



INVEST
VANCOUVER

Innovation Ecosystem Profile

Opportunity, Amplified. In a region like no other.



metrovancouver

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Cover image: View from the District of West Vancouver, overlooking the North Shore and beyond

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Innovation Ecosystem Profile

Invest Vancouver's Innovation Ecosystem Profile is intended as a starting point for interested parties (such as investors, start-ups, or those outside the region) aiming to familiarize themselves with the key players in Metro Vancouver's innovation ecosystem within the outlined categories: Accelerators, Industry and Business Associations, Public Post-Secondary Institutions, Research and Development Spaces, Indigenous Economic Development Organizations, and Public Sector Organizations.

Invest Vancouver acknowledges the dynamic nature of the innovation landscape and emphasizes that this compilation is not exhaustive. There are other vital components of the innovation ecosystem that have not been included in this summary. The organizations featured in this document align with Invest Vancouver's identified key industries.

If you have suggestions for other organizations that should be included in this profile or any updates to the organizations currently listed, please contact info@investvancouver.ca.

About Us

Invest Vancouver is the economic development leadership service for the Metro Vancouver region. By working to secure strategic investment, promote the region to a global audience, and advise decision-makers through forward-thinking economic research and policy analysis, Invest Vancouver is amplifying opportunity and advancing shared prosperity for residents of the region.



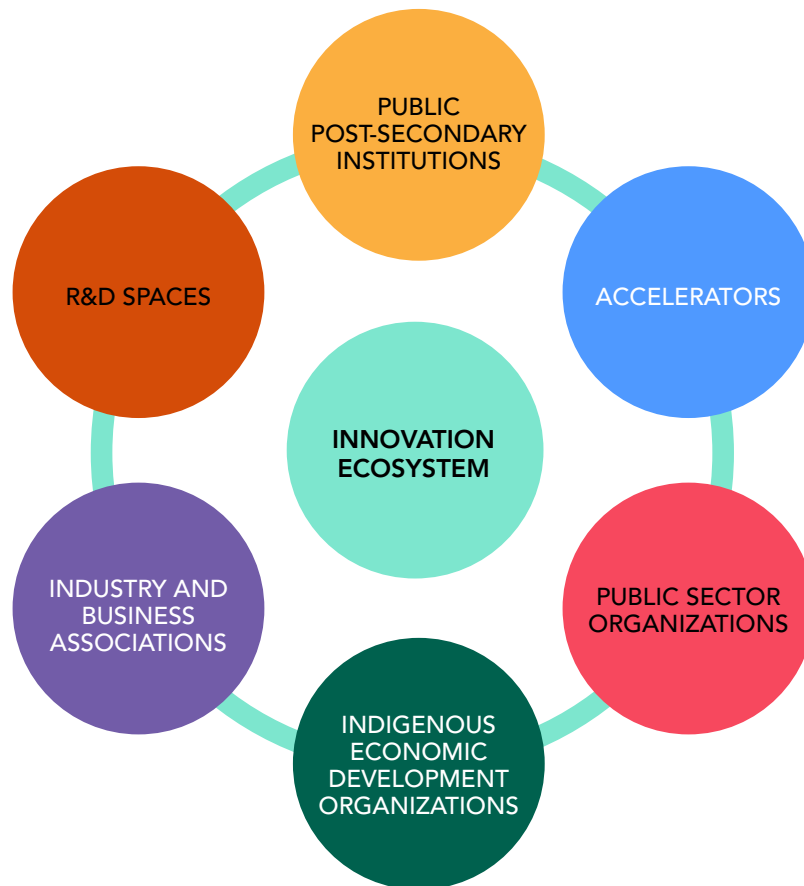
View from the District of West Vancouver, overlooking the North Shore and beyond

Overview

The organizations included in this document play an integral role in the success of the region's vibrant economy. Key players in the ecosystem have been highlighted in each section. Many of the highlighted organizations were identified by firms interviewed by Invest Vancouver as adding particular value to the ecosystem.

