



Mitacs and Canada's College Sector

Talent and research powering innovation with Canada's colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs



Message from our CEO

Mitacs is grateful for the commitment and engagement of our partners across Canada's colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs. The strength of what we achieve together rests on the expertise of Canada's postsecondary sector, and on the researchers and students who drive the collaborations we support. As Mitacs enters its next chapter, building on more than 25 years of impact, I want to recognize the distinct and central role you play in Canada's innovation ecosystem, and how deeply we value our continued partnership.

This second edition of **Mitacs and Canada's College Sector** reflects our collaboration over recent years and its impact on Canada's innovation ecosystem. As the landscape continues to evolve, we remain committed to listening, learning, and engaging with the college sector. Mitacs' ongoing engagement with leaders across Canada is helping us better understand the evolving needs of the sector.

Canada's future competitiveness depends on our ability to turn talent and ideas into real-world impact, jobs, business growth, and investment. As productivity pressures intensify and technologies continue to evolve, strengthening the pathways that translate applied research into the adoption and commercialization of AI and other technologies has become a national priority—one that Canada's college sector is uniquely equipped to drive forward.

I look forward to continued engagement throughout the year. Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to advance a strong, resilient Canadian economy powered by ideas, talent, and innovation.

Dr. Stephen Lucas, CM
Chief Executive Officer, Mitacs



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Executive summary

Canada's colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs represent one of the country's most extensive innovation networks, delivering applied research in more than 900 communities and serving as a primary R&D partner for SMEs nationwide. Their industry-driven, rapid-turnaround model — where partners retain IP — enables ideas to move quickly from concept to commercialization.

Mitacs plays a distinctive role within this ecosystem. Through thousands of internships and partnerships across Canada, Mitacs embeds research talent directly into companies and communities — accelerating technology adoption, commercialization, and productivity growth in alignment with its 2026–2030 strategic priorities. These collaborations consistently deliver high partner satisfaction, support regional talent retention, and generate measurable business outcomes, including new products, improved processes, and enhanced competitiveness.

 **3,000+**
internships

 **1,700+**
college students

 **440+**
supervisors (faculty members
or designated staff)

 **1,000+**
applied research projects

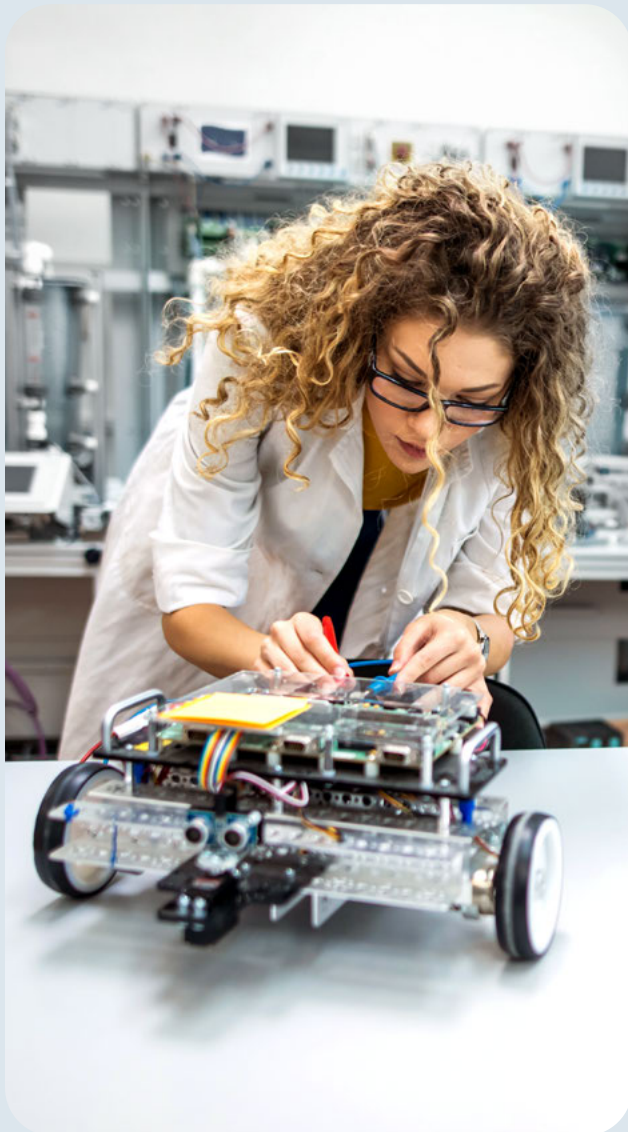
From **April 2018 to March 2026**, Mitacs has driven high-impact, industry-embedded applied research across Canada's college sector, creating **over 3,000 internships** and engaging **more than 1,700 college students**, alongside **440 professors** and over **1,000 applied research projects**.¹ For-profit organizations make up 75 per cent of the Mitacs college partnership base, exceeding the share seen in university-based projects.² These collaborations are translating directly into workforce and economic outcomes: **one in five interns received a job offer** from their host organization, most of which were accepted, and **62 per cent of partners** reported that project results enabled the development of a **new product, process, or service**.³ These results underscore the impact of Mitacs and the college sector as partners in Canadian innovation.



¹ Covers all internship units approved between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2026. Internship unit counts are based on approved units for which funding has been allocated and may include projects subsequently modified or cancelled.

² Note: Partner counts may appear more than once when aggregated across attributes such as province or sector.

