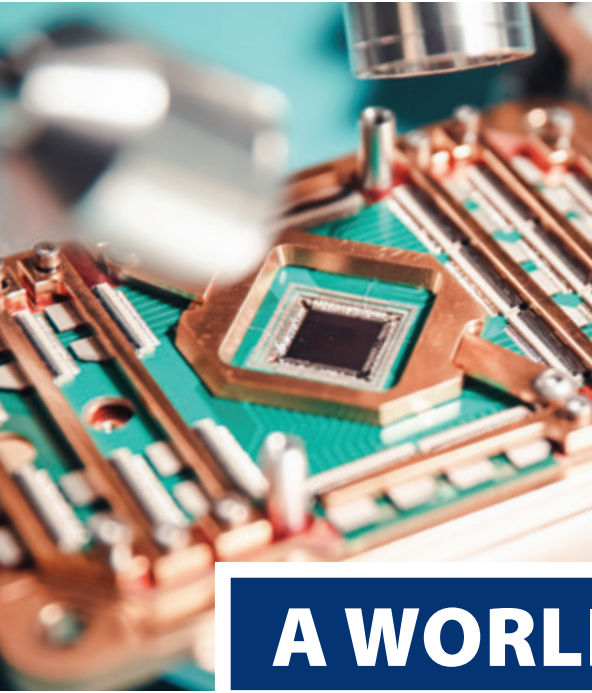


# BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA



## A WORLD-CLASS

## ICT HUB

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

In British Columbia, you're in great company with major global players including Microsoft, Vision Critical, Intel, Galvanize, Sierra Wireless and Tableau, plus three of Canada's five tech unicorns (Slack, Hootsuite and Avigilon) and more than 10,500 other exciting and innovative technology companies.

British Columbia offers a talented workforce, competitive taxes, a convenient time zone and a highly entrepreneurial and multicultural tech community focused on innovation, collaboration and growth.



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



# British Columbia — Tech Grows Here

British Columbia is home to a progressive and dynamic Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry comprising more than 5,500 companies and supporting 68,000+ jobs pursuing advances in software, cloud computing, information technology, Internet of Things (IoT), telecommunications and electronics manufacturing. Working with world-class research facilities and top-ranked universities, these companies are at the forefront of developing innovative solutions and game-changing platforms.

Global tech giants like Samsung, SAP, Fujitsu and Salesforce.com have taken notice and are establishing strong roots throughout British Columbia. In 2018, the global venture capital community injected \$441 million across 84 deals in British Columbia, strengthening the province's position as one of the most exciting tech hubs in North America.

## The Advantages of British Columbia's ICT Sector

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

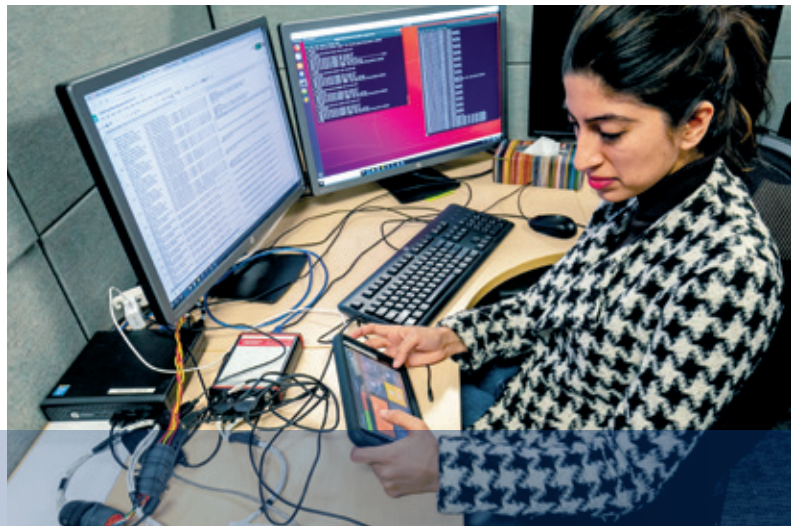
In 2019, the Vancouver tech ecosystem was ranked 2nd in Canada, with a Tier 1 ranking globally for market research by Startup Genome. The City of Vancouver has 800 to 1,100 tech start-ups contributing to a vibrant tech ecosystem with abundant, innovative talent.