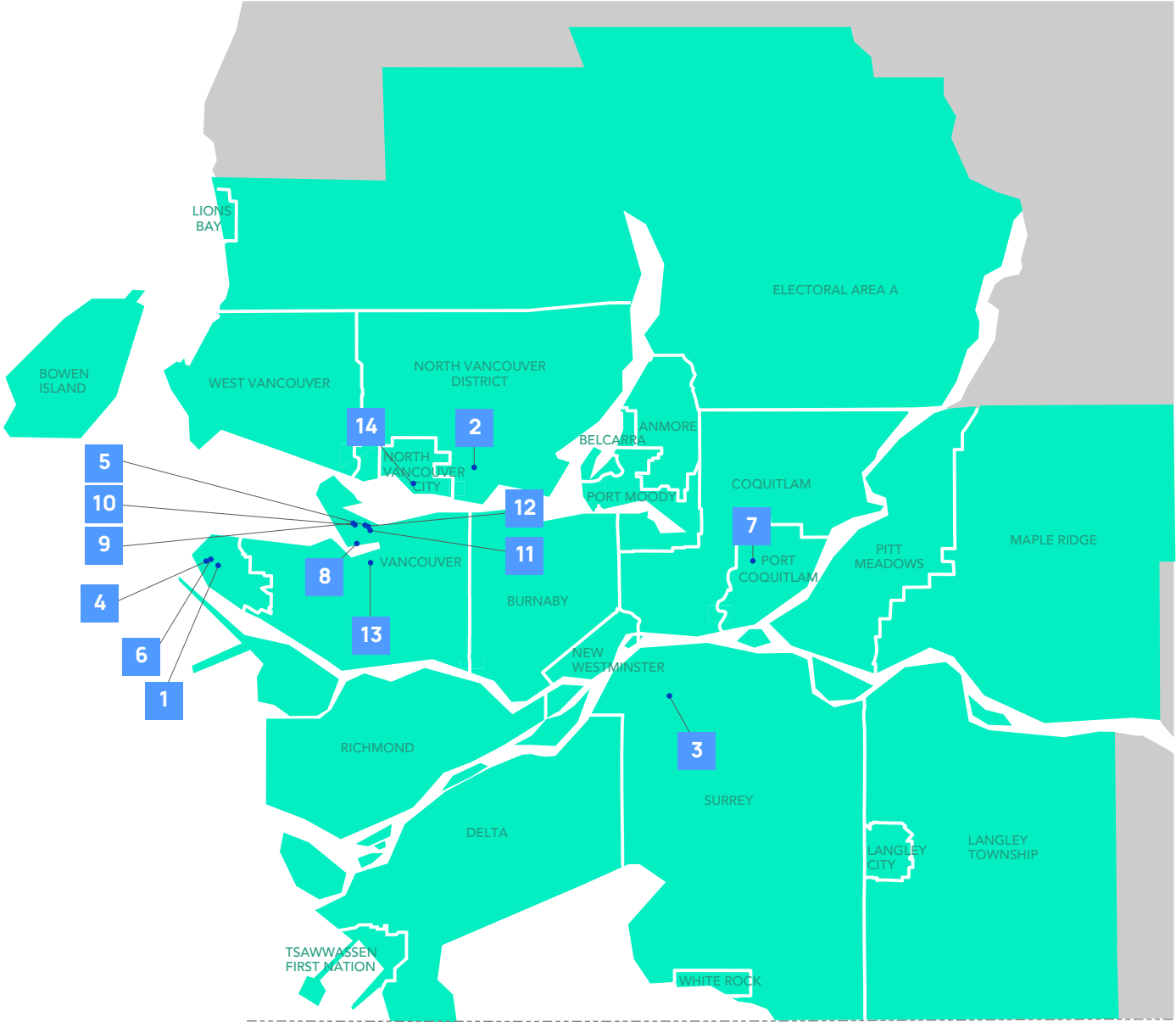
The objective of the innovation ecosystem profile is to catalogue the Metro Vancouver regional innovation ecosystem in order to:

- Provide information for interested parties (e.g., Investors, start-ups, and established businesses) about the vibrant economic landscape;
- Discern potential gaps in services or policy opportunities (e.g., Small-scale manufacturing and rapid prototyping spaces); and,
- Complement the efforts of other related mapping projects (e.g., Capital flow mapping).



Accelerators

Accelerators are organizations that offer programs to give developing companies access to mentorship, investors and other support that help them become stable, self-sufficient businesses!



1 Adapted from BDC, Business accelerator definition. See <https://www.bdc.ca/en/articles-tools/entrepreneur-toolkit/templates-business-guides/glossary/business-accelerator>

Accelerators

- 1 adMare Bioinnovations**
adMare BioInnovations uses its scientific and commercial expertise, specialized R&D infrastructure, and seed capital to build strong life sciences companies, robust ecosystems, and industry-ready talent. admarebio.com
- 2 Capilano University Indigenous Digital Accelerator (IDA)**
The IDA scales up early-stage Indigenous companies with high growth, commercialization, and innovation potential within a framework that emphasizes community development and low environmental impact. capilanou.ca/about-capu/connect-with-capu/indigenous-digital-accelerator
- 3 Coast Capital Venture Connection at SFU**
Coast Capital Venture Connection is SFU's flagship, early-stage startup incubator open to the SFU community. They equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the tools, knowledge, and support system needed to build solutions for the future. sfu.ca/vc
- 4 Creative Destruction Lab – Vancouver**
CDL is a global startup program for seed-stage, science-based companies. The program employs an objectives-based mentoring process by a selected group of accomplished entrepreneurs, angel investors, economists, and scientists. createdestructionlab.com/locations/vancouver
- 5 Empowered Startups Ltd.**
Empowered Startups Ltd mentors, accelerates and incubates innovative domestic and global business ideas. They work with both aspiring and driven entrepreneurial leaders capable of building outstanding startups that enhance the prosperity of their chosen ecosystem. empoweredstartups.com
- 6 entrepreneurship@UBC**
entrepreneurship@UBC propels UBC innovations into the world through venture creation, providing UBC students, researchers, faculty, alumni and staff with the resources, networks, and funding they need to succeed. (see more below in Accelerator Highlights) entrepreneurship.ubc.ca
- 7 Foresight Canada**
Foresight Canada is a cleantech accelerator that assists entrepreneurs in building sustainable and scalable cleantech companies, with the objective of driving the clean economy through innovation and technology advancements. (see more below in Accelerator Highlights). foresightcac.com
- 8 Launch Academy**
Launch is a Western Canada entrepreneurship facility that helps international and Canadian founders build their businesses through education, mentorship, lean metrics and networking opportunities in North America. launchacademy.ca
- 9 Mosaic Accelerator**
Mosaic Accelerator's provides a range of resources and support to build successful and sustainable tech-enabled businesses, including coaching and mentorship, no-code and low-code tech solutions, online classes, networking, and funding opportunities. mosaicaccelerator.com
- 10 New Ventures BC**
New Ventures BC's mandate is to encourage, and develop entrepreneurship and innovation in BC's start-up technology sector by offering education, mentorship, networking, cash prizes, grant funding, and recognition. newventuresbc.com



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RADIUS SFU

RADIUS SFU is a social innovation hub that deliver programs to collaboratively develop, test, and accelerate innovative responses to tough social problems. They offer training, events, and educational opportunities to build collective capacity to respond to the challenges of our time. radiussfu.com

