



**Artificial Intelligence**  
Building the future today



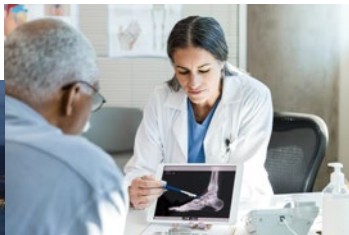
**British Columbia,** *Naturally.*

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



## British Columbia is a Hub of **AI Enterprise and Research**

British Columbia (B.C.) is a national leader in applied and commercialized artificial intelligence (AI), offering solutions in software and hardware development, research and support services. B.C. benefits from world leading research and infrastructure, and is known for producing top talent and innovations. The sector is also supported by major ecosystem players such as DIGITAL, one of Canada's Global Innovation Clusters, which fosters innovation and collaboration among tech companies with the support of federal funding. It also hosts the Quantum Algorithms Institute, boasting highly educated talent and top research universities. In this vibrant tech ecosystem, major global players such as Alphabet's SandboxAQ, Amazon Web Services, Avigilon, Change Healthcare, Cisco, FLIR, Fujitsu, Mastercard, Microsoft, 1QBit, Samsung, Tableau, Wayve Technologies, the Weir Group and more have built their AI capabilities here in B.C.



### **Companies in British Columbia have diverse capabilities, including:**

- Machine learning
- Deep learning
- Natural language processing and generation
- Computer vision
- Robotics
- Artificial general intelligence
- Quantum computing



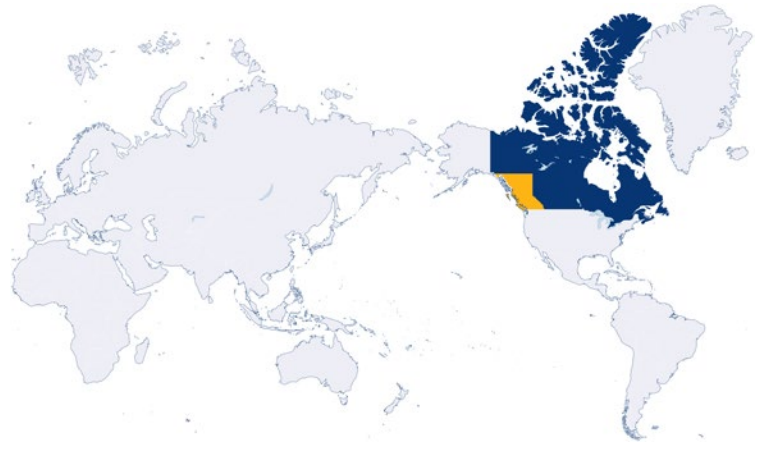
## Innovation Ecosystem

British Columbia hosts a thriving tech ecosystem where both small start-ups and multinational tech giants benefit from a culture of pioneering innovation, backed by energetic talent and industry-leading research. Vancouver is home to DIGITAL, a Global Innovation Cluster, and is consistently ranked as one of the world's most tech-friendly cities — among Canada's top three AI development markets and ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the 2024 CBRE Scoring Tech Talent report.

B.C.'s start-up culture is supported by prominent accelerators and incubators such as Creative Destruction Lab, VIATEC, entrepreneurship@UBC, Accelerate Okanagan, the AI Network of BC (AInBC) and SFU VentureLabs. Programs such as the Tech Talent Accelerator, Mitacs grants, Student Work Placement Program and B.C. Employer Training Grant (ETG) help to train and hire talent. Additionally, the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit encourages investment in early-stage small businesses. B.C. offers lower operating costs than other innovation hubs, with a competitive corporate income tax rate, one of the lowest provincial personal income taxes in Canada for individuals earning up to \$125,000.

## Quality of Life

B.C. is one of the world's most multicultural, safe and dynamic places to live. The province has vibrant cities, some of the world's best universities, free universal health care and unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation. Mercer's 2024 Quality of Living Ranking rated Vancouver as the top city in North America and number seven in the world. The Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index for 2025 ranked Vancouver tenth out of 173 cities.