³ Mitacs, Partner Exit Survey, FY2023/24–2024/25 (n=42).



Mitacs plays a role in sustaining applied research capacity — particularly in regional and rural communities. Through accessible funding and partnerships, Mitacs enables the college sector to support SMEs, advance national priorities, and deliver community-driven innovation — quickly, inclusively, and at scale. As examples, Mitacs is leveraging Technology Access Centres (TACs), Indigenous-led research, and applied initiatives such as Labs4 in our partnerships with Canada’s colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs.

Mitacs recognizes the role Canada’s college sector plays in building innovation capacity, developing talent, and supporting businesses and communities through applied research partnerships. Our Strategic Plan 2026–2030 asserts a commitment to fast, efficient services and programs that are oriented to support the opportunities and challenges facing Canada’s college sector. This includes approaches that reflect the college sectors’ applied research capacity, student timelines, regional roles, and workforce-focused mandates. In FY2026–27, Mitacs has partnered with Colleges and Institutes Canada to convene roundtable discussions with college sector leaders across Canada. The perspectives gathered through these conversations will inform the evolution of Mitacs’ collaboration with colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs.



Mitacs' vision

Strategic plan

Mitacs' Strategic Plan 2026–2030: Talent and Research Powering Innovation sets out a roadmap to strengthen Canada's innovation ecosystem and support long-term economic growth and competitiveness. Informed by extensive consultation with partners and stakeholders across the country, the plan reflects Mitacs' evolving role as a national innovation connector.

Building on its proven model, Mitacs will continue to strengthen industry–academic collaboration, deploy skilled talent, and support the development and adoption of innovation across sectors. The plan places greater emphasis on economic impact, improved pathways from research to commercialization, and more strategic, connected approaches to partnership development.

Our success will be built by deepening collaboration across academia, industry, and the public and not-for-profit sectors, while remaining responsive to regional and sectoral priorities.

The plan is guided by five strategic focus areas: delivering impact for the economy, workforce, and society; supporting the journey to commercial success; driving connections and collaboration; investing strategically; and operating with excellence. To learn more, visit: mitacs.ca/about/mitacs-strategic-plan.



Vision

A strong and resilient Canadian economy powered by ideas, talent, and innovation.

Mission

To drive industry–academic collaboration, deploy skilled talent, and build innovation capacity to strengthen Canada's productivity and global competitiveness.

Our commitment to innovation

Delivering impact for the economy, workforce, and society

Strengthening Canada's innovation capacity, productivity, and global competitiveness through measurable outcomes.

Supporting the journey to commercial success

Deploying talent, strengthening pathways from research to market, and advancing technology adoption across sectors.

Driving connections and collaboration

Acting as a national connector to bring together academia, industry, and partners to address real-world challenges.

Investing strategically

Aligning investments with national, regional, and sectoral priorities, while remaining responsive to partner-driven and emerging opportunities.

Operating with excellence

Strengthening internal capabilities, modernizing processes, and delivering a streamlined, partner-focused experience.



Mitacs as a national innovation connector

Mitacs is a national innovation organization that connects postsecondary institutions, industry, government, and global partners to advance research, talent development, and innovation across Canada.

Over the past 25 years, Mitacs has built a network that includes more than 200 postsecondary institutions across Canada, with the **college sector*** representing more than half of its institutional partners. Working with tens of thousands of partners in Canada and globally, Mitacs has helped drive innovation, supporting research collaborations that have contributed more than \$1.68 billion in Canadian R&D from April 2018 to March 2026. Through these partnerships, Mitacs helps students and researchers gain practical experience while enabling organizations to address real-world challenges through research and innovation.

By connecting talent, research, and industry, Mitacs helps strengthen Canada's innovation ecosystem and support economic growth across the country.

* Colleges' refers to all institutions within the college sector in Canada, including institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs.



The college community & Mitacs: empowering local innovation

As the national convener for applied research partnerships, Mitacs works with colleges to bring skilled interns directly into companies and regions where innovation capacity is limited. This network reaches communities of all sizes, from major urban centres to rural, northern, and remote areas, ensuring that businesses everywhere have access to the expertise they need to innovate.

From April 2018 to March 2026, Mitacs has partnered with more than 770 organizations through the college sector, including for-profit and non-profit companies as well as municipalities. With 95 per cent of Canadians living within 50 kilometres of a college, these partnerships anchor innovation directly within local economies and create opportunities for businesses that may not otherwise access R&D support.



PROGRAM: BSI | ALBERTA

Northwestern Polytechnic: Powering the north through innovation

Three Northwestern Polytechnic (NWP) students worked with the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16 through a Mitacs internship to explore the feasibility of a comprehensive, eco-friendly agricultural industrial park in northern Alberta—a facility that would integrate production, processing, packaging, and warehousing in one sustainable ecosystem. Each student dedicated eight months to tackling key sustainability challenges, from integrating solar and waste-to-energy technologies to optimizing agricultural processes for Alberta’s northern climate.

Their work is helping the region evaluate how renewable energy and innovation can drive long-term growth, food security, and environmental stewardship. Guided by NWP’s applied research expertise, the project has delivered data-driven strategies that inform future investments and create lasting community value—demonstrating how collaboration between academia and municipalities can produce real impact. The success of these Mitacs internships continues to pave the way for more partnerships that combine science, community, and innovation across the North.

