



Innovation, Science and
Economic Development Canada

Innovation, Sciences et
Développement économique Canada

Canada

Canada's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy: AI for All

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Message from the Minister

An innovative Canada is a stronger Canada. And AI is the major driver of innovation in Canada and around the world. But to understand the potential of Canadian AI, you have to see how it is already working to improve the lives of people.

How a Canadian pediatric cardiologist in Halifax named Dr. Robert Chen is using the AI application he built to diagnose heart murmurs in newborns. His technology could cut down wait times by many months for anxious parents to see a specialist, saving our health care system tens of millions of dollars.

You have to see how a Canadian AI company called Cromptimistic is helping farmers precisely map their soil. This technology allows them to use less fertilizer, while increasing crop yield, making our food system more resilient and more affordable.

You have to see how Canadian AI is helping businesses in advanced manufacturing, auto parts, and mining stay competitive even through global trade disruptions.

These aren't isolated stories. Over 150,000 Canadian innovators employed by more than 3,500 Canadian companies are developing AI solutions that will build a stronger, more resilient economy, solve problems, serve people, and create good, high paying jobs.

Canada's new AI strategy will build on this momentum to develop a responsible, safe, and sovereign AI industry and research community — one that ensures AI will serve all Canadians, not the other way around.

Canada must be open to the enormous opportunities in AI, but we must also be candid about the real concerns. AI raises hard questions about job security, privacy, sustainability, sovereignty, and trust. Responding to these concerns and building responsible Canadian AI will not be easy, but it must be done. We will face these challenges head on.



This is exactly the pragmatic and prudent approach Canadians told us they wanted. Through our national consultation, we received more than 11,000 submissions from workers, entrepreneurs, researchers, students, and community leaders across the country. We also received insights from our 28-member expert AI Strategy Task Force. We heard from First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders, arts and culture organizations, labour and environmental groups, and many others concerned about economic growth, AI safety, and the welfare of children. This strategy reflects their voices, their concerns, and their ambitions for our country.

We will strengthen Canadian sovereignty at a time when it is being deeply challenged. We will build a robust, advanced economy for all, where our workers and SMEs are adopting AI at a wide scale and competing globally. We will build resilience with new alliances among like-minded countries to ensure that Canadians have choices in the AI tools they use. And we will build this on a foundation of trust and safety. We will protect our children and our citizens, our culture and languages, and our democracy.

Canadians want safe, reliable, and sovereign AI. They want the best tools to build a prosperous future guided by our values. That is our plan. This is Canada's AI for All moment. Let's seize it.

The Honourable Evan Solomon

Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation and
Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development
Agency for Southern Ontario

The Government's Vision: AI for All

Artificial intelligence is quickly becoming part of daily lives — at work, at school, at home, and in the businesses, organizations, and governments that shape our communities. What we are seeing today is only the beginning. The speed and scale of this transformation bring both promise and uncertainty about how AI will affect our jobs, privacy, security, and the institutions we rely on. For Canada to thrive in the era of AI, Canadians need to trust in its promise. Trust that they will share in its benefits and that it will be developed, adopted, and governed in ways that reflect our shared values. Trust is the north star of this strategy. Prosperity and sovereignty in this era belong to nations that can leverage trust to adopt, build, and govern AI on their own terms.

AI must also work for all Canadians, not the other way around. It must be put to work to grow our prosperity, secure our wellbeing, promote our culture and strengthen our communities. We envision a Canada where AI is not a threat, but a critical piece of technology which enhances everyday life for Canadians. Done right, AI can be a powerful force — harnessed with innovation and deployed with intention for the betterment of society.

We must implement this vision with urgency: this moment carries both extraordinary opportunity and profound strategic risk for Canada. AI is rapidly becoming a foundational driver of economic growth, productivity, industrial capability, and geopolitical influence. Nations that lead in AI will increasingly shape global markets, technological standards, supply chains, and the broader balance of economic and political power. This transformation is already underway.

This strategy asserts that adoption will drive AI's benefits for Canadians. For Canadians to benefit from AI, they must first learn to use it. To use it, they need to trust it. And for AI to benefit Canadians, it needs to present them with new opportunities grounded in technological infrastructure over which they have a meaningful degree of sovereign control.

Trust makes adoption possible. Opportunity and sovereignty ensure adoption creates benefits for Canadians now and in the future. To realize this vision, this strategy sets out six pillars:

To foster **trust**, we will:

- **protect Canadians from the risks and harms of AI**, creating rules and safeguards that build and maintain trust; and
- **strengthen multinational partnerships with trusted allies**, shaping an international AI community and global standards that reflect values of mutual respect and cooperation.

To provide **opportunity**, we will:

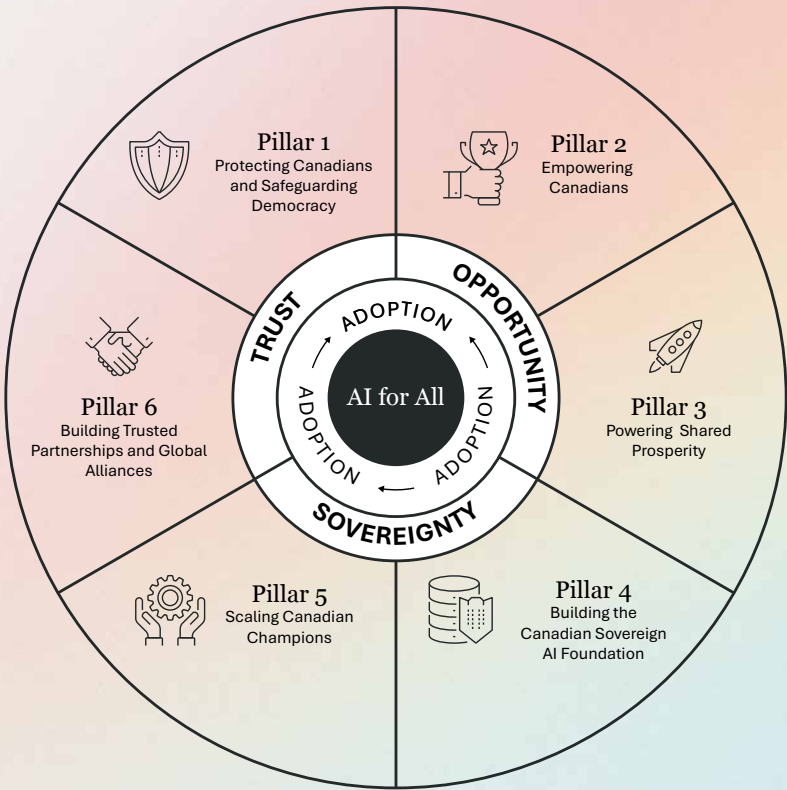
- **power shared prosperity through Canadian institutions and companies**, channeling adoption into the quality work, economic activity, and public services that benefit Canadians broadly; and
- **empower Canadians to participate in and benefit from AI**, building the understanding and access that enables Canadians to shape how we use AI in Canada and pursue the opportunities AI adoption creates.

To safeguard **sovereignty**, we will:

- **support globally competitive Canadian champions**, giving Canadian AI companies the resources and reach they need to project Canadian strength outward; and
- **build sovereign Canadian AI foundations in compute, data, talent, and infrastructure**, ensuring Canadians can trust that the systems they adopt are built and governed on Canadian terms.

Notably, while these pillars form an enduring foundation for Canada's approach to AI, our implementation of them must adapt as the world changes. Technological, social, and geopolitical forces are driving change in unexpected ways and at staggering speeds. As a result, a commitment to dynamism is part of this strategy.

Together, these pillars, combined with a commitment to clear-eyed agility, form a coordinated national strategy for Canadian prosperity, resilience, and sovereignty in the AI era.

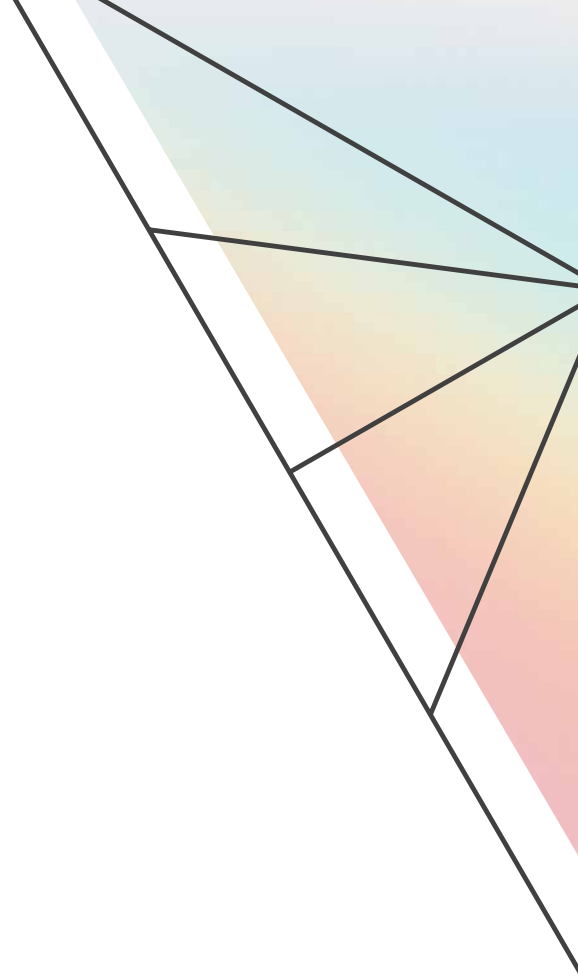


The State of AI in Canada

An Important Contributor to Canada's Economy

The Canadian AI ecosystem has demonstrated strengths in AI research, but it is also a significant contributor to Canada's economic performance. Canada's strong digital sector employs approximately 800,000 workers and contributes over \$140 billion to GDP, with 150,000 jobs directly associated with AI.

Over 3,500 Canadian firms are actively developing advanced AI models, tools, and applications, collectively raising more than CAD\$37 billion in venture capital funding. Continued growth is expected to further expand this contribution. AI is also a key element of productivity growth across the broader economy, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and government services. There are significant benefits of broader AI adoption and commercialization, which are forecasted to generate a 0.3 percent to 1.1 percent annual labour productivity increase even before the Strategy's impacts. Some estimates for generative AI alone add \$187 billion annually to the Canadian economy by 2030 and create hundreds of new Canadian firms.



In addition to economic vitality, Canada's AI ecosystem reflects a high degree of maturity and integration across the full technological value chain. The key elements of the AI ecosystem include:

1. AI applications, embedded

AI and physical AI:

practical, enterprise-focused and industry-specific applications for core economic sectors, such as Clio, Sanctuary AI, and Ada. This is an emerging area where Canada will need greater volume of firms and higher levels of adoption.

2. Models, tools and integrators:

AI models and the frameworks used to build, train, and deploy them, such as Cohere, Coveo, and OpenText. Canada is home to global enterprise integrators and a foundation model firm, with increasing integration into larger players in the economy.