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SFU VentureLabs®

SFU VentureLabs accelerates science, technology, and innovation-based companies that have winning value propositions and strong potential to scale up. They connect entrepreneurs with experienced mentors and a network of resources focused on tackling the unique challenges and complexities faced by technology innovators. venturelabs.ca

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Spring Activator

Spring Activator's mission is to accelerate the activities of purpose-driven entrepreneurs, investors, and ecosystem builders to create an equitable and resilient world. Their services span training programs, capacity-building, mentorship, advisory services, and more. spring.is

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Zen Launchpad

Zen Launchpad is a North Vancouver-based accelerator focused on helping innovative startups and entrepreneurs to grow and scale, offering coworking spaces, R&D support, mentorship, and advisory services. zenlaunchpad.com



Highlights: Accelerators

Creative Destruction Lab

Creative Destruction Lab (CDL-Vancouver) is based at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Sauder School of Business. CDL delivers an objectives-based mentorship program for early-stage, science-based, technology companies. Ventures selected to the program have periodic, intensive full-day sessions with CDL Mentors with the purpose of assessing progress and setting new short-term objectives. Mentors include exited entrepreneurs, angel investors, VC firms and scientists. CDL-Vancouver operates six specialized streams serving founders with technologies that are relevant to Advanced Therapies, Biomedical Engineering, Cancer, Climate, Compute, and Minerals.

entrepreneurship@UBC

entrepreneurship@UBC provides UBC students, researchers, faculty members, alumni and staff with the resources, networks, and funding they need to succeed. As one of the world's top 40 research universities with 80,000 students, faculty and staff and over \$770 million in annual research funding, UBC has long been a catalyst for innovation. Part of the Innovation UBC network, entrepreneurship@UBC supports UBC entrepreneurs and ventures to generate social and economic impacts in BC and around the world. Learn more on their website entrepreneurship.ubc.ca

Foresight Canada

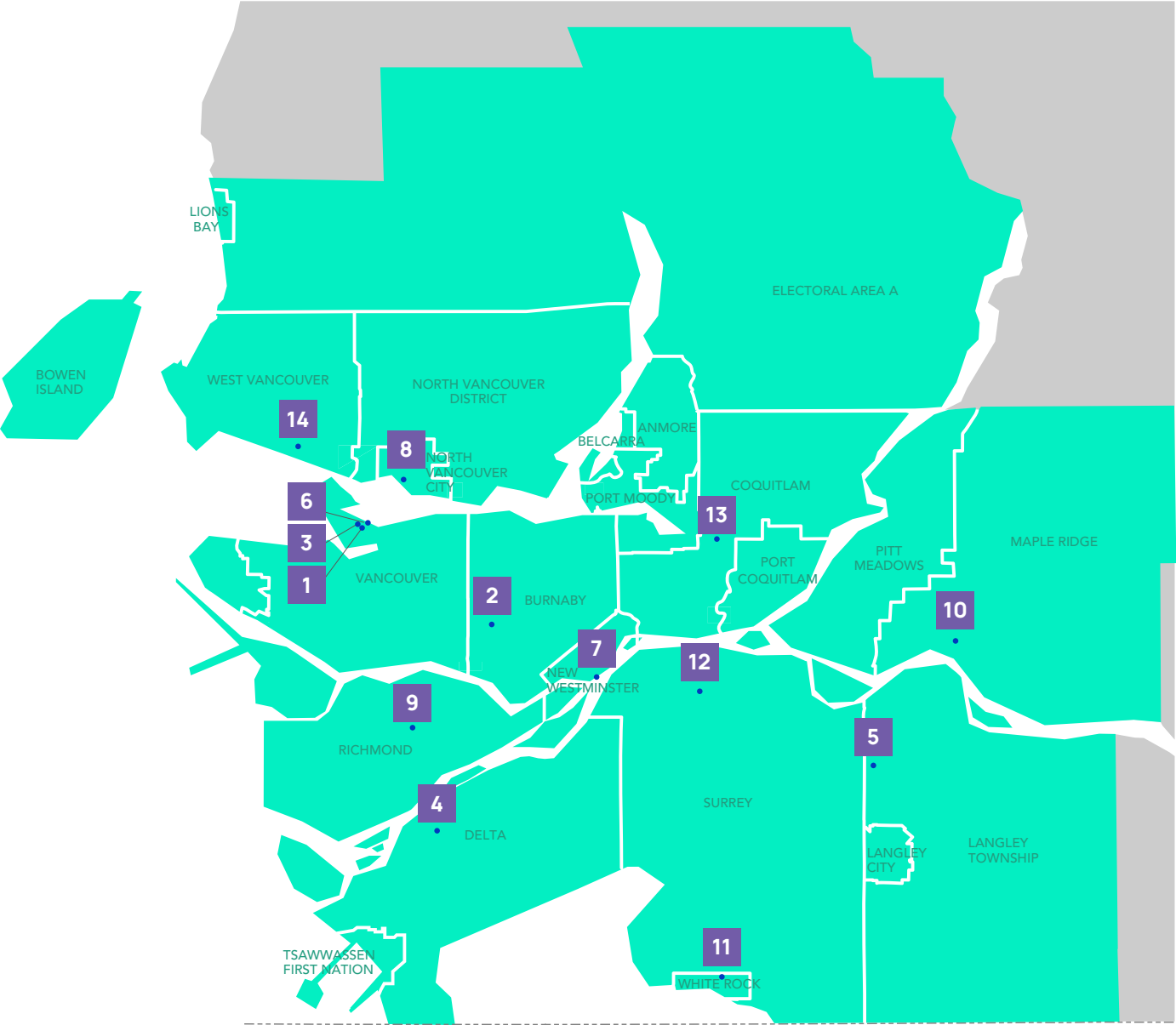
Foresight is a Canada-wide cleantech accelerator with the mission of accelerating the growth and impact of cleantech ecosystems across Canada to achieve deep decarbonization and meet net-zero climate targets. Foresight's programs are available virtually across the country including across Metro Vancouver and include acceleration programs to support cleantech companies from validating business ideas and launching products through to growing and scaling, as well as investor showcase and ecosystem building events. Foresight also runs Innovation Challenges and technology scouting initiatives to connect companies or governments facing sustainability hurdles with market-ready cleantech innovators, and organizes various sector-specific events.

