

Canadian Resource Guide for Startups

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Early Stage Resources

Early Stage Resources

[Democratizing Knowledge | HustleFund](#)

eBook

Tips and insights on what it takes to build a startup, raise money, and run a VC firm.

[Startup Funding Glossary](#)

Article

Get basic definitions of common startup terms.

[Early Stage Pitch Decks: Airbnb, LinkedIn, Coinbase, Tinder, BuzzFeed](#)

LinkedIn Post

Take a look at some of the early stage pitch decks used by successful tech companies.

[7 Tips for Writing the Perfect Follow-up Sales Email](#)

LinkedIn Article

Tips for writing a follow-up prospecting email.

[RBCx Marketplace](#)

RBCx Offer Catalogue

As an RBCx client, you have access to offers with preferred rates and discounts on software, financial services, counsel, and more.

[Advice For You & Your Business](#)

RBC Resource Hub

Business advice for all stages of growth.

[Create a Business Plan](#)

RBC Article

Tips on how to create a business plan.

Early Stage Resources

[RBC Beyond Banking](#)

RBC Landing Page

Beyond Banking offers clients access to useful products and services across a range of sectors to help accelerate your business growth.

[Ownr – Register Your Business for Less](#)

RBC Venture: Ownr

Register your new business through Ownr, starting at \$49.

[Guide to Startup Investment Vehicles for Founders | RBCx](#)

RBCx Article

Learn about investment vehicles: equity, debt, and SAFEs.

[Sources of Startup Funding Explained | RBCx](#)

RBCx Article

From bootstrapping to venture debt, learn what startup funding sources can help founders succeed.

Canadian Government Programs for Tech Companies

Canadian Government Programs for Tech Companies

Government Funding Partners

BDC & BDC Capital

- BDC (Business Development Bank of Canada) is a Canadian Crown Corporation whose mandate is to support Canadian entrepreneurs, including those in the tech sector.
- RBCx frequently partners with BDC on direct lending solutions.

EDC

- Export Development Canada (EDC) is Canada's Export Credit agency.
 - EDC works with Canadian exporters on direct and indirect financial solutions. Feel free to reach out to RBCx for more details.
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Canadian Government Programs for Tech Companies

Government Grants & Tax Incentives

[Business Benefits Finder](#)

The Government of Canada's Business Benefits Finder is a valuable resource that provides a tailored list of government programs and services to support your business.

[Grantmatch](#)

A platform for Canadian small- to medium-sized (SMEs) businesses seeking grant funding opportunities developed to simplify the grant process.

[NRC IRAP](#)

The National Research Council of Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC- RAP) provides a range of technical and business-oriented advisory services, as well as necessary financial support, to qualified innovative SMEs in Canada.

[ISED](#)

Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) is a department of the Government of Canada. ISED is responsible for several of the federal government's functions in regulating industry and commerce, promoting science and innovation, and supporting economic development.

[OCI](#)

Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI) brings industry, academic, and government partners together to invest in collaborative R&D, technology development, and commercialization opportunities that generate the highest return on innovation for Ontarians.

Community Resources for Canadian Tech Companies

Government Grants & Tax Incentives

[SIF](#) The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) provides transformative investments in all sectors of the economy to help Canada prosper in a global, knowledge-based economy.

[SOFII](#) Southern Ontario Fund for Investment in Innovation (SOFII) is a program that supports high-growth, innovative small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in rural and urban communities by offering loans of \$150,000 to \$500,000 to support all aspects of growth challenges facing them.

[SR&ED](#)

- A tax rebate program based on R&D expenditures.
- RBCx works with local experts on SR&ED (Scientific Research and Experimental Development) and are happy to make an introduction.
- Depending on company needs, RBCx may be able to help with financing for working capital purposes.

Incubators, Accelerators, and Tech-centric Communities

Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Incubators & Accelerators

Creative Destruction Lab

Calgary, AB
Halifax, NS
Montreal, QC
Toronto, ON
Vancouver, BC

- A part of the Rotman School of Management at University of Toronto with five locations in Canada, three in U.S., four in Europe, and one in Australia
- A program for scalable, seed stage technology- and science-based companies.
- Offers 20 streams (health, AI, quantum, deep tech, etc.)
- Extensive founder network across Canada (500+ companies).
- Top tier mentor network across Canada and the U.S.