Explore how NWP’s applied research is shaping the future of northern industries and communities: www.nwpolytech.ca/research-entrepreneurship/applied-research



PROGRAM: BSI | SASKATCHEWAN

From classroom to career: Mitacs supports success in digital marketing

Bella Matos, a recent Global Business Management Diploma graduate from Suncrest College, joined Community Futures Ventures (CFV) in Yorkton, Saskatchewan, as a Mitacs Business Strategy Internship (BSI) intern to develop strategic communication, digital marketing, and social media plans. CFV provides loans, training, and entrepreneurial programs to rural small businesses, but struggled with low community awareness due to an outdated digital presence and no social media activity.

By the end of her four-month internship, Bella increased social media views by over 200 per cent, extending CFV's reach to Regina and Saskatoon, with over 75 per cent of content viewers being non-followers. She redesigned CFV's flagship annual general meeting report and streamlined client record-keeping systems. Her impact was so highly regarded that CFV asked to extend her internship, but Bella had already found full-time employment elsewhere, launching her career in digital marketing. The partnership also marked the first collaboration between CFV and Suncrest College — a relationship that continues today.

"I loved [my internship] because anything that challenges you invites you to grow. In a world that is constantly demanding you for change, you have to grow and see how you can give your best every time."

— Bella Matos, Mitacs Intern (Suncrest College), Community Futures Ventures



Applied research engines: Tacs, Labs4, and Mitacs partnerships

Mitacs supports key pillars of Canada's college innovation ecosystem including Technology Access Centres and the Labs4 commercialization network ensuring businesses have the talent and applied research capacity needed to bring new technologies to market.

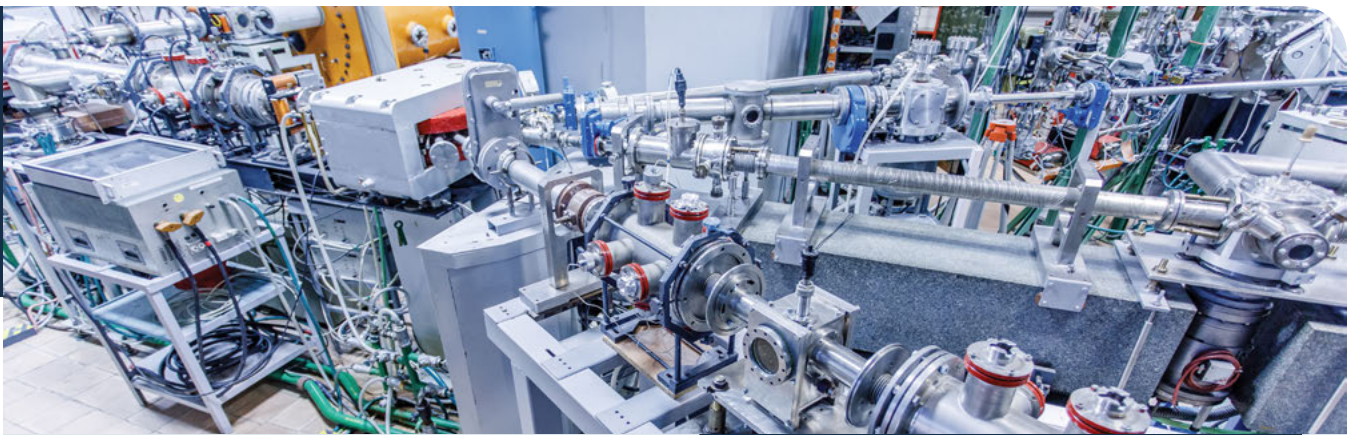
Technology Access Centres

Canada's college-based applied research infrastructure is both extensive and industry-focused. The NSERC-funded Technology Access Centre (TAC) network includes 67 centres, offering nearly 4 million square feet of research space and \$477 million in specialized equipment.⁴ In Quebec, the Synchronex CCTT network operates 59 college- and CEGEP-affiliated centres with 2,400 experts.⁵

Together, these networks deliver rapid, partner-driven research typically completed within six to 12 months, with intellectual property retained by industry, and extend innovation capacity into communities beyond the reach of university infrastructure.

⁴ Tech-Access Canada, TAC Network Overview, 2025. <https://tech-access.ca/>

⁵ Synchronex CCTT Network, 2025. <https://reseauccctt.ca/en>



PROGRAM: ACCELERATE | BRITISH COLUMBIA

Advancing next-generation technology in the West Kootenays through applied research

Mitacs is proud to support Selkirk College's expansion of the Selkirk Technology Access Centre (STAC) in Trail, BC, as part of a \$3.3 million investment alongside PacifiCan, D-Pace, TRIUMF, the Columbia Basin Trust, and regional industry partners. Together, these collaborators are strengthening the emerging Selkirk Ion-source Research Centre (SIRC), building new capacity in particle accelerator and ion source research—the same technology used in hospitals to detect cancer and other serious illnesses.

By investing in highly skilled talent and deepening collaboration between academia and industry, this expansion will help advance next-generation technologies in medical isotopes, semiconductors, and advanced manufacturing. Students gain hands-on experience in a high-demand field, opening pathways to careers in science, engineering, and innovation—positioning the West Kootenay and Boundary regions as a globally connected epicentre for technological innovation and economic growth.

“This tremendous investment in the Selkirk Technology Access Centre reflects our commitment to applied learning, innovation and regional growth as we’re pushing forward on ion source research, expanding advanced manufacturing and exploring AI applications. This is going to strengthen local industry and help make the West Kootenays a vibrant hub for high-tech innovation.”

