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ANNUAL Innovation Guide 2016

INNOVATION RESOURCES FOR COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

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Research Infosource Inc.

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Helping Businesses Grow and Succeed



Dr. Tom Corr
President and CEO
Ontario Centres of Excellence

The ability to compete in today's global marketplace requires companies to embrace innovation and new paths to productivity. For some, it also means tackling urgent concerns related to climate change. Ontario Centres of Excellence offers a comprehensive suite of programs to help businesses, from start-ups to larger firms, grow and succeed.

A primary focus is meeting industry needs through collaborative industry-academic R&D programs that are industry-led and have strong commercialization potential. We ensure that industry has skin in the game by requiring matching funds and in-kind contributions.

One example is our Voucher for Industry Associations (VIA) program. It addresses sector-wide research and development challenges by connecting industry associations and consortia with Ontario's academic research institutions. With the end game always being commercialization and job creation, we have supported projects related to aerospace, mining, life sciences, smart computing, next generation networks and agri-tech.

Ensuring companies have access to supercomputing capacity and big data analytics is another important area of work at OCE. We are part of the Southern Ontario Smart Computing Innovation Platform (SOSCIP), along with IBM and a consortium of 14 Ontario post-

secondary institutions that promotes the commercialization of leading-edge technologies and applications related to high performance computing and big data. OCE's specific mandate under SOSCIP is to help Ontario SMEs increase their competitiveness through access to super-computing capacity.

With the recent launch of Ontario's I³ project, OCE is now also managing a \$22.75 million fund to provide SMEs in

As another means of boosting innovation and job creation, OCE has forged inter-provincial partnerships with Alberta and Quebec. These cross-provincial collaborations address industry challenges in both provinces that can be tackled through joint research and development and have economic benefits for both provinces in the form of job retention and creation, increased productivity and competitiveness, knowledge transfer and industry revenue growth.

and the latest tools to solving industry problems.

For some large companies, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has now become urgent. Under a new \$74 million emissions reduction program recently announced by the Ontario government, OCE will help companies adopt leading edge technologies that cut greenhouse gases.

Dr. Tom Corr, president and CEO of Ontario Centres of Excellence, has more than 30 years of entrepreneurial experience in the IT and venture capital sectors and serves on the board of a number of organizations including OneEleven (Chair), C-FER Technologies (Chair), Alberta Innovates Technology Futures (Vice-Chair), the Waterloo Research and Technology Park – Accelerator Centre and SOSCIP High Performance Computing Centre.

For information about these and other OCE programs, please visit www.oce-ontario.org.

For some large companies, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has now become urgent

Ontario with access to new technologies, support for demonstration projects, and expertise to help grow and scale businesses. This includes access to IBM's powerful IBM Watson, BlueMix and SoftLayer platforms at select incubators across Ontario.

OCE also supports industry by helping to develop the highly skilled talent needed by Ontario companies. Under our TalentEdge internship and postdoctoral fellowship program, students and recent grads can gain new real-world skills while applying their expertise, leading-edge knowledge

DO YOU HAVE AN INNOVATION THAT HASN'T HIT THE MARKET YET?

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www.buyandsell.gc.ca/innovation

BUILD IN CANADA
INNOVATION PROGRAM

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

Advisory Services

Looking to grow or expand your technology-oriented business? Looking for a federal government customer?

INNOVATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY			ADVISORY SERVICES	
Organization	Program	Geographic Reach	Contact	Description
Public Services and Procurement Canada  Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada	Office of Small and Medium Enterprises	Canada	1-800-811-1148 innovation@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca  buyandsell.gc.ca	The Office of Small and Medium Enterprises assists small and medium enterprises (SME) better understand how the federal government buys goods and services by raising awareness of bid opportunities and providing free information services (seminars, webinars and one-on-one sessions) through six regional offices across Canada and a 1-800 InfoLine.

Facilities & Equipment

Do you require access to unique facilities and equipment for testing or development, and the expertise that goes along with them?

INNOVATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY			FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT	
Organization	Program	Geographic Reach	Contact	Description
Ryerson University  Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation	Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation	Global	Jennifer MacInnis 416-979-5042 ext 4602 jmacinnis@ryerson.ca  ryerson.ca/research  @ryersonresearch	Ryerson's research office serves as a hub for private and public sector collaboration, supporting innovative research applications with social and economic impact. Our partners can access a variety of funding programs, specialized research facilities, new technologies, and highly skilled professionals. Partner with us to solve real-world problems.

Financial Support

Accelerate your technology or business with financial support from these groups.

INNOVATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY			FINANCIAL SUPPORT	
Organization	Program	Geographic Reach	Contact	Description
Public Services and Procurement Canada  Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada	Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) BUILD IN CANADA <small>INNOVATION PROGRAM</small>	Canada	1-800-811-1148 innovation@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca  buyandsell.gc.ca	The Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) buys Canadian pre-commercial innovations for testing with government departments. Innovations are evaluated and become pre-qualified for potential contracts through a competitive Call for Proposals (max. \$500K under standard component and max. \$1M under military component). Businesses receive performance feedback upon completion of testing.




RESEARCH
Infosource Inc.

RESEARCH Infosource Inc. is Canada's Source of R&D Intelligence. We provide specialized databases, consulting and research services to clients interested in the Canadian R&D ecosystem. Each year, we publish our eagerly awaited Canada's Innovation Leaders – the premier national print vehicle shining the spotlight on research and development at the country's most innovative universities, corporations, hospitals and colleges – and our Annual Innovation Guide.

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John R. McDougall, P.Eng.
President
National Research Council of Canada

NRC's Innovative Approach Helps Drive Canadian Business Success

and development (R&D) services, capabilities and facilities to bring valuable technologies to market. We also work with companies on collaborative strategic R&D opportunities that can benefit them, the Canadian economy and the nation's well-being.

We deliver our offerings along four business lines: strategic R&D, technical and advisory services, the Industrial Research Assistance Program, and specialized research infrastructure. This means we're able to use NRC resources to assist clients from concept through full commercialization of their R&D, if that is what they need. Providing support at every step of the process is the best way to help innovative Canadian companies become more successful.

Our strategic R&D service works on a partnership model where we provide clients with research that can de-risk their

innovations and accelerate their standing in the commercial realm required for success. Recently, we worked with biOasis Technologies and KalGene Pharmaceuticals to co-develop new treatments for brain diseases including brain cancer and Alzheimers. A joint program with industry partners and Defence Research and Development Canada is developing next-generation products for the international security and defence markets. And our work with EUREKA, the international network for industrial research and development, amounted to \$46 million worth of projects in 2015 alone.

Our suite of technical and advisory services provides clients with specialized, fee-for-service support as they work to solve key technical challenges. We help with testing and certification, calibration, prototyping, demonstrating and consulting in such areas as biologics, advanced

materials, infrastructure and transportation, information, communications and security technologies. These services help clients accelerate their design cycles and identify the performance limits of their products early in the development stage. Most recently, our technical and advisory service has helped Raymor Industries commercialize semiconductor inks, and TeraXion Inc. develop an ultra-fast transmitter for fibre optic networks.

Our Industrial Research Assistance Program, or IRAP as it is better known, supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through every aspect of the innovation process – from concept to commercialization. Our advisors provide technical and business advice, referrals and a wide range of innovation services – to meet client needs. We also provide SMEs with financial support where appropriate. In 2015, IRAP worked with

more than 12,000 SMEs, creating average aggregate growth of 17 percent in their business.

Finally, 100 years of R&D has provided us with an impressive array of specialized scientific infrastructure that spans the country. We're dedicated to ensuring major infrastructure such as wind tunnels, water basins, sophisticated laboratories and pilot plants support collaborative innovation. In providing this specialized service, we make sure business and academia are able to access our unique facilities located across the country.