Foresight Canada

Calgary, AB
Vancouver, BC
Toronto, ON

- Foresight is Canada's leading cleantech accelerator that rapidly launches, commercializes, and scales climate solutions across Canada.
- Offers access to Canada's largest cleantech advisory network, tailored programming, and a national cleantech community.

Y Combinator

Mountain View, CA (USA)

- American technology startup accelerator launched in 2005, which has helped launch more than 4,000 companies.
 - Considered one of the most influential startup accelerator programs in the world.
 - Invests \$500k in every company (1st \$125k, + 2nd \$375k) on its standard terms that goes through the YC program.
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Incubators & Accelerators

Thin Air Labs

Calgary, AB

- Offers two services to startups: funding catalyst and product traction.
- Its Fund 1 invests in Calgary's top entrepreneurs and provide supporting capital planning and company metric development.

Thrive by SVG Ventures

Calgary, AB
Los Gatos, CA

- A leading venture and innovation platform that supports good and agriculture industry.
- Offers a Canadian accelerator program, as well as an accelerator for Australia, NZ and SE Asia, and a Global Scale Up program for companies ready to expand globally.

CSW

Edmonton, AB

- Telus Community Safety & Wellness Accelerator (CSW) focuses on the social impact space.
- This includes social enterprises, using AI and ML to develop apps or digital platforms that specifically provide social, community, or a wellness benefit.

CPDC

Hamilton, ON

- Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization (CPDC).
 - Focused on the discovery, development, and clinical translation of diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals across Canada.
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities in Canada

Incubators & Accelerators

[Volta Labs](#)

Halifax, NS

- Foundational program in Halifax
- Built with DNA of Creative Destruction Lab
- Programs include:
 - Cohort – 5 companies, \$25K investment.
 - Academy – ideation-to-incorporation program.
 - WTWT (Women Taking Over the World with Tech), fully dedicated program for female founders.

[AquaAction](#)

Montreal, QC

- AquaAction is accelerating the deployment of innovative water technology solutions in the province of Quebec.
- Its mission is to restore freshwater health in North America.
- Invests in the talents of young Canadian entrepreneurs and helps them activate their technologies.

[CEIM \(Centre d'entreprises et d'innovation\)](#)

Montreal, QC

- CEIM is an incubator dedicated to early stage technology startups in tech, new media, manufacturing, cleantech, and life sciences.
 - Its mission is to support entrepreneurs who present innovative projects by offering a range of services tailored to each startup's specific needs.
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Incubators & Accelerators

Diagram Ventures

Montreal, QC

- A venture building program based in Montreal
- 50 investors in their network.
- Build early-stage companies from the ground up based on market research, then staff them, invest, scale, grow and exit.

Founder Fuel

Montreal, QC

- The original accelerator in Canada.
- Foundational part of the Montreal ecosystem.
- Backed by Real Ventures along with Panache and iNovia and supported by top tier law, accounting, consulting, and venture capital firms.
- Extensive network of mentors.
- \$120K investment from a VC to start.

Techstars

Montreal, QC
Toronto, ON

- Pre-seed investor that provides access to capital, one-on-one mentorship, a worldwide network, and customized programming for early stage companies..
 - Have an established Canadian program and are backed by several Canadian LPs.
 - Program has one cohort/year and invests \$120K into each company.
 - “Mentor Madness” program pushes founders and companies to their limits to help them scale.
 - Program lasts three months, culminates in a Demo Day with investors from all over North America.
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Incubators & Accelerators

L-SPARK

Ottawa, ON

- Anchor program in Ottawa offers accelerators for SaaS, medtech, women, connected cars.
- Focuses on building sales/scaling processes for companies.
- Will take equity in companies only if they manage to help companies raise funding.
- Original founders of SAAS North
- Largest conference in Ottawa and largest SAAS conference in Canada
- Plugged in with every family office, law/accounting/consulting firm in Ottawa for additional deal flow.

