



Government
of Canada

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Innovation and Learning Opportunities for Canadians



A GUIDE
TO PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES

Canada 

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

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Innovation and Learning Opportunities

Contents

Introduction / 2

Canada's Innovation Strategy / 2

Opportunities for Students and
Researchers / 3

Building Innovative Communities / 5

Business Planning and Development / 7

Canadian Innovators / 10

Web Site Addresses / 13

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Introduction

The Government of Canada is committed to helping Canadians benefit from the new global economy and has a wealth of programs to promote innovation and learning.

Do you need training to help you do your job more effectively, or to get a new and better job? Would you like to start your own business or improve the way your current one works? Are you looking for assistance to further your education? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, then reading this brochure is a good way to start. It introduces the Government of Canada’s many programs in the areas of innovation and learning.

To find out more, visit any of the Web sites listed on pages 13 to 18 of this brochure, or call **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232; TTY/TDD 1 800 465-7735).

Canada’s Innovation Strategy

Increasing Canada’s innovation capacity and creating a culture of innovation and learning is at the heart of *Canada’s Innovation Strategy*. The 10-year plan involves the public, private and non-profit sectors. The results will be a more competitive Canada in the global marketplace and a better quality of life for Canadians.

Innovation and learning hold the key to Canada’s future prosperity and its place in the world. With constant innovation and ingenuity to move Canada forward, we will secure our place in the knowledge-based economy.

To find out more about *Canada’s Innovation Strategy* and Canadian innovators, visit www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca

Opportunities for Students and Researchers

Lifelong learning is about ensuring that Canada has the skilled and experienced labour force it needs to succeed in the knowledge-based economy of the 21st century.

The Government of Canada has a number of programs to help students and researchers pursue their dreams — turning new ideas into new opportunities across the country.

- **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada** runs a network of 19 research centres across Canada covering the spectrum of agri-food research and development. Through collaborative research projects, industry can work with some of the world's best scientists and access state-of-the-art labs and equipment.

- **The Canada Foundation for Innovation** is investing hundreds of millions of dollars to strengthen the capability of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and other not-for-profit institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development. By investing in research infrastructure projects, the CFI supports research excellence, and helps strengthen research training at institutions across Canada.
- The Government of Canada established the **Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation** and the **Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation** to help Canada's best and brightest students pursue post-secondary educational opportunities. Both organizations offer scholarships and fellowships to motivated students.
- The **Canada Research Chairs Program** is establishing 2000 chairs, enabling Canadian universities to achieve the highest levels of research excellence by attracting and retaining excellent researchers who, in turn, will train the next generation of Canadian innovators.

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

- The 13 virtual **Canadian Institutes of Health Research** link and support health researchers as they work to create new knowledge and turn it into improved health for Canadians.
- **Genome Canada** is the primary source of funding and information in the field of genomics in Canada. Genome Canada supports research in the key areas of agriculture, bioinformatics, environment, fisheries, forestry, health and technology development. Genome Canada also supports research projects aimed at studying and analyzing the ethical, environmental, economic, legal and social issues related to genomics research.
- The **Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada** and the **Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada** support university-based research and provide grants and fellowships to students at the undergraduate to post-doctoral levels.
- The **Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE)** connect academic researchers with industrial know-how to turn new ideas into products for the marketplace. The NCEs provide strategic investments to support research, training and employment for students.
- The **Science and Technology Internship Program** provides an opportunity for recent graduates in science, engineering or business to gain relevant work experience on innovative projects with government departments such as Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

To find out more, go to the last pages of this brochure, which contain Web addresses for these innovation and learning programs. You may also call **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232; TTY/TDD 1 800 465-7735).

Building Innovative Communities

The community is at the heart of *Canada's Innovation Strategy*. The Government of Canada promotes innovation in communities through its regional development agencies, organizations and targeted initiatives.