NRC is focused on growing these four business lines to enable leading-edge, responsive, market-focused solutions. Working together with business and other partners, we're convinced that our approach will help Canada increase its economic competitiveness and sustain its prosperity.

THIS IS INNOVATION

[TURNING IDEAS INTO HIGH-GROWTH BUSINESSES]





Innovation York helps entrepreneurs turn innovative ideas into impactful ventures. We connect York University researchers with partners to help solve industry challenges. Innovation York has supported ideas as diverse as portable water testing solutions, a platform that creates automated social media content and an image recognition technology that identifies produce without barcodes at grocery checkouts.

At York University, we provide an integrated suite of services to help budding entrepreneurs and growing businesses realize their dreams of success. YORKU.CA/INNOVATIONYORK



Incubators, Accelerators & Research Parks

Whether you are looking to nurture a great idea, grow a start-up company or relocate an established enterprise, these organizations can help put you on the road to success.

INNOVATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY			INCUBATORS, ACCELERATORS & RESEARCH PARKS	
Organization	Program	Geographic Reach	Contact	Description
 Ontario Centres of Excellence <small>Ontario Centres of Excellence</small> <small>Where Next Happens</small>	Campus Linked Accelerators	Ontario	Holly Gardner 416-861-1092 ext 1086 holly.gardner@oce-ontario.org oce-ontario.org/programs/entrepreneurship-programs/CLAs @OCEInnovation	Campus Linked Accelerators fund post-secondary institutions to promote a culture of entrepreneurship among students and youth and integrate entrepreneurial activities with investors, industry and other stakeholders. The program aims to help Ontario accelerate commercialization of ideas from its world-class institutions, develop business leaders and build competitive regional innovation ecosystems.
 Prince Edward Island BioAlliance Emergence <small>Canada's Bioscience Business Incubator</small>	Emergence BioIncubator	Global	Martin Yuill 902-367-4400 martin@peibioalliance.com emergencebioincubator.com @BioSciencePEI	Emergence is a national virtual business incubator dedicated to assisting start-ups and growth stage companies in the bioscience and food sectors. The Emergence program provides companies at all stages of development with the long-term support and guidance they require to efficiently bring their products and services to market.
 I-INC <small>INCUBATE INNOVATE NETWORK OF CANADA</small>	Incubate Innovate Network of Canada (I-INC)	Global	John MacRitchie 416-979-5000 ext 3290 info@iincanada.ca iincanada.ca @iincanada	The Incubate Innovate Network of Canada (I-INC) is the nation's leading university-linked, innovative technology-based incubator network in Canada. Established through a partnership between Ryerson University, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, I-INC connects partner universities' strengths in digital technologies and drives technology-enabled innovation, productivity, and job creation.
 York University YORK UNIVERSITY	Innovation York – LaunchYU Entrepreneurship Program	GTA	Nilay Goyal 416-736-2100 ext 20595 goyaln@yorku.ca yorku.ca/launchyu @LaunchYU_York @InnovationYork	LaunchYU, an entrepreneurship program through Innovation York, helps foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem to support the acceleration of high potential ventures for budding entrepreneurs. Key resources include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership, outreach and awareness; • Education and training; • Acceleration activities; • Incubation and collaborative work spaces; • Commercialization management services; and • Fund raising by supporting grant applications

Emergence

Canada's Bioscience Business Incubator

Helping you grow your business.

Bioscience business incubation isn't about boot camps; it's about relationships. Companies joining the Emergence Incubator become a part of a vibrant, dynamic bioscience cluster of over 60 companies, research organizations, and government funding partners, connected to private equity sources.

emergence@peibioalliance.com
www.emergencebioincubator.com
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Research Services

Do you need research support to develop your next product or service or troubleshoot an existing one? These organizations offer collaborative or contract research services that can help you get to market.

INNOVATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY			RESEARCH SERVICES	
Organization	Program	Geographic Reach	Contact	Description
British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) 	BCIT Applied Research	Five campuses within BC, and research can be conducted locally, within Western Canada, as well as nationally and on a global scale.	James Albright 604-456-1032 research@bcit.ca bcit.ca/appliedresearch @bcit @bcitinnovation	Whether you're an entrepreneur or working for a large organization, BCIT has the applied research expertise to help you deliver solutions for commercially relevant products and applications. Our projects range from large-scale collaborative programs that provide solutions for problems affecting industry, to innovations that support small companies and community groups.
Lambton College Applied Research & Innovation 	Applied Research & Innovation	Southwestern Ontario	519-542-7751 ext 3523 research@lambtoncollege.ca lambtoncollege.ca/research @LCappresearch	Lambton College Applied Research & Innovation works with its partners to develop a suitable working model ranging from direct research contracts to collaborative projects supported by public funding. By working with industry partners, faculty and students, we ensure that we keep pace with industry developments within our community and across the globe.
Ontario Centres of Excellence 	Industry-Academic Collaboration Voucher Program	Ontario	Bettina Klenkler 905-823-2020 ext 1066 bettina.klenkler@oce-ontario.org oce-ontario.org/programs/industry-academic-collaboration/collaboration-voucher-program @OCEInnovation	Gives companies quick and easy access to the expertise and knowledge at Ontario's universities, colleges, and research hospitals to address industry challenges and improve productivity, performance and competitiveness. Eligible Ontario companies receive a voucher, which is a credit that they can redeem from research institutes. Three types of vouchers are available.
Ryerson University 	Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation	Global	Jennifer MacInnis 416-979-5042 ext 4602 jmacinnis@ryerson.ca ryerson.ca/research @ryersonresearch	Ryerson's research office serves as a hub for private and public sector collaboration, supporting innovative research applications with social and economic impact. Our partners can access a variety of funding programs, specialized research facilities, new technologies, and highly skilled professionals. Partner with us to solve real-world problems.
Ryerson University 	Centre for Urban Energy (CUE)	Global	Matthew Kerry 416-979-5000 ext 2988 cueinfo@ryerson.ca ryerson.ca/cue @ryersoncue	The Centre for Urban Energy at Ryerson University works with industry to commercialize innovative solutions to urban energy challenges. Partner with us to connect with leading researchers, highly qualified personnel, and international collaborators in areas such as smart grid technologies, energy policy, electric vehicles, energy storage, renewables and net-zero homes.
Ryerson University 	Ryerson Institute for Infrastructure Innovation (RIII)	Global	Dr. Arnold Yuan 416-979-5000 ext 6463 riii@ryerson.ca ryerson.ca/riii	Provides a catalyst for innovation on all aspects of infrastructure design, construction, financing, maintenance and operations. We adopt systems approach through multidisciplinary research to address various infrastructure issues ranging from engineering and technological advancement to managerial and policy innovations. RIII seeks collaboration with private industry, public agencies and governments.
Ryerson University 	Ryerson Urban Water (RUW)	Global	Angela Murphy 416-979-5000 ext 3136 angela.murphy@ryerson.ca ryerson.ca/water @RyUrbanWater	Ryerson Urban Water (RUW) is a multi-disciplinary collective of experts whose research provides cost-effective solutions that support a healthy urban water cycle while promoting innovation in water education across societal boundaries.
University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) 	Office of the Vice President Research	Global	Dr. Geoffrey W. Payne 250-960-6110 geoff.payne@unbc.ca unbc.ca/research @UNBC	UNBC's mission is to grow capacity and opportunities for research and creative activities by engaging our people and partners, leading to the discovery of new knowledge. By building a flourishing research culture with cutting edge infrastructure, efficient support services will enable UNBC scholars to undertake transformative research.
York University 	Innovation York	Global	David Phipps 416-736-5813 dphipps@yorku.ca yorku.ca/innovationyork @InnovationYork	Innovation York's industry-liaison stream provides a single point of contact for researchers and trainees seeking industry partners and for companies seeking academic partners. We will develop relationships with companies, in order to provide opportunities to researchers and trainees to work with industry and to create innovative research projects.