— Maggie Matear, President, Selkirk College

“Mitacs is proud to support Selkirk College's Selkirk Ion-source Research Centre, which demonstrates how applied research partnerships can drive innovation and economic opportunity in communities across Canada.”

— Dr. Stephen Lucas, CEO, Mitacs



Labs4

Labs4 is a \$55 million national commercialization initiative jointly funded by Mitacs, NSERC, and 38 institutional partners. Delivered through eight regional hubs and three Indigenous Entrepreneurship Hubs — including one led by the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies — Labs4 positions Mitacs at the centre of a first-of-its-kind, college-anchored commercialization network.⁶

In 2025, the first cohort of participants advanced their innovations along the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) scale, moving projects from early-stage validation toward market readiness, while working through key commercialization barriers via the Market-to-Lab program.

By addressing the critical gap between applied research and market readiness, Mitacs is enabling colleges to translate innovation into real-world impact — faster, more effectively, and at scale.

⁶ Labs4, Applied Research Commercialization Engine, June 2025. <https://labs4.ca/>

From climate resilience to advanced manufacturing: how Mitacs and colleges accelerate sectoral innovation across regions

Mitacs-supported college research contributes to areas that align with federal priorities related to productivity, clean growth, digital transformation, and place-based economic development.

Colleges are active across a range of sectors identified as strategically important to Canada, including digital technologies, artificial intelligence, defence, sustainability, and advanced manufacturing, reflecting the breadth of their applied research and industry partnerships.

By embedding talent inside organizations, Mitacs helps businesses, particularly SMEs, adopt new technologies and overcome the capacity barriers that often prevent innovation from moving past the pilot stage. This is especially critical in areas like artificial intelligence, where many firms struggle with implementation and scaling.

IMPACT STORY



PROGRAM: BSI | NOVA SCOTIA

Mitacs supports Detect Technologies on two-year multi-intern project

Detect is a Nova Scotia-based company conducting a province-wide services inventory of the power distribution system. Over two years with the support of Mitacs, they will have over 20 Nova Scotia Community College interns — the largest BSI project awarded to a college — to support data analysis that will improve processes for large-scale projects and automation flows, and advance AI driven analytics.

“This project shows what happens when talent means purpose. With Mitacs interns driving our development, we’re shaping the future of data collection and analysis for utilities — faster, smarter, and more impactful than ever.”

— Joe Richard, COO, Detect





PROGRAM: ACCELERATE | BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mitacs supports BCIT with funding to advance disaster resilience research

Mitacs committed \$1.3 million in multi-year funding to British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) for research on intelligent disaster management systems. This investment provides pre-approved salary support grants for up to 90 internships, connecting skilled graduate students from BCIT's Master of Science in Applied Computing program with industry partners to integrate AI in disaster prevention and infrastructure management.

Research areas span wildfire detection using UAV-mounted AI, computer vision for environmental monitoring, cybersecurity for critical infrastructure, predictive risk modeling, and post-disaster recovery optimization. Indigenous organizations are strongly encouraged to participate, receiving an enhanced 75 per cent salary match to help build technical capacity in their communities. The program is open to incorporated Canadian companies and non-profits, with internships running four to eight months, helping organizations access top talent while contributing to Canada's disaster resilience and innovation ecosystem.

“We’re excited to be contributing to Canada’s innovation ecosystem in this critical area, and helping build resilience through industry collaboration.”

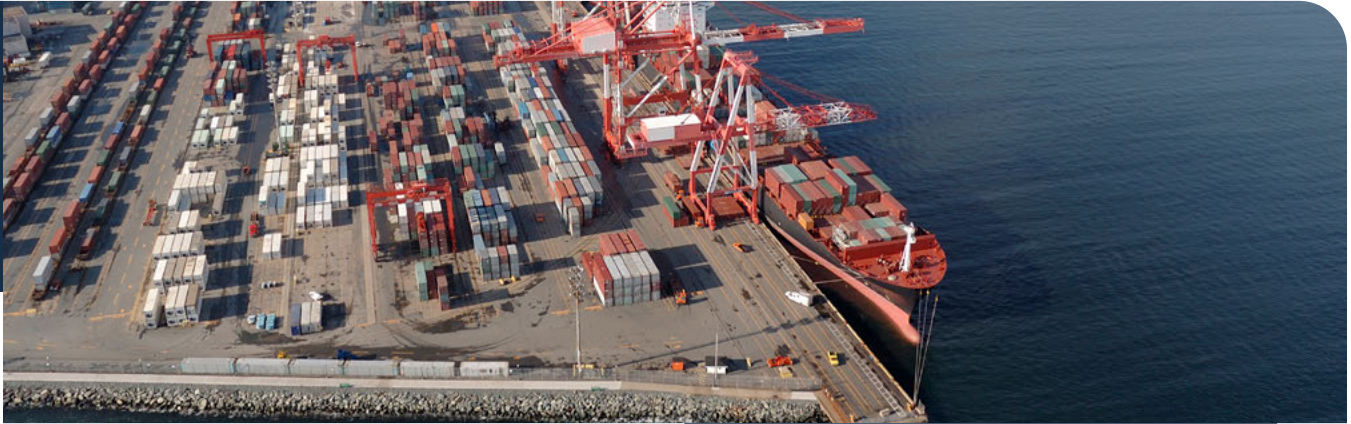
— Dr. Michal Aibin, Master of Science in Applied Computing Program Head, BCIT



Mitacs, colleges, and municipal partners: advancing community innovation

Mitacs partners with colleges to help municipalities and regional organizations access the applied research expertise they need to address local priorities. As regional innovation anchors, colleges support communities with place-based solutions that strengthen environmental stewardship, digital modernization, and long-term economic resilience.

