing the world’s first stent made of dissolving polymer and metal to cure brain aneurysms. In 2019, the [Clinical Trials Unit](#) at Foothills Medical Centre in **Calgary** performed the first direct intravenous gene replacement therapy for urea cycle disorder in Canada.



CALGARY



Companies

- › [Circle Cardiovascular Imaging](#)
- › [Ecmius Biomedical](#)
- › [Fluid Biomed](#)
- › [Nanotess](#)
- › [Neuraura](#)
- › [Northern RNA](#)
- › [Oncolytics Biotech](#)
- › [Providence Therapeutics](#)
- › [Solvat](#)
- › [Zenith Epigenetics](#)



Conferences

The [International Pediatric Nephrology Association Congress](#) brings together world experts in pediatric nephrology to advance management of kidney disease in children. *2022 Calgary, Alberta*



Independent Research Centres

The [International Microbiome Centre](#) at the University of Calgary is home to the largest academic germ-free lab in the world, covering 10,000 square feet or 929 square metres. The [Alberta Centre for Advanced Diagnostics \(ACAD\)](#) provides state-of-the-art facilities to early-stage innovators to enable the rapid development of new diagnostic technologies.



Sub-Sectors

- › Biomanufacturing
- › Medical Devices
- › Research and Development



Post-Secondary Institutions

- › The University of Calgary



“We were quite active in the digital health space before digital health was even a thing. When patients used [our Sensory Insole], we were preventing [diabetic foot ulcers] at a very remarkable rate. We knew we were on to something, but it did take a lot of time and patience to get it to the point of it being as acceptable as it is, and also for the world around us to be very open to remote monitoring technologies and digital health.”

**BREANNE EVERETTS**  
President and Co-Founder of Orpyx

Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

4,700

Downtown

15,000

Citywide

**Calgary TELUS Convention Centre**

11,334 sq m

122,000 sq ft

**BMO Centre**

46,452 sq m

500,000 sq ft

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# EDMONTON

23,192  
LIFE SCIENCES EMPLOYEES  
IN ALBERTA

Source: BioAlberta

1,912  
LIFE SCIENCES  
ESTABLISHMENTS IN ALBERTA

Edmonton is Canada’s northernmost metropolis in the prairie heartland of Alberta, where bison roam in Elk Island National Park and a swath of parkland unfurls from the winding North Saskatchewan River. On the biggest stages of sports and business, Edmonton comes to play and punches above its weight, with strengths in the fields of artificial intelligence, sustainable energy, life sciences, agribusiness and advanced manufacturing.

**Did you know?**  
The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology’s (NAIT) [Centre for Advanced Medical Simulation \(CAMS\)](#) provides real-world clinical simulation facilities for educators, students, entrepreneurs and innovators to test products or take training in safe, realistic environments.

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- › Biomanufacturing
  - › Digital Health
  - › Research and Development

- Post-Secondary Institutions**
- › The University of Alberta
  - › Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)

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**Noteworthy Innovations**  
[Edmonton’s 48Hour Discovery \(48HD\)](#), a biotechnology company formed by University of Alberta researchers, is using artificial intelligence to speed up drug discovery.  
The [Edmonton Protocol](#), which uses islet transplants to reduce insulin dependency for people with Type 1 diabetes, was invented by researchers at the University of Alberta.

- Companies**
- › [Drugbank](#)
  - › [Entos Pharma](#)
  - › [Nanostics Inc.](#)
  - › [Puravita](#)
  - › [Ceapro Inc.](#)
  - › [48Hour Discovery](#)
  - › [Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation \(API\)](#)
  - › [Pacylex Pharmaceuticals](#)
  - › [Sinoveda](#)

**Conferences**  
The [Annual Metabolomics Association of North America \(MANA\) Conference](#) plays a crucial role in advancing research and innovation in the metabolomics field.  
*2022 Edmonton, Alberta*

The biannual [International Glycoconjugates Symposium](#) brings together scientists from around the world to discuss glycoconjugates chemistry, biochemistry and glycotechnology.  
*2025 Edmonton, Alberta*

**Independent Research Centres**  
The [Glenrose Rehabilitation Research, Innovation & Technology \(GRRIT\) Hub](#) is advancing technological solutions to support people with physical or cognitive disabilities.  
[Lois Hole Hospital Women’s Research Centre](#) gives clinicians and scientists a fully equipped, dedicated space to investigate health issues affecting all stages of women’s lives.