Talent

Skilled workers are key to the success of any technology-oriented business today. Are you looking for expertise to help research or commercialize your next product or service? Are you looking for future star employees? Look no further.

INNOVATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY			TALENT	
Organization	Program	Geographic Reach	Contact	Description
 Ontario Centres of Excellence <small>Where Next Happens</small>	TalentEdge	Ontario	Pamela Kanellis 416-861-1092 ext 1087 pamela.kanellis@oce-ontario.org oce-ontario.org/programs/industry-academic-collaboration/talentedge @OCEInnovation	Provides Ontario students and recent graduates with real-world industry experience. Interns and postdoctoral fellows can apply leading-edge knowledge to solving industry problems. Open to university and college students, specifically graduate students, final-year undergraduates, and recent graduates. Placements are project-based with an R&D component. Open to all disciplines.
 YORK UNIVERSITY	Innovation York – LaunchYU Entrepreneurship Program	GTA	Nilay Goyal 416-736-2100 ext 20595 goyaln@yorku.ca yorku.ca/launchyu @LaunchYU_York @InnovationYork	LaunchYU, an entrepreneurship program through Innovation York, supports entrepreneurs to build, launch and scale their startups and social enterprises, by way of providing entrepreneurial training programs, one-on-one mentorship, access to funding opportunities, and connections to industry partners.

Tech Transfer & Commercialization

Canada's universities, government labs, colleges and hospitals are home to world-beating technologies ready for you to take the next step towards commercialization. Contact them for details on accessing their technology and intellectual property.

INNOVATION SUPPORT DIRECTORY			TECH TRANSFER & COMMERCIALIZATION	
Organization	Program	Geographic Reach	Contact	Description
 Ontario Centres of Excellence <small>Where Next Happens</small>	Market Readiness Program	Ontario	Sam Saad 416-861-1092 ext 1097 sam.saad@oce-ontario.org oce-ontario.org/programs/commercialization-programs/market-readiness @OCEInnovation	Directly funds early-stage commercialization by start-up companies to support growth into scalable businesses. Supports both the Customer Creation and Company Building stages of the Customer Development Model, as defined by Lean Start-up principles. Applying its de-risking expertise, OCE helps early-stage companies attract the private investors and other funders they need to grow.
 Public Services and Procurement Canada <small>Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada</small>	Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) BUILD IN CANADA <small>INNOVATION PROGRAM</small>	Canada	1-800-811-1148 innovation@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca buyandsell.gc.ca/innovation	The Build in Canada Innovation Program (BCIP) buys Canadian pre-commercial innovations for testing with government departments. Innovations are evaluated and become pre-qualified for potential contracts through a competitive Call for Proposals (max. \$500K under standard component and max. \$1M under military component). Businesses receive performance feedback upon completion of testing.
 Red Deer College	Applied Research and Innovation	Alberta, Canada	Alicia Cafferata-Arnett 403-356-4940 alicia.cafferata@rdc.ab.ca rdc.ab.ca/innovation @RedDeerCollege	The Centre for Innovation in Manufacturing (CIM) at Red Deer College is known for being responsive, flexible and innovative in our approach to assisting industry. Industry has the option of engaging with a technician and/or using their employee to access our equipment. If we are not able to assist you, we will introduce you to the person who can. To learn more visit rdc.ab.ca/innovation
 Ryerson University <small>Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation</small>	Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation	Global	Jennifer MacInnis 416-979-5042 ext 4602 jmacinnis@ryerson.ca ryerson.ca/research @ryersonresearch	Ryerson's research office serves as a hub for private and public sector collaboration, supporting innovative research applications with social and economic impact. Our partners can access a variety of funding programs, specialized research facilities, new technologies, and highly skilled professionals. Partner with us to solve real-world problems.
 YORK UNIVERSITY	Innovation York	Global	David Phipps 416-736-5813 dphipps@yorku.ca yorku.ca/innovationyork @InnovationYork	York University's commercialization stream through Innovation York, works with York University researchers to determine the most appropriate way to commercialize their intellectual assets through licensing activities, start-up company creation, patent filing or a hybrid commercialization/entrepreneurship model. We work with external commercialization partners to provide a comprehensive suite of commercialization services.