3. Data centres and cloud:

A growing build-out of cloud-based and on-premises environments hosting compute hardware at scale — including Denvr, eStruxture, and ThinkOn. Canada's sovereign compute capacity is nascent, particularly in cloud, and significant investment will be required to overcome reliance on foreign providers.

4. Infrastructure and compute hardware:

Cooling, connectivity, networking, and AI chips, racks, and servers — brought together by firms like Hypertec and Micro Logic with equipment from Ranovus and Celestica, alongside Rogers, Bell, and Telus networks. The global data centre build-out has driven real growth for Canada's hardware value chain, with the exception of chips, where Canada relies on global fabrication capacity for GPUs.

5. Energy and power:

Canada's electricity grid underpins the entire AI value chain. It is sustainable and predictable, but currently constrained. Canada's new National Electricity Strategy, Powering Canada Strong: A National Strategy for an Electrified Canadian Economy, sets out a vision to build Canada's electricity system, recognizing that Canada will need to double its electricity infrastructure by 2050, which will allow for the pairing of sustainable base load with sovereign AI data centre build-outs.

6. Research and development:

World-class research institutes advancing new AI methods and safety approaches, including CIFAR, the three National AI Institutes (Amii, Mila, and Vector), and the Global Innovation Clusters that translate Canadian research into AI-enabled technologies for core sectors. Canada's research leadership is globally competitive, but requires further effort to drive commercialization.

The Government will leverage this whole value chain to accelerate its transformation and improve services to citizens.

The Strategic Landscape

When we look at Canada today, several trends stand out. Together they describe a country with real and exploitable gaps, but also extraordinary foundations and the structural ingredients needed to lead.

Canada is an AI innovator. Canada helped invent modern AI, and that legacy is not just historical. The foundational ideas behind today's systems trace through Canadian researchers: Nobel laureate Geoffrey Hinton, and Turing Award winners Yoshua Bengio and Richard Sutton, the three so-called godfathers of AI. That research strength continues today through globally competitive university programs and national institutes, and Canada is home to one of only a handful of frontier model companies in the world. By the measure that matters most for long-term competitiveness, Canada is genuinely a global leader.

Canada has a major adoption gap. Innovation has not yet translated into broad use. Statistics Canada reports that only 12 percent of Canadian businesses used AI to produce goods or services between mid-2024 and mid-2025, rising to 14.5 percent planning to do so by mid-2026. The picture is sharper among small and medium-sized enterprises: only about 8 percent of Canadian SMEs have adopted AI, well behind Nordic leaders (29 to 42 percent), Germany (26 percent), and France (18 percent). On individual diffusion, Canada sits 15th globally at a respectable 37 percent, yet still trailing the UAE, Singapore, Norway, and several peers.

The deeper challenge is what sits underneath these numbers. According to the KPMG–University of Melbourne global trust study, Canada ranked 44th of 47 countries on AI training and literacy, and 42nd of 47 on trust in AI systems. Fewer than a quarter of Canadians (24 percent) report having received any AI training, fewer than four in ten say they have moderate or high knowledge of AI, and less than half believe they can use AI tools effectively. Public sentiment is cautious to skeptical: Canadians are roughly evenly split on whether AI is good for society (34 percent) or harmful (36 percent), and half regard AI as a threat to humanity. Initial adoption has happened; deeper, confident integration has not, and low literacy and low trust are the binding constraints.

Canada is vulnerable on sovereignty and infrastructure.

The AI value chain runs from energy and chips through compute, models, and applications. Canada has presence at every layer, but meaningful dependencies at several. Sovereign compute capacity is nascent, leaving Canadian organizations reliant on foreign providers for the infrastructure that increasingly underpins economic, scientific, and public-sector activity. Chip fabrication for GPUs sits almost entirely offshore. Energy is both an asset and a current constraint: Canada's grid is among the cleanest in the world, but available power for large-scale AI build-out is limited today. And while research leadership is world-class, the path from research to commercialization remains thinner than it should be. Too much Canadian innovation is captured and scaled elsewhere. In an era where prosperity, resilience, and sovereignty increasingly depend on the ability to build and govern AI on national terms, these are vulnerabilities Canada cannot leave unaddressed.

Canada has major structural advantages in an AI world.

The starting position is, on balance, enviable. Canada brings deep human and institutional capital to the AI era: a highly educated workforce, one of the strongest concentrations of AI talent on the planet, deep capital markets, and rich data assets in sectors where AI will create outsized value, from health and life sciences to energy, agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, and public services. It brings physical advantages few competitors can match: a clean, predictable electricity grid, supported by our National Electricity Strategy and powered largely by renewables, and a northern climate that reduces the cost and energy intensity of cooling data centres at scale. And it brings civic strengths that matter as much as any technology: robust democratic institutions, a strong rule of law, a tradition of pragmatic regulation that can govern AI responsibly without smothering innovation, and the international standing — through the G7 and longstanding partnerships — to help shape the global rules under which AI will operate.

Canada is a trusted partner on the world stage. Decades of democratic stability, principled diplomacy, and rules-based cooperation have made Canada a partner of choice for governments and firms seeking AI collaborations rooted in shared values rather than shifting alliances. In the past year alone, Canada has signed 20 new economic and defence partnerships and secured nearly \$100 billion in foreign investment commitments, with free trade negotiations advancing in parallel with India, ASEAN, and beyond. Eleven of those partnerships explicitly advance cooperation on artificial intelligence, spanning four continents and topics from AI safety standards and sovereign infrastructure to industrial deployment and business-to-business matchmaking. Properly built upon, this standing can convert structural advantage into markets, investment, and coalitions.

This is where Canada stands today: innovative, structurally advantaged, but lagging in adoption and over-exposed to foreign economic and political powers. The strengths are substantial, the gaps are addressable, and the foundation is more than equal to the task. With strategic intent and effort, Canada can shape its own future in an AI-powered world, overcome the challenges in its path, and seize the opportunities it wants and needs.

Outcomes for Canada

By building on our strengths, investing in our emerging capabilities, and entering strategic partnerships with key allies, we can enhance our sovereignty, unlock productivity gains, and grow global champions in Canada.

Canada's new AI Strategy will:

- Protect Canadians, particularly children, against AI risks and online harms, including by safeguarding their personal information and increasing AI transparency.
- Provide all Canadians with access to free AI literacy training, including reaching 1 million entry-level post-secondary students and doubling K-12 teacher training to more than 3,000 educators.
- Ensure all post-secondary students have access to trusted AI agents.
- Create up to 90,000 AI-related jobs and work placement opportunities for young Canadians to start their careers and support SMEs and nonprofits by 2031.
- Help create up to 250,000 new jobs through the adoption of AI by 2031.
- Increase Canada's business adoption of AI from 12% today to 60% by 2034, through boosting SMEs and business adoption supports.
- Support the unlocking of a 3% increase in GDP, representing nearly \$200 billion in GDP gains, from labour productivity, including through the commercialization and application of AI in key sectors.
- Launch a new AI Missions Program to advance targeted, high-impact projects that deliver significant public good and demonstrate meaningful improvements in Canadians' lives, starting with \$200 million towards improving health outcomes for Canadians.
- Build a world-leading supercomputer as part of significantly enhanced sovereign infrastructure by 2031.
- Enhance access to public compute for SMEs to drive commercialization and adoption through the Compute Access Fund.
- Build a strategic multilateral alliance to ensure Canada moves from reliance to resilience by having sovereign autonomy in key AI and technology capabilities.

Key Pillars of the Strategy

Pillar 1:

Protecting Canadians and Safeguarding our Democracy

AI will only deliver on its promise if Canadians trust it. That requires modern privacy and online safety laws, strong national AI safety capabilities, and secure government systems.

Pillar 2:

Empowering Canadians

Canada must become an AI skills nation, where AI creates good jobs for Canadians by giving access to AI training and education for all Canadians, and by representing and including Canadian voices, languages, and culture.

Pillar 3:

Powering Shared Prosperity

The gains of AI will come from putting it to work across the Canadian economy and developing pro-worker, industrial AI technologies. AI for All will support accelerated adoption among SMEs and transform public service delivery for better services to Canadians.

Pillar 4:

Building the Canadian Sovereign AI Foundation

AI for All will support the building of sovereign compute infrastructure at scale — resilient, sustainable, and under Canadian governance, and grow Canada's exceptional AI researchers and talent pool.

Pillar 5:

Scaling Canadian Champions

To scale great AI companies in Canada, AI for All will unlock growth capital and leverage government as a strategic anchor customer.

Pillar 6:

Building Trusted Partnerships and Global Alliances

Canada will work with a variety of trusted partners to align standards, co-invest in innovation, and help Canadian companies access global markets — while shaping an AI ecosystem anchored in democratic values.

Priority Sectors

Alongside continued investment in Canada's AI ecosystem, we will focus on sectors where our scientific, economic and industrial strengths converge — and where strategic investment can deliver both commercial success and sovereign resilience.

These five priority sectors will act as focal points across the strategy, concentrating investment where Canada can build and hold a global leadership position:

1. Health and Life Sciences:

World-class research institutions, a universal health system, and a fast-growing life sciences sector position Canada to lead in applying AI to improve health outcomes and deliver faster, more responsive health care services for Canadians.

2. Energy and Natural Resources:

As one of the world's largest energy producers with globally significant critical mineral reserves, Canada can use AI to optimize extraction, accelerate the clean energy transition, and secure supply chains allies depend on.

3. Transportation:

The second-largest country on earth with a trade-dependent economy needs intelligent logistics, autonomous systems, and predictive infrastructure maintenance to improve the movement of people and goods, making life more efficient for Canadians.

4. Agriculture:

Among the world's top agricultural exporters, Canada can deploy AI-powered precision farming to increase yields, reduce environmental impact, and strengthen global food security.

5. Manufacturing and Robotics:

Persistent labour shortages and growing reshoring pressures make industrial AI and robotics essential to transforming Canadian competitiveness in advanced manufacturing and defence production.

Given Canada's national security commitments and the recently released Defence Industrial Strategy, sector investments will also prioritize dual-use applications and ensure alignment with Canada's protection, sovereignty and security objectives.

Protecting Canadians and Safeguarding our Democracy

Canada's ability to harness AI begins with safety – the most fundamental form of trust and a key component of creating healthy adoption opportunities. Citizens, workers, and institutions will not adopt technologies they consider dangerous or harmful to themselves, their families, and their communities. Trust is not a brake on innovation; it is the foundation that makes broad, confident adoption possible. A Canada that protects its people, its democracy, and its sovereign capabilities is a Canada that can move faster, not slower, in the AI era.

The risks of AI are real. Adoption means that AI systems will make consequential decisions about Canadians' lives in hiring, lending, healthcare, and public services. Already, deepfakes, synthetic media, and AI-generated disinformation are reshaping the information environment in which people live and in which democratic debate takes place. This has direct implications for elections, public discourse, and trust in institutions.

Furthermore, the data that fuels AI, including the most sensitive personal, health, and financial information about Canadians, is more valuable, more exposed, and more contested than ever. As a result, AI protections extend beyond AI itself to the digital systems on which government services, critical infrastructure, and national security depend.