- The **Aboriginal Canada Portal** provides details of services and programs of interest to Aboriginal people and communities wishing to capitalize on their natural resources. The portal offers access to listings of Aboriginal associations, businesses, organizations and communities.
- The **Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency** works to improve the economy of communities in Atlantic Canada through the successful development of business and job opportunities. Of particular note is the Atlantic Innovation Fund, which is designed to accelerate the development of knowledge-based industries.
- The **Broadband for Rural and Northern Development Pilot Program** will use a competitive process to support the deployment of innovative and sustainable broadband (high-speed Internet) services to Canadian communities that currently have no high-speed Internet access. Priority will be given to unserved First Nation, northern, remote and rural communities.
- **Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions** has offices throughout Quebec that support the development of small and medium-sized businesses and help them innovate, compete and export. For example, the Multimedia Experimentation Fund offers support to multimedia projects in their pre-start-up phases.
- The **Community Access Program (CAP)** provides a platform for innovative approaches to social and economic development in communities across the country. Through CAP, Canadians have affordable Internet access in places like schools, community centres and libraries. Approximately 8800 public Internet access sites have been created in remote, rural and urban communities throughout Canada.

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

- **Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs)** are helping communities throughout Canada to develop their economies in innovative ways. CFDCs deliver services such as local strategic economic planning, technical and advisory services to businesses, loans to small and medium-sized business, self-employment assistance programs and services for youth and entrepreneurs with disabilities.
 - The **Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor)** is working with its partners to improve the economic performance of Northern Ontario. FedNor provides support to small and medium-sized enterprises for early stage research and development, including support for prototype development and other commercialization costs. FedNor is also helping Northern Ontario communities provide the necessary infrastructure and environment to support innovation.
 - **Industry Canada**, through its 15 regional and local offices, is working with Canadians in all parts of the country to improve conditions for investment, improve Canada's innovation performance, increase Canada's share of global trade and build a fair, efficient and competitive marketplace.
 - **Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)** promotes the development and diversification of the economy of Western Canada. WD works with industry associations, financial institutions and the four western provinces to address the needs of small business. For example, WD's **Women's Enterprise Initiative** provides business information and services specifically aimed at women entrepreneurs.
- To find out more, go to the last pages of this brochure, which contain Web addresses for these innovation and learning programs. You may also call **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232; TTY/TDD 1 800 465-7735).

Business Planning and Development

By taking the risks needed to succeed in today's economy, the entrepreneur develops and brings to market innovative products that benefit Canadians. In addition to a range of services designed to help the entrepreneur succeed, the Government of Canada works with businesses and entrepreneurs to help them take advantage of research and development opportunities.

- **Aboriginal Business Canada** promotes the economic growth of Canada's Aboriginal peoples, by providing eligible applicants with financial assistance, information, resource materials and referrals to other possible sources of business support.
- The **Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC)** delivers financial and consulting services, subordinate financing and venture capital to Canadian small businesses with a particular focus on technology and exporting.

- Interested in starting a business or looking to expand? **BusinessGateway.ca** provides links to federal, provincial and territorial government information and services for small and medium-sized businesses.
- The **Canada Business Service Centres (CBSCs)** provide a central resource of Canadian business information. The goal of the CBSCs is to provide businesspeople in every part of Canada with access to accurate, timely and relevant business information and referrals. To find the nearest CBSC, call 1 888 576-4444; TTY: 1 800 457-8466.
- The **Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO)** encourages invention and innovation through the administration of the intellectual property system in Canada.
- The **Canadian Space Agency** manages a number of research and development programs designed to develop new technologies for dealing with the rigors of space, as well as for more down-to-earth uses.

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

- **CANARIE**, Canada's advanced Internet development corporation, funds a number Canadian-led projects and initiatives designed to develop innovative applications and technologies for advanced broadband networks.
- The **Innovation Centre of Communications Research Centre Canada** helps young Canadian companies develop their potential through on-site technology incubation. The Centre offers work facilities at affordable rates, world-class researchers and leading-edge technologies, business development assistance, networking opportunities and centralized support services.
- The National Research Council (NRC) Canada's **Industrial Partnership Facilities** are being built across the country to help small and medium-sized firms increase their capacity for innovation and improve technology transfer. Firms gain access to NRC's specialized facilities, the expertise of its researchers and its technology intelligence and knowledge dissemination resources.
- The NRC's **Industrial Research Assistance Program**, with 265 Industrial Technology Advisors in 90 communities across Canada, is helping small and medium-sized enterprises exploit new technologies. IRAP offers advisory services, financial assistance, networking and access to partners.
- The **Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) Program** provides tax incentives to Canadian businesses that conduct research and development in Canada. The program is intended to encourage businesses — particularly small and start-up firms — to conduct R&D that will lead to new, improved or technologically advanced products or processes.