“As a growing hub for research and innovation, Edmonton stands out as an ideal location for scientific events like the Canadian Glycomics Symposium... Home to the Canadian Glycomics Network (GlycoNet), Edmonton plays a pivotal role in glycomics research and development in Canada. It provides a unique opportunity for symposium attendees to engage directly with leading scientists and researchers, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the advancement of glycomics research.”

ELIZABETH NANAK  
CEO, GlycoNet

## Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms  
**3,197**  
Downtown

**13,000**  
Citywide

**Edmonton Expo Centre**  
**48,495** sq m  
**522,000** sq ft

**Edmonton Convention Centre**  
**13,416** sq m  
**144,406** sq ft

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# SASKATOON



**700+**  
RESEARCH SCIENTISTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

Source: Province of Saskatchewan



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Endlessly inviting. Spirited. Youthful and ever-changing. Fuelled by creative spirit, Saskatoon is in the midst of an urban rebirth, 6,000 years in the making. The beating heart of Saskatchewan culture and scientific innovation, you can count on a warm reception when the red carpet is rolled out on these northern prairies. Here, creative conference organizers embrace research centres, groundbreaking arts, ancient cultures and inventive cuisine to create memorable, immersive delegate experiences.

### Did you know?

The University of Saskatchewan's [Canadian Light Source \(CLS\)](#) synchrotron produces extremely bright light by using powerful magnets and radio frequency waves to accelerate electrons to nearly the speed of light – enabling researchers to “see” the microscopic nature of matter and make groundbreaking medical advances.



### Sub-Sectors

- › Biomanufacturing
- › Research and Development



### Post-Secondary Institutions

- › University of Saskatchewan



### Noteworthy Innovations

In 2023, the [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization's \(VIDO\)](#) Vaccine Development Centre at the University of **Saskatchewan** won a seven-year, \$30-million contract to support the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). VIDO is also a member of the global Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations' (CEPI) preclinical research network.



### Companies

- › [Canadian Isotopes Innovations](#)
- › [ZYUS Life Sciences](#)
- › [Quantum Genetix](#)
- › [Proxima Research and Development](#)
- › [GraySpace Therapies](#)



### Conferences

The [2023 International Conference on Biofabrication](#) gathered researchers, clinicians and industry leaders to address themes including biomaterials, bioinks, biofabrication methods, technologies and applications, advanced biomedical imaging, machine learning and modelling, technology translation and commercialization.

*2023 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

The [International Beam Instrumentation Conference](#) explores the challenges of beam diagnostic and measurement techniques for particle accelerators worldwide.

*2023 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*



### Independent Research Centres

[Med-Life Discoveries](#) is developing clinical-grade synthetic plasmalogen therapies for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and other neurological conditions.



“Over 300 participants from 20 countries participated in the 11th International Conference on Isotopes, held in a beautiful Saskatoon setting, 2023 July 23-27. Produced through a partnership of Discover Saskatoon with the University of Saskatchewan and the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc., this impressive gathering of researchers and businesspeople from academia, industry and government, demonstrated that Canada is rightly placed among global leaders of isotope research and development with impacts at the forefront of healthcare, science and a cleaner energy future.”