IMPACT STORY



PROGRAM: BSI, ACCELERATE | NOVA SCOTIA

How collaborating with Halifax's Port Authority on ocean tech research is inspiring sustainable solutions that protect marine ecosystems

The Halifax Port Authority — handling over 1,500 vessels annually and connecting Canadian businesses to more than 150 countries worldwide — partnered with Mitacs to study how port operations impact local aquatic ecosystems in one of North America's longest harbours.

Mitacs connected the Halifax Port Authority with talent, advisors, and funding to push sustainability forward while setting a standard for ports everywhere. The project brings together researchers to establish benchmarks for ecosystem health, diversity, vulnerability, resilience, and fecundity within Halifax Harbour, while supporting the Port's broader commitment to green shipping corridors, digitization, and climate resilience.

Mitacs' collaborative approach — from the application to project completion — made it possible to deliver meaningful outcomes for two key projects: the Aquatic Ecosystems Literature Review and the Waste Production Analysis Program. These will equip the Halifax Port Authority with the data-driven insights needed to ensure the long-term sustainability and conservation of this vital marine environment — setting a standard for ports everywhere.

“Mitacs has been an invaluable partner in advancing our sustainability commitments at the Port of Halifax. Through their support, we gained access to bright, driven interns and expert academic supervisors who helped us deepen our understanding of aquatic ecosystems in the Halifax Harbour and improve our internal waste management practices.”

Blair Crawford, Manager, Sustainability, Port of Halifax





PROGRAM: BSI | QUEBEC

Student-led innovation enhances public services for 140,000+ residents in Trois-Rivières

The City of Trois-Rivières is partnering with Cégep de Trois-Rivières to enhance municipal services for its population of over 140,000. With support from students in the computer science program, the initiative focuses on projects related to sustainable development planning, land analysis, and information technology.

This work will lead to the development of tools tailored to the city's operations, addressing key environmental challenges and delivering tangible benefits to the community.

“By bringing together emerging talent, academic knowledge, and municipal expertise, this initiative turns ideas into concrete solutions. It supports departments in delivering reliable and efficient public services by leveraging innovative, practical technology tools for everyday use.”

— Thomas Rousseau-Beaumier, Coordinator — Geomatics, City of Trois-Rivières



PROGRAM: ACCELERATE | ONTARIO

Developing next-generation water treatment technology through applied research

Mitacs is supporting Fanshawe College's collaboration with Trojan Technologies, a global leader in water treatment solutions headquartered in London, Ontario. Through Mitacs-supported research, Fanshawe interns are working alongside Trojan to develop next-generation UV and microfiltration technologies—systems that already improve the lives of over one billion people worldwide across more than 760,000 installations.

The partnership highlights the vital role that local talent and applied research play in keeping Canadian companies competitive on the global stage, while giving Fanshawe students hands-on experience solving real-world challenges in one of the world's most critical industries.



Impact in action: outcomes for students and partners

Talent outcomes⁷

Mitacs college internships are building a highly skilled and locally anchored talent pipeline.

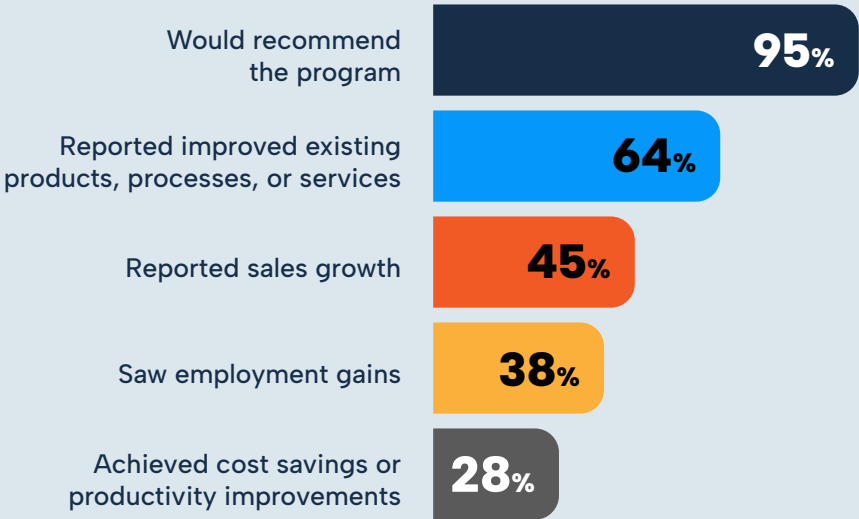


7 Mitacs, Partner Exit Survey, FY2023/24-2024/25 (n=42).



Partner impact

For partner organizations, Mitacs collaborations deliver tangible business value. Nearly all partners would recommend the program, reflecting strong satisfaction and relevance.



Among partners who hired interns following their Mitacs internship, **55 per cent enhanced a product, process, or service** as a result of their Mitacs-supported project.⁸

System impact

Taken together, these results highlight a model that delivers real returns: **strengthening businesses, supporting talent, and extending innovation capacity** into regions often underserved by traditional research systems.



