

Exploring Ontario's Innovation Ecosystems

June 17, 2024

In partnership with the municipalities of
Brampton, Markham, Mississauga, Toronto, and the regions of Durham and Halton

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Overview

With the Collision technology conference and its 36,000 international attendees descending upon Toronto, Ontario between June 17th and 20th, there is no better time to showcase the province's innovation ecosystem.

Ontario is where bold ideas come to life, tackling some of the biggest challenges the world has ever seen. Businesses in Ontario's [information technology sector](#) thrive because they work within a robust digital infrastructure and an innovative and open culture, with a multicultural, tech-skilled workforce and a government that supports technological developments.

Home to three of North America's top five most concentrated tech markets (Ottawa, Toronto, and Waterloo), Ontario is where industry giants like Nokia, Google, IBM and Amazon invest in major R&D operations. With a record of accomplishments that includes BlackBerry, the world's first Geographical Information System (GIS) software, IMAX film technology, ground-breaking two-way wireless technology and breakthroughs in 3D animation, Ontario has an impressive history of invention and innovation in the information technology sector.

On June 17th, the Government of Ontario, in partnership with nearby municipalities and regions, is hosting an Innovation Road Trip to highlight the province's technology hot spots, including the cities of Brampton, Markham, Mississauga, and Toronto, and the regions of Durham and Halton.

...

International delegates will be prioritized, and successful registrants will be contacted with a confirmation email closer to the date. Photo ID will be required.

Exploring Ontario's Innovation Ecosystem: Touring BRAMPTON



This tour is appropriate for international start-ups, companies interested in global expansion, municipal development corporations, and chambers of commerce/industry associations.

BRAMPTON PROFILE:

[Brampton](#) is amid a significant transformation. As the fastest-growing big city in Canada—and one of the youngest—it has become a national leader in attracting, developing, and retaining new jobs and talent.

Brampton's community is made up of 250 cultures speaking 171 languages, delivering a diverse workforce that your company can rely on. It is also centrally located along Ontario's Innovation Corridor, positioning the city as a hub for innovation. Advanced manufacturing, food and beverage, innovation and technology, and health and life sciences are among the key sectors the city supports for strategic growth.

Brampton has a growing innovation and technology sector that acts as a foundation for collaboration, partnerships, and innovation across every industry. There are 6,500 companies with 13,000 employees operating within this space. Leading companies such as Air Canada, MDA, Rogers Communications, Survalent Technologies, Canon Canada and Amazon have a major presence in Brampton.

Brampton is also on the leading edge of cybersecurity. It is home to [Sheridan College's Centre for Intelligent Manufacturing](#) (formerly the Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Design Technologies) and the [Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst](#), a national centre for innovation and collaboration in cybersecurity. The Catalyst provides training and certification, commercial acceleration, and support for cyber scale-ups, applied research and development, and public education.

TOUR PROGRAM:

The tour program explores Brampton's unique and booming Innovation District. It's an opportunity for participants to visit Brampton's Innovation and Technology hot spots as well as incubator and accelerator hubs that house a variety of programs for entrepreneurs.

***Note that this tour will involve plenty of walking. Please let us know of any accessibility requirements.**

TOUR AGENDA:

| TIMES | TOUR SITES |
|-------------------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Pickup in downtown Toronto and travel to Brampton |
| 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Walking tour of Brampton Innovation District |
| 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Presentations, networking, and lunch at BHive |
| 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Bus takes participants back to downtown Toronto |
| 3:00 p.m. | Tour concludes |

TOUR SITE - PROFILES



[BHive](#)

BHive is a leading start-up incubator with a dedicated focus on the Canadian Government's Start-Up Visa Program. This program offers incoming international start-ups and entrepreneurs the tools, resources, and space to establish – and quickly scale – their businesses in Canada and North America. BHive is a collaboration between the City of Brampton and the Toronto Business Development Centre (TBDC) and has been strategically designed to ensure start-ups have everything they need to scale and grow.