Spur Innovation, Embrace Diversity, Eliminate Redundancies



Dr. B. Mario Pinto
President
Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada

Recently, there has been renewed discussion about the complexity and well-being of the research and innovation ecosystem in Canada. Fresh thinking about discovery and innovation, and how players across the system can work together play an important role in this dialogue.

We need to abandon the concept of an innovation pipeline, a linear process where discovery and innovation are separate pursuits. Today's research and innovation ecosystem is much

more collaborative and non-linear than ever before. A more productive way to view the relationship between discovery and innovation is as a single loop with numerous entry points and feedback mechanisms. Information flow is bi-directional. Many different players are involved, but they act in an integrated and purposeful way.

We must also find better ways to optimize this model in a way that raises the level of play for researchers and industry. The current system fails to encourage diversity and equality of opportunity across business sectors, academic institutions, gender and culture. With diversity, we are more likely to be bold – even audacious – in discovery research, creating opportunities that those with a more homogenous perspective will miss. The current system also fails to coordinate and leverage the resources, expertise and best practices that could help Canadian businesses improve their innovation performance.

Full mobilization requires an attitude shift, one that is honest about redundancies, that eliminates them, and that embraces the diversity of expertise to deliver innovation. This attitude is client-centric and, when it

comes to industry partners, it presents an uncluttered interface focused on answering a single question: What do you want to do? As NSERC moves ahead with its new strategic plan – NSERC 2020 – we have made it a priority to foster such a system.

NSERC invests heavily so that Canadian researchers can develop world-leading discoveries and ideas; however this investment must be scaled to be competitive internationally. We have programs to facilitate close connections and partnerships with business to ensure that discovery research is constantly mixing with and enriched by industry and market perspectives. With this as a foundation, and a clear line of sight into the research and innovation landscape – universities, polytechnics, colleges, companies and industry associations – NSERC is working to pursue a more formal convener role to foster diversity and bring all players together.

If we continue to push the frontiers of discovery research with increased capacity and if we embrace innovation with an informed perspective, I am confident we will have a highly efficient research and innovation ecosystem in Canada.

BCIT making a difference

In 2015, BCIT faculty member, Dr. Bishnu Pandey, led a team asked to study the impact of the Nepal earthquake.

The applied research and industry expertise of our faculty prepares our graduates to be the next leaders in their fields, anywhere in the world.

Learn more at bcit.ca



Dr. Bishnu Pandey
Faculty, BCIT Civil Engineering
Nepal, June 2015



Ontario Centres of
Excellence

Where Next Happens

YOUR GATEWAY TO ONTARIO'S INNOVATION SYSTEM

OCE is a not-for-profit organization that drives innovation across Ontario's key economic sectors and helps develop the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

- Helping companies tap into top research at universities, colleges and research hospitals
- Facilitating and supporting collaborative industry-academic R&D
- Accelerating commercialization of innovative new technologies
- Strengthening capacity to develop innovative new products, services and processes
- Equipping Ontario students and recent grads with real work skills through exposure to industry challenges
- Helping to develop and retain top talent in Ontario

For further information visit
oce-ontario.org or call 1-866-759-6014

OCE Head Office: 156 Front Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M5J 2L6, 416-861-1092, Toll Free: 1-866-759-6014
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National University-Based Network of Incubators Attracts Industry and Investor Interest

There is no shortage of great ideas, inventions or business concepts to commercialize in Canada. In fact, Canada is a leader in entrepreneurship, second only to the U.S. Yet, when it comes to innovation, Canada still lags in comparison to other countries. What is needed is more access to the right supports at the right time for entrepreneurs looking to scale up their companies or for researchers looking to bring their technology from the lab to the market. Incubate Innovate Network of Canada (I-INC) was created to do just that and to strengthen collaboration among industry, academia and investors to drive success, according to I-INC's Wendy Cukier, Vice President, Research and Innovation, Ryerson University.