CCRM

Toronto, ON

- Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) is located in the heart of Canada's premier health care innovation hub in Toronto, surrounded by over 30 world-class clinical and research institutions.
 - A catalyst for commercializing regenerative medicine-based technologies and cell gene therapies.
 - Enables product development through the unique translational platforms that address bottlenecks in regenerative medicine commercialization.
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Incubators & Accelerators

DMZ

Toronto, ON

- DMZ is the largest early stage program in Toronto.
 - 700+ companies in alumni network.
 - \$1 billion raised in capital.
 - Take several cohorts each year.
 - Has an extensive network of mentors, law, accounting, consulting, and VC firms.
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Highline Beta

Toronto, ON

- The original corporate accelerator of Canada.
 - Has venture studio and accelerator programming.
 - Extensive network of founders and mentors across Canada.
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TIAP

Toronto, ON

- Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners (TIAP) specializes in venture building of early stage health science technologies emerging from its academic members (Toronto's top universities, hospitals, and research institutes).
 - Its portfolio consists solely of technologies in therapeutics, medical device, and digital health.
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UTEST

Toronto, ON

- University of Toronto Early Stage Technology (UTEST) program helps U of T research-based companies transition from the lab to the market.
 - Provides support to emerging deep tech entrepreneurs through services including intensive entrepreneurial education, advisory support, opportunities to raise capital, and dedicated incubation space.
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Incubators & Accelerators

[Vector Institute](#)

Toronto, ON

- Globally renowned AI institute that empowers researchers, businesses, and governments to develop and adopt AI responsibly.
- Supports Canada's innovation clusters in AI and focuses on helping startups become global leaders.
- ItsFastLane program enables Canadian startups to accelerate their AI commercialization and compete more effectively in the global economy.

[ventureLAB](#)

Toronto, ON

- ventureLAB is a leading global founder community for hardware technology and enterprise software companies in Canada.
 - Its Hardware Catalyst initiative is Canada's only lab and incubator for founders building hardware and semiconductor-focused products.
 - Focused on hardware, automobility, medtech, supply chain, and AI.
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Incubators & Accelerators

Velocity

Waterloo, ON

- Entrepreneurship program in Canada backed by the University of Waterloo.
 - Raising own investment fund of \$50M.
 - Foundational partner of Corridor Demo Day.
 - Event previously hosted 200+ companies and brought in 200+ investors from all over North America.
 - \$2 billion raised in capital by alumni.
 - Large number of companies graduate and join Y-Combinator, the top accelerator in the world and go on to raise massive amounts of capital.
 - Best-in-class founder network, alumni are multiple-exit founders.
 - Work in health, deep tech, and technology (general).
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Incubators, Accelerators, & Tech-centric Communities

Additional Incubators, Accelerators, and Tech-centric Communities in Canada

Canada-wide:

[Google for Startups Accelerator](#)

[Next Canada Next AI](#)

[PlugandPlay](#)

Montreal:

[ACET](#)

[Borealis](#)

[Centech](#)

[Cycle Momentum](#)

[District 3](#)

[McGill X-1 Accelerator](#)

[Tandem Launch](#)

[ZU](#)

Saskatchewan:

[Co.Labs](#)

[Cultivator](#)

[Harvest Ventures](#)

Atlantic:

[Propel](#)

[Genesis](#)

Toronto:

[BMZ](#)

[JLABS](#)

[MaRS](#)

[YSpace](#)

British Columbia:

[Accelerate Okanagan](#)

[eUBC](#)

[InnovateBC](#)

[Launch Academy](#)

[NVBC](#)

[SFU Venture Labs](#)

[Spring](#)

Ottawa:

[Hub350](#)

[Invest Ottawa](#)

[Mitacs](#)

Waterloo:

[Accelerator Centre](#)

[Communitech](#)

[Lazaridis Institute](#)

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several modern skyscrapers with glass facades. The buildings are arranged in a circular pattern, creating a sense of height and scale. The sky is a vibrant blue with scattered white clouds. The overall composition is clean and professional, suggesting a corporate or financial theme.

WE POWER **BOLD**