Meeting these challenges requires more than caution. It requires that Canada actively safeguard the rights of citizens, strengthen institutions charged with our safety, and establish key sovereign capabilities that allow citizens and government alike to engage with AI on trusted terms. Canada will ground its AI future in responsible governance, a country where technological progress and human dignity advance together, and where the trust between citizens and their government is strengthened by AI, not strained by it.

Strengthen Canadian Democracy, Safety, and Privacy in the AI Era

Building trustworthy and reliable AI needs a safety-first approach grounded in law. Many Canadians are concerned about how AI may affect their privacy, fairness, and safety. Deepfakes are already used as a form of sexual violence, particularly against women and children, and can amplify misinformation during electoral cycles, creating real risks to democratic integrity. Biases built into algorithms can also cause harm to vulnerable communities.

Canada will update the laws and standards that protect Canadians' fundamental privacy rights, safeguard children's online activities and protect vulnerable groups from online violence and algorithmic biases. This will include providing Canadians with the legal tools to combat deepfakes, ensure that interactions with chatbots are safe, and hold those responsible for online harms accountable. Canada will also strengthen its privacy laws to ensure that Canadians' personal information is not used inappropriately, including for surveillance pricing.



Key Actions

Canada will modernize consumer privacy legislation to enshrine a fundamental right to privacy, safeguard children's information from exploitation and harm, and strengthen people's control over their personal data.

Canada will introduce online safety laws to protect Canadians in the digital age, ensuring citizens, children, and customers are safeguarded.

Canada will protect elections and democratic institutions from AI-enabled misinformation and foreign interference.

For the Government's own use of personal information, the Government will continue its review of the *Privacy Act* to meet the needs of Canadians in the digital age. This will include considerations around transparency, privacy, and alignment with international standards.

Ensure Canadian AI Infrastructure is Safe and Trustworthy

With the rapid expansion of AI capabilities and the growing adoption of agentic AI, Canadians need to know which AI systems are safe to use, how risks are being identified, and what standards apply.

Clear signals of safety and accountability help people, businesses, and public institutions make informed choices, particularly when it comes to identifying AI-generated content, when they are engaging an AI system, and by monitoring and reporting on AI incidents and system operations.



Key Actions

Canada will invest \$50 million to expand the capabilities of the Canadian AI Safety Institute to track emerging AI risks, advance technical research, and to conduct transparent evaluations of AI models.

Canada will work on AI transparency, including capabilities like watermarking of AI-generated content, so Canadians can better understand when they are interacting with AI systems and AI-generated content.

Canada will proactively work with frontier AI companies and international partners, leveraging our strengths in AI safety and cybersecurity, to ensure that Canadians and critical systems are protected from cyber and national security threats from advanced AI systems.

Canada will create a Canada Trusted AI Certification program to help Canadians identify trustworthy AI products in the marketplace.

Canada will renew funding for the Standards Council of Canada's AI Program to support our standardization ecosystem, shape global AI standards, and grow a robust AI quality assurance ecosystem. This work will enable standards-based AI testing, certification, interoperability, and global market access.

Canada will accelerate, in partnership with law enforcement and security and intelligence agencies, applied AI research, testing, and deployment of Canadian technologies for fraud and extortion prevention, cyber defence, threat detection, and data protection.

Empowering Canadians

A nation prospers in the AI era only if its people feel equipped and empowered to use it. Benefits flow from adoption: better work, stronger services, new ideas, broader prosperity and greater wellbeing. However, they do not flow automatically from the technology itself; they flow through the citizens who understand it, use it, and shape it. AI for All is not a slogan about access to tools. It is a commitment that every Canadian, in every region and at every stage of life can engage with AI from a position of strength.

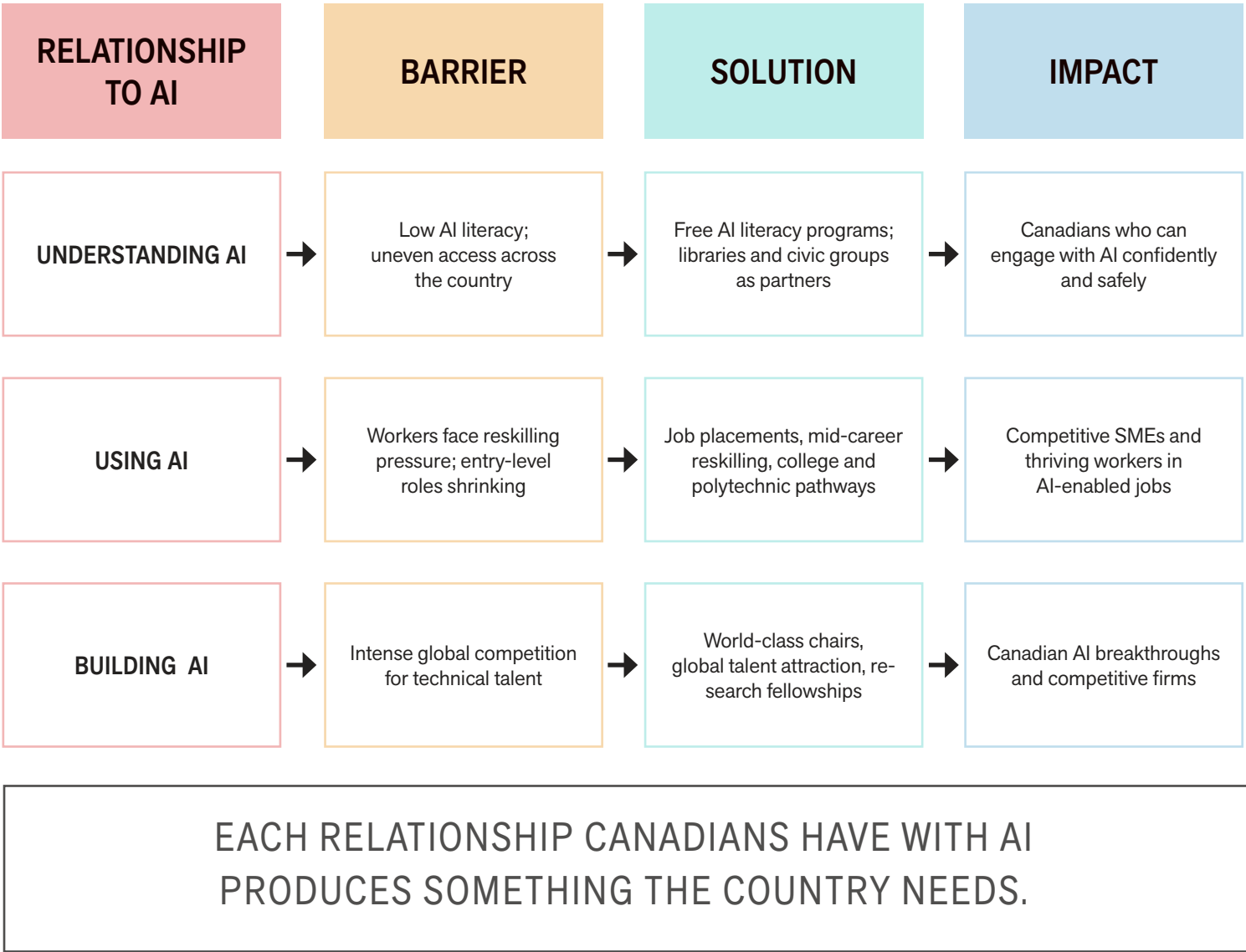
That commitment rests on three dimensions of empowerment. The first is literacy: the understanding that lets Canadians recognize AI, judge its outputs, and decide for themselves where it belongs in their lives. Canada has a substantial gap in AI training and literacy, and closing it – from classrooms to workplaces to seniors' centres – is the foundation on which everything else depends.

The second is opportunity: the conviction that AI should expand Canadians' personal and working lives rather than diminish them. As roles evolve, governments, employers, educators, and unions must work together to expand learning, support mid-career transitions, and open pathways into the jobs AI is creating. AI adoption should mean better work and more good jobs, not fewer options.

The third is participation: the principle that Canadians should actively shape how AI is used in their lives, their workplaces, and their communities. That means individuals deciding when and how AI belongs in their daily lives. It means workers and professionals helping shape how AI is adopted in their workplaces. It means Canadians of every background, regardless of region, ethnicity, or first language having a meaningful voice in the public debates that will define AI's role in Canadian society.

Ultimately, empowered citizens – whether students, artists, community leaders, workers, or parents – know what responsible adoption looks like and are ready to participate. Their energy and vision make Canadian prosperity possible. Canada will build the literacy that lets Canadians engage with AI from a position of strength, create the opportunities that let them benefit from it, and open the pathways that let them shape it.

Progression of AI Literacy and Positive Impacts on Canada



Foundational Literacy to Build an AI-Skills Nation

To realize AI's potential, Canadians need to understand what AI is, how it works, where it can help, and where its risks and limitations lie. Foundational AI literacy is essential to safe and confident use, whether at school, at work, at home, or in the community.

Canada is working with provinces and territories, employers, unions, educators, Indigenous partners, and community organizations to expand access to practical AI learning – spanning schools, post-secondary institutions, adult learning, workforce training, and public awareness initiatives. The aim of these literacy efforts is three-fold: helping Canadians understand AI, use AI, and build AI. Crucially, this means that Canadians need experience with AI tools, which is something Canada will prioritize for post-secondary students who are preparing to join the workforce.

The ultimate goal is to ensure Canadians are not passive users of AI, but informed participants in an AI-enabled society. That means providing Canadians with a range of practical skills including identifying bias, misinformation, privacy risks, and unsafe uses. It also means giving them the confidence to use AI tools to learn, solve problems, start businesses, improve services, participate in the economy, and improve quality of work.

Key Actions

Canada will create a National AI Literacy Initiative that will offer entry-level AI training accessible to all Canadians.

AI literacy content will reach 1 million entry level post-secondary students and train more than 3,000 educators with AI learning kits in their classrooms. Free, accessible AI learning will include practical courses and sector-relevant modules.

Canada will ensure all post-secondary students have access to trusted AI agents, putting capable, personal AI tools in the hands of the next generation of Canadian workers, researchers, and innovators.

Through the National AI Literacy initiative, Canada will empower public libraries and community organizations – long trusted as hubs for learning – as natural partners to bring AI literacy initiatives into every community, especially those in rural, remote, and northern regions.

Canada is investing \$50 million over five years through Budget 2025 to modernize the Job Bank with AI-powered job matching that automatically aligns people with opportunities matching their skills profiles and has launched a national online training platform connecting adults to free and low-cost short-duration courses, including sector-specific AI literacy skills.

Canada will invest \$30 million in CanCode to fund not-for-profit organizations to deliver free digital skills training – including coding, AI, and emerging technologies – to youth from kindergarten to grade 12 and their educators, with emphasis on reaching underrepresented groups.

BUILDING THE AI GENERATION:

From Classrooms to Careers

Canada's AI advantage will only hold if the next generation knows how to use it, build with it, and think critically about it. That means investing across the full continuum of AI learning: foundational literacy in classrooms, deeper technical and applied skills in post-secondary programs, and upskilling through workforce development initiatives.

