

# Opening Doors to Research, Innovation and Commercialization



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Research Infosource welcomes you to its inaugural issue of *Canada's Innovation Leaders: Annual Innovation Guide*. If you are a business owner or manager the Annual Innovation Guide should be of particular interest to you. Our mission is to showcase for a business and non-government audience, some of the many sources of support for research, innovation and commercialization that reside in our leading public sector institutions – government departments and agencies, colleges, universities, hospitals, business incubators and accelerators, research centres and networks, municipal economic development offices – the list goes on.

What these diverse organizations have in common is a desire to work with companies, entrepreneurs, and non-governmental organizations like yours to help accelerate the pace of research, innovation, commercialization, marketing and sales for products or services.

Every year Canadian taxpayers fund billions of dollars of activity in public sector research and commercialization organizations. The *Annual Innovation Guide* is designed to help business owners and managers harness that wealth of activity to their own benefit. We know that with the plethora of public sector support programs it can be daunting for business owners and managers to navigate the many sources of help. That's why one of your first ports of call should be to the Concierge Service that is offered by the National Research Council's Industrial Research and Assistance Program (IRAP). Concierge is a free service designed to help you find the right sources of support for your organization no matter where in Canada you reside.

Toronto's Ryerson University is one of Canada's fast-growing research universities. Ryerson offers partner companies and organizations assistance in talent, sourcing funding opportunities, research, commercialization and internationalization. In the words of Dr. Wendy Cukier, Vice President, Research and Innovation "Our research trajectory has been amazing, in part because we combine research excellence with relevance. Because of Ryerson's polytechnic roots, many of our faculty have worked outside of the university and see real win-win scenarios in working with partners to address real

world needs. We are committed to excellence in research but also to promoting innovation to drive economic and social development. While our strength in science and engineering and in developing new technologies is well known, our researchers in social sciences, humanities and design are also critical to driving innovation in new products and services as well as organizational and systems change."

Or, take the Ontario Centres of Excellence. OCE co-invests with companies and organizations like yours to commercialize innovation originating in the province's publicly funded colleges, universities and research hospitals. It also supports and invests in early-stage projects, where the probability of commercial success and potential total return on innovation are substantial.

Eastern Canada businesses, especially, will be interested in the research, entrepreneurship and innovation services offered by Collège communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB). Over the past decade, CCNB has stepped up its efforts to support and promote innovation and technology integration initiatives in the Atlantic provinces' industrial and manufacturing sectors.

At the University of Guelph, the Catalyst Centre provides a single-window approach to technology transfer and indus-

trial liaison, while the Centre for Business and Social Entrepreneurship (CBaSE) connects young leaders with opportunities for growth via courses, start-up incubation and experiential learning opportunities.

George Brown College is another of Canada's leading research colleges. GBC has the industry connections and the expertise to accelerate your company or organization's research and commercialization and to link with future employees.

Companies in Southwestern Ontario can look to Lambton College for support. Lambton Applied Research & Innovation works with its partners to develop a tailored working model ranging from direct research contracts to collaborative projects supported by public funding.

If your company or organization is active in wireless technology, Wavefront, Canada's Centre of Excellence for Wireless Commercialization and Research, is keen to help you accelerate your growth and success via access to its research, talent and infrastructure. Wavefront is one of 49 federally-funded Centres of Excellence with a mission to reach out to the business community.

Based in Charlottetown, PEI BioAlliance is the focal point for PEI's bioscience cluster. The BioAlliance has just launched Emergence, a not-for-profit virtual business incubator that

assists start-ups and growth stage companies in the bioscience and food sectors. Their objective is to make Prince Edward Island the location of choice for companies engaged in the research, development, and commercialization of bioactive-based human and animal health and nutrition products.

The City of Port Alberni is rapidly transitioning from a resource economy to one focussed on tourism, post-secondary education, the arts, agriculture, and high tech industries. Businesses looking to locate or expand there will find a warm welcome from the city's economic development office.

Fanshawe College's Centre for Research and Innovation (CRI) serves as the central liaison for industry, business, and community groups wishing to connect with Fanshawe researchers to develop new and innovative research projects or programs. CRI works with partners in a variety of ways: curriculum integrated projects, capstone collaborations, externally-funded collaborations, and fee for service.

And, if your organization is looking for a community where innovators can work with academia, industry, government and not-for-profits to cultivate ideas, identify and transform important technological discoveries, and propel innovations into the marketplace, then look no further than Innovation Park at Queen's University.

Finally, we thank the federal and provincial ministers responsible for science, research and advanced education for contributing to *Canada's Innovation Leaders: Annual Innovation Guide*.