**JOHN ROOT,**  
Executive Director,  
Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, Inc.

## Conference Infrastructure

### Guestrooms

**1,956**

Downtown

**5,400**

Citywide

**World Trade Center of Saskatoon – Prairieland Park**

**22,296** sq m

**240,000** sq ft

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# MISSISSAUGA

19,200+  
LIFE SCIENCES EMPLOYEES

Source: Visit Mississauga

500+  
LIFE SCIENCES BUSINESSES

As Canada’s sixth biggest city and home to our biggest airport – Toronto Pearson International – Mississauga is in a class of its own. Perched on the edge of Lake Ontario next to neighbouring Toronto, this bustling, waterfront city is home to the headquarters of a number of national and global Fortune 500

companies, specializing in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, digital industries and finance.

Did you know?

In 2022, globally renowned medical solutions innovator Boston Scientific invested \$2.4 billion to acquire [Mississauga’s Baylis Medical Company](#), which creates medtech to support catheter-based left-heart procedures.



Noteworthy Innovations

Global oral solid dose (OSD) and liquids manufacturing company [Bora Pharmaceuticals](#) has their flagship North American manufacturing facility in **Mississauga**.

In 2001, the **University of Toronto-Mississauga** launched the first [Master’s degree in Biotechnology](#) in Canada.



Companies

- › [Roche Canada Pharma](#)
- › [AstraZeneca Canada](#)
- › [GSK Canada](#)
- › [Baxter Canada](#)
- › [Becton, Dickinson Canada](#)
- › [Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.](#)
- › [EMD Serono, Canada Head Office](#)
- › [Baylis Medical Technologies](#)
- › [Microbix Biosystems Inc.](#)



Sub-Sectors

- › Pharmaceuticals and Medicine
- › Research and Development



## Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

2,000

Citywide

International Centre

50,911 sq m

548,000 sq ft



“Mississauga is home to one of the largest clusters of life sciences organizations in Ontario. We have hosted, on numerous occasions, events in the city and have had great support from the industry to attend and from the City to help host these events. One of the benefits is the high concentration of life sciences organizations in one place like “Pill Hill”. For any life sciences events, Mississauga should be on your destination list.”

BRIAN CRAIG

Director – Operations and Events,  
Life Sciences Ontario

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# TORONTO

30,000+  
LIFE SCIENCES  
PROFESSIONALS

1,400+  
LIFE SCIENCES  
ESTABLISHMENTS

Sources: Toronto Global, City of Toronto

As one of the top cities in North America for the human health sciences, combining research, clinical and business expertise to deliver new diagnostics and therapies, 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?

Toronto's [Discovery District](#) is Canada's largest concentration of hospitals, research institutes, business incubators and support services, with more than 22,000 medical professionals, nine teaching hospitals and more than 30 medical research centres on site.



### Sub-Sectors

- › Biomanufacturing
- › Medical Devices
- › Research and Development
- › Digital Health
- › Pharmaceuticals and Medicine



### Noteworthy Innovations

In 2020, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of **Toronto** launched the [Institute for Pandemics](#), one of the world's first academic centre dedicated to preventing, preparing for, fighting and recovering from pandemics.

**Toronto**-based [InteraXon](#) aims to advance mental and physical health, using AI and neurotechnology to develop its headband, which tracks brainwaves in sleep and meditation.



### Companies

- › [Apotex](#)
- › [BlueDot](#)
- › [Deep Genomics](#)
- › [Fusion Pharmaceuticals](#)
- › [Microbix](#)
- › [Neoglacia](#)



### Conferences

The [2023 World Stroke Congress](#) welcomed more than 3,600 participants from 106 countries to delve into the latest scientific discoveries, clinical trials, new healthcare delivery models, biomarkers and updated guidelines around stroke care.

*2023 Toronto, Ontario*

The [2024 American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics \(ACMG\) Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting](#) focused on the aetiology and pathogenesis of genetic disorders, genetic testing and screening, and the diagnosis and treatment of genetic disorders.