[Brampton Innovation District](#)

The Brampton Innovation District is an entire innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the heart of downtown Brampton. The Innovation District fosters talent and provides resources for entrepreneurs and companies of all sizes, from start-ups to Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The Brampton Innovation District includes:

- [Founder Institute](#)
- Post-secondary education ([Algoma University](#), [Sheridan College](#), [Toronto Metropolitan University](#), etc.)
- [Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst](#) (cybersecurity hub)
- [Brampton Entrepreneur Centre](#) (ideation and co-working)
- [Brampton Venture Zone by Toronto Metropolitan University](#) (start-up incubator)
- [Altitude Accelerator](#) (scale-up incubator)
- [BHive](#)
- [Centre for Innovation](#) at 8 Nelson Street (future)

Defined by its energy, Brampton is shifting, and transforming. Positioned to be a key player in the innovation space with its location in the middle of Canada's Innovation Corridor, the Innovation District in downtown Brampton is home to entrepreneurial business incubation, and accelerator spaces. The Innovation District prioritizes innovation and entrepreneurship to foster jobs and technological breakthroughs.

[Click here to register for the Brampton tour](#)

Exploring Ontario's Innovation Ecosystem: Touring DURHAM



This tour is appropriate for companies in the mobility, clean tech or digital applied technology sectors who are interested in growing their business in Ontario, Canada and/or corporate/industrial partnerships in academia or the innovation ecosystem as a precursor for expansion.

DURHAM PROFILE:

[Durham](#) Region makes up the eastern side of the Greater Toronto Area, located less than one hour from the heart of downtown Toronto and Toronto Pearson Airport. Made up of eight cities and townships—and nestled between three lakefronts—Durham is where the excitement of the city and the tranquility of the countryside meet. With a current population of 700,000, the region is experiencing booming growth, with an expected population of more than 1.3 million by 2051. Durham Region is a vibrant community offering more than a dozen downtowns to discover, a delicious farm-to-fork culinary community, and picturesque rolling countryside spotted with hiking trails, golf, cycling, and ski destinations.

Home to three post-secondary institutions, Durham Region has one of Canada's fastest-growing talent pipelines in the tech sector, with expertise in artificial intelligence, game design, research, and engineering. Durham is the Clean Energy Capital of Canada and has a rich history of automotive innovation. This combined with a strong innovation ecosystem

of supportive partners makes Durham an electric playground, where you can innovate and test electric, connected, and green technologies. Durham Region has an emerging technology cluster that includes several of Canada’s fastest growing technology companies.

TOUR PROGRAM:

The tour begins at Ontario Tech University’s technological learning hub, Brilliant Catalyst. Here, opportunities are created for individuals by leveraging invaluable industry partnerships to flourish in a tight-knit, collaborative community. Ontario Tech University is an ecosystem of limitless potential and Brilliant Catalyst plays a pivotal role in nurturing this potential to empower future generations and change makers. Next, the tour will include a visit to the ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel, the first climatic testing and research centre of its kind in Canada, housed at Ontario Tech University’s Oshawa campus. This facility works with companies globally and offers one-of-a-kind research and innovation capabilities. The tour will conclude at Spark Centre, Durham’s local Regional Innovation Centre (RIC), serving technology and innovation entrepreneurs who require knowledge and support to launch, develop, and grow. Delegates will have time to network with successful entrepreneurs while enjoying a delicious lunch.

TOUR AGENDA:

| TIMES | TOUR SITES |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. | Pickup in downtown Toronto and travel to Durham region |
| 9:30 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. | Brilliant Catalyst at Ontario Tech University |
| 10:25 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Walk to ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel |
| 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Ontario Tech University – Tour of ACE Climatic Aerodynamic Wind Tunnel |
| 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Travel to Spark Centre |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Spark Centre – presentation, client showcase, lunch, and networking |
| 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Bus takes participants back to downtown Toronto |
| 3:00 p.m. | Tour Concludes |

TOUR SITE - PROFILES



Brilliant Catalyst

Brilliant Catalyst's mission is to inspire and empower the next generation of change-makers by building a community of experts, entrepreneurs, advisors, and influencers to fuel innovative change and put more Canadian ventures on the map. That is why they focus on cultivating top talent.