SFU VentureLabs®

VentureLabs accelerates science, technology, and innovation-based companies that have winning value propositions and strong potential to scale up. Based in Vancouver, BC, their programs and services are tailored to each company's needs to not just grow, but grow smart. They connect entrepreneurs with experienced mentors and a network of resources focused on tackling the unique challenges and complexities faced by technology innovators. The VentureLabs team is a community of entrepreneurs, mentors, business executives, educators, and creative thinkers passionate about big ideas and tackling even bigger challenges.

Business Associations

Business associations seek to support and promote the growth of their members, often providing resources, hosting events, and representing the interests of their members to government. They also work to improve the economic and social conditions of their community and province.



Business Associations

- 1** BC Chamber of Commerce
bcchamber.org
- 2** Burnaby Board of Trade
bbot.ca
- 3** Business Council of British Columbia
bcbc.com
- 4** Delta Chamber of Commerce
deltachamber.ca
- 5** Greater Langley Chamber of Commerce
langleychamber.com
- 6** Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
boardoftrade.com
- 7** New Westminister Chamber of Commerce
newwestchamber.com
- 8** North Vancouver Chamber
nvchamber.ca
- 9** Richmond Chamber of Commerce
richmondchamber.ca
- 10** Ridge Meadows Chamber of Commerce
ridgemeadoweschamber.com
- 11** South Surrey & White Rock Chamber of Commerce
sswrchamberofcommerce.ca
- 12** Surrey Board of Trade
businessinsurrey.com
- 13** Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce
tricitieeschamber.com
- 14** West Vancouver Chamber of Commerce
westvanchamber.com

Industry Associations

- 1 Acetech**
Supports CEOs and teams of growing tech companies. acetechleadership.com
- 2 AIInBC**
Supports AI industry. ainbc.ai
- 3 Aerospace Industries Association of Canada (AIAC) Pacific**
Supports aerospace industry aiacpacific.ca
- 4 BC Tech Association**
Supports tech industry wearebctech.com
- 5 Clean Energy BC**
Supports renewable energy industry cleanenergybc.org
- 6 DigiBC**
Supports creative technology industry digibc.org
- 7 First Nations Technology Council**
Indigenous-led non-profit that supports digital literacy, improves internet connectivity and provides guidance on data and digital technology for all 204 First Nations in BC technologycouncil.ca
- 8 Frontier Collective**
Supports cutting-edge tech industry thefrontiercollective.com
- 9 Hydrogen BC**
Supports hydrogen tech industry hydrogenbc.chfca.ca
- 10 Life Sciences BC**
Supports life sciences industry lifesciencesbc.ca
- 11 Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC (MPPIA)**
Supports motion picture production industry mppia.com
- 12 Vancouver Entrepreneurs Forum**
Supports technology entrepreneurs vef.org
- 13 Vancouver Maritime Centre for Climate**
Shipping industry initiative advancing the transition to zero emissions shipping vmccclimate.ca
- 14 VR/AR Association (Vancouver Chapter)**
Supports the VR/AR ecosystem thevrara.com/vancouver-chapter

Highlights: **Business Associations**

Business Council of British Columbia

The Business Council of British Columbia (BCBC) is a not-for-profit business organization that promotes economic prosperity in BC. by providing research, insights, and recommendations on public policy. It conducts rigorous analysis and produces reports that offer evidence-based solutions and policy advice to enhance BC's competitiveness and economic well-being. The council holds forums, roundtables and events for business leaders, policymakers, and thought leaders to interact and discuss opportunities and challenges facing the province. The council also offers services to its members, such as access to economic data, expert advice, presentations and policy advocacy support.

Greater Vancouver Board of Trade

The Greater Vancouver Board of Trade (GVBOT) is a not-for-profit business association committed to promoting and supporting business development in the Greater Vancouver area. Its primary mission includes providing leadership, information and connections and public policy support to help ensure the Greater Vancouver region is competitive. The GVBOT offers various services like arranging industry events, providing business intelligence, and representing business interests to government. Its main goals include promoting economic growth, enabling business success, shaping impactful public policy, and fostering a competitive business environment. The GVBOT also focuses on key issues such as transportation, housing, and energy to enhance the region's livability and sustainability.

Surrey Board of Trade

The Surrey Board of Trade (SBOT) is a not-for-profit business association. SBOT supports business in Surrey and attracts business to Surrey through a diversified service portfolio of government advocacy, workforce development, business & international trade, connection concierge services (including events), and cost-saving benefits. The organization represents 6,000 member contacts, and over 60,000 employees – serving Surrey, one of the largest cities in BC. SBOT is Surrey's city-building business organization with a common goal of furthering the interests of businesses in the region.



Highlights: Industry Associations

BC Tech Association

The BC Tech Association is a non-profit industry association that primarily serves to promote and nurture the growth of BC's technology sector. Its central mandate encompasses policy advocacy, talent development, and advancing the provincial tech ecosystem. This organization offers an array of services such as mentorship schemes, educational resources, and industry-specific events to engage and support the tech community. The BC Tech Association strives to shape BC into a worldwide recognized tech innovation hub, contributing to innovation, economic growth and creation of quality jobs.