*2024 Toronto, Ontario*



### Post-Secondary Institutions University of Toronto

- › Toronto Metropolitan University
- › York University



“We wanted to emphasize the translational stage of stem cell biology at the meeting and chose the perfect venue: Toronto really embraces diversity and innovation. We had access to the top thought leaders in the field.”

### DR. ROBERT DEANS

Chief Technology Officer and Head of Research at the Rett Syndrome Research Trust, and member of the organizing committee for The International Society for Stem Cell Research symposium, 2019

## Conference Infrastructure

### Guestrooms

36,000+

Citywide

### Metro Toronto Convention Centre

65,032 sq m

700,000+ sq ft

### Exhibition Place

114,456 sq m

1.2 million sq ft

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6,000+

EMPLOYEES IN THE BIOTECH-  
PHARMA, DIGITAL HEALTH  
AND MEDTECH SECTORS

Source: Ottawa Health Innovation Hub

140+

BUSINESSES IN THE BIOTECH-  
PHARMA, DIGITAL HEALTH  
AND MEDTECH SECTORS

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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 a post-secondary

education 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.



Noteworthy Innovations

Researchers at The **Ottawa** Hospital are leading Canadian efforts to manufacture and conduct clinical trials of Chimeric Antigen Receptor modified T-cells (CAR-Ts), a powerful new tool to treat some forms of cancer that don’t respond to standard therapies.



Companies

- › [Calian](#)
- › [Fullscript](#)
- › [DistillerSR](#)
- › [Genvira Biosciences](#)
- › [IQVIA](#)
- › [Macadamian](#)
- › [Satellos Bioscience](#)
- › [Spiderwort](#)
- › [VBI Vaccines](#)
- › [Virica Biotech](#)



Conferences

The [2022 International Congress on Infant Studies](#) addressed developmental cascades – the intersection of behaviours, abilities and processes on childhood development. *2022 Ottawa, Ontario*

The [eMental Health International Collaborative’s \(eMHIC\) Digital Mental Health International Congress](#) connects leaders, clinicians and innovators driving cutting-edge developments to find tangible solutions to improve global mental health care.

*2024 Ottawa, Ontario*



Sub-Sectors

- › Medical Devices
- › Research and Development
- › Digital Health



Post-Secondary Institutions

- › University of Ottawa
- › Carleton University



“The growth of Ottawa’s life sciences sector is very promising for the tourism industry. With the presence of the National Research Council and the University of Ottawa’s investments in the biotech sector Ottawa is doubling down on its position as a premier destination for meetings, conferences and congresses. These are some key developments that contribute to reinforcing our capital’s reputation as a hub of innovation and research excellence. As a Destination Marketing Organization, this plays a big part in helping Ottawa to attract global conferences and major events that leave a legacy of innovation, foster new research and generate substantial economic benefits.”

LESLEY PINCOMBE

Vice-President, Meetings & Major Events, Ottawa Tourism

Conference  
Infrastructure

Guestrooms

5,400

Downtown

11,000

Citywide

Rogers Centre Ottawa

17,837 sq m

192,000 sq ft

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# MONTREAL

46,000+

JOB IN LIFE SCIENCES  
AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGY  
IN PRIVATE COMPANIES

1,000+

LIFE SCIENCES COMPANIES

Source: Gouvernement du Québec, Statistics Canada

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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 the most sustainable destination in North America, according to the [Global Destination Sustainability Index](#).

### Did you know?

The [Centre de recherche du centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal \(CRCHUM\)](#) is one of the largest hospital-based research centres in North America and an international reference for academic medicine and research.



### Sub-Sectors

- › Biomanufacturing
- › Medical Devices
- › Research and Development
- › Digital Health
- › Pharmaceuticals and Medicine



### Noteworthy Innovations

The [School of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare \(SAIH\)](#) at the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) is the first of its kind to focus on human capacity development and the use of AI in a real health environment to improve population health.