They believe the creativity and diversity that is within the walls at Ontario Tech University can help accelerate the success of ventures in the community. Through their carefully cultivated programs, they provide a dynamic platform where individuals can explore, experiment, and excel in their entrepreneurial journeys.

Their commitment to excellence drives them to constantly refine and enhance their offerings, ensuring that they remain at the forefront of industry trends and best practices. By providing access to cutting-edge resources and expert guidance, their aim is to empower community members to not only keep pace with the rapidly evolving demands of the "real world", but also to lead the way in innovation.



[Ontario Tech University](#)

With two campuses in Oshawa, Ontario Tech University is a modern, forward-thinking university that advances the discovery and application of knowledge to accelerate economic growth, regional development, and social innovation. Researchers, students, and graduates are inspired and equipped to make a positive impact in a tech-focused world through understanding and integrating the social and ethical implications of technology. With six faculties, and more than 10,000 students in over 115 programs, the research-intensive, STEM-focused university is home to more than 80 specialized research laboratories and facilities.

Ontario Tech is home to ACE, the world's only climatic aerodynamic wind tunnel with enhanced acoustics. A core research and testing facility with a reputation as world-leading solutions provider, ACE brings leading researchers, top engineers, and industry together under one roof to put the products of the future to the ultimate proof-of-concept testing.

Long famous for its Climatic Wind Tunnel that can create repeatable, made-to-order

weather conditions for every conceivable extreme, the newest addition is an 80-tonne single-belt Moving Ground Plane (MGP). The seven-metre, sub-floor MGP at ACE is a 'rolling road' that provides an unparalleled experimental physical simulation of a real vehicle travelling at speeds up to 250 km/h.



[Spark Centre](#)

Spark Centre stands as a beacon of innovation within Ontario's network of Regional Innovation Centres, offering a comprehensive suite of resources tailored to the needs of early-stage and high-growth innovation and technology companies. From specialized programming to advisory services, access to funding and collaborative workspaces, Spark Centre nurtures entrepreneurial endeavours with precision and care.

Spark Centre is dedicated to economic growth and sustainability across Durham Region. As a Startup Visa (SUV) designate, and through collaboration with diverse funders and stakeholders, they've forged an ecosystem unparalleled in its support for local and international founders. Through a spectrum of services, Spark Centre empowers entrepreneurs to embark on their journey of launching, scaling, or relocating their ventures with confidence and success.

[Click here to register for the Durham region tour](#)

Exploring Ontario's Innovation Ecosystem: Touring HALTON REGION



This tour is appropriate for international entrepreneurs and small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who want to explore the vibrant business ecosystem, unique support programs, and growth potential in one of Canada's most livable regions.

HALTON PROFILE:

[Halton's](#) strategic location in west Greater Toronto Area (GTA) provides easy access to major North American markets, a fast-growing pipeline of talent and a highly educated labour force. Halton has four communities: Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. With a population of close to 600,000 residents, Halton has been rated the safest Canadian municipality with a population of 100,000 or more for 15 years. It is one of the most vibrant and desirable communities to live in Canada.

Halton's diverse technology ecosystem, combined with its proximity to international airports and livable communities, make Halton a premium choice for tech companies. Halton is home to a diverse and evolving Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) sector, including more than 300 firms. The ICT sector in Halton has remarkable breadth, covering a wide range of specializations.

