

# BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA



## INTERACTIVE

## GAMING

### A leading creative hub at the forefront of interactive technology

British Columbia, Canada is home to a creative cluster of world-class companies specializing in game development. British Columbia is an international centre for console, social and mobile game production, as well as an emerging hub for virtual reality technology. British Columbia offers highly skilled talent, a prime location, targeted incentives and a high quality of life.

Join leading companies, including Capcom Game Studio, EA (Electronic Arts), Microsoft, Relic Entertainment (Sega), Eastside Games, IGG Games, Kabam (Net Marble) and over 150 gaming companies that make up British Columbia's creative cluster of game developers. If you want to locate your business in a thriving interactive technology ecosystem or partner with innovative game developers, British Columbia is the right place to be — it's where the creative revolution is taking off.



[www.BritishColumbia.ca](http://www.BritishColumbia.ca)



# British Columbia's dynamic interactive cluster

British Columbia's studios generate creative and cutting-edge games that have developed a loyal following around the world.

## THRIVING CREATIVE ECOSYSTEM

Benefit from British Columbia's dynamic, highly-skilled and multicultural pool of designers, engineers and artists. Our workers have experience in the entire range of interactive productions, from console games to the fast-paced development of mobile tools.

All of British Columbia's major educational institutions are engaged in digital media, providing comprehensive training and outstanding facilities. A steady stream of new graduates and innovation flows into the sector from B.C.'s prolific educational programs and research centres.

British Columbia's interactive gaming sector also enjoys strong relationships with film, television, animation and virtual reality producers. This fuels a collaborative and community-based approach to projects, resulting in innovative productions.

## PRIME LOCATION

As Canada's Pacific gateway, British Columbia is ideally located with a business day that conveniently overlaps with afternoon working hours in Europe, morning work schedules in Asia and is synchronized for the full day with California and Washington State.

Vancouver's reputation as a global tech hub has been steadily growing, with the city already internationally renowned for its liveability and spectacular location. In 2018, Mercer rated Vancouver as the top North American city for quality of living and number five in the world. Vancouver is also ranked 3rd in the Economist's Global Livability Report out of 140 cities. These studies reflect B.C.'s high level of stability, health care, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

Besides Greater Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna have established video game development hubs of their own, including big players such as Hyper Hippo and Codename Entertainment.

## SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENT

- ▶ B.C.'s general corporate income tax rate is only 12%. When combined with the federal rate, businesses pay a combined rate of 27%.
- ▶ Enjoy the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning up to \$125,000.
- ▶ Employer health care coverage for employees is optional and affordable.
- ▶ The #BCTECH Strategy is led by government and industry with a targeted focus on talent, capital data and market access as the core pillars to continuing to grow the technology sector.
- ▶ The \$100 million dollar BC Tech Fund, a venture capital fund-of-funds, invests in emerging technology companies in B.C. and supports the development of a strong venture capital system.

Incentive	Qualifying Entities	Tax Credit Rate
<b>British Columbia Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit</b>	Taxable Canadian corporations with a permanent establishment in B.C. that are developing interactive digital media products	17.5% of eligible salary and wages
<b>Canadian Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR &amp; ED) Tax Credit</b>	Canadian-controlled private corporations Other Canadian corporations	Tax credit of up to 35% of qualified expenses for work carried out in Canada Tax credit of up to 15% of qualified expenses for work carried out in Canada
<b>British Columbia Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR &amp; ED) Tax Credit</b>	Corporations conducting SR and ED in B.C.	British Columbia provides qualifying corporations that carry on scientific research and experimental development in B.C. with a refundable tax credit up to \$300,000 and a non-refundable tax credit up to 10% of qualified British Columbia SR & ED expenses



Photo: Sequence, & cover left bottom  
Cover top right: Destination British Columbia

## EXCEPTIONAL TALENT

B.C.'s large, flexible and educated workforce of 106,000+ across the broader tech ecosystem is well represented by highly skilled, diverse and energetic talent. In fact, B.C. has a growing number of technology-related graduates. Additionally, although wages are rising, B.C. remains cost competitive.

## CREATING THE INTERACTIVE FUTURE

British Columbia is home to one of the oldest video game clusters in North America, established in the early 1980s. Building on that strong foundation, today the province hosts a thriving game development industry full of large-scale game developers as well as indie game studios.

British Columbia is also playing a major role in the development of virtual reality technology, with Vancouver and Seattle at the centre of the Pacific Northwest hub of VR development. British Columbia's VR firms, including Microsoft, Cloudhead Games and Archiact, are already looking beyond entertainment to create the future of computing, using VR and mixed reality to build practical tools to enhance education, health care and other sectors.



Photo: EA

## COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

- ▶ Targeted tax incentives
- ▶ Skilled labour force
- ▶ High quality of life supporting talent recruitment and retention
- ▶ Prime location
- ▶ Competitive corporate and personal income taxes

## ENJOY STRONG INDUSTRY SUPPORT

British Columbia is committed to providing a competitive environment for the interactive digital design industry. Industry-led associations work hand-in-hand with government to provide a wide range of supports, including marketing events, forums for investors and producers and award celebrations.

**DigiBC** (The Digital Media and Wireless Association of BC) fosters community, networking and partnerships in the digital media industry by providing members with market intelligence, first notice of business opportunities and promotional support. DigiBC is a member-supported non-profit organization. Visit [www.digibc.org](http://www.digibc.org)

**Creative BC** supports and stimulates the development of British Columbia's creative industries, including film and television; interactive and digital media, including animation, gaming and app development, and virtual and augmented reality; music and sound recording; and conventional media. It is an independent organization established by the provincial government with the mandate to expand and diversify the film, television, music, publishing and digital media sector in British Columbia. Visit [www.creativebc.com](http://www.creativebc.com)

**BC Tech Association** delivers programs that help technology companies collaborate, learn and grow. BC Tech Association helps members attract top talent, connect with partners and investors, learn from experienced coaches and advocates to nurture the creative ecosystem. Visit [www.wearebctech.com](http://www.wearebctech.com)

**VR/AR Association** is an international organization with a Vancouver-based chapter, designed to foster collaboration between innovative companies and people in the virtual reality and augmented reality ecosystem. Visit [www.thevrara.com](http://www.thevrara.com)

**VIATEC** (Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology and Entrepreneurship Council) serves as the one-stop hub that connects people, knowledge and resources to grow and promote the Greater Victoria technology sector. Visit [www.viatec.ca](http://www.viatec.ca)

**Innovate BC** is a Crown Corporation that encourages the development and application of advanced or innovative technologies to meet the needs of industry in B.C., accelerating technology commercialization by supporting startups and developing entrepreneurs. Visit [www.bccic.ca](http://www.bccic.ca)

**Accelerate Okanagan** delivers unique programming for all stages of growth; from start-up basics to market expansion accelerator programs. Visit [www.accelerateokanagan.com](http://www.accelerateokanagan.com)



Kelowna, B.C.



Victoria, B.C.

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