DigiBC

DigiBC is a not-for-profit association committed to accelerating the growth of British Columbia's creative technology industry to the benefit of current and future generations. From homegrown start-ups to globally recognized brands, its membership consists of companies across the video games/interactive, animation, visual effects, VR/AR/XR and virtual production sectors, along with technology enablers and service providers. DigiBC's work is focused on the four pillars of jobs, talent, diversity and community, bringing value to its members through government relations, education programming for future talent, community events and professional development training.

Frontier Collective

Frontier Collective is spearheading Vancouver's technological transformation, focusing on cutting-edge fields like VR/AR/Metaverse, AI, Clean Tech, Robotics, EV, and Web3. As a non-traditional organization based in Vancouver, BC, the organization's mission is to elevate the region's tech industry globally, catalyze investment in startups, and draw diverse talent. Frontier Collective's ambitious vision is to solidify Vancouver as Canada's tech epicenter and rank it among the top five global leaders globally in frontier technology by 2030.

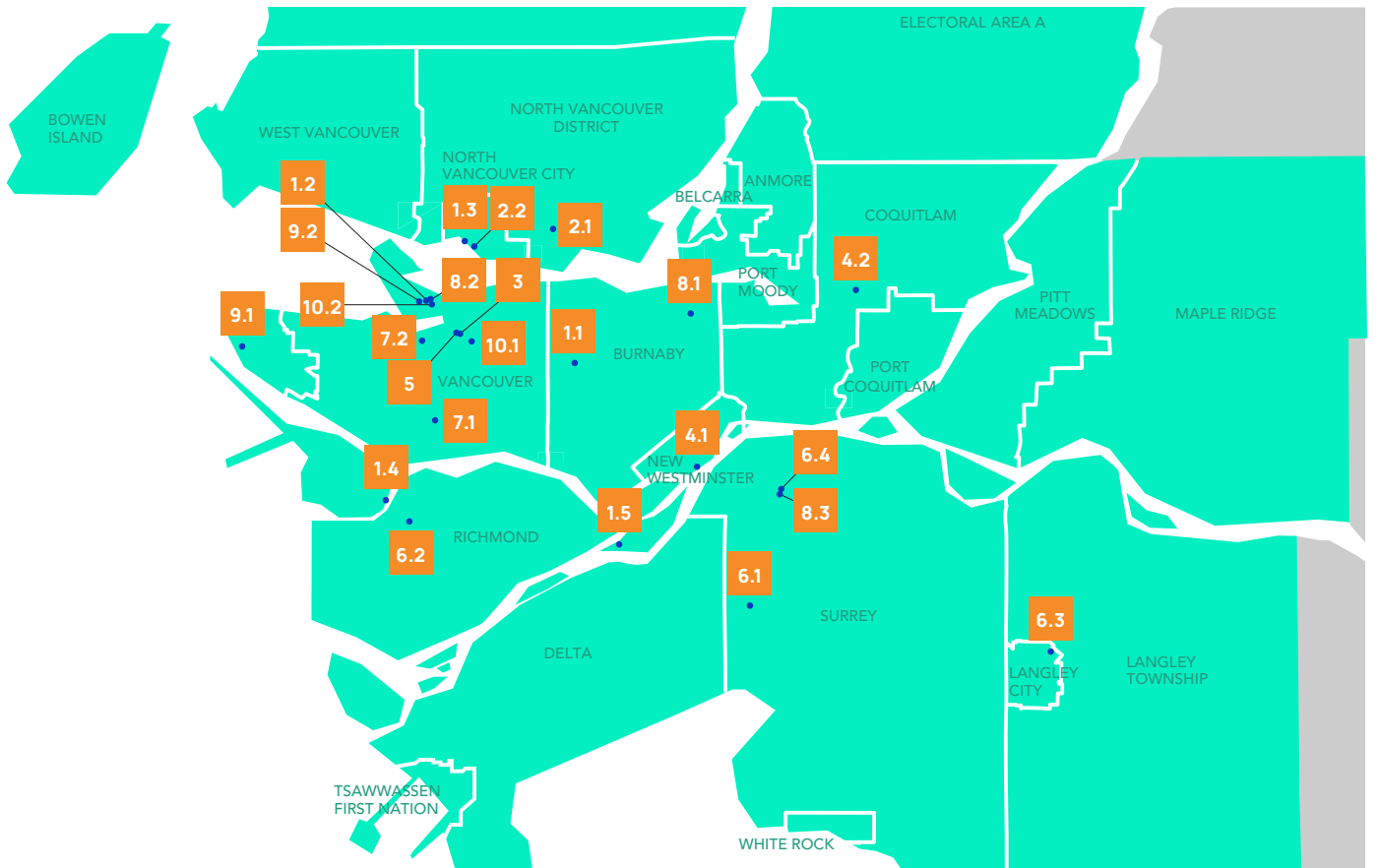
Life Sciences BC

Life Sciences BC (LSBC) is a not-for-profit, non-government industry association that supports and represents British Columbia's life sciences community through numerous local, national, and international initiatives. LSBC nurtures economic development in the province through leadership, facilitation of investment and partnering, advocacy, and promotion of our world-class life sciences sector.



Public Post-Secondary Institutions

Public post-secondary institutions are authorized under provincial legislation to deliver post-secondary education and training in BC.