The [Centre for the Integration and Analysis of Medical Data \(CITADEL\)](#) at CHUM in Montréal is both a centre of expertise in data science and a data lake infrastructure to store clinical, administrative and research data.



### Companies

- › [Atlasciences](#)
- › [Dialogue](#)
- › [Giant pharma](#)
- › [Thorasys](#)
- › [Milestone Pharmaceuticals Inc.](#)
- › [SoundBite Solutions](#)
- › [Pharmascience](#)
- › [Kinova Robotics](#)



### Conferences

In 2022, the first hybrid [International AIDS Conference](#) explored HIV cure and vaccine research, monkeypox treatment, opioid use, Indigenous responses to HIV, and more.

*2022 Montréal, Québec*

The [World Congress of Neurology](#) includes the unique Tournament of the Minds, in which international teams test their knowledge based on clinical cases from around the world.

*2023 Montréal, Québec*



### Post-Secondary Institutions

- › McGill University
- › Université de Montréal
- › Polytechnique Montréal
- › Concordia University
- › Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)
- › Télé-Université (TÉLUQ)



“As a proud Québec nurse, it’s a true honour and rare privilege to have the ICN congress in Montréal. And in my humble opinion, this is one of the most exciting cities in the world to visit. Because on top of being a beacon of excellence in nursing clinical practice, science, education and leadership — it’s also a vibrant, exciting city overflowing with life, culture and diversity. The pure definition of *joie de vivre*!”

**SYLVAIN BROUSSEAU**

President, Congress of the International Council of Nurses 2023

## Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

16,300

Downtown

36,800

Citywide

**Palais Des Congrès De Montréal Convention Centre**

47,265 sq m

508,756 sq ft

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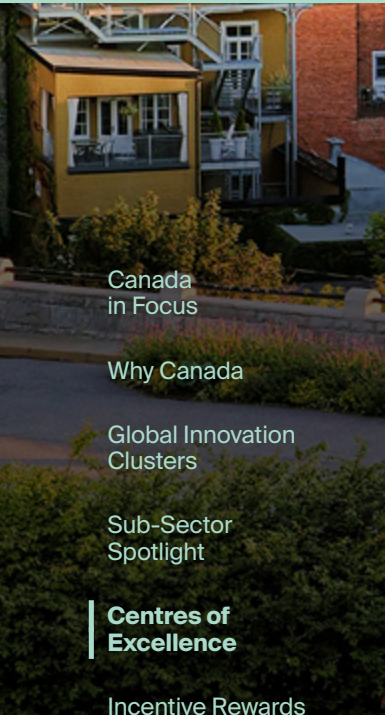


# QUÉBEC CITY

**63,000+**  
GRADUATE WORKERS IN  
LIFE SCIENCES AND HEALTH  
TECHNOLOGY

Source: Québec International

**216**  
LIFE SCIENCES COMPANIES



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 French-speaking Canada. Nowadays, the five universities and 16 colleges in the greater Québec City area give it Canada’s highest ratio of researchers per capita – turning it into an emerging hub in cutting-edge fields. Forty per 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.

**Did you know?**

The [Québec Heart and Lung Institute](#) at the Université Laval is the only hospital in Canada to offer specialized and ultraspecialized care and services in cardiology, respirology and obesity surgery all in one location.



**Sub-Sectors**

- › Medical Devices
- › Research and Development
- › Pharmaceuticals and Medicine



**Noteworthy Innovations**

At the [Université Laval](#) in Québec City, researchers have discovered a way to elicit a stronger immune response by using tattoo tools to inject vaccines into the skin, rather than muscle.

The work of researchers at **Québec City’s** Université Laval paved the way for the “genetic scissors” which were awarded the [Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020](#).

**Québec City’s** [Diamentis](#) has developed the first ever eye test to help diagnose mental health disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder.