"In the 21st century, there is no place for ivory towers," said Cukier. "Gone are the days where we think of universities as separate from business and separate from communities. They have to be part of the innovation ecosystem. They have to be both city builders and have a global market focus, and they have to drive social and economic growth."

I-INC was formed two years ago under the federal government's Canada Accelerator and Incubator Program (CAIP). Ryerson partnered with Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the University of Ontario Institute

of Technology (UOIT) to establish a national research-driven incubator project to amplify the universities' existing incubator facilities and to create an expansive technology, company and job-creation ecosystem. Building on each institution's impressive track record, I-INC provides a core set of strategies, services, and tools for entrepreneurs, researchers and start-ups in digital technology and gaming in a network linking the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Durham Region, the Greater Vancouver Area (GVA) and global markets.

"Initiatives like I-INC enable universities to engage with their communities and to build Canada's culture of innovation," said Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research, SFU. "I-INC's network brings together ideas, people, and support structures that are key to creating the kind of innovation that drives economic growth and social change."

To date, I-INC incubators have supported nearly 300 companies, creating 543 jobs and attracting more than \$11 million in equity investment. There are nearly a dozen incubators in the I-INC network offering more than 80,000 square feet of incubation space, corporate partners looking for disruptive ideas, links to new domestic and international markets and access to mentors.



Photo: Clifton Li

Incubate Innovate Network of Canada (I-INC) includes Ryerson's DMZ, North America's number one ranked university-based incubator by UBI Global, a Stockholm-based research organization that specializes in benchmarking incubation programs.

"I-INC does not just create new technologies but also focuses on customers," said Cukier. "It's one thing to create new products and services, but if nobody uses them, you have no innovation. We need to address both supply and demand. Our focus on technology adoption is unique and critical."

Researchers, students and emerging technology-focused Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) can access I-INC to bring their ideas to market. The

network of incubators includes a new 24,000-square-foot downtown Vancouver facility that enlarges the capacity of SFU's VentureLabs® – already rated a top-performing B.C. accelerator for job creation and capital formation, and B.C.'s largest business accelerator. Ryerson's DMZ, North America's number one ranked university-based incubator and third in the world, is also a part of I-INC, as is UOIT's Brilliant Incubator. Thinkubator, a unique business incubation space for Canadian start-ups is the latest accelerator to be added to I-INC's network. Its focus is on digital workforce solutions and Fintech companies. Housed on the second floor of Tangerine Bank's Downtown Toronto Café, Thinkubator is a partnership between Ryerson and Tangerine Bank.

Other corporate partners are also utilizing I-INC including IBM, the CFL, Recon and Mio Global. These companies recently partnered with I-INC in a national sports-themed hackathon, which resulted in the creation of software to determine fan seating based on demographics, seating like-minded individuals together and the CFL working with the founders of the technology to bring their product to market.

I-INC is still expanding and looking to bring in more clients, investors and corporate partners. "We are creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem that will drive technology-enabled innovation, productivity, and create jobs, said David Pamentor, Executive-in-Residence, UOIT. "We are committed to expanding our network and to providing access to the right supports for our entrepreneurs."

Want to see the future of your industry? Connect with the largest university-based network of disruptive innovators in Canada.

With nodes in the Greater Toronto and Greater Vancouver areas and nearly 300 companies supported, I-INC – the Incubate Innovate Network of Canada – offers access to an ecosystem of startups, innovators and researchers that can help your business succeed in the age of disruption.

I inc

INCUBATE INNOVATE NETWORK OF CANADA

**Ryerson
University**

**UNIVERSITY
OF ONTARIO**
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SFU think.
engage.
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