



Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Tech grows here



British Columbia, *Naturally.*

BritishColumbia.ca

A World-Class ICT Hub

Join one of the **fastest-growing tech ecosystems** in North America



In British Columbia (B.C.), you're in great company with major global players including Alida, Amazon, Microsoft, Diligent, Intel, Salesforce, Samsung, Sierra Wireless and Tableau, plus Canada's tech unicorns Almanac (formerly Semios), Clio, Dapper Labs, Hootsuite, LayerZero Labs, Trulioo and Visier and more than 12,000 other exciting and innovative technology companies.

A World-Class ICT Hub

British Columbia is home to a progressive and dynamic Information and Communications Technology (ICT) pursuing advances in software, cloud computing, information technology, Internet of Things (IoT), telecommunications and electronics manufacturing. With more than 12,000 companies and supporting almost 180,000 jobs these companies are at the forefront of developing innovative solutions and game-changing platforms by working with world-class research facilities and top-ranked universities.

Global tech giants like Samsung, SAP, Fujitsu and Salesforce have taken notice and are establishing strong roots throughout the province. In 2023, the global venture capital community injected \$1.2 billion across 92 deals in B.C., with 48 ICT deals strengthening the province's position as one of the most exciting tech hubs in North America.



Focused on innovation, collaboration and growth, British Columbia offers a talented workforce, competitive taxes, a business-friendly time zone and a highly entrepreneurial and multicultural tech community.



The Advantages of British Columbia's ICT Sector

With multiple technology clusters in cities including Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna, B.C. is a magnet for major global companies and fast-growing start-ups, all drawn to the diverse and highly skilled tech talent found here.

In 2024, the Vancouver tech ecosystem was ranked 2nd in Canada, with a Tier 1 ranking globally for market research by Startup Genome. In addition, the city of Vancouver was identified by CBRE Group Inc. Scoring Tech Talent 2024 Report, as having the highest concentrations of tech talent within the tech industry in Canada with some of the lowest costs among 50 North American cities.

Coupled with a highly developed research infrastructure, competitive business costs, a supportive government and close ties to the United States, Europe and Asia, British Columbia is your home to successfully invest, partner and grow.

A Prime Location

As Canada's gateway to the Pacific, British Columbia's business day conveniently overlaps with afternoon working hours in Europe and morning work schedules in Asia, and perfectly synchronizes with the full working days of the U.S. Westcoast, including California and Washington State.

British Columbia has five international airports, including Victoria (YYJ), Kelowna (YLW) and Vancouver (YVR). YVR holds the title of Best Airport in North America, the only airport to earn this recognition 14 times, and offers non-stop flights to 72 international destinations.



Companies in the province are advancing software development, cloud computing, information technology, telecommunications, and electronics manufacturing.



Exceptional Talent

British Columbia's large, flexible and educated workforce of nearly 180,000 across the broader tech ecosystem is well represented by diverse and energetic talent. In fact, B.C. awards nearly 15,000 credentials annually in post-secondary programs that support the tech sector.

Canada's immigration programs support international talent attraction to strengthen industries across the country. In British Columbia, the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) works to remove barriers to attracting and retaining talent through immigration. BC PNP Tech helps employers address their talent needs by providing a fast-tracked, permanent immigration pathway for in-demand international skilled workers and international students. For more information about BC PNP Tech please visit www.welcomebc.ca/Immigrate-to-B-C/Skills-Immigration#Tech



Quality of Life

British Columbia is a great place to live. The Economist Intelligence Unit ranks Vancouver as one of the world's most liveable cities, and Vancouver ranks seventh of 173 cities in the Economist's 2024 Global Liveability Report. These studies reflect British Columbia's high levels of stability, health care, culture, environment, education and infrastructure.



British Columbia also has a host of private incubators and accelerators that offer coaching and access to seed funding.

Education, Research & Development and Accelerators

British Columbia's 25 public and 20 private post-secondary institutions work collaboratively with the region's growing and vibrant tech sector. For example, the University of British Columbia — ranked second in Canada for engineering and third in computer science — holds more than 40 of Canada Research Chairs and has produced over 260 spin-off companies.

Across the province, B.C.'s leading computer science and engineering programs produce over 6,400 graduates annually. These world-class institutions house a wide variety of cutting-edge research labs and centres of excellence, including:

- The Communication Networks Laboratory
- The Institute for Computing, Information and Cognitive Systems
- The Laboratory for Advanced Wireless Communications Research
- The Quantum Algorithms Institute
- The Stewart Blusson Quantum Matter Institute

These research labs are further supported by a vibrant accelerator community spearheaded by Innovate BC through its Venture Acceleration Program — a publicly funded program designed to guide, coach and grow ambitious early-stage entrepreneurs and their tech ventures. The program is delivered by a network of regional accelerator partners across the province:



Region	Delivery Partner
Nechako, North Coast, Northeast	Hubspace northerninnovation.ca
Thompson, Nicola, and Cariboo	Kamloops Innovation kamloopsinnovation.ca
Vancouver Island / Coast	Innovation Island innovationisland.ca
Victoria, Vancouver Island	Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology & Entrepreneurship Council viatec.ca
Mainland / Southwest	entrepreneurship@UBC start.entrepreneurship.ubc.ca
	Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre foresightcac.com
	New Ventures BC newventuresbc.com
Thompson / Okanagan	VentureLabs venturelabs.ca
	Accelerate Okanagan accelerateokanagan.com
Kootenay	Kootenay Association for Science & Technology kast.com

Supportive Government

- B.C.'s general corporate income tax rate is 12%. When combined with the federal rate, businesses pay an overall rate of 27%. B.C. has the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for single individuals earning up to \$125,000.
- B.C. is home to InBC Investment Corp., a \$500 million strategic investment fund introduced by the Government of British Columbia in 2020, which will invest on a triple bottom line basis to achieve returns for people, the planet and profits.
- B.C.'s offers fast, easy and reliable global transportation systems. We continue to strengthen our infrastructure. Over the next three years the Government of British Columbia will be investing \$15 billion in transportation infrastructure.
- B.C. has one of the highest rates of broadband and overall Internet connectivity in Canada.
- B.C. is leading in employment growth since 2021.
- B.C. has the highest concentrations of tech talent and one of the best credit ratings in Canada.



According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, Canada will continue to be a top country for doing business in the G20 over the next five years and has consistently ranked among the top 10 countries in the last five years. Canada's financial system is one of the soundest in the world.





British Columbia's Competitive Advantages

- Skilled, experienced and deep talent pool
- Excellent public infrastructure
- Competitive corporate and personal income taxes and tax incentives
- The highest rate of broadband and overall Internet connectivity in Canada
- Prime location
- High quality of life



Join some of the largest ICT companies in British Columbia, including:

- Absolute Software
- Amazon
- Avigilon
- Diligent
- Fortinet
- Fujitsu
- Global Relay
- Hootsuite
- IBM
- Intel
- Microsoft
- Samsung

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