Halton boasts the most educated labour pool in the GTA with 78% of residents holding post-secondary degrees and diplomas. Halton businesses draw from 20 colleges and

universities within a one-hour drive. Sheridan College, located in Halton, has been named the “Harvard” of animation, producing high-demand graduates in the animation and gaming industry internationally. Sheridan’s [Centre for Applied AI](#) creates innovative solutions to industry-relevant challenges in mobile health, in close collaboration with industry, community, and academic partners.

[Halton Region – Where tech companies flourish and communities thrive](#)

TOUR PROGRAM:

The tour will introduce participants to Halton’s thriving tech sector with a stop at one of Halton’s homegrown successes – Geotab. Participants will tour Geotab’s impressive facility and learn how Geotab grew from a small family business to a leading global company with over 2,000 employees and more than 700 partners. Lunch at Burlington’s TechPlace will allow participants to relax and enjoy a view of the city, network, and learn about the services available to international tech companies, including soft-landing, Acceleration+, and Global Start-ups programs. Panel discussions will allow participants to ask direct questions to international start-ups and local business leaders.

TOUR AGENDA:

| TIMES | TOUR SITES |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | Pickup in downtown Toronto and travel to Halton region |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Geotab |
| 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Travel |
| 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | TechPlace (lunch) |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Bus takes participants back to downtown Toronto |
| 3:00 p.m. | Tour concludes |

TOUR SITE - PROFILES

GEOTAB®

[Geotab](#)

Headquartered in Oakville, Geotab is a global leader in connected transportation services that provides telematics (vehicle and asset tracking) solutions to over 50,000 customers in 160 countries. For more than 20 years, Geotab has invested in ground-breaking data research and innovation to enable partners and customers, including Fortune 500 and public sector organizations, to transform their fleets and operations. With over four million subscriptions and processing more than 75 billion data points per day, Geotab helps customers make better decisions, increase productivity, operate safer fleets, and achieve their sustainability goals. Geotab's open platform and Marketplace offer hundreds of third-party solution options. Backed by a team of industry-leading data scientists and AI experts, Geotab is unlocking the power of data to understand real-time and predictive analytics—solving for today's challenges and tomorrow's world. To learn more, visit www.geotab.com, follow [@GEOTAB](#) on X and [LinkedIn](#) or visit the [Geotab Blog](#).



[TechPlace](#)

TechPlace, an innovation centre located in Burlington, supports the start-up and growth of technology companies in the region, as well as international businesses looking to expand or relocate into the Canadian market. An initiative of Burlington Economic Development, TechPlace offers a range of membership types to provide its members with physical space, start-up programming and mentorship opportunities. Eligible technology start-ups have access to private offices, meeting rooms, event space, collaboration areas, and extensive programming and mentorship opportunities in the space. Over the last year, TechPlace has welcomed a number of international start-ups, and participants will have the opportunity to hear some of their stories.

[Click here to register for the Halton region tour](#)

Exploring Ontario's Innovation Ecosystem: Touring MARKHAM



This tour is appropriate for established companies looking to expand into southern Ontario, startups looking for incubators/accelerators or looking to relocate or set up in southern Ontario, investors and companies looking for corporate or academic partnerships, and media and entertainment agencies looking to explore southern Ontario.

MARKHAM PROFILE:

[Markham](#), Canada's High-Tech Capital, is home to a robust technology and innovation ecosystem, made up of over 1,500 technology companies that directly support 37,000 jobs. Markham is the York Region's innovation hotbed and at the centre of Ontario's technology corridor.

Leading global technology leaders and emerging innovators have made Markham their home to create the latest software and hardware to support industry sectors including ICT, healthcare, medical devices, finance and insurance, software engineering, gaming, advanced manufacturing, and autonomous vehicles.

Unique to the city's innovation ecosystem is a locally rich and well-established network of resources, programs, and partnerships in the entrepreneurship ecosystem, including ventureLAB, the IBM Innovation Space (Markham Convergence Centre), and York University's community innovation hub, YSpace. These incubator models reflect the

successful formation of cross-sector collaboration between public, private and academic partners to support a community of tech start-ups, entrepreneurs, and high growth companies to transform their business ideas and expand into global markets.