**Companies**

- › [Endoceutics](#)
- › [Matrix Innovation](#)
- › [Groupe Optel](#)
- › [Pharma in Silica](#)
- › [Groupe SiliCycle](#)
- › [Saguaro](#)
- › [Syneos Health](#)
- › [Panthera Dental](#)
- › [Ivano Bioscience](#)
- › [Zilia](#)



**Independent Research Centres**

[BD](#), one of the largest global medical technology companies in the world, has a manufacturing/technical service centre in **Québec City**.

[Feldan Therapeutics](#) in **Québec City** is a biopharmaceutical company that specializes in the development of treatments based on the intracellular delivery of therapeutics.



**Conferences**

The [2022 American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society Annual Meeting](#) focused on modern pressing orthopedic issues from arthritis to endoscopy.

*2022 Québec City, Québec*

The [2023 International Congress of Neuroimmunology](#) addressed topics including multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, neuroinflammation, neurodegeneration, autoantibodies in neurological conditions and psychoneuroimmunology.

*2023 Québec City, Québec*



“Organizing an international convention is an enriching experience that allows us to explore new horizons at the heart of our research sector and broaden the scope of our expertise. It’s also an excellent opportunity to have our expertise recognized by the rest of the world, something I don’t think we do enough of. If you’re an active association member and believe in Québec City’s potential as a convention destination, you’ve already got what it takes!”

**MARC POULIOT**

Professor, School of Medicine, Université Laval and Local Ambassador for the 16th World Congress on Inflammation

## Conference Infrastructure

**Guestrooms**  
**5,000+**  
Downtown

**17,250**  
Citywide

**Québec City Convention Centre**  
**27,340** sq m  
**294,290** sq ft



**Post-Secondary Institutions**

- › Université Laval
- › Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS)

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# HALIFAX

22,000+  
LIFE SCIENCES EMPLOYEES

70+  
MAJOR LIFE  
SCIENCES COMPANIES

Source: Discover Halifax Business Events

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For a city of fewer than 500,000 people, Halifax's post-secondary scene is among Canada's richest. The city is home to six degree-granting institutions and has 81 students per 1,000 residents, a ratio greater than cities like Boston and Los Angeles. Such a large academic community attracts modern industries to Nova Scotia's capital city, including finance, ocean technology and life sciences.

### Did you know?

Halifax is home to leading pediatric anesthesiologist [Dr. Allen Finley](#), widely considered one of the longest serving, most published people in the field of pediatric pain. Over almost 30 years, Finley has published 130 papers and given more than 300 presentations on six continents. He has collaborated with pain researchers and clinicians from more than 40 countries and is focused on advocacy for improved pain management for children worldwide.



### Noteworthy Innovations

The [Brain Repair Centre](#) at Dalhousie University in **Halifax** is a world-class hub for neuroscience research, innovation and education, with five specialized research clusters.

Through the [Atlantic Mobility Action Project \(AMAP\)](#) cluster in **Halifax**, scientists, surgeons, kinesiologists, biomedical engineers and clinical rehabilitation specialists are working to restore mobility to patients whose nervous systems have been damaged.



### Companies

- › [ABK Biomedical](#)
- › [BlueLight Analytics](#)
- › Nature's Way
- › DMF Medical
- › Densitas
- › Appili Therapeutics



### Conferences

The [International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Medicine \(AIME\)](#) presents the latest theoretical, methodological and applied results related to the use of AI in medicine.

*2022 Halifax, Nova Scotia*

The [27th International Hybrid Annual Congress of the World Muscle Society](#) addressed new developments in congenital muscle disease, neuropathies and motor neuron disease, and the development of therapeutic approaches.

*2022 Halifax, Nova Scotia*

The [14th International Symposium on Pediatric Pain](#) was the most well-attended in history, attracting pediatricians, anesthesiologists, clinicians, researchers, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other stakeholders from around the world.