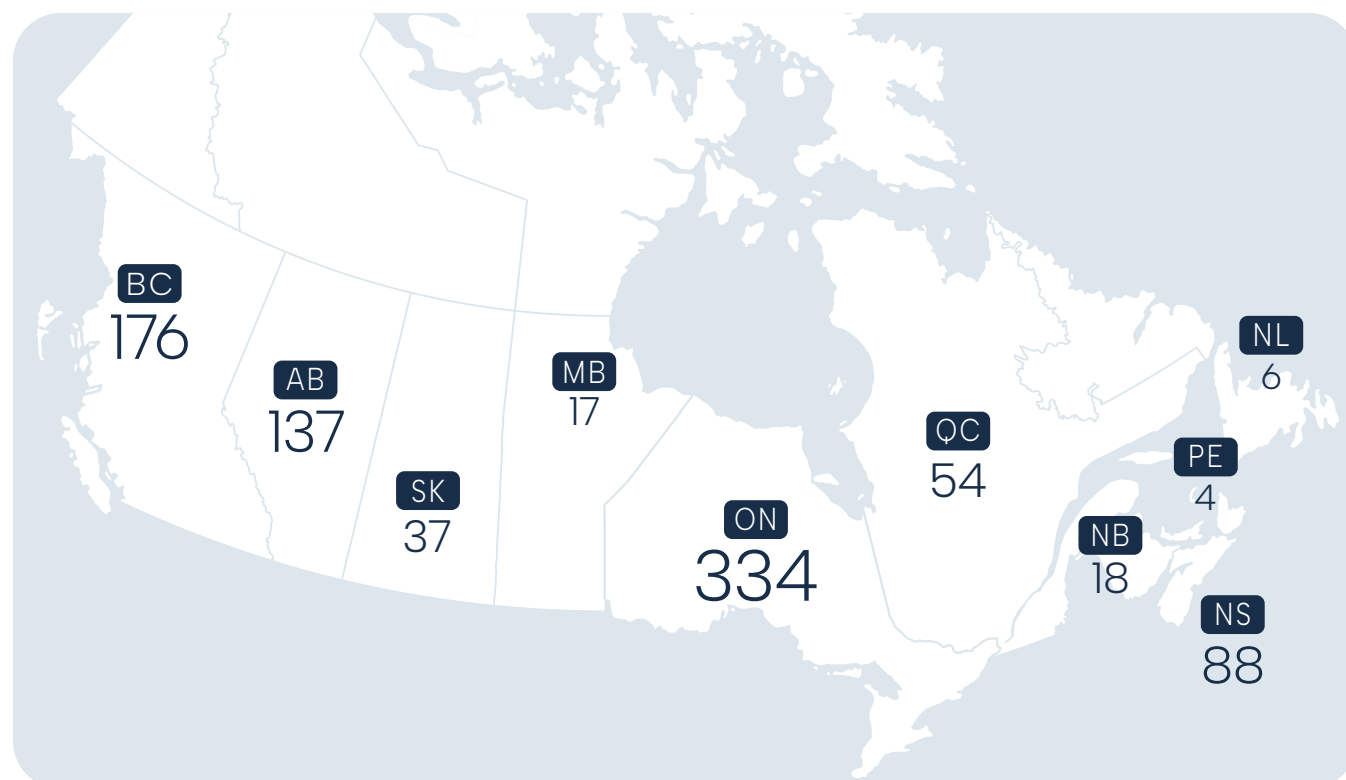
8 Mitacs, Partner Exit Survey, FY2023/24–2024/25 (n=11).



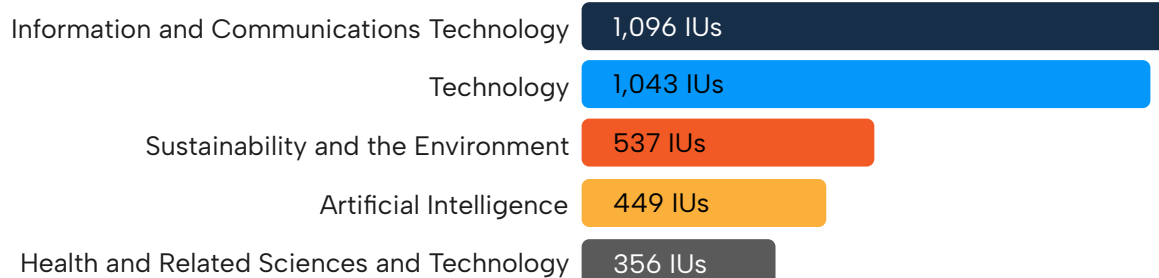
At a glance: Mitacs college activity⁹

Overall snapshot

In the 2025–26 fiscal year, Mitacs delivered 871 internship units with Canada’s college sector. The map below illustrates how that activity is distributed across provinces, with the heaviest concentration in Ontario.



The top five sectors for Mitacs college projects between 2018 and 2026 were:



Accounting for **\$43.5M** in awards across over **1,000 projects**, these sectors represented the strongest areas of activity within the college portfolio.