1 British Columbia Institute of Technology
bcit.ca

2 Capilano University
capilanou.ca

3 Centre for Digital Media
thecdm.ca

4 Douglas College
douglascollege.ca

5 Emily Carr University of Art and Design
ecuad.ca

6 Kwantlen Polytechnic University
kpu.ca

7 Langara College
langara.ca

8 Simon Fraser University
sfu.ca

9 The University of British Columbia
ubc.ca

10 Vancouver Community College
vcc.ca

Highlights: **Public Post-Secondary Institutions**

Simon Fraser University (SFU)

SFU is a public research university in British Columbia, with three campuses, all in Greater Vancouver: Burnaby, Surrey, and Vancouver. Consistently ranked as Canada's top university for innovation, SFU is one of the country's fastest growing research-intensive institutions. It's also recognized for its award-winning entrepreneurial programs—including the pan-Canadian i2I program for developing scientist innovators. The university is dedicated to producing innovative research and sustainable solutions that benefit society. SFU's core research facilities and 60+ Research Centres and Institutes support collaborative research to confront key scientific and global challenges, and foster creative interaction and partnerships.

The British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT)

BCIT is a polytechnic institution in British Columbia that provides practical, career-oriented education in fields such as business and media, health, trades, engineering, and applied sciences. As one of BC's largest post-secondary institutes with five campuses, 300+ programs, and over 45,000 students enrolled each year, BCIT connects education, industry, and government in building an agile workforce. Curriculum is developed in close consultation with industry by faculty who have hands-on experience in their respective fields. Students gain the technical skills and real-world experience needed to lead innovation in their workplaces and communities.

The University of British Columbia (UBC)

UBC is a public research university, the oldest university in the province, and a world-leading centre of teaching, learning, and research. Consistently ranked among the top 20 public universities in the world, UBC's innovations and discoveries are advancing knowledge and improving lives. UBC's partnerships with universities, industries, government and communities worldwide give its research a global reach and impact. UBC offers campuses at Point Grey in the lower mainland and in the Okanagan, as well as its Robson Square site in downtown Vancouver.

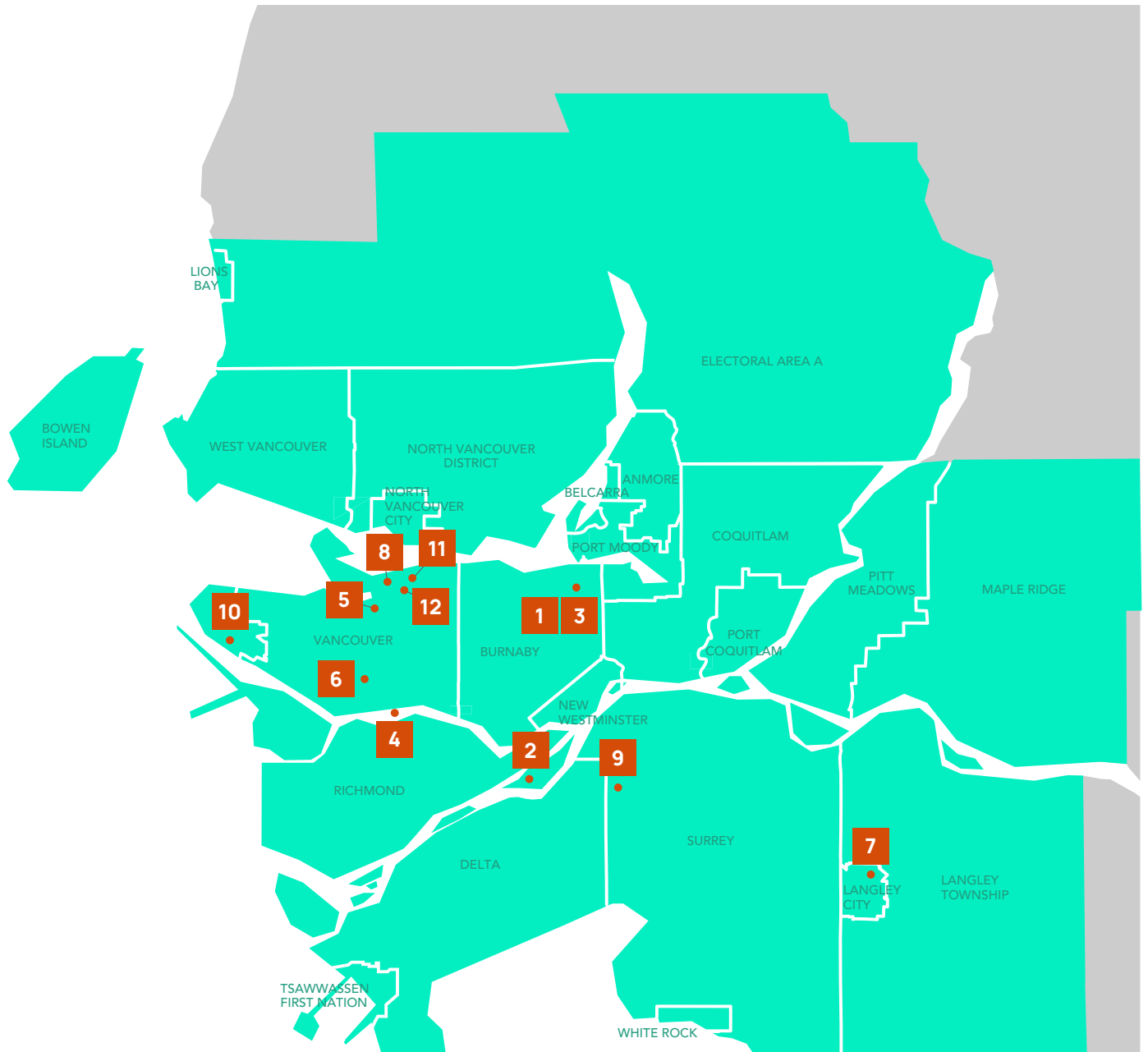
Vancouver Community College (VCC)

Vancouver Community College is a public community college in Vancouver. Founded in 1965, it is the oldest community college in British Columbia, offering 91 certificate programs, 31 diploma programs, and 3 bachelor's degree programs. VCC offers academic, cultural, and social environments that inspire relevant real-world training. Their on campus facilities - including gourmet restaurants, an auto shop, and salon and spa - allow students to hone their skills and training while providing high-quality lower-cost services. VCC has two campuses in Vancouver: Broadway and Downtown.