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

- Industry Canada's **Student Connections (SC)** provides small and medium-sized business with e-commerce and Internet training by post-secondary students and recent graduates. SC helps businesses adopt innovative practices to remain competitive in today's global marketplace.
 - **Technology Partnerships Canada** makes strategic repayable investments in Canadian firms to assist in research, development and innovation in environmental, enabling and aerospace and defence technologies.
 - **Technology Roadmaps** are a practical business forecasting tool that helps firms to make accurate predictions of future market demands and determine the innovative processes and products required to satisfy them. Current roadmaps available are: Canadian Aircraft Design, Manufacturing and Repair & Overhaul; Aluminum; Electrical Power; Forest Operations; Geomatics; Lumber and Value-Added Wood Products; Metal Casting; and Medical Imaging.
- To find out more, go to the last pages of this brochure, which contain Web addresses for these innovation and learning programs.
You may also call **1 800 O-Canada**
(1 800 622-6232; TTY/TDD 1 800 465-7735).

Canadian Innovators

Here are examples of innovative Canadian entrepreneurs, researchers and academics. These Canadians exemplify the spirit of innovation and lifelong learning, and are helping to move Canada into the front ranks of innovative nations.

To find out more about these and other Canadian innovators, go to www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca and follow the *Innovative Canadians* link to *Success Stories*.

Atlantic Canada Innovators

- **Terra Nova Shoes** in Harbour Grace, Newfoundland and Labrador, is putting the boots to the competition by blending innovation with traditional hand-tooled craftsmanship.
- **Spell Read P.A.T. Learning Systems** of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, is helping the deaf to speak and assisting those who cannot read.
- **Acadian Seaplants** of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, is growing seaweed on land – to the delight of its Asian gourmet customers.
- **Precision Metal Works** of Mactaquac, New Brunswick, is moving from metal fabrication into the semiconductor and aerospace industries.

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

British Columbia Innovators

- **HyperWallet** of Vancouver, makes on-line purchasing safe and easy, with no credit card required.
- **Nuytco Research** of North Vancouver has created an “underwater sports car” — a revolutionary micro-submersible deep-diving system called the “DeepWorker.”
- **Pacific Insight Electronics** of Nelson is the guiding light behind a major automotive safety innovation.

Ontario Innovators

- **Millennium Biologix** of Kingston is supporting regeneration of tissue and restoring health to bones.
- For London’s **Purifics Environmental Technologies**, clean air and water come from pure innovation.
- Waterloo’s **Research In Motion** has connected more than a quarter million people with its BlackBerry.
- Forty years after its first flight, the legendary Bush Hawk bush plane is being revived in Parry Sound, by one of its original designers at **Found Aircraft Development**.

Prairie and Northern Innovators

- **K9 Storm** of Winnipeg, Manitoba, has developed a line of bulletproof vests to protect the police dogs that protect us.
- **Interactive Tracking Systems (ITracks)** of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, provides customized Web survey programs and on-line focus group surveys. The key word is “innovation.”
- At the University of Calgary, **MD Robotics** is using technology from the Canadarm to help with neurosurgery here on earth.
- The **soapstone artists** of Sanikiluaq, Nunavut, have a new way to sell their traditional carvings.

Quebec Innovators

- **Shire BioChem** of Laval, is creating Canada’s greatest contribution to medical therapies since insulin.
- **Lignco** of Ste-Marthe-du-Cap has transformed painting lines on roads from an art to a science.
- **Royal Mat** of Beauceville is making an enhanced sound-proofing product out of used tires.
- **My Virtual Model Inc.** of Montréal is letting customers “try on” clothes on the Internet and is revolutionizing e-commerce in the fashion industry.

Web Site Addresses

Canada's Innovation Strategy

www.innovationstrategy.gc.ca

Industry Canada

www.ic.gc.ca

Human Resources Development Canada

www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

Opportunities for Students and Researchers

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Directory of Research

res2.agr.ca/research-recherche/ann-dir/index_e.html

Biotechnology Gateway

strategis.gc.ca/SSC/bo01376e.html

Canada's Digital Collections

collections.ic.gc.ca

Canada Education Savings Grant Program

www.hrdc.gc.ca/hrib/learnlit/cesg

Canada Foundation for Innovation – Funding

www.innovation.ca/programs

Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation

www.millenniumscholarships.ca

Canada Research Chairs

chairs.gc.ca

Canada Student Loans Program

www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/hrib/csfp/common/c/index_e.html