Read more on the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in Markham at [Markham Business](#).

TOUR PROGRAM:

The tour program explores Markham’s diverse and thriving technology and innovation ecosystem. It’s an opportunity for participants to visit Markham’s technology innovators including mid-size and scale-ups working on creating the latest technologies, as well as innovation partners and incubation spaces.

With a visit to ventureLAB and YSpace—which will include conversations and engagements with established and upcoming startups in the Markham space—delegates will be able to get a holistic picture of the resources and partners available at the City of Markham and will also be able to discuss potential opportunities for partnership, expansion and setting up.

TOUR AGENDA:

| TIMES | TOUR SITES |
|-------------------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. | Pickup in downtown Toronto; travel to Markham |
| 9:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | ventureLAB ; IBM Innovation Space - Markham Convergence Centre , IBM Canada |
| 11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Travel |
| 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Lunch and conversations with two companies at YSpace , York University |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Bus takes participants back to downtown Toronto |
| 3:00 p.m. | Tour concludes |

TOUR SITE - PROFILES



[ventureLAB](#)

ventureLAB is a leading global founder community for hardware technology and enterprise software companies in Canada. Our organization is led by seasoned entrepreneurs and business leaders with decades of industry experience in building IP-rich start-ups, scale-ups, and global multinationals to help businesses scale. Located at the heart of Ontario's innovation corridor in York Region, ventureLAB is part of one of the biggest and most diverse tech communities in Canada. Since 2011, ventureLAB has enabled over 3,000 tech ventures to create over 5,000 jobs and raise more than \$340 million in investment capital through our initiatives focused on raising capital, talent retention, technology and IP commercialization, and customer acquisition. Together with our community of entrepreneurs, innovators, investors, and partners, we enable technology start-ups to accelerate the commercialization of transformational products on a global scale. ventureLAB is home to the Hardware Catalyst Initiative—Canada's only lab and incubator for hardware and semiconductor-focused companies. At ventureLAB, we grow globally competitive tech titans that build-to-scale in Canada—for global markets.

Recently, the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) announced an [infusion of \\$4.5 million into the Hardware Catalyst Initiative](#), one of the programming highlights at ventureLAB.



[IBM Innovation Space - Markham Convergence Centre](#)

The IBM Innovation Space-Markham Convergence Centre is a 50,000 square foot innovation hub operated by ventureLAB. The hub is home to over 45 tech companies and innovation partners, comprised of multi-use facilities including open collaboration space in naturally lit atriums, meeting rooms, semi-private and private offices. The facility brings together start-ups, innovation partners, researchers, and mentors in one collaborative space to help companies scale faster and drive economic growth locally, nationally, and globally.

[YSpace](#)

YSpace is York University's premier entrepreneurship hub, creating positive change by fostering a community of innovators, entrepreneurs, and changemakers. YSpace is home to 15 different entrepreneurial programs supporting entrepreneurs from ideation to scale mode including [ELLA](#), our national and Ontario's first accelerator focused on supporting women-led product and service-based businesses, and the [Black Entrepreneurial Alliance](#) program, in partnership with the Black Creek Community Health Centre, offering a full spectrum of support to Black entrepreneurs and young professionals.

In addition, they also have two physical hubs including YSpace Markham, an 11,000 square-foot incubator space located in York Region to support market-ready ventures. Since its inception in 2018, YSpace has supported 538 ventures, creating 889 jobs, generated over \$119 million in revenue, and raised over \$67.5 million in funding.

Recently, YSpace launched their new program supporting startups operating in the FoodTech and AgriTech spaces. Partnering with [York Region](#), [Schulich's Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#) and [Treefrog Accelerator](#), YSpace looks to bring diverse and impact-creating talent from across the world, via Project [JumpSTART](#), to the futuristic City of Markham.