## A Prime Location

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

## Exceptional Talent

B.C.'s universities are consistently ranked among the leading post-secondary institutions in Canada. The University of British Columbia (UBC) has over 2,750 undergraduate students, and Simon Fraser University (SFU) has over 2,500 undergraduate students enrolled in computer science programs, and 400 graduate students pursuing advanced research and applications in data science, visual computing and other AI-related fields. Vancouver also boasts the second-highest concentration of AI talent in Canada, and in 2024, it ranked first in Software Engineer Concentration, with its engineers recognized as among the highest Quality Talent in the country.

B.C.'s progressive immigration policy helps B.C. businesses recruit the best global talent and retain international talent in tech occupations. Graduates from top-ranked universities, highly specialized workers and the ability to bring in new employees makes B.C. a talent magnet.



With a dynamic ecosystem of over 500 start-ups and established players, **B.C.'s AI industry has garnered global attention and investment.**

## Industry Profile

British Columbia's thriving AI industry has more than 300 companies transforming traditional industries across a range of sectors. B.C. AI specialties and applications span organizations within their own operations and extends across various other sectors including software, robotics, life sciences, healthcare, marine, mining, cybersecurity, fintech, agritech and more.

### Research

B.C. possesses top organizations and institutions carrying out research related to artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML), natural language processing and generation, computer vision and robotics and quantum computing.

### Software and/or Platform Development

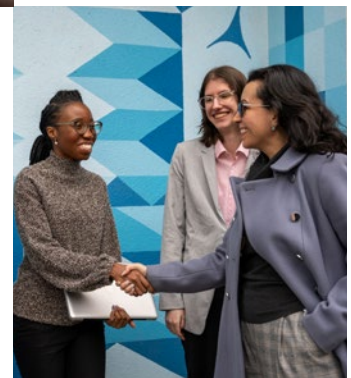
B.C. companies design, develop, publish and maintain AI/ML software and platforms for both commercial use as well as customized solutions for specific uses. These solutions include business optimization and customer experience management, and they address specific industry needs including scientific and medical advancements and security systems.

### Hardware Development

B.C. is home to leading companies that design, develop and integrate AI/ML related software into physical products, such as sensors, microchips, robots, as well as unmanned underwater and aerial vehicles.

### Infrastructure

As a key contributor to Canada's advanced research computing (ARC) ecosystem, B.C. is home to two major supercomputing facilities — Arbutus at the University of Victoria and Cedar at Simon Fraser University. These systems are supported by the Digital Research Alliance of Canada, a federally funded non-profit organization. Cedar, notably, is the largest ARC site in the country, delivering 37% of Canada's total compute capacity and ranking among the top 500 most powerful computing systems globally.



# World-Class Innovation and Research Centres

## Professional Associations in B.C.



INSTITUTION	AREAS OF FOCUS
<b>The Artificial Intelligence Network of British Columbia (AINBC)</b>	Cross-sector organization established by business and academic leaders to catalyze the growth of the AI and machine learning communities in British Columbia and establish the province as a global leader in AI.
<b>The Quantum Algorithms Institute</b>	A collaboration between government, the academic community and private quantum computing companies. Their goal is to produce highly qualified professionals in advanced computing and algorithmic research, as well commercializing the products of their research and development. Quantum computing has the potential to enhance machine learning algorithms and AI models.

## Research Centres in B.C.

INSTITUTION	AREAS OF FOCUS
<b>Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Big Data Hub</b>	Provides a platform for the public and private sector to share best practices, projects and insights into how big data and AI are being used to create innovative and equitable solutions to challenging problems.
<b>Simon Fraser University's (SFU) Natural Language Laboratory</b>	Founded in 1983 and is one of the largest North American labs working on natural language processing and computational linguistics. In 1999, lab researchers formed a company, Axonwave Software Inc., which uses language technology software and was later acquired by Matrikon.
<b>The University of British Columbia's (UBC) Biomedical Imaging and Artificial Intelligence Research Cluster.</b>	Enhancing the understanding of how molecular, cellular and tissue structure, and organization influence normal and diseased tissue function to facilitate personalized medicine.
<b>The University of British Columbia's (UBC) Centre for Artificial Intelligence Decision-Making and Action Lab (CAIDA)</b>	UBC's main AI research organization which is focused on the development, analysis and application of AI systems for decision-making and action, enabled by core AI technologies such as machine learning and automated reasoning. With \$225 M in funding and about 259,000 citations to date, the Centre consists of over 100 professors across 27 departments.
<b>The University of British Columbia's (UBC) Computer Vision and Robotics Lab</b>	Developing algorithms for image and video understanding, multi-modal modeling, 3D computer vision, human pose estimation and large generative models for computer vision applications.
<b>University of Victoria's (UVic) Advanced Control and Intelligent Systems Lab</b>	Multidisciplinary research group collaborating with industry leaders on applied research projects that translate advanced AI and robotics innovations into practical solutions in aerospace, defense, advanced manufacturing and automation.