Canada WorkinfoNet

www.workinfo.net

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research

www.ciar.ca

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Canadian Technology Network

www.ctn.nrc.ca

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

CanLearn

www.canlearn.ca

Computers for Schools

www.schoolnet.ca/cfs-ope

Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Science and Technology Youth Internship Program

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/career-carriere/yip_e.htm

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade – Exchange and Internship Programs

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/culture/youth-en.asp

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade – Science and Technology Program

www.infoexport.gc.ca/science

Destination 2020

www.careerccc.org

DiscoverIT

www.discoverit.org

Essential Skills Web Site

www.hrdc.gc.ca/essentialskills

Genome Canada

www.genomecanada.ca

Job Futures

www.jobfutures.ca

Jobs, Workers, Training and Careers

www.jobsetc.ca

Natural Resources Canada – Science and Technology Internship Program

www.nrcan.gc.ca/css/hrsb/st/intern-e.htm

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

www.nserc.ca

Networks of Centres of Excellence

www.nce.gc.ca

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation

www.trudeaufoundation.ca

Research Partnerships and Services

www.innovation.gc.ca/scdt/innovation/interface2.nsf/engdoc/3.html

SchoolNet

www.schoolnet.ca

Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program

www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca/sred

SkillNet

www.skillnet.ca

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

www.sshrc.ca

The Work Handbook/Career Directions

www.careerccc.org

Youth Employment Strategy

www.youth.gc.ca

Youth Path

www.youthpath.ca

Building Innovative Communities

Aboriginal Canada Portal

www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

www.acoa.ca

Atlantic Innovation Fund

www.acoa.ca/e/financial/aif/index.shtml

Business Development Program

www.acoa.ca/e/financial/business.shtml

Broadband for Rural and Northern Development

broadband.gc.ca

Innovation and Learning Opportunities

Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions

www.dec-ced.gc.ca

Community Access Program

cap.ic.gc.ca

FedNor

fednor.ic.gc.ca

Innovation

strategis.gc.ca/SSC/fn00808e.html

Support for SMEs

strategis.gc.ca/SSC/fn00827e.html

Innovation in Sustainable Development

www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/sd-dd/innov/innov_e.html

National Research Council Canada – Building Technology Clusters

www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/doingbusiness/clusters_e.html

NRCan Aboriginal Portal

www.nrcan.gc.ca/aboriginal/explore-e.htm

Pan Canadian Community Futures Network

www.communityfutures.ca

Western Economic Diversification Canada

wd.gc.ca

Innovation

wd.gc.ca/eng/innovation/default.htm

Business Development

wd.gc.ca/eng/business.htm

Business Planning and Development

Aboriginal Business Canada

www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada – Innovation for Growth

www.agr.gc.ca/cb/brochure/innovation_e.phtml

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Programs and Services

www.agr.gc.ca/progser/index_e.phtml

Business Development Bank of Canada

www.bdc.ca

Business Development – Arts and Cultural Industries

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/arts/devel-en.asp

Business Gateway

www.businessgateway.ca

Canada Business Service Centres

www.cbssc.org

Canadian Intellectual Property Office

www.cipo.gc.ca

Canadian Space Agency

space.gc.ca

Canadian Standards Association

www.csa.ca

The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service

www.infoexport.gc.ca/ie-en/MarketReportsAndServices.jsp

CANARIE – Funding Programs

www.canarie.ca/funding/index.html

Communications Research Centre Canada – Innovation Centre

www.crc.ca/en/html/crc/home/innovation/innovation

Farm Credit Canada

www.fcc-sca.ca/english

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The Farm Improvement and Marketing Cooperatives Loans Act Program

www.agr.gc.ca/nmp/fimcla/overview_e.html

Industrial Research Assistance Program

<http://irap-pari.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>

National Research Council Canada – Industry Partnership Facilities

www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/doingbusiness/ipf_e.html

Strategis

strategis.gc.ca

Student Connections

www.scp-ebb.com

Technology Partnerships Canada

tpc.ic.gc.ca

Technology Roadmaps

strategis.gc.ca/epic/internet/intrm-crt.nsf/vwGeneratedInterE/Home

Women's Enterprise Initiative

www.wd.gc.ca/eng/pos/wei/xindex.html

Workplace Innovations

www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/common/workplace.shtml#innovations