Research and Development Spaces

Research and development (R&D) spaces give individuals, young ventures and/or established businesses access to the specialized equipment needed to develop and commercialize their ideas.



Research and Development Spaces

- 1 4D Labs**
4dlabs.ca
- 2 Annacis Research Centre**
metrovancover.org/services/liquid-waste/annacis-research-and-event-centre
- 3 BC Research Inc.**
bcric.ca
- 4 BC Centre for Agritech Innovation (BCCAI)**
sfu.ca/agritech-innovation
- 5 Fablab Vancouver**
fablabvan.ca
- 6 Langara Makerspace**
langara.ca/makerspace
- 7 Maker Cube**
makercube.ca
- 8 MakerLabs**
makerlabs.com
- 9 Powertech Labs**
powertechlabs.com
- 10 TRIUMF at UBC**
triumf.ca
- 11 Vancouver Community Lab (Van CoLab)**
vancommunitylab.com
- 12 Vancouver Hack Space**
vanhack.ca

Highlights: Research and Development Spaces

Powertech Labs

Located in Surrey, British Columbia, Powertech Labs specializes in testing, research, and development. Spanning across 11 acres, it boasts 19 distinct laboratories. Powertech Labs serves as a pivotal resource for major utilities, electrical manufacturers, OEMs, consulting firms, and governmental bodies worldwide. Their offerings encompass tailored testing, engineering solutions, and qualification services adhering to both North American and international standards.

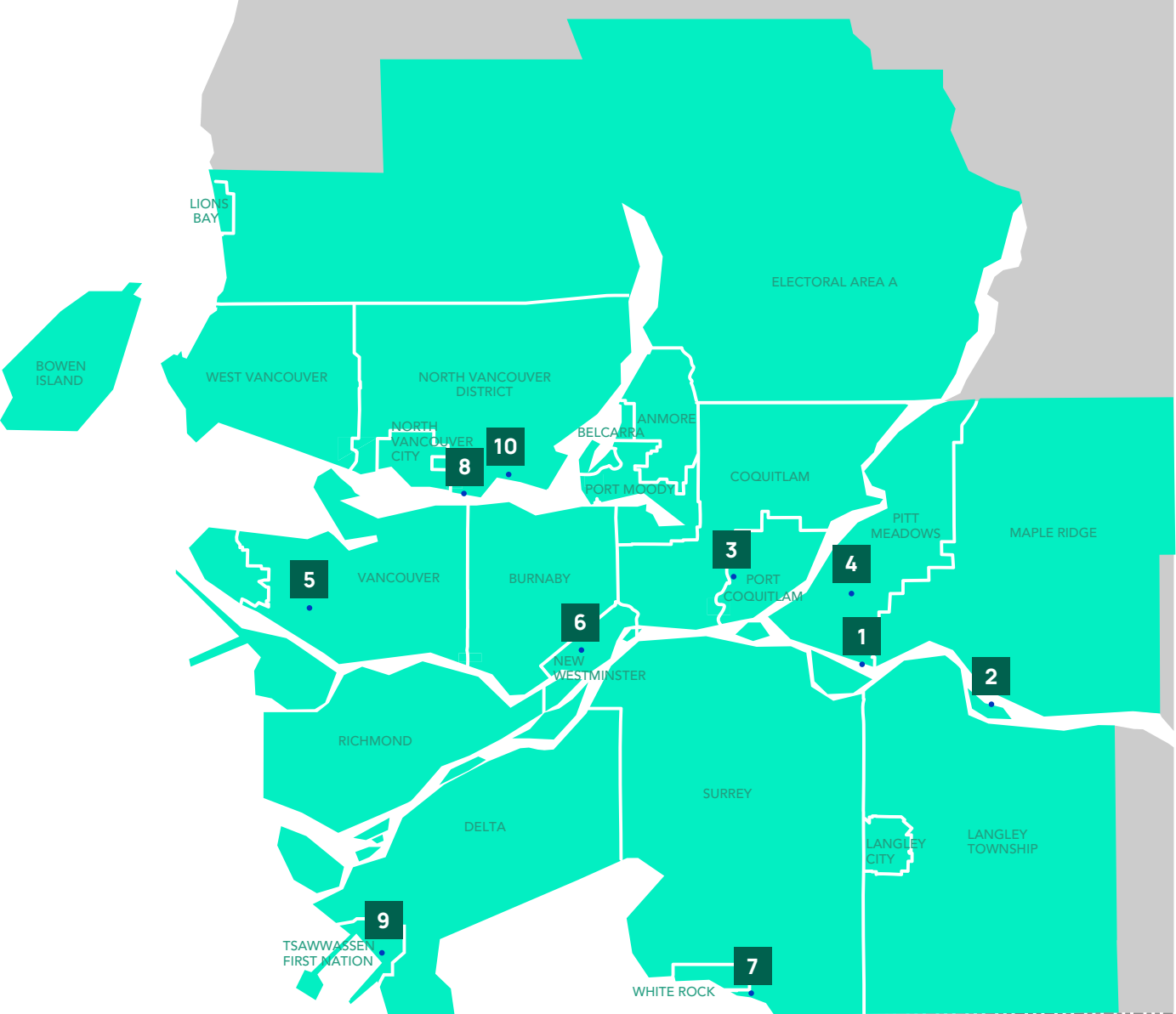
Simon Fraser University's 4D Labs

4D LABS is SFU's core facility for advanced materials research and development (R&D). Located on SFU's Burnaby campus, 4D LABS is the university's open-access applications and science-driven facility available to industry and academia, offering tools for testing, fabrication and prototyping in one location. Staff have the scientific and business expertise to help deliver advanced materials for a wide variety of sectors, providing fully customized R&D programs for researchers, startups and industry. As per SFU's policy, inventors maintain full ownership of their intellectual property (IP). 4D LABS offers a few models for collaboration: to work independently in the facilities; to hire 4D LABS to perform contract work on behalf of the inventor; or, to set up an R&D collaboration with the facility. 4D LABS' areas of specialization include energy, clean technology, healthcare and biotechnology.