9 Data Notes

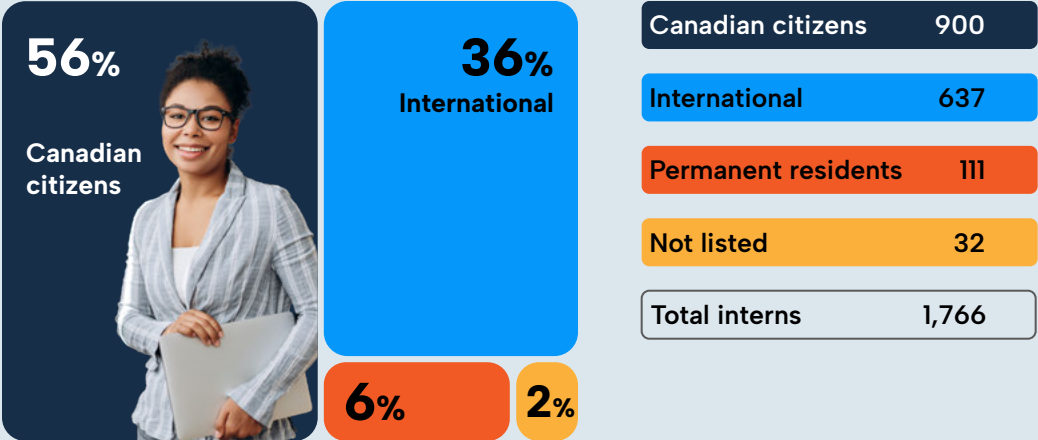
Covers all internship units approved between April 1, 2018 and March 31, 2026. Internship unit counts are based on approved units for which funding has been allocated and may include projects subsequently modified or cancelled.

Provincial figures are based on the location of the academic supervisor, or the intern where no supervisor is listed.

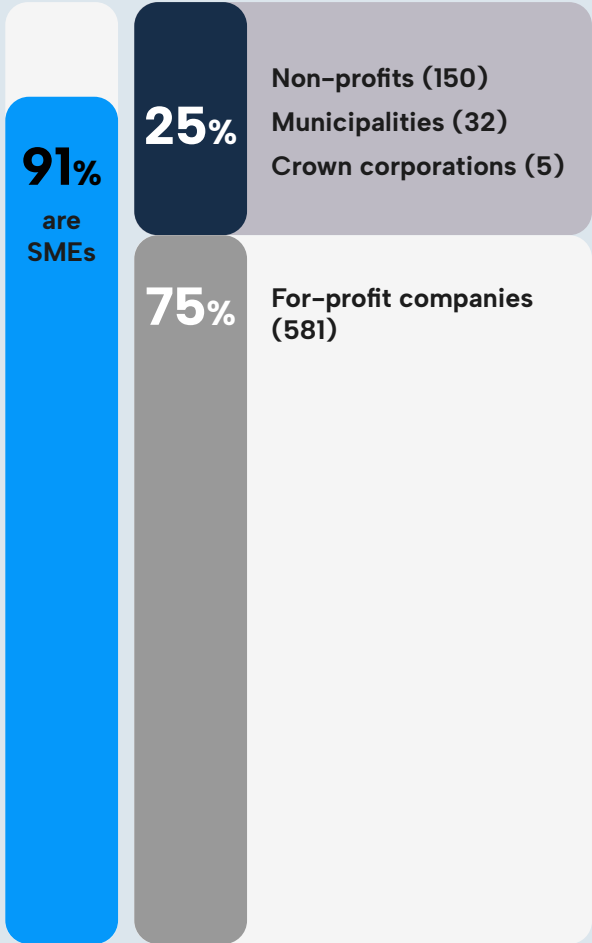
Data cannot be aggregated across categories; multiple mentions per project, internship, intern, or partner are possible.

Sector classifications are based on Mitacs’ internal priority area framework and are reviewed prior to publication.

Status of interns (2018–2026)



771 college partner organizations



Advancing Indigenous innovation and talent

Colleges serve as a critical gateway to postsecondary education and applied research for many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis learners, making their role in Indigenous communities especially vital. As some institutions face reduced research capacity, the effects are most acute in regions where alternatives are limited and the need for sustained support is greatest. Mitacs helps address these pressures by supporting Indigenous-led and community-driven research partnerships that strengthen local talent pathways and ensure innovation responds to community priorities.

IMPACT STORY



PROGRAM: BSI PROGRAM PAIRED WITH INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS INITIATIVE | NEW BRUNSWICK

Diversity and inclusion at the heart of tech

PLATO, a New Brunswick-based social enterprise founded in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, delivers software testing training and employment opportunities to Indigenous Peoples and other underrepresented groups. Through Mitacs-funded internships — the largest Mitacs-funded project in New Brunswick to date — participants complete a five-month training program accredited through the New Brunswick Community College before transitioning into paid apprenticeships working on real client projects.

To date, PLATO has trained over 350 Indigenous software testers, with many graduates continuing to work in and around their communities. Mitacs funding, bolstered by \$1.2 million from the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation, has allowed PLATO to scale its program, broaden its impact, and increase visibility of tech careers in underrepresented communities.

“We offer people another way into the field. Through our program, we give them encouragement and mentoring and all the training they need to be successful in these kinds of roles.”

— Heather Stapleton, Director, Apprenticeship Program, PLATO





FUN FACT: Mitacs is helping expand research opportunities in Indigenous communities — supporting 264 college sector internships through the Indigenous Pathways initiative, which covers most project costs to reduce financial barriers for Indigenous partners and interns. Additional three internships were advanced through NRC Collaborative R&D partnerships, ensuring even more community driven projects can move forward.

Mitacs program offerings

Canada's colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs are eligible to participate in a range of Mitacs programs in partnership with industry, not-for-profit, municipal, hospital, Indigenous, and community partners.