[Click here to register for the Markham tour](#)

Exploring Ontario's Innovation Ecosystem: Touring MISSISSAUGA



This tour is appropriate for start-ups, SMEs, investors, business owners interested in locating in the GTA, and economic developers.

MISSISSAUGA PROFILE:

[Mississauga](#) is Canada's seventh largest city, and the second largest economy in Ontario located in the heart of the Toronto-Waterloo Innovation Corridor.

As part of the second largest technology cluster in North America, Mississauga's technology and innovation ecosystem has grown significantly over the past decade and has developed into a dynamic and diverse innovation district with the potential to compete amongst the top industries in the world. Home to top-ranking universities and colleges, a diverse talent pool, favourable business climate, and Canada's largest airport, Mississauga's innovation district continues to be a top location choice for start-ups and scale-ups to commercialize and grow.

With homegrown local business success stories, like world-renowned companies like SOTI, IMAX, Baylis, and PointClickCare, Mississauga has grown an international reputation as a top Canadian city for global innovative and technologically driven companies to expand and grow. With recent

tech investments from Cognizant, Shabodi, HCL Technologies, and Infosys, Mississauga’s innovation district continues to be at the core of Canada’s innovation and technology activity and continues to attract bright minds and leading-edge companies.

From start-ups to scale-ups to international firms, Mississauga has the support, resources, and community to cultivate growth, success, and global impacts within all industries.

TOUR PROGRAM:

Explore Mississauga’s thriving knowledge-based industries in the city’s downtown, that begins with a visit to Shabodi, one of North America’s top Application Enablement Platform, followed by a stop at IDEA Mississauga Entrepreneurship Hub. There you will meet our city’s post-secondary partners, the University of Toronto-Mississauga (UTM) and Sheridan College to learn about the innovation and entrepreneurship activity happening in our city. The tour will end in Mississauga’s waterfront community for a networking reception to meet fellow Collision attendees and key city partners.

TOUR AGENDA:

| TIMES | TOUR SITES |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Pickup in downtown Toronto; travel to Shabodi |
| 9:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Visit Shabodi |
| 10:45 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. | Travel to IDEA Square One |
| 11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. | IDEA Square One , with presentations from the University of Toronto Mississauga and Sheridan College |
| 12:10 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. | Travel to Port Credit |
| 12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. | Networking event in Port Credit |
| 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Bus takes participants back to downtown Toronto |
| 3:00 p.m. | Tour concludes |

TOUR SITE - PROFILES:



[Shabodi](#)

Shabodi's Application Enablement Platform is the industry's first solution that accelerates business outcomes by enhancing partnership and growth for all stakeholders within the advanced network ecosystem. Shabodi is driven by a single, clear vision: to enable a reality where networks go beyond connectivity. We believe next generation networks are more than just a pipe—they are an intelligent asset waiting to be unleashed. We empower enterprises to do just that.

Our mission is to accelerate business transformation by enabling seamless interactions between network-aware applications and advanced networks.



[IDEA - Square One](#)

Located in Square One Shopping Centre in downtown Mississauga, IDEA Square One is an important physical anchor for Mississauga's broader innovation district – IDEA Mississauga.

IDEA Square One is a 4,300 square-foot mixed-use space that brings together a network of supports to help entrepreneurs grow, scale and commercialize their ideas and businesses. Experience Mississauga's vibrant entrepreneurship and innovation community at IDEA Square One!



[University of Toronto Mississauga](#)

The University of Toronto Mississauga is a place where talent and ideas converge to meet global challenges. A campus known for outstanding academic quality and student success, award-winning faculty and staff, alumni who have made a global impact in numerous walks of life, and an exemplary symbiosis with our community and corporate partners.

Robotics Research at the University of Toronto Mississauga focuses on continuum robots that are enabled to traverse confined spaces, manipulate objects in complex environments, and to conform to curvilinear paths in task space.

University of Toronto Mississauga pursues excellence, inspires creativity, develops talent, and prepares their graduates to become the next global innovation leaders.

[University of Toronto Mississauga Business Accelerators](#)



[ICUBE](#)

ICUBE is the home of Social Entrepreneurship and early-stage start-ups at *UTM*, offering resources, programs, workshops and mentorship for people who are changing the world. If you want to make a difference, ICUBE is here to help you make it. ICUBE employs a values-based approach to supporting and training entrepreneurs. ICUBE believes that innovation needs to happen in a responsible and sustainable way that acknowledges the effects of disruption and aims to make positive impact.



[SpinUp](#)

SpinUp is the University of Toronto's first wet lab incubator providing programs, partnerships, and affordable wet lab incubation space to propel life science startups at the earliest stage of their creation. SpinUp bridges the translation gap, providing early-stage life science founders access to wet lab co-working space, equipment, and infrastructure in University of Toronto Mississauga's (UTM) New Science Building—at subsidized rates more than 50% below market standards. Here, startups can focus their funds on developing their IP, strengthening their business case, and promoting better health through their innovation. Founders can also tap the research strengths of a world top-twenty university and the commercial savvy of a world top-five university entrepreneurship network.



[EDGE @ Sheridan College](#)

EDGE @Sheridan College is a vibrant community of people who believe entrepreneurship can make lasting change in society. They support changemakers as they explore entrepreneurial approaches to creating a more equitable and sustainable world. Leading social ventures takes courage and determination along with a wide range of skills, which can result in an intimidating and lonely experience. EDGE exists as a trusted partner to navigate obstacles and share successes. EDGE believes everyone has the potential to contribute to a social venture, and that unique talents are needed to tackle today's big challenges. They seek to challenge the inequitable systems that stifle entrepreneurial potential and create barriers for founders from underrepresented communities.

[Click here to register for the Mississauga tour](#)

Exploring Ontario's Innovation Ecosystem: Touring TORONTO



This tour is appropriate for business delegates and investors wishing to learn more about Toronto's innovation ecosystem.

TORONTO PROFILE:

[Toronto](#) has recently earned recognition as the second fastest-growing tech center in North America, according to the latest CBRE Scoring Tech Talent Report. Boasting a robust tech talent workforce of over 285,000 skilled individuals, Toronto stands as one of the largest tech hubs globally.

As a leading center for innovation and technology, Toronto is home to a thriving ecosystem of startups, research institutions, and tech companies. This vibrant community drives cutting-edge developments across various industries, fostering entrepreneurship and technological advancements at every scale.

Toronto's global recognition for its proficiency in artificial intelligence (AI) is undisputed, as the city rises as a primary center for AI research, development, and implementation—home to top-tier academic institutions, cutting-edge startups, and industry-leading companies.

In recent years, Toronto has witnessed a notable influx of renowned tech giants expanding their presence in the city. Alongside this trend, major multinational corporations are increasingly selecting Toronto as a prime location for their innovation hubs. Notable names such as Alphabet (Google), Netflix, Uber, Meta, and Microsoft have established offices here, joined by newcomers like Unilever, Thomson Reuters, and Nokia, all contributing to the city's dynamic innovation landscape.

Toronto's status as the fourth-largest city in North America is underscored by its global leadership in technology, finance, film, music, culture, innovation, and climate action. This distinction reflects the collaborative efforts of its government, residents, and businesses, driving Toronto's strong performance in global rankings and assessments across various categories.

Beyond its economic strength, Toronto stands out as one of the world's most diverse and livable cities. Its rich cultural tapestry, shaped by residents from diverse backgrounds and cultures, enriches the social fabric, cuisine, arts, and festivals, making Toronto a vibrant and inclusive place to live and work. Take in the energy of innovation and the spirit of inclusivity in Toronto—where the world comes together to shape the future.