*2023 Halifax, Nova Scotia*



### Sub-Sectors

- › Research and Development



### Post-Secondary Institutions

- › Dalhousie University



“Halifax, Nova Scotia is more than just a picturesque coastal city – it’s a hub of innovation in life sciences, particularly in neurology and oncology. With world-renowned institutions like Dalhousie University and state-of-the-art research centres, Halifax leads the way in groundbreaking treatments and scientific advancements. But it’s not just about the science – our warm Maritime culture ensures an authentic, welcoming experience that fosters meaningful connections.”

**PAUL BAILEY**  
Discover Halifax

## Conference Infrastructure

Guestrooms

4,500

Downtown

6,500

Citywide

Halifax Convention Centre

11,148 sq m

120,000 sq ft

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# WHY CANADA FOR LIFE SCIENCES INCENTIVE REWARDS



 Hudson's Bay, Manitoba

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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 life sciences top performers, to help you blow away your team – and the competition.

## Sleep Over with Polar Bears

### Churchill, Manitoba

A train of big-wheeled buggies trawls the tundra for the best polar bear viewing on earth – with your team on board and a world away from business as usual. With the comforts of a wilderness lodge and the company of a naturalist, a personal chef, guest scientist and guides, this journey will take your team deep into polar bear territory. Songs, stories, discoveries and feasts offer smart insights and unique entertainment – before retiring to bed, as polar bears roam outside and the Northern Lights dance above (if they're lucky!).

[Learn more →](#)

## Cowboy Up!

### Alberta

Harness your team's resilient spirit and invite them to a party that puts the wild in wild, wild west! Celebrate Alberta's western heritage in one of three unique venues – from the iconic roundhouses at Mount View Barbecue nestled in the shadow of the Rockies, to Brewster Dance Barns in picturesque Lake Louise, to Boundary Ranch, where you're hosted by outfitters who have guided the Rockies for more than 100 years. This is a chance for your team to suit up in blue jeans and boots, and get down and party at an Alberta western BBQ.

[Learn more →](#)

### Looking for more inspired incentive ideas?

[businesssevents.destinationcanada.com/en-ca/plan/incentive](https://businesssevents.destinationcanada.com/en-ca/plan/incentive) →

## Restore Your Nature Deficit

### Clayoquot Wilderness Lodge, British Columbia

Imagine taking an afternoon nap in sun, laying in tall, sweet grass. Sitting in silence on a deserted beach. Listening to waves lap a pebbled shore. Snuggling up with a resort dog. Feeling the dip-and-pull pleasure of paddling a canoe. Letting your mind wander as far as Ursus Mountain's peak. Morning yoga and afternoons at the spa. This luxury wilderness resort will give your team the off-the-grid time they need for deep relaxation and replenishing play in inspiring natural beauty to help them stay at their peak.

[Learn more →](#)

## Lobster Boil

### Fox Harb'r, Nova Scotia

Welcome your team to postcard-perfect Lighthouse Point by the skreel of bagpiper's greeting, and gather around for Lobster 101, an informative session with the chef. Then, dive into the main event: a classic lobster boil. Enjoy fresh-off-the-boat flavour, paired with Tidal Bay, the signature wine of Nova Scotia. High-kicking Celtic dancers keep spirits up, followed by a live band playing Canadian hits to round off an authentic Atlantic Canada experience that will leave your team feeling refreshed.

[Learn more →](#)



 Tofino, British Columbia

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# LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR IN CANADA

Canada's world-class life sciences hub, with major centers in Montréal, Toronto, and Vancouver, is the ideal place to advance pharmaceuticals, medical devices, biotechnology, and life sciences R&D.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Highly Educated Workforce:** Canada is the world's most educated country, with 63% of adults holding tertiary degrees and over two million STEM graduates.
- **STEM Education:** From 2015 to 2022, 3.7 million students enrolled in STEM programs in Canada.
- **Clinical Trial Leadership:** Canada leads the G7 in clinical trial productivity and ranks 4th globally in the number of clinical trial sites, supported by a diverse population, top research clinicians, and a public healthcare system.
- **Medtech Innovation:** Canada excels in medical imaging, cardiovascular devices, and assistive technologies, with emerging strengths in AI-driven medical devices like robotic surgery and mobile health.
- **Research Excellence:** Canada is strong in genomics, bioinformatics, immunotherapy, regenerative medicine, and neuroscience, with the pharmaceutical sector leading in R&D intensity.