Indigenous Economic Development Organizations

These Indigenous economic development organizations are owned and managed by the Indigenous communities (First Nations) in the region and involved in promoting economic and community growth and development.



Indigenous Economic Development Organizations

- 1 Katzie Development Limited Partnership**
Katzie First Nation
203 - 10958 Barnston View Rd kdlp.ca
- 2 KFN Enterprises LP**
Kwikwetlem First Nation
2650 Pitt River Road kfnbusiness.ca
- 3 Matsqui First Nation**
Matsqui First Nation 31989 Harris Road
- 4 Musqueam Capital Corporation**
Musqueam Indian Band
202 - 5704 Balsam Street musqueamcapital.ca
- 5 Nch'kaý Corporation**
Squamish Nation
1681 Columbia Street nchkay.com
- 6 Qayqayt First Nation**
Qayqayt First Nation 820 - 6th Street
- 7 Semiahmoo First Nation**
Semiahmoo First Nation
16049 Beach Road semiahmoofirstnation.ca
- 8 Seyem Qwantlen Business Group**
Kwantlen First Nation
9712 Glover Road seyem.ca
- 9 TFN Economic Development Corporation**
Tsawwassen First Nation
1926 Tsawwassen Drive N tfnedc.com
- 10 TWN Economic Development Corporation**
Tsleil-Waututh Nation 700 Apex Avenue
twnation.ca/our-departments/economic-development



Public Sector Organizations

Organizations of the federal, provincial, or municipal governments are charged with carrying out their specified mandate. The selected public sector organizations have a direct connection to improving Metro Vancouver's regional economy, and include crown corporations, government supported not-for-profits, and arms-length agencies.

The list excludes all internal government departments who also provide valuable contributions to the region, such as municipal economic development departments, as well as provincial and federal economic development ministries, among others.

Highlights: Public Sector Organizations

DIGITAL

DIGITAL is an independent, not-for-profit organization supporting the growth of Canadian businesses and fast-tracking the development and deployment of breakthrough Canadian-made technologies. With a focus on health and wellness, protecting the environment, and supporting talent and capacity-building initiatives, DIGITAL brings together businesses, academia, community and governments to solve some of industry and society's biggest challenges. Digital's model combines demand-driven innovation, industry and government co-investment, cross-industry collaboration, fast-tracked commercialization, IP creation and digital talent development to build a strong Canadian digital innovation ecosystem.

Invest in Canada

Invest in Canada is Canada's national investment promotion agency. As the primary point of contact for global companies looking for growth opportunities, Invest in Canada works directly with investors to attract, facilitate, and accelerate business expansion in Canada. Invest in Canada supports global companies throughout their investment journey, offering services such as project information, market intelligence, site visit organization and introductions to the right people in government and industry. The agency provides a roadmap to investors that can include everything from industry-specific regulatory environments to available government programs and incentives. Invest in Canada also serves as liaison between investors and different levels of government to ensure that Canada works with global companies seamlessly and with one voice

Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan)

PacifiCan is the federal economic development agency dedicated to British Columbia. Its vision is to propel BC forward and create enduring prosperity for all British Columbians. PacifiCan is focused on: supporting businesses to grow locally and compete globally, creating quality jobs, bringing together industry leaders to innovate, and building an inclusive economy for all British Columbians. PacifiCan achieves its mandate by connecting BC communities, entrepreneurs, and innovators to economic opportunities, making high-impact investments and advocating for BC's most important interests in Ottawa. The agency's clients are businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and communities, such as Indigenous groups, women-led businesses, academic institutions, municipalities, business accelerators, and incubators.

Innovate BC

Innovate BC is a provincial government-funded crown agency dedicated to fostering innovation and creating sustainable, inclusive economic growth in the province. The agency offers various services and support to entrepreneurs, startups, and established companies, including funding programs, mentorship, networking and talent development programs. Innovate BC aims to create a thriving innovation ecosystem by encouraging collaboration between industry, academia, and government. By supporting the development and commercialization of innovative ideas, the agency strives to position BC as a hub for cutting-edge research, entrepreneurship, and technological advancements.

FEDERAL

Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)
bdc.ca/en

Canada Foundation for Innovation
innovation.ca

Canada Foundation for Sustainable
Development Technology
sdtc.ca

Canadian Institutes of Health Research
cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193

Canadian Intellectual Property Office
ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canadian-intellectual-property-office/en

Export Development Canada
edc.ca

Invest in Canada
investcanada.ca

National Research Council of Canada
nrc.canada.ca/en

Pacific Economic Development Canada
(PacifiCan)
canada.ca/en/pacific-economic-development

PROVINCIAL

InBC Investment Corp
inbcinvestment.ca

Innovate BC
innovatebc.ca

BC Hydro
bchydro.com

NOT-FOR-PROFITS FUNDED IN PART BY GOVERNMENT

Digital
digitalsupercluster.ca

Genome BC
genomebc.ca

Mitacs
mitacs.ca/en

BC Centre for Innovation & Clean Energy
cice.ca

Creative BC
creativebc.com



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 [@Invest_Van](https://twitter.com/Invest_Van)

 [Invest Vancouver](https://www.linkedin.com/company/invest-vancouver)