TOUR PROGRAM:

Welcome to the heart of Toronto's innovation ecosystem! Embark on a captivating tour of the city's top innovation hubs, where cutting-edge technology, artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurial spirit converge to shape the future.

Our journey begins at the Barrett Centre for Technology and Innovation, an institution dedicated to advancing the frontiers of technology. Immerse yourself in the latest innovations and research initiatives, with a focus on fostering technological breakthroughs. Experience the collaborative atmosphere that allows academia and businesses to transform ideas into reality.

Next, we will explore the renowned MaRS Discovery District, a dynamic hub that serves as the epicenter for startups and scale-ups across diverse sectors. At MaRS, witness firsthand the synergy between entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors as they collaborate on groundbreaking projects. Engage with cutting-edge technologies in health, cleantech, fintech, and more, and gain insights into the thriving startup culture that defines this vibrant community.

Our tour then leads us to the Schwartz Reisman Centre of Innovation, where the future of AI is unfolding. Engage with pioneering projects at the intersection of artificial intelligence and various industries. Discover how this center catalyzes innovation through cutting-edge research, mentorship programs, and partnerships with industry leaders.

TOUR AGENDA:

| TIMES | TOUR SITES |
|-------------------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Pickup in downtown Toronto and travel to Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation |
| 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation |
| 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. | Lunch |
| 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. | Travel to MaRS Discovery District |
| 12:45 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. | MaRS Discovery District |
| 1:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Walk to Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society |
| 3:00 p.m. | Tour concludes |

TOUR SITE - PROFILES:



[Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation](#)

Located at Humber College's North Campus in Toronto, the Barrett Centre for Technology Innovation (Barrett CTI) is a 93,000 square foot stand-alone facility, designed to be a powerhouse of technological innovation and to leverage Humber's proven leadership in automation, robotics, system integration, user experience testing, applied research and work-integrated learning.

Working with their industry partners, they are able to provide small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), faculty members and students with cutting-edge resources throughout the Barrett CTI's many interactive labs, technology zones and maker spaces. Partners, SMEs, faculty members and students work together as collaborative teams to tackle business challenges and have access to technology and equipment that includes Advanced Automation and Robotics, augmented and virtual realities and prototyping labs, to name a few. While businesses benefit from having access to these resources, faculty and students get hands-on experiences while working with leading-edge equipment and technologies.



[MaRS Discovery District](#)

As North America's largest urban innovation hub and a registered charity, MaRS provides direct support for startups, builds communities of innovators, and accelerates the adoption of high-impact solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues in areas such as climate, health and the economy.

Occupying 1.5 million square feet in downtown Toronto, MaRS is a diverse community of more than 120 tenants, research labs and global tech companies, each selected to create a community

that is collaborating on real solutions to important problems.

This site will showcase parks, public art, infrastructure, and buildings that combine to create vibrant waterfront neighborhoods.



[Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society](#)

The Schwartz Reisman Innovation Campus is the University of Toronto's (U of T's) new innovation accelerator, a dynamic incubator for intellectual exchange and world-class research that brings together artificial intelligence and biomedical scientists with leading entrepreneurs. The architecture for the 750,000-square foot centre will reflect the innovation and collaboration happening within and feature vertical gardens and engaging spaces.

The centre was designed to advance the University of Toronto's strategic objective of connecting academic research with entrepreneurial pursuits. It brings together the University of Toronto's Entrepreneurship program, the University's Innovations and Partnerships Office, the Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence, and various startup companies and established corporate partners.

The University of Toronto is Canada's leading university and consistently ranked among the top universities worldwide. U of T is also recognized as a leading engine for innovation and entrepreneurship. The U of T community of entrepreneurs has created more than 500 companies, and its innovation network is among the world's top five university-based incubators. The university also ranks in the top three for research output along with Harvard and Stanford universities. World-class strengths in fields such as biomedicine, computer science, law and philosophy make U of T the ideal place to study the effects of technology and society on one another.

[Click here to register for the Toronto tour](#)