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

### EXCEPTIONAL TALENT

British Columbia's large, flexible and educated workforce of 114,000+ across the broader tech ecosystem is well represented by young, diverse and energetic talent. In fact, B.C. awards more than 10,000 credentials annually in post-secondary programs that support the tech sector.

The Government of British Columbia recognizes that tech companies need to be able to attract skilled workers from around the world to help sustain and grow the tech sector. In support of this, the BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) works to remove barriers to attracting and retaining talent through immigration. The BC PNP Tech Pilot helps employers address their talent needs by providing a fast-tracked, permanent immigration pathway for in-demand foreign workers and international students.





## EDUCATION, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, AND ACCELERATORS

British Columbia's 25 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 in both computer science and engineering — holds dozens of Canada Research Chairs and has produced over 200 spin-off companies. Across the province, British Columbia's leading computer science and engineering programs produce in excess of 3,000 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
Central Interior BC	Kamloops Innovation <a href="http://kamloopsinnovation.ca">kamloopsinnovation.ca</a>
Central/Northern Island, Sunshine Coast & Gulf Islands	Innovation Island <a href="http://innovationisland.ca">innovationisland.ca</a>
Greater Victoria	Victoria Innovation, Advanced Technology & Entrepreneurship Council <a href="http://viatec.com">viatec.com</a>
Kootenays	Kootenay Association for Science & Technology <a href="http://kast.com">kast.com</a>
Lower Mainland & Fraser Valley	entrepreneurship@UBC <a href="http://start.entrepreneurship.ubc.ca">start.entrepreneurship.ubc.ca</a>
	Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre <a href="http://foresightcac.com">foresightcac.com</a>
	New Ventures BC <a href="http://newventuresbc.com">newventuresbc.com</a>
	VentureLabs <a href="http://venturelabs.ca">venturelabs.ca</a>
Okanagan Valley	Accelerate Okanagan <a href="http://accelerateokanagan.com">accelerateokanagan.com</a>
North Central BC	Innovation Central Society <a href="http://innovationcentral.ca">innovationcentral.ca</a>

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



## SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENT

- ▶ British Columbia'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.
- ▶ The \$100-million BC Tech Fund, a venture capital fund-of-funds, invests in emerging technology companies in British Columbia and supports the development of a strong venture capital system.
- ▶ Find information on business advantages at [BritishColumbia.ca](http://BritishColumbia.ca).

In overall business costs, Canada is the second-most-competitive country in the world and Vancouver is the fifth-most-competitive of 100 global cities, according to KPMG's Competitive Alternatives guide. In a comparison of 14 West Coast cities, Vancouver and Kelowna rank first and second, ahead of Seattle and San Francisco.



## THE COMPANY YOU'LL KEEP

Some of the largest ICT companies in British Columbia include:

- ▶ Absolute Software
- ▶ Fujitsu
- ▶ ACL
- ▶ Global Relay
- ▶ Amazon
- ▶ Hootsuite
- ▶ Avigilon
- ▶ IBM
- ▶ Fortinet
- ▶ Intel

## 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 places six of Canada's top 20 most livable cities in B.C. Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking continues to rate Vancouver as the top city in the Americas and third in the world. And Vancouver ranks sixth of 140 cities in the Economist's 2018 Global Liveability Report. These studies reflect British Columbia's high levels of stability, health care, culture, environment, education and infrastructure.

## 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 California and Washington State.

British Columbia has six international airports, including Victoria, Kelowna and Vancouver (YVR). YVR is ranked one of North America's top 10 international gateways with 86 international routes. It is the only airport to be voted best in North America for ten consecutive years



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All figures are in Canadian dollars.



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