## Supportive Government

From grants and tax credits to talent development programs, the Government of Canada and British Columbia offer a range of initiatives to support the AI sector, including:

- **Small Business Venture Capital Program:** B.C. investors receive a 30% tax credit on their investment in a venture capital corporation (VCC) or an eligible business corporation (EBC).
- **Scientific research and experimental development (SR&ED) tax credit:** For qualifying corporations that are Canadian-controlled private corporations (CCPCs) that drive innovation through research and development in B.C.
- **Talent development programs:** Such as the Tech Talent Accelerator, which equips young and under-represented British Columbians with in-demand digital skills through hands-on training and industry-recognized certifications, and supports job placement upon successful completion.
- **Federal initiatives:** Such as the Canadian AI Sovereign Compute Strategy, part of a \$2.4B investment to expand domestic AI infrastructure by building secure data centers, boosting compute capacity and data sovereignty to support researchers, businesses and commercialization. Canada's AI Global Innovation Cluster, which uses government and private funding to build the next-generation supply chain and boost industry performance through AI technologies. Additionally, the appointments of Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) AI Chairs at UBC and SFU continue to support Canada's leadership in AI research, training and innovation.
- **Integrated Marketplace:** A program by Innovate BC designed to help industries scale innovative solutions and reduce the risks associated with adopting domestic innovations. Innovate BC is a Crown agency that supports the growth of B.C.'s tech and innovation economy.
- A strong regulatory framework around information privacy, complemented by initiatives like the Voluntary Code of Conduct on the Responsible Development and Management of Advanced Generative AI Systems, which guides responsible AI practices. Early signatories include Mastercard, Salesforce, TELUS and IBM.
- Tailored advice and support for investors, including access to government and industry contacts; opportunities to meet with experts in tax, real estate and law; familiarization tours; and a single point of contact to explore business location and expansion opportunities.

Other Non-Governmental Programs and Initiatives:

- **Growth Venture Co-Investment Fund:** Offered by the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), the \$500 M Growth Venture Co-Investment Fund targets late-stage innovation-based businesses leveraging AI and machine learning applications for eCommerce, agritech, edtech, healthtech, blockchain technology for fintech, cybersecurity, insurtech, Internet of Things (IoT), mobility or Industry 4.0.
- **AI Network of BC:** AIInBC is B.C.'s leading AI community, connecting innovators, businesses and experts to foster collaboration, advance research and accelerate innovation across the province's growing AI ecosystem.
- Canada's AI Global Innovation Cluster, which uses government and private funding to build the next-generation supply chain and boost industry performance through AI technologies.

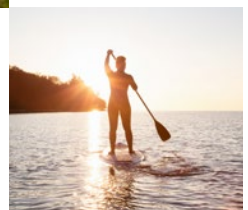






## British Columbia's Competitive Advantages

- Prime location and proximity to the Cascadia Innovation Corridor
- Multiple technology clusters in Vancouver, Victoria and Kelowna
- Leaders in academic research and innovation
- Large, educated workforce of more than 181,000 across the broader tech ecosystem
- High quality computing science talent at competitive costs



## Join these and other innovators who call B.C. home:

- Avigilon ■ Barnacle Systems ■ Borealis AI ■ Certn ■ Clio
- D-Wave Quantum Inc. ■ Klue ■ Novarc Technologies ■ Photonic Inc
- Sanctuary AI ■ ThoughtExchange ■ Visier



# British Columbia, *Naturally.*

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