Strengthening workers' ability to understand and use AI was of particular importance for Kelsey Shay Regnier, Chair of Early Childhood Education at RRC Polytech in Winnipeg, who partnered in October 2025 with Amii to create an AI competency curriculum for early childhood educators.

This is part of the Institute's work to support general AI literacy, but also specialized programs in key sectors and verticals. The Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii) already trains 125,000 students annually in AI knowledge and skills. The AI Strategy will allow this platform to be expanded, leveraging all the AI Institutes to support broad-based and sector-specific literacy.

Amii also equips K-12 teachers with training and resources to help students critically evaluate AI through ethical reasoning. To date, Amii has reached over 1,000 K-12 teachers across more than 400 schools, supporting AI literacy education for over 60,000 students.

Amii is also strengthening Canada's industrial capacity. Backed by a \$9 million federal investment in September 2025, its AI Pathways program will train nearly 5,000 Canadian energy workers with the AI skills needed to thrive in an evolving sector and maintain Canada's leadership in a transforming global energy market.

Together, these initiatives create clear learning trajectories that help students, graduates and mid-career workers build confidence and become skills-ready for an increasingly AI-enabled economy. The strategy can leverage these early efforts at scale such that all students and Canadians have access to AI literacy tools, and that targeted skills approaches reach those workers most likely to be affected.



AI as an Opportunity: Applied Workforce Skills Driving AI Adoption

AI is changing how work gets done. Used well, it can reduce repetitive tasks, improve safety, support better decision-making, and help workers focus on higher-value work. With the right actions - equipping Canadians with the skills to fill emerging roles and supporting employers to put AI to work productively - Canada projects that over 250,000 new AI-relevant jobs will be created across the Canadian economy by 2031.

In order to achieve this, Canada will support workers at every stage of their careers. Young Canadians need meaningful, career-relevant experience with AI so they can enter the workforce with confidence. Mid-career workers need clear pathways to reskill and adapt as roles evolve. Front-line workers, tradespeople, technicians, operators, professionals, and managers need practical training that reflects how AI is being used in real workplaces.

This work will require close collaboration with employers, unions, colleges, CÉGEPs, polytechnics, universities, Indigenous partners, and training providers. Canada will expand work-integrated learning, sector-specific training, and applied AI supports so businesses and organizations can adopt AI responsibly while workers share in the benefits.

The goal is not simply to introduce more technology into the workplace. It is to make AI adoption pro-worker, practical, and productivity-enhancing, helping Canadian businesses compete while giving workers the tools, voice, and opportunities they need to thrive in an AI-enabled economy.

Key Actions

Canada will create up to 90,000 AI-related job opportunities, including 45,000 through the Student Work Placement Program and Canada Summer Jobs, 35,000 through other initiatives such as the Skills for Success Program, and 10,000 through the Mitacs ADOPT and AI+X programs.

Canada will assess training and upskill offerings for mid-career workers, including in skilled trades, to scale-up employer-led training nationwide with a strong priority on AI-related skills. This will also include work with colleges, CÉGEPs and polytechnics as applied AI leaders to leverage regional reach, applied research capacity, and SME partnerships to deliver hands-on adoption and improve workforce productivity.

Canada will accelerate AI literacy across female-dominated sectors most exposed to early disruption through the existing Women's Program – unlocking new economic opportunities, softening transition shocks, and confronting AI-fueled online abuse that disproportionately targets women.

Canada will track and assess the societal, labour market, and economic impacts of AI to guide policy and maximize benefits, leveraging Statistics Canada's Artificial Intelligence and Technology Measurement Program.



Developing Pro-worker, Industrial AI Technologies

When AI is built around workers rather than against them, the results are striking. In an OECD survey of manufacturing and finance workers across seven countries — including Canada — 80 percent said AI improved their performance, and AI users were four times more likely to report gains in job satisfaction, physical and mental health, and fair management.

Canada is pursuing a pro-worker approach to industrial AI. This means technology is designed to augment human expertise rather than displace it, helping workers move into higher-value roles while delivering the productivity gains that strengthen Canadian competitiveness. Quebec's Maya HTT offers an early proof point: over 200 industrial and physical AI deployments increasing production line throughput by an average of 17 percent, with more than 1,000 jobs created and maintained.

By centering technological adoption on human potential, Canada is positioned to be a global leader in the development and deployment of human-centric industrial technology. Scaling the proactive integration of pro-worker AI not only addresses structural productivity challenges but also safeguards the long-term prosperity of the Canadian workforce, ensuring a future of shared economic growth and competitive advantage.

Supporting Indigenous Leadership in AI

There has been considerable evidence of the disproportionate exposure and impacts of AI harms to equity-seeking groups, including Indigenous Peoples. This is a global phenomenon, but one in which Canada can work with Indigenous communities and nations to build world-leading capacity to address them.

By supporting Indigenous leaders, researchers, and policymakers from around the world to ensure Indigenous peoples have agency in shaping AI development locally and internationally, Canada can coordinate research, develop shared AI training standards for Indigenous data, support the development of community-level AI capacity and applications such as language models, land management tools, and cultural heritage systems.

Canada will work with Indigenous communities to ensure AI tools designed and built here protect Indigenous cultural and linguistic expression, support Indigenous self-determination over how AI is built and used in Indigenous contexts, and build domestic capacity to address the specific harms Indigenous Peoples face.



Key Actions

Canada will support and amplify Indigenous-led AI initiatives that reinforce cultural expression and linguistic vitality in Canada and around the world, building on existing efforts such as the Indigenous Languages Program at Canadian Heritage, the Indigenous Languages Technology Program at the National Research Council, and First Languages AI Reality at Mila.

Ensure AI reflects Canadian Identity, Culture, and Inclusion

Canadian AI must support, reflect, and project Canadian culture, which includes our customs, our history, and our heritage. Canadian voices, languages, communities, and knowledge must also be represented in how AI systems are designed, built, and used.

Given our diverse and multicultural society, our approach to AI must acknowledge and support this rich diversity, including strengthening the French language by capturing and projecting its idioms, expressions, and cultural contexts.

Canada is already moving on this ground. In 2025, Canada published the world's first standard on accessible and equitable AI to help ensure barriers in AI are recognized and addressed before they impact users. By aligning research with Canadian values and economic needs, we ensure AI innovation serves the public interest and delivers lasting cultural benefit.

There has likewise been considerable evidence of the disproportionate exposure and impacts of AI harms to equity-seeking groups. Canada will ensure that AI development addresses the systemic barriers experienced by racialized communities, persons living with disabilities, and others who too often fall on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Key Actions

Canada will work on the adoption of tools that protect and promote the French language, including in Québec and in Canada's vibrant Francophone minority communities. Critically, AI systems deployed within the government will perform equally well in both official languages.

Canada will establish a \$50 million Creative Technology Program to support Canadian creators in using AI on their own terms.

Canada will promote the world's first AI equity-based national standard on accessible AI to drive inclusive and accessible AI and remove accessibility barriers from AI systems, and ensure Canadian AI reflects the *Accessible Canada Act* principles.

The Government of Canada commits to applying Gender-Based Analysis Plus in a meaningful way across policy design, skills development, innovation, and governance to ensure that AI reflects our values, protects those most impacted, and leads to outcomes that are safe, inclusive, and beneficial for all Canadians.

Powering Shared Prosperity

Shared prosperity means an economy that works for the many, not the few. It means productivity gains that flow into paychecks, not just profits. It means every region of the country and every Canadian community is experiencing the benefits of AI. This requires businesses and organizations of all sizes to confidently put AI to productive use. The opportunity is enormous, but the adoption gap is real.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises represent 99 percent of Canadian businesses and employ 14.3 million workers. Yet only one in eight Canadian businesses has formally integrated AI into its operations, even as nearly half of SME owners have experimented with generative AI tools. This gap between experimentation and deployment is where Canada's adoption challenge lives. According to Statistics Canada, 78 percent of non-adopting firms report that they don't see how AI benefits the goods or services they provide. That is not resistance; it is a translation problem. Canadian businesses are waiting for practical, sector-specific applications that solve their real problems, with proven value and an adoption path smooth enough to justify the leap. One powerful response to a translation problem is a shared challenge: concrete, ambitious national missions in areas like health, energy, productivity, and public services that rally researchers, industry, governments, and communities around solving real problems together — turning Canada's hardest challenges into the engine of its AI adoption.

Canada will pursue these missions alongside direct support for SMEs moving from experimentation to integration, and will use government itself as an anchor adopter of trusted Canadian AI, leading by example and creating demand for Canadian solutions. The ambition is concrete: by 2034, 60 percent of Canadian businesses, particularly SMEs, will have adopted AI tools.

AI ON THE FARM:

Securing the Future of Food

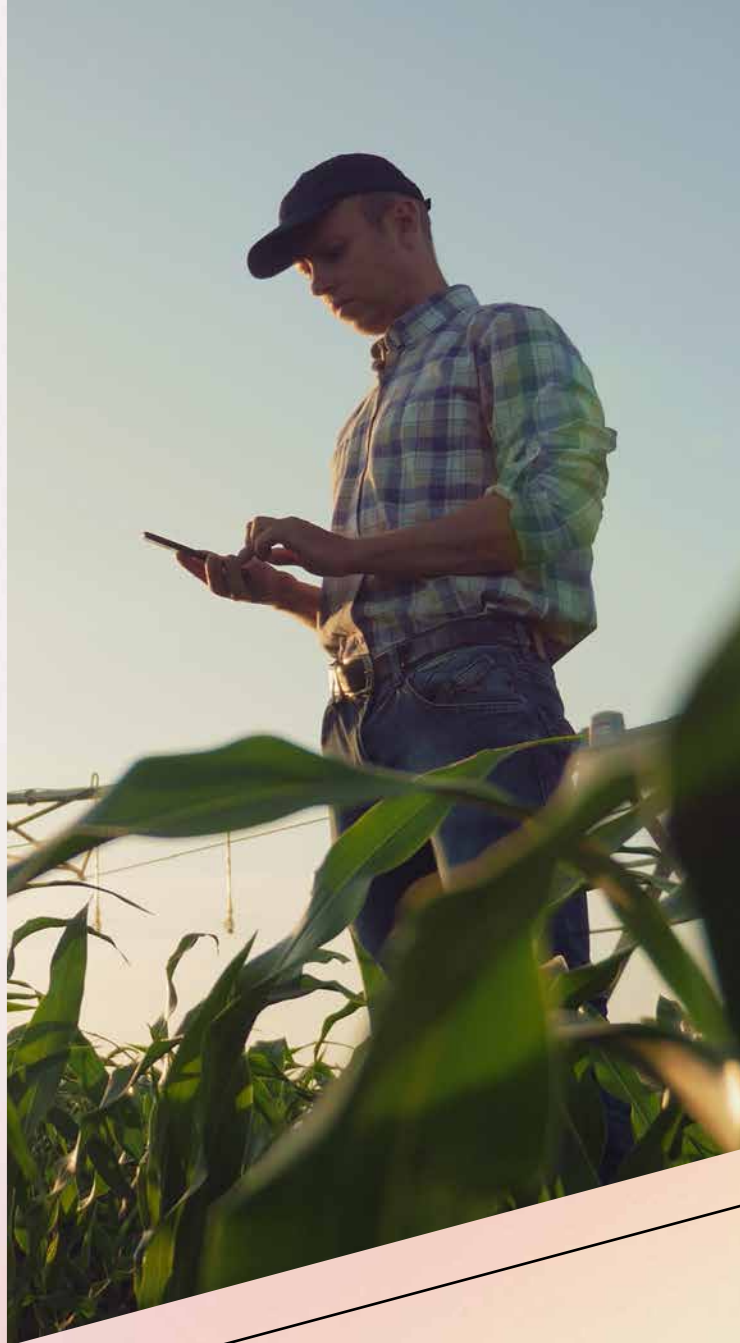
Canada remains a global leader in agricultural exports, but the industry is under new pressure. Shifting weather, water stress, and rising input costs are making it harder for producers across the country. A new generation of Canadian AI companies is helping farmers turn data into yield and sustainability.

On a grain farm outside Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Jonathan Adams no longer treats his fields as a single uniform block. Jonathan farms with his mom, dad, and brother, and for a decade now a data-driven soil map has broken his land into ten zones based on soil, water, and topography — sending more fertilizer to the productive zones and less to the saline patches that used to waste it. “We’ve been trying new things and pushing yields every year,” Jonathan says, “and every year it seems like we hit our goal.” The map was built by Saskatoon-based Croptimistic, whose technology is now used on farms across Canada, the United States, Australia, and South Africa.

He isn’t alone. In Ontario, apple and cherry growers are using advanced cameras and machine learning from Vivid Machines to forecast orchard yields months before harvest. By 2025, more than 80 percent of Canada’s largest farms and three-quarters of mid-sized operations were already using at least one digital agriculture tool, or planning to adopt one.

AI tools are also used to combat invasive species which cost Canadian agriculture an estimated \$2.2 billion annually. Canada’s AI Global Innovation Cluster Scale AI partnered with Vancouver-based company EarthDaily to develop an AI-powered platform to help farmers detect, monitor, and treat invasive threats using satellite imagery and precision drone interventions. When deployed at scale, this solution can increase crop yield and quality by up to 50 percent and mitigate long-term ecological and economic damage.

For a nation that feeds hundreds of millions of people worldwide, scaling these tools is both an economic and food security imperative: lower costs at the grocery store, stronger export competitiveness, and a lighter footprint on the land that feeds us all.



Accelerating AI Adoption Across Canadian SMEs

Canadian businesses are essential to turning AI innovation into real economic growth. While many companies see the potential of AI, they often face barriers such as cost, access to expertise, and uncertainty about where to start. This is especially true for small and medium-sized enterprises who are facing greater productivity and resource challenges.

Businesses and not-for-profit organizations need to move from experimentation to impact through hands-on support, practical advice, and sector-specific expertise and roadmaps. Access to financing will help them invest in AI tools, software, and equipment that improve productivity and competitiveness.



Key Actions

Canada will utilize the LIFT program, a \$500 million initiative from the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) to help Canadian SMEs access financing to incorporate AI tools in their operations.

Canada will invest \$500 million to expand and enhance the Regional Artificial Intelligence Initiative delivered through Regional Development Agencies to accelerate adoption and commercialization of AI across the country.

Canada will support the development of an AI Literacy and Adoption Assessment tool and other online resources that help SMEs and entrepreneurs assess their AI readiness, identify practical use cases, understand potential business impacts in a low-risk environment, and connect with critical programs and development agencies.

Canada will provide targeted support to strengthen AI adoption among Canadian entrepreneurs through the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Development Program.

Canada will leverage the SR&ED tax credit and the Productivity Super-Deduction announced in Budget 2025 to catalyze private sector investment and make innovation more affordable.



AI IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM:

Predicting Patient Deterioration Before It Happens

Every year in Canada, thousands of hospital patients suddenly get a lot sicker when nobody expected it — and sometimes that leads to serious harm or even death, even though it could have been caught earlier.

At St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, the CHARTWatch AI system continuously monitors patient data, including blood pressure and heart rate, and warns nurses and doctors hours before a patient's condition is about to take a dangerous turn.

This allows the medical team to step in right away, start treatment earlier, or move patients to intensive care before things spiral out of control. A study published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal found that after CHARTWatch was turned on, unexpected deaths on the ward dropped by 26 percent.

The system demonstrates what outcome-based AI investment can deliver at scale: better results for patients, lower costs for the system, and a made-in-Canada model that can be deployed in hospitals across the country.

Solving National Challenges Through AI Missions

Canada has every element of a thriving AI ecosystem — world-class research, leading Canadian AI companies, deep sectoral expertise, and rich data assets across health, energy, agriculture, and beyond. These pieces don't yet move together as smoothly as they could. Too often, the path from AI breakthrough to real-world deployment stalls, not because the technology isn't ready, but because no single force connects innovators, industries, and institutions around the problems that matter most.

A mission-driven approach closes that gap. By setting clear, measurable targets and aligning capital, talent, and partnerships behind them, missions make AI tangible — Canadians see it as a tool improving their lives, not an abstraction or threat. They build sectoral adoption capability that outlasts any one project. And they knit the ecosystem together, moving researchers, Canadian AI companies, governments, and frontline practitioners in the same direction around a shared goal.

Canada's first mission will be in healthcare, where the conditions are uniquely strong: a universal public system generating data at a scale most countries cannot match, world-class clinical and research institutions, and a population whose daily lives are touched by the system's pressures. AI deployed well can expand access to primary care, reduce ER wait times, prevent avoidable visits through better upstream care, and lighten the administrative burden on physicians. Subsequent missions will expand to other priority sectors with targets and sequencing refined as implementation develops. Each mission will unite researchers, Canadian AI companies, and governments to draw on shared infrastructure, catalyze public and private investment, and create commercialization opportunities for Canadian innovators alongside the public benefits they deliver.

Key Actions

Canada will launch a new AI Missions Program to advance targeted, high-impact projects that deliver significant public good and demonstrate meaningful improvements in Canadians' lives. The first mission will commit \$200 million to improving health outcomes for Canadians. More missions will follow in other priority sectors.

Canada will launch sector-specific Workforce Alliances across six priority sectors to bring together governments, employers, unions, post-secondary institutions, and Indigenous partners to identify skills gaps, coordinate talent pipelines, and align public-private investment with workforce transformation needs across essential economic sectors.

Transforming Public Service Delivery with AI

Canadians expect public services that are reliable, accessible, and responsive. AI offers an opportunity to improve how governments operate – from processing applications faster to better understanding public needs – while keeping people at the centre of decision-making.

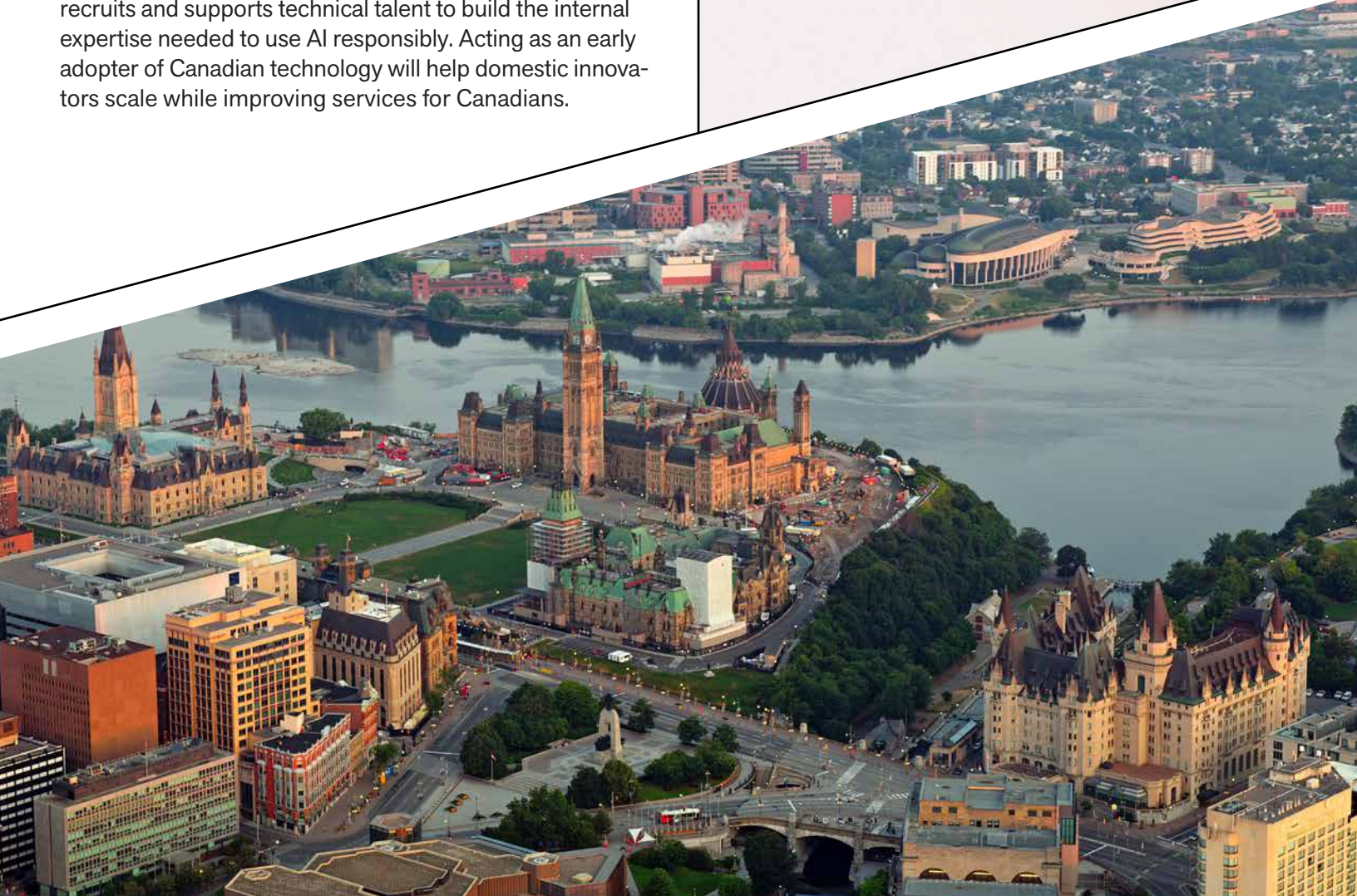
Canada will lead by example in responsible AI use within the public sector. We will modernize how government identifies, procures, and deploys AI tools, ensuring they meet high standards for transparency, privacy, and accountability. AI will be used to support public servants by reducing administrative burden and enabling better service delivery, all while maintaining a “human-in-the-loop” approach to ensure strong oversight of meaningful decisions and tasks.

We will also invest in people by reforming how government recruits and supports technical talent to build the internal expertise needed to use AI responsibly. Acting as an early adopter of Canadian technology will help domestic innovators scale while improving services for Canadians.

Key Actions

Canada will accelerate the procurement and delivery of AI solutions across the federal government through the Office of Digital Transformation.

Canada will launch the Prime Minister's Innovation Fellows Program to recruit and deploy technical talent that rapidly builds the internal muscle, operational capacity, and commercial fluency required to procure, evaluate, and deploy AI systems effectively within government.



Building the Canadian Sovereign AI Foundation

Canada is where modern AI began. Geoffrey Hinton, Yoshua Bengio, and Richard Sutton did groundbreaking work here, and today, researchers and entrepreneurs across the country are building on that legacy. However, world-class research alone will not secure Canada's future in AI. Sovereignty in the AI era depends on three foundations: the compute, cloud, and connectivity that turn ideas into systems; the data that fuels them; and the talent that creates and governs them.

Today, much of that foundation sits beyond our borders. Canadian researchers train models on foreign cloud platforms. Canadian companies store sensitive data in foreign jurisdictions. Government operations rely on infrastructure Canada does not own. And the country's best AI talent faces constant recruitment pressure from abroad. The risks are not abstract. Sensitive Canadian data can be subject to decisions, rules, and legal regimes beyond Canada's direct control. AI products built and governed elsewhere can shape Canadian lives without fully reflecting Canadian values, languages, laws, or priorities. Moreover, Canadian firms can find themselves competing on infrastructure they do not own, govern, or meaningfully influence. Together, these dependencies are a strategic exposure Canada cannot afford to leave in place.

To mitigate these dependencies, Canada will adopt a “build-partner-buy” approach to building its AI infrastructure. That means building its key sovereign capabilities domestically whenever possible, while partnering with trusted allies or buying existing market solutions when appropriate.

The good news is that Canada starts from real strength. Canada is already well equipped to build its AI infrastructure using made-in-Canada solutions. A cold climate dramatically reduces the cost of running data centres at scale. One of the cleanest electricity grids in the world makes Canadian compute among the most sustainable on the planet. And our universities and national AI institutes — Mila, Amii, and the Vector Institute — are recognized globally as leaders in AI training and research. The task is to convert these advantages into infrastructure, data, and talent anchored here — under Canadian control, on Canadian terms, building Canadian advantage.



POWERING AI:

Canada's Sustainable Data Centre Push

The intense processing demands placed on these data centres generate significant heat, making cooling systems a necessity. These cooling systems contribute to overall energy consumption and in certain cases, increase water usage. With global data centre electricity consumption expected to more than double by 2030, where and how this infrastructure is built matters enormously.

Canada is uniquely positioned to lead in building this infrastructure responsibly and sustainably. More than 83 percent of the country's electricity grid comes from renewable and low-emission sources, primarily hydro, nuclear, and wind – enabling our data centres to operate on some of the cleanest power in the world. Data centres that rely on renewable and low-emissions sources reduce their total operating emissions by up to 90 percent.

As demand for AI compute grows, Canada's approach will be to link new data centre development with clean energy expansion, robust environmental standards, and tangible benefits for local communities, ensuring that Canada remains at the forefront of sustainable high-performance computing infrastructure.

Canada will double the electricity grid, largely with clean power, hydro, nuclear and renewables, and leverage its cold climate to give itself a built-in cost advantage that competitors are spending billions to replicate artificially while minimizing carbon footprint and water usage.

Sovereign Compute, Cloud, and Connectivity

Sovereign AI starts with sovereign infrastructure. Canada needs domestic data centre capacity and cloud services — not only to power research and commerce, but to accelerate homegrown innovation, incentivize collaboration, and create a magnet for talent, intellectual property, and investment using leading-edge technology.

Estimates vary, but analysis suggests Canada will require 5.5 gigawatts (GW) worth of AI compute for its commercial players by 2030. Much of this will be delivered through large-scale operations by hyperscalers serving both the domestic and foreign markets — and Canada will continue to welcome that foreign investment where it delivers clear benefits for Canadians. Even so, growing a sovereign alternative is critical to overcoming Canada's technological vulnerabilities.

While Canada's current AI data centre and cloud offerings are largely foreign-owned and controlled, recent investments by Canadian players are adding domestic sovereign AI compute capacity, building out the Canadian supply chain, and maturing the market typically occupied by dominant players.

Key Actions

Canada will build a world-leading public supercomputer, giving Canadian researchers and SMEs access to secure, sovereign, high-performance compute for cutting-edge public and industry-driven innovation.

Canada will leverage government and industrial AI workloads and crowd-in private capital to significantly expand sovereign compute and cloud infrastructure. This will support the construction of large-scale AI data centres that can scale to at least 100 megawatts (MW), and that are designed to serve a broad spectrum of Canadian clients. These partnerships are being finalized, and have proposed providing 850MW of compute capacity by 2030, with scaling capacity of up to 2.3GW with corresponding investments in the tens of billions.

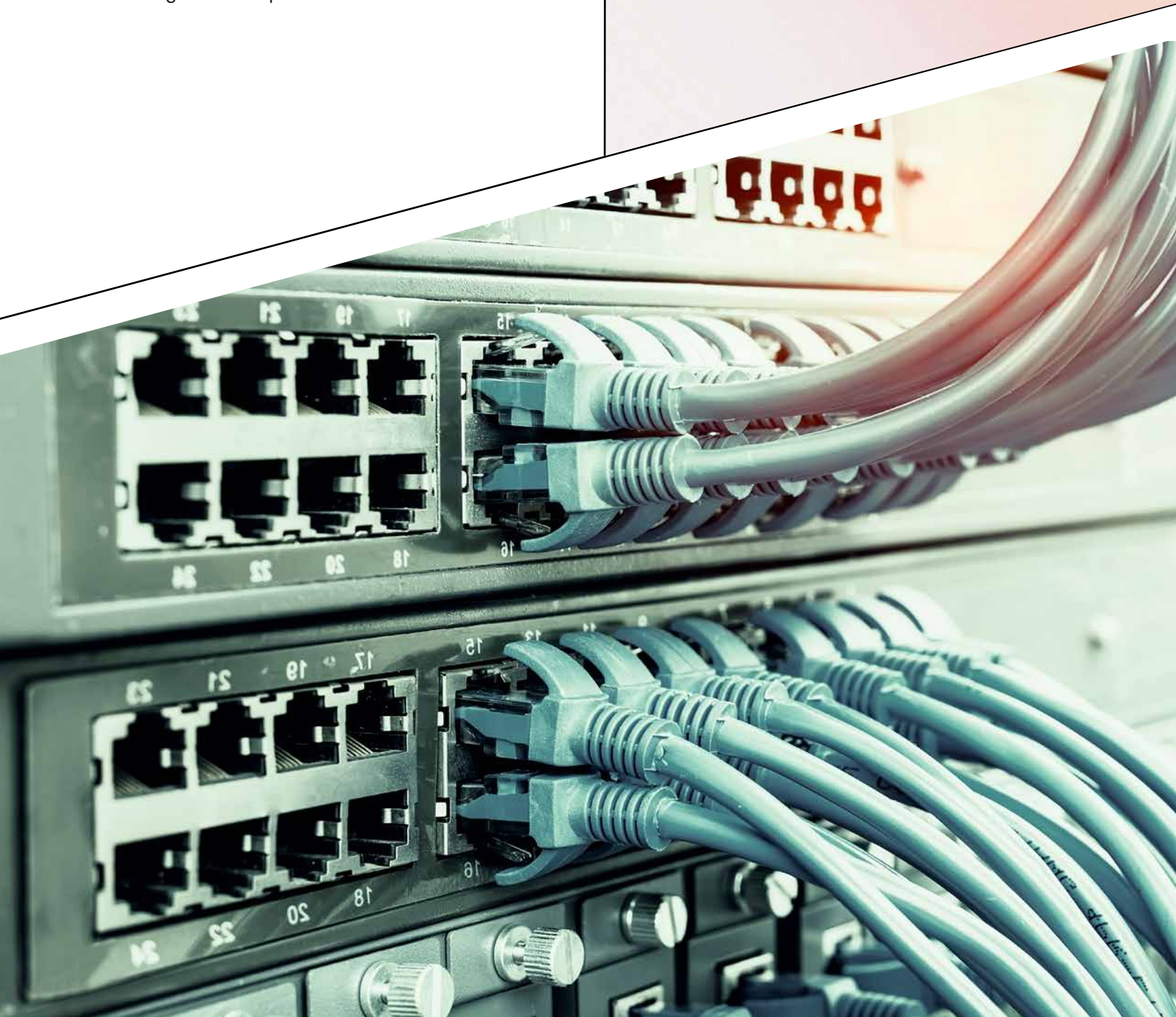
Canada will expand diverse high-capacity fibre lines and satellite connectivity, resulting in resilient network infrastructure with sovereign capabilities.

To complement existing large-scale private sector projects already underway across the country, the Government will continue delivering on more than \$2 billion in existing investments in Canadian AI compute capacity, including through the AI Compute Challenge, to support bringing large-scale commercial sovereign compute online.

The underlying infrastructure must be operated under Canadian control and Canadian law – not dependent on platforms that can be restricted or withdrawn at the discretion of a foreign government. Diverse, high-capacity fibre and satellite connectivity to link these systems from coast to coast to coast is also required to support growing data traffic and so that Canadian infrastructure is resilient and secure against disruption.

Canada will further enhance and secure its chip design and fabrication capabilities, building on the recent announcement to spin off the National Research Council's Photonics Fabrication Centre.

Canada will invest to build and reinforce secure digital systems used for Government operations, including sovereign cloud, AI, cyber and quantum initiatives.



Unlocking the Power of Data

AI is only as powerful as the data it can access. Canada generates enormous volumes of valuable data across health, energy, transportation, agriculture, natural resources, and other critical sectors — much of it held by governments themselves. Federal, provincial, and territorial institutions sit on data assets of exceptional depth and sectoral specificity, built up over decades of public service delivery, research funding, and regulatory oversight. These are precisely the kinds of assets that AI capabilities increasingly depend on. Yet today, this data remains largely siloed and inaccessible to the innovators who could turn it into world-class products and services.

Given the transformative capacity of AI, data must be treated as a strategic national asset — responsibly stewarded and mobilized to fuel innovation, productivity, and adoption across the economy. Canada needs secure data platforms, built on common standards and strong privacy protections, to unlock that potential and accelerate entire ecosystems in priority sectors.

The first focus will be healthcare, where the opportunity is immediate and the need is universal — every Canadian relies on the system, and every Canadian stands to benefit. A universal public system generates clinical and administrative data at scale, and mobilizing it responsibly can reduce wait times, enable personalized medicine, support more equitable access to care, and create commercialization opportunities for Canadian innovators. Other sectors will follow, with sequencing refined as implementation develops and data governance matures.

Key Actions

Canada will invest \$100 million to launch the Health Sector Data Space, in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), to link secure, private and standardized datasets to strengthen clinical trials, health services research and performance measurements.

Canada will also invest \$100 million to expand VITAL in five additional provinces, supporting its ability to leverage clinical data from hospitals and enable health data innovation that reduces mortality rates and accelerates critical care for Canadians.



VITAL:

Unlocking Canada's Health Data to Power AI Innovation

Canada's universal healthcare system is one of the richest sources of clinical data in the world. Every hospital encounter generates hundreds of thousands of data points — imaging, medication records, patient vitals, clinical outcomes — that could fuel breakthroughs in how we predict, prevent, and treat disease. But that data has been locked away in institutional silos, inaccessible to the researchers and entrepreneurs who could put it to work for Canadians.

VITAL is building the infrastructure to change that. As a pan-Canadian health data platform designed to connect clinical data from hospitals across multiple provinces, it is enabling AI-driven discovery: supporting research that can generate leads for novel therapies, attracting new clinical trials, and identifying genetic risk factors with greater precision.

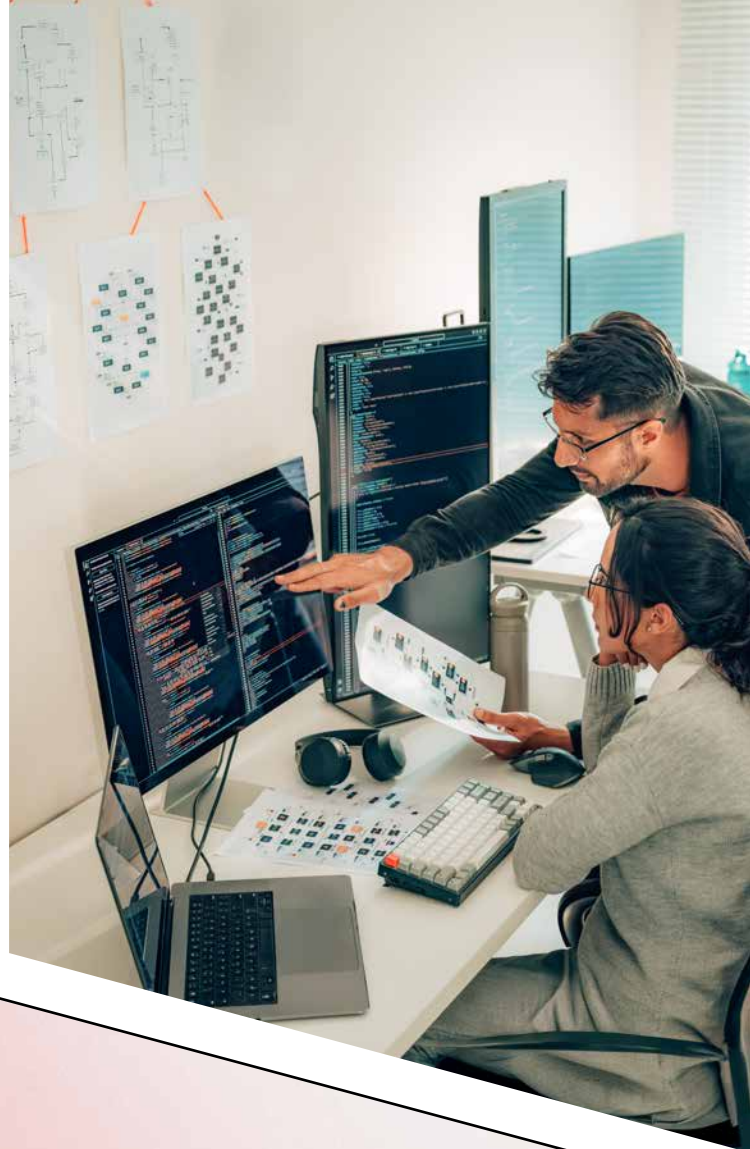
The early results are promising. AI applications are already running across multiple provinces, from predicting heart disease to detecting sepsis. And more than 80 Canadian companies are working with health data and AI to improve triaging, remote monitoring, and diagnostics. VITAL gives them a national platform to build on and a model that countries around the world are watching closely.

Anchoring World-Class Research Talent in Canada

Canada's AI leadership was built by people — researchers who chose to work here, students who trained here, and entrepreneurs who turned Canadian ideas into globally recognized companies and institutions. That talent base remains one of Canada's most important strategic assets.

But competition is intensifying. Every major economy is courting the same researchers, engineers, and technical experts with faster immigration, higher compensation, advanced compute, and deeper pools of capital. Canada cannot only be a user of AI systems built elsewhere; to shape the future of AI, it needs the people who can build advanced models, evaluate their safety, commercialize new applications, and train the next generation here at home.

Canada will double down on the programs and institutions that anchor world-class researchers, while making it faster and easier for global AI talent to come here, work here, and build their careers here. These efforts will complement the Government's broader \$1.7 billion talent attraction strategy announced in Budget 2025.



Key Actions

Canada will strengthen our network of national AI institutes and increase the Canada CIFAR AI Chairs program from 130 to nearly 200 researchers. This means more world-class AI talent working in Canada, more ideas moving from research labs into businesses and public services, and more support to help Canadians understand and use AI.

Canada will expand the Global Talent Stream to accelerate entry and onboarding of highly-skilled AI workers, and align measures for permanent residency to retain the talent Canada recruits.

EXPANDING CANADA'S NATIONAL AI INSTITUTES:

From Research to Real-World Impact

Canada's three National AI institutes — Mila, Amii, and the Vector Institute — have built a global reputation for research excellence and real-world relevance. Powered by the Canada CIFAR AI Chairs program, which has funded over 150 world-class researchers to advance research and technology in Canada, these institutes are translating cutting-edge AI into practical tools that are already making a difference in Canadians' lives.

- At Amii in Edmonton, Dr. Ross Mitchell supports Okaki, a company delivering AI-enabled public health services to Indigenous communities and electronic medical records for all First Nations in the province. Dr. Mitchell also created Jenkins — an open-source AI scribe now used by hundreds of emergency room physicians across Alberta — resulting in physicians seeing up to 20 percent more patients per shift. The tool is being scaled in Alberta, with plans to roll it out across the country to help increase Canadians' access to doctors.
- At the Vector Institute in Toronto, Professor Parvin Mousavi is applying machine learning to ultrasound and robotic data to detect cancer and stroke earlier and support real-time surgical decision-making with greater precision. Technology based on Dr. Mousavi's research has the potential to significantly reduce the need for follow-on surgery for breast cancer patients. Her research is also being applied to prostate cancer detection where it could dramatically reduce the demand for MRIs for prostate screening.
- At Mila in Montreal, Professor Reihaneh Rabbany and colleagues have built an open-source, AI-powered fact-checking assistant for journalists, and are partnering with Radio-Canada and media observatories — improving misinformation detection across multiple AI models by as much as 20 percent. With the app now publicly available, Canadians can benefit from greater confidence in the accuracy of the information they encounter.



These are not lab experiments. They are Canadian AI innovations already at work in newsrooms, emergency departments, Indigenous health centres, and operating rooms across the country.

Building and Scaling Canadian AI Champions

Canada is home to some of the world's most talented AI entrepreneurs and founders, anchored by research institutions and talent pipelines that are the envy of much larger economies. From that foundation has emerged a small but globally significant cohort of Canadian AI champions — including one of only a handful of frontier model companies in the world, alongside leading enterprise integrators and applied AI firms with global reach. The early proof is real: Canadian companies can compete at the highest tier. The question is whether they will do so from Canada, and whether more will follow.

The uncomfortable reality is that too many promising Canadian companies grow elsewhere. Proximity to the world's largest technology market has historically been an advantage, but it has also made it easy — and often rational — for Canadian firms to move operations south to capture customers and capital. Canadian research leads the world, but the companies built on it too often scale under other flags.

Building Canadian champions means changing the conditions that have pushed them elsewhere. Canada will rebuild the investment flywheel that rewards Canadian risk-taking, give Canadian companies the infrastructure and demand they need to scale at home, and back Canadian ambition at the frontier of AI itself. When champions grow here and compete globally from here, Canada gains more than an industry — it gains the agency to shape how AI is built, the leverage to protect Canadian interests, and the prosperity that comes from owning what it invents.

Creating an Investment Flywheel that Rewards Responsible Risk-Taking

A healthy angel investor and venture capital community is critical to ensure that startups have access to capital and opportunities to grow locally. Canada now ranks 5th globally in AI venture capital with \$3.1B invested in 2025, and according to BDC, over half of all VC investments in Canada (57%) went towards the information and communication technology (ICT) sector last year.

Nevertheless, due to global trade uncertainty, those investments are concentrated in a limited number of deals. Challenges in the current investment and fundraising environment could lead to increased funding gaps at all investment stages and additional pressures for companies to relocate. Sufficient investment capital is the key to retaining critical talent and intellectual property, and to re-attract top Canadian entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley.

To ensure that Canada retains its most successful entrepreneurs, companies and valuable intellectual property and propel global growth anchored in Canada, it must build the most competitive investment landscape in the world, protect upside for early-stage investors, and help Canadian startups compete on a level playing field to attract global venture capital.

Canada must also ensure that its leading technology companies are market-shaping rather than market-following. Canada must adopt policies similar to those of France, Japan, and now the United States, and take equity stakes in its best technology companies to cultivate and sustain their growth in Canada and around the world, to secure its AI supply chain, and to ensure that Canadians also share the dividends of successful Canadian champions.

Key Actions

Canada will establish a \$500 million Canadian Tech Growth Fund to help close the scale-up capital gap facing Canada's most promising AI companies. The Fund will provide flexible growth capital and investment support, and enable the federal government, at times, to take equity stakes in the most promising Canadian AI firms. This will help them attract private capital, compete globally, retain talent and intellectual property, and remain anchored in Canada. Where appropriate, Canada will leverage its recently announced Sovereign Wealth Fund to further support emerging national champions.

By Budget 2026, the Department of Finance will work with experts to explore mechanisms that encourage Canadians to reinvest gains earned from successful tech companies into new Canadian AI startups.

Canada will also leverage \$1.75 billion of federal investments and commitments announced in Budget 2025 to stimulate private sector investment in venture capital and address access to capital gaps for innovative companies, including those in AI.

Canada will establish the federal government as a strategic anchor customer and leverage the Buy Canadian policy to provide domestic scale-ups with the revenue and validation they need to successfully export their solutions globally.

Accelerating SME Commercialization on Canadian Infrastructure

Canada's global leadership in AI research must create economic benefits here at home. Translating Canadian IP into products, services, and globally competitive companies requires a commercialization ecosystem built for the speed and cross-sectoral nature of AI.

To do so, National AI Institutes must convert more of their scientific breakthroughs into homegrown companies through collaboration with venture capital, industry, and Global Innovation Clusters. They will need to develop sector-specific deployment playbooks and provide technical expertise to industry to deliver AI implementation.

Building AI products also takes serious computing power and right now, most Canadian SMEs have no affordable domestic option. They train, test, and deploy their models on foreign cloud platforms, sending Canadian dollars offshore and placing their most sensitive data and intellectual property outside Canadian jurisdiction. We must enable them to bring products to market on Canadian infrastructure, compete globally, and keep the value chain at home.



Key Actions

Canada will provide Canadian SMEs with an additional \$700 million in affordable sovereign compute through an expansion of the Compute Access Fund.

Canada will invest \$130 million for commercialization programs across the National AI Institutes, including for Founders-in-Residence, to cultivate a new generation of AI entrepreneurs.

Canada will assess the full continuum of innovation programs to better align existing innovation instruments so that the path from research to market is shorter, clearer, and built around the needs of Canadian entrepreneurs.

Canada will leverage \$159 million invested in Budget 2025 through the Elevate IP and IP Assist programs to protect Canadian intellectual property and support SMEs to commercialize their intangible assets in the global marketplace.



BRIDGING RESEARCH AND CAPITAL:

The Venture Scientist Fund

Canada punches above its weight in research, but commercial outcomes are too often not being anchored here, with nearly 70 percent of Canadian-led startups ending up headquartered outside the country.

In January 2026, Mila – Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute and Inovia Capital launched the Venture Scientist Fund, a US\$100 million early-stage venture capital fund designed to close that gap, creating a structured pathway to take frontier research to company creation.

The fund will invest in over 55 AI-native companies emerging from Canada's leading research universities, with a focus on domains where scientific depth is a competitive advantage: foundational AI, deep tech, and next-generation computational and physical infrastructure.

The goal is straightforward: keep Canada's best AI talent and intellectual property here, and turn world-class research into world-class companies headquartered in Canada.

Championing Our Foundation Models

Foundation models are one of the key pieces of strategic infrastructure of the AI economy as they are the base layer for AI applications. Unlike traditional software, a single foundation model can be adapted to thousands of downstream tasks: translation, code generation, legal analysis, medical triage, and scientific research. Dependence on foreign models can create potential points of leverage, especially in sensitive government or defence applications.

Canada's AI ecosystem also supports safe-by-design frontier AI research. These efforts, if developed appropriately and scaled commercially, have the potential to become world-leading solutions to AI safety.

Canada will treat these capabilities as strategic assets, with the potential to scale globally while remaining anchored in Canadian soil.

Key Actions

Canada will anchor its homegrown foundation model capabilities at home, and support their international growth by exporting them to a growing global market actively seeking trusted alternatives.

Canada will support research in Canadian foundation models built with safety at their core, drawing on the country's deep bench of AI safety research to make trustworthiness a defining feature of Canadian models.





CANADA AT THE FRONTIER:

Cohere and LawZero

Canada is one of a very small number of countries with domestic organizations operating at the frontier of AI, building both the powerful models that will define the next era of technology and the safety research needed to ensure those models serve humanity well.

Cohere, founded in Toronto in 2019, is a world-leading enterprise AI company that commercializes large language models exclusively for enterprise and government use. Its core differentiator is the ability to handle sensitive data in the most secure settings. This capability is in growing demand from businesses and governments worldwide, particularly in regulated industries like finance, healthcare, and telecommunications where data sovereignty and security are paramount.

LawZero, founded in Montréal in 2025 by Turing Award winner Yoshua Bengio and incubated at Mila, is a non-profit research organization developing safe-by-design AI systems. Structured as a nonprofit to insulate its work from market and political pressures, LawZero is building a new generation of AI intended to provide oversight for the agentic systems being deployed by frontier labs worldwide. Its mission positions Canada at the centre of the global effort to ensure increasingly capable AI remains aligned with human interests.

Together, Cohere and LawZero represent a uniquely Canadian combination: a frontier commercial capability with global reach, and a world-leading safety research institution working to make that frontier safe for everyone.

PILLAR 6:

Building Trusted Partnerships and Global Alliances

Currently, AI is a game of scale that is dominated by hegemony and hyperscalers. This poses a significant security and economic challenge as countries around the globe risk becoming subordinate or reliant on them.

Canada must establish its strategic autonomy and work purposefully with key allies to build out AI capabilities and supply chains that will offer resilience and choice to citizens, companies, and customers.

Canada has led the world on AI governance before — through efforts like the Montreal Declaration on Responsible AI and the formation of the Global Partnership on AI — and will continue to lead. Canada has a responsibility and strategic opportunity to work with trusted partners to help shape a global AI ecosystem that is open, secure, and aligned with democratic principles.

By exporting Canadian AI products and principles, we can provide credible alternatives to closed, monopolized, or values-agnostic systems that dominate today's global AI landscape.

Spearheading a Multinational Sovereign Technology Alliance

A coalition of aligned democracies, who pool research, talent, compute, and procurement power, would offer a credible alternative to the dominant market actors that increasingly define the global AI landscape. Canada is uniquely positioned to lead such an alliance – with proven and emerging capabilities that complement and reinforce those of key middle powers.

In February 2026, Canada and Germany launched the Sovereign Technology Alliance, an initiative that will deepen collaboration with trusted allies to use common AI models, share digital infrastructure, access capital, and participate in joint research. It will also ensure similar approaches to safety and security, and establish shared AI evaluation standards and benchmarks, to provide options to companies and citizens on everything from foundation models to applications and drive adoption across industries.

Furthermore, with a long-standing reputation for responsible innovation, inclusive governance, and multilateral cooperation, Canada can shape global AI norms that balance technological progress with public trust.

Key Actions

Canada will expand the newly formed Sovereign Technology Alliance to enable secure and interoperable AI capabilities and open procurement opportunities for domestic champions. This will accelerate responsible AI adoption, de-risk private-sector investment and cross-border deployment, reduce strategic dependence on dominant technology ecosystems while safeguarding rights and data, and expand joint research, talent, and investment opportunities.

Canada will leverage the Trade Commissioner Service and diplomatic networks to attract foreign investment in AI, showcase Canadian champions abroad, and enable new markets for Canadian firms.



Canada's AI Industry on Display

Canada takes a leading role in technology and start up trade shows and coordinates successful trade missions to increase Canadian presence during international events.

Delegations, such as those led by Scale AI at VivaTech 2025 in France, where Canada was the country of honour, included 230 Canadian organizations. In Paris, Montréal's Hypertec announced a \$5 billion initiative to build one of Europe's largest sovereign AI infrastructure networks, with over 2 GW of data centre capacity and nearly 100,000 GPUs planned. Hypertec has since been designated as the first Canadian NVIDIA OEM Partner manufacturing systems in Canada.

In 2025, when Canada was the partner country at the Hannover Messe trade fair in Germany, Canadian exhibitors generated over \$260 million in business impacts.

Canada also hosts international large-scale AI events. The ALL IN conference, Canada's largest AI and technology event, provides a national platform that builds on this momentum domestically. The 2025 edition featured 6,500 participants from 2,500 companies and over 40 countries, showcasing the strength and dynamism of Canada's AI ecosystem.

Taken together, these efforts will strengthen market access for Canadian companies, driving the worldwide adoption of Canadian AI solutions and AI-enabled technologies.

Advancing Open-Source AI for Resilience and Choice

The global AI market is rapidly consolidating around a small number of proprietary systems. For countries that depend on these closed platforms, the risks are significant: structural dependency, vendor lock-in, diminished transparency, and a limited ability to adapt critical technologies to local needs, cultures, and values.

Open-source AI is a powerful alternative, as it offers transparent tools that are cheaper to deploy and easier to fine-tune and adapt to specific use-cases, lowering barriers to discovery and adoption, particularly for not-for-profit organizations and SMEs.

Open-source AI can also support external evaluation and accountability, accelerate research and innovation, and encourage greater competition in the marketplace. It can be a way to broaden global access, expand capabilities beyond dominant markets, and provide a foundation for more inclusive AI systems.

Open-source AI is already a major driver of AI adoption across the technology stack, including data, models, and tools. For Canadian organizations, this matters because open-source AI can reduce costs, increase flexibility, and allow solutions to be tailored to local requirements, including on-premises deployment where privacy, security, or sensitive data considerations are paramount.

By advancing open-source AI, Canada can accelerate adoption, strengthen resilience, support competition, and ensure more Canadians can shape AI systems to reflect their needs, languages, communities, and values.



Key Actions

Canada will lead a global, multi-stakeholder effort to invest in and sustain open-source AI development in the public interest, working with like-minded countries, Canadian AI institutes, researchers, civil society, industry, and global open-source organizations.

Canada will support the responsible adoption of open-source AI by Canadian researchers, SMEs, not-for-profit organizations, and public-interest innovators, working to create an inventory and shared library of access tools that are transparent, adaptable, secure, and aligned with Canadian needs.

Expanding International Partnerships and AI Collaboration

Building on Canada's international partnerships will open new markets for Canadian businesses, attract transformative investment into nation-building projects, and create high-paying careers for Canadian workers.

In the past year, Canada has signed 20 new economic and defence partnerships, securing nearly \$100 billion in foreign investment commitments. Canada is actively negotiating free trade agreements with India, ASEAN, and beyond. Of those 20 partnerships, 11 explicitly advance cooperation on artificial intelligence — spanning four continents and topics from AI safety standards and sovereign AI infrastructure to industrial deployment and business-to-business matchmaking.

These agreements will position Canada as a trusted global partner in how AI is governed, built and deployed, ensuring that Canadian values of openness, democratic accountability, and rules-based cooperation shape the AI systems of the future.

Measures Taken:

- **Europe:** Germany is Canada's anchor partner through the Sovereign Technology Alliance, with broader cooperation on critical minerals, clean energy, aerospace and defence. The UK is advancing joint work on AI safety, standards and defence AI. France is coordinating with Canada on AI governance under its G7 Presidency. The EU-Canada Strategic Partnership of the Future will embed AI alongside critical minerals, clean energy and defence. Finland and Norway add complementary strengths in connectivity, space, digitalization and critical minerals.
- **Indo-Pacific:** Canada, Australia, and India are formalizing a trilateral technology and innovation partnership covering AI, quantum, trade missions, and private-sector matchmaking. Canada is also collaborating with Australia's AI Safety Institute on shared evaluation expertise. Japan offers opportunities in semiconductors, robotics, industrial AI, and quantum computing through the modernized Canada-Japan Joint Economic Committee.
- **Middle East:** The UAE is drawing sovereign wealth investment into Canadian data infrastructure and AI projects. Qatar is partnering with Canada on AI and emerging technologies, opening Gulf market access and supporting Vision 2030 diversification. Saudi Arabia is cooperating on tech and AI through the relaunched Joint Economic Commission.

Conclusion

Canada's AI for All strategy represents a significant new investment in our future. It is a plan to build trust in the systems that shape Canadians' lives, protect Canadians' rights and safety, and create opportunities for every Canadian to participate in a stronger economy.

The strategy accelerates the current work building sovereign AI, strengthens international partnerships to enhance resilience, and builds in the flexibility to continue to adjust to the opportunities and challenges as this technology evolves in the years ahead.

This National AI Strategy gives Canada the direction, tools, and ambition to act with purpose, adapt with confidence, and build an AI future that truly serves all Canadians.

We recognize that AI is moving faster than any strategy can anticipate. Consequently, the Government of Canada will continue to review and update this plan to address the evolving opportunities and challenges presented by AI.

While this plan is intended to be dynamic, it is also deliberately built around principles like trust, opportunity, and sovereignty, as well as the central importance of widespread adoption. This strategic approach will ensure that Canadians have the foundation, tools and opportunity they need to thrive in the AI era.