## #1

Clinical trial productivity  
among G7 nations

Source: Government of Canada, 2022

## #4

Clinical trial sites globally

Source: Statistics Canada, 2024

## 19.5%

Pharmaceutical manufacturing  
GDP growth rate (2019-2023)

Source: Statistics Canada, 2024

## \$34.1 B

Pharmaceutical sales in 2021

Source: Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB), 2024

## NOTABLE COMPANIES IN CANADA



## PROGRAMS AND INCENTIVES

- **National Research Council (NRC)** is Canada's premier R&D organization, partnering with industry to take research impacts from the lab to the marketplace.
- **Genome Canada** provides large-scale investments that develop new technologies and create solutions.
- **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)** comprises 13 institutes that collaborate with partners and researchers to fund innovation.
- **Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)** funds infrastructure to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals and non-profit research institutions to carry out research.
- **The Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF)** is a public-private partnership designed to fund Canadian brain science research to advance knowledge and understanding of the brain and brain disorders.



## INSTITUTIONS

- The **Life Sciences Institute at the University of British Columbia** in Vancouver conducts innovative research, including bringing new drugs to market and into clinical trials.
- The **Medical Image Analysis Lab (MIAL)** at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, is developing new techniques for image analysis of brain structures.
- The **Montréal Diabetes Research Center** coordinates new technologies for better diagnostic tools and treatments for diabetes.
- The **Brain Repair Centre** in Halifax, Nova Scotia, develops technology that will prevent, repair and reverse damage to brain cells.
- **IBM** has partnered with **Ontario Tech University** and **Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children** on advanced analytic platforms to predict when a hospitalized baby is at risk of life-threatening infection.

## RECENT INVESTMENT

**AstraZeneca (U.K.)** announced plans to acquire Fusion Pharmaceuticals, a Hamilton, Ontario-based clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing targeted oncology treatments, for up to US\$2.4 billion. *(March 2024)*

**Amgen (U.S.)** completed a \$27 million investment in its state-of-the-art Canadian research laboratory in Burnaby, British Columbia, expanding lab space at the 66,000 sq. ft. facility. *(January 2024)*

**Jubilant HollisterStier (U.S.)** announced \$24 million in Strategic Innovation Fund support as part of its \$108 million expansion in Kirkland, Québec to increase vaccine capacity. *(March 2023)*

**AstraZeneca (U.K.)** announced a \$500 million reinvestment including an expanded R&D hub and a new development hub for rare diseases at its Alexion (U.S.) subsidiary, both located in Mississauga, Ontario. *(February 2023)*

**Moderna (U.S.)** reported the development of a \$180 million facility to manufacture mRNA vaccines employing at least 200 will open in Laval, Québec in 2024. *(August 2022)*

**Siemens Healthineers (Germany)** announced a 24,000 sq. ft. expansion of its facility in Ottawa, effectively doubling manufacturing capacity of its epoc blood analysis system. *(June 2021)*

**Resilience Biotechnologies (U.S.)** announced a \$205 million investment expanding its manufacturing facility in Mississauga to increase the output of vaccines and therapeutics. *(May 2021)*

**Sanofi Pasteur (France)** announced a \$925 million flu vaccine facility investment in Toronto that includes a federal-provincial joint investment. *(March 2021)*

## CONTACT

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.

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## 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, life sciences 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 →  
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Contact Destination Canada's Business Events team at  
[businessevents.destinationcanada.com/en-ca/team](https://businessevents.destinationcanada.com/en-ca/team) →

 Moraine Lake, Alberta

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