- Accelerate
- Accelerate Entrepreneur
- Business Strategy Internship
- Skills and Training Partnerships
- Indigenous Pathways
- NSERC College and Community Innovation (CCI) program
- Umbrella model

[Learn more about our programs.](#)



How we work

Mitacs offers a simple and efficient pathway to partnerships.
We make it easy and fast to move from idea to application to funding.



Timeline



Accelerate

Accelerate offers research-based internships to students, recent graduates, and postdoctoral fellows enrolled in Canadian colleges. Interns collaborate with eligible for-profit and non-profit organizations, hospitals, municipalities, and researchers or college staff. Accelerate internships increase applied research collaboration and knowledge transfer between students, industry, and researchers.

Accelerate Entrepreneur

The Accelerate Entrepreneur stream supports students, recent graduates, and postdoctoral entrepreneurs to conduct a research-based internship for their start-up company. The program supports intern-owned start-ups to acquire skills and experience to grow their business by linking them with eligible incubators or accelerators and academic researchers in Canada.



Accelerate quick facts

- Applications accepted year-round. Available to full-time and part-time students and recent graduates (up to two years out).
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and international students are all eligible.
- Internships start at four months and scale up as needed.
- College students can undertake up to three four- to six-month internships.
- Students and their college supervisor must identify a non-academic partner organization.
- Interns must spend an agreed portion of the internship directly interacting with the non-academic partner.
- Project management expenses can account for up to 10 per cent of the partner's cash contribution.
- College supervisors may be either a faculty member or designated staff.
- Partner organizations contribute \$7,500 per internship for a \$15k award.

Additional options include:

\$10k award | \$5k partner contribution

\$20k award (postdocs only) | \$10k partner contribution

Colleges receive a \$15k award, of which:

- A minimum of \$10k must be stipend for the intern.
- The remaining portion can be used to increase the stipend for the intern and/or for research expenses.
- Faculty teaching release is an eligible research expense for Mitacs' college partners.



Business Strategy Internship

The **Business Strategy Internship** offers an innovation-based internship to students and recent graduates, and postdoctoral fellows enrolled in Canadian colleges. Interns collaborate with eligible for-profit and non-profit organizations, hospitals, municipalities, and academic supervisors. The internships help organizations innovate across various aspects of their business — including products/services, processes, marketing, business strategies, IP management, and more, while also providing the intern with experiential learning.

BSI quick facts

- Partners can be businesses, not-for-profit organizations, hospitals or municipalities.
- Funded internships support partner innovation activities, including improved products, processes or services (e.g., streamlining processes, commercializing technology, developing new business models, improving public services or addressing social or environmental issues).
- Mitacs funding is \$10k or \$15k per student per four-month project; partner contribution is \$5k or \$7.5k.
- At the \$15k level, up to \$5k can be used to support project costs.
- Faculty teaching release is an eligible expense.
- Program available to: full-time and part-time students, postdoctoral fellows, as well as recent graduates (up to two years out).



Skills and Training partnerships

Mitacs offers professional skills development opportunities to program participants that enhance their nontechnical skills, support the achievement of program objectives, expand their networks and contribute to a quality work integrated learning experience. Mitacs also creates training partnerships with leading organizations to support emerging priority areas in the skills for innovation economy.

[Learn more about our Skills and Training partnerships.](#)

Skills and Training partnerships quick facts

- Training courses surround eight unique bundles, each consisting of an online, self-paced course and its corresponding instructor-led sessions.
- Course bundle themes include: networking skills; project and time management; reconciliation; equity, diversity, and inclusion; communication skills; career planning; R&D management; leadership skills; and writing and presentation skills.





Indigenous Pathways

With at least one college campus located within 50 kilometres of most Indigenous communities in Canada, we encourage college partners to explore Mitacs' [Indigenous Pathways](#) offering.

The initiative is **dedicated to fostering Indigenous innovation and mobilizing Indigenous knowledge** to create transformational impact as part of our commitment to reconciliation. Mitacs will **fund 75 per cent of project costs** for Accelerate and BSI internships with partner organizations that are at least **50 per cent Indigenous-owned** or where the project is **carried out by Indigenous intern(s)**:

- **Professors** build research partnerships while funding students
- **Students** gain hands-on professional training while creating meaningful impact
- **Indigenous partners** find the right academic talent to achieve their innovation goals

Indigenous research and innovation projects at Mitacs are guided by the [Mitacs Indigenous Research and Innovation Policy](#) and the principles of 'Nothing about us without us,' requiring meaningful engagement with impacted communities.

NSERC College and Community Innovation (CCI) program

Mitacs has partnered with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to expedite applied, research-based solutions through the [Community Innovation \(CCI\) program](#).

The Mitacs-NSERC collaboration supports research projects responding to a diverse range of research challenges across all disciplines and sectors.

When applying to NSERC-CCI's Applied Research and Development (ARD) grant and the NSERC College and Community Social Innovation Fund (CCSIF), applicants ask for additional support through Accelerate internships as a component of the training for highly qualified personnel through a single application submission and review process.



Umbrella model

Mitacs offers an alternative approach for applying to Accelerate, BSI, and blended Accelerate/BSI programs.

Designed to foster greater opportunities for collaboration, increased flexibility, and improved planning capabilities, the Umbrella model provides an option for representatives at postsecondary institutions to put forward a proposal for consideration ahead of formally securing partners or interns.

The Umbrella model is also available for postsecondary partners who would like to bundle a series of smaller projects under an overarching theme or within a program of study that requires cