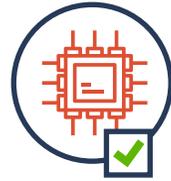


# Vote for BC. Vote for Tech.

**Advancing the tech sector is a part of each party's agenda.**

Here's a summary of key tech-related elements in the three platforms as it relates to BCTECH's policy pillars: talent, capital, markets, scale and competitiveness.

# Why Vote?



Vote to support BC's tech scene.



Vote to increase the talent pool.



Vote to help make tech a priority in post-secondary institutions.



Vote to support making BC a top 10 global tech ecosystem.



Vote to be represented.



Vote to ensure increased capital investment into the tech industry.



Vote to make BC the best place to grow a tech company.



# Talent



**Invest \$100 million** to expand technology-related post-secondary programs and invest in talent in information and communications, digital media and entertainment, life sciences and health, clean tech, IT and engineering and more, to develop high-quality talent right here at home.



**Invest in post-secondary education** and tech-related co-op programs to match B.C.'s tech industry needs for skilled workers and British Columbians need for good paying jobs.



**Instate a Chief Talent Officer** who can bring focus to government's efforts to train, repatriate and recruit the talent necessary for our tech sector to grow.



**Use our public education system and partner with innovative not-for-profits**, to ensure every child in B.C. is given the opportunity to see how they can change the world by learning to code, even if they don't have a computer at home.



**Close the digital divide**, and ensure digital opportunities flow to women, First Nations and low-income people who might otherwise struggle to unlock their tech talent.



**Make it possible for people working in tech to do so from anywhere in BC** – so they can choose more affordable places to live than the Lower Mainland if they want, and by investing in affordable housing solutions for Metro Vancouver.



**Ensure every child in BC is given the opportunity to learn** how they can change the world by learning to code.



**Promote innovative collaborations** with domestic and international partners, facilitate strategic business mentoring, and invest \$35 million in talent over four years to help create, grow and attract companies.



**Invest up to \$20 million per year** to support ideation, mentoring and networking at post-secondary institutions in order to promote entrepreneurship, leadership and business skills development.



**Create an additional 1,000 new grads in tech** supporting science, technology, engineering and math disciplines in universities and colleges across the province by 2022. Once those 1,000 additional graduates have completed their fourth year, the plan is to expand by another 1,000.



**Double the number of placements in the BC Tech co-op grants program** to train post-secondary students by 2022.



**Increase the number of placements in the MITACS internship program** from 500 to 800 annually by 2020.



**Bring some of the best and brightest people** in the tech and life sciences sector to do their research in British Columbia.



**Create new STEM schools** to connect high schools with post-secondary programs that support tech related industries. Create new STEM schools to connect high schools with post-secondary programs that support tech related industries.



**Work with the federal government** to increase the skilled tech talent immigrating to B.C.



**Create a new Innovation Network** to bridge all 25 public post-secondary institutions and industry with UBC president Santa Ono as Chief Advisor for the network.



**Work with the First Nations Technology Council** on their program Bridging to Technology.



Capital



**Re-invigorate the Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund** to boost investments in groundbreaking new energy technologies, climate change solutions, and community-focused energy projects, especially projects that drive development in rural, northern and First Nations communities.



**Strengthen existing venture capital and tax credit programs** to encourage investment in BC companies, and develop a stronger venture capital culture here at home.



**Offer networking grants to start-ups and early stage companies** to allow startups to attend investor conferences to grow and bring investment home to BC.



**Provide up to \$70 million over four years** for qualifying entrepreneurs to leverage seed or angel funding.



**Invest \$120 million over four years for partnerships with industry,** academic institutions and other levels of government in order to support research, development and the commercialization of climate friendly technologies; and implement innovative strategies to achieve desired environmental results.



**Promote investment in clean energy and transportation,** particularly those initiatives that create jobs and economic activity without increasing greenhouse gas emissions.



**Invest an additional \$87 million** toward the BC Tech Strategy, including in areas of K-12 coding.



**Increase the Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit** from \$35 million to \$38.5 million.



**Expand the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit** to cover commercial applications for Augmented and Virtual Reality.



**Invest an additional \$10 million in life science research chairs** and post-graduate fellows, on top of the \$10 million for the BC Science and Technology Research Chairs Program.



# Markets



**Make government IT procurement work better** for companies that hire locally and have a local supply chain.



**Bring in a cap on the value and the length of government IT contracts** to save money, increase innovation, improve competition, and help our tech sector grow.



**Create new innovation centres across the province**, in partnership with universities and with all five parts of our tech sector - clean tech, digital media, engineering, information and communications technology, and life sciences, to open opportunities across the province



**Partner with local governments in northern and rural communities** to ensure local digital infrastructure is affordable, accessible and business ready.



**Review the environmental legislative framework** and its application to ensure that the regulatory environment promotes the adoption of green technologies and practices.



**Use government procurement to encourage the greening of businesses**, products and processes, and will allocate \$20 million per year to support the adoption of green technology.



**Promote the use of clean technology** to derive the maximum economic benefit from waste streams.



**Establish an Innovative Ideas Fund** to encourage the purchase of new, innovative technology products.



**Create a Procurement Concierge Service** to act as a “matchmaker” between government’s needs and tech innovators of all sizes.



**Change procurement policy** so that government becomes an early purchaser of B.C. technology innovative solutions.



**Pilot a Startup in Residence Program** where government and technology companies come together to tackle real world public sector challenges with innovative solutions



**Expand B.C.'s Export Navigator pilot** to help growing businesses become successful exporters



**Expand U.S. Trade and Investment Offices** in the Silicon Valley and establishing a presence in Seattle.



**Support Washington's State Governor** as he explores improved transportation links between the tech hubs of Seattle and Vancouver.



**Encourage the federal government to support the proposed Vancouver harbour to Seattle harbour regular air service** to help the movement of tech workers between the two cities.



# Scale & Competitiveness

# ✕ Scale & Competitiveness



**Stability is important for our tech sector**, which is why we will strengthen existing venture capital and tax credit programs to ensure the system works best for B.C.



**Streamline and simplify the many incentive programs and credits** offered to the tech sector to better support smaller companies to minimize time spent filling out paperwork.



**Work with the federal government** to develop a systematic approach to the tax system that is both progressive (i.e. strikes an appropriate balance between redistribution and work incentives) and neutral (i.e. treats similar economic activities in similar ways).



**Simplify the tax system** and utilize it to achieve goals such as greening the economy and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation.



**Review existing programs** to ensure they are effectively supporting innovation and new business models in the emerging economy.



**Invest up to \$50 million a year in business incubators, accelerators and affordable space** for small and medium-sized enterprises. The province will work with local governments to develop a strategy for affordable space.



**Modernise labour laws** to recognize new and evolving types of work relationships in the emerging economy by introducing a fairer, more responsive and more inclusive code that contributes to increased competitiveness.



**Review the mandates and legislation of public sector agencies** and Crown corporations to ensure that they promote innovation and support business development.



**Continue to support the development of accelerator/incubators** as needed throughout the province.



**Reinvigorate the Robson Square district** as a centre of innovation.



**Other**

# ⊗ Other



Invest in rural and northern communities through the development and support of innovative manufacturing processes and technologies.



Create a level playing field for all ride-sharing providers, and make sure you can find a safe ride when needed.



Establish an Emerging Economy Task Force to address the changing nature of business over the next 10 to 25 years. The task force will report to the government by July 2018.



Establish an Innovation Commission to support innovation and business development in the technology sector, and will appoint an Innovation Commissioner whose mandate will be to serve as an advocate and ambassador on behalf of the B.C. technology sector in Ottawa and abroad.



Ensure a regulatory framework is in place to bring ridesharing to B.C.



Make government data accessible for the benefit of citizens by creating a Centre for Data-Driven Innovation in B.C. that will serve as a comprehensive, safe and trusted platform where government data can be linked and analyzed to solve real-world problems.



Work with industry to aggressively pursue **\$950 million in federal funding** under the technology clusters initiative.



Bring ridesharing to B.C. and introduce a carsharing tax credit.

 To Learn More



Read the full  
BC New Democrat Party Platform here:

[www.bcndp.ca/platform](http://www.bcndp.ca/platform)



Read the full  
BC Green Party Platform here:

[www.bcgreens.ca/platform](http://www.bcgreens.ca/platform)



**Today's BC Liberals**

Read the full  
BC Liberal Party Platform here:

[www.bcliberals.com/platform](http://www.bcliberals.com/platform)

Direct your questions and comments to:

**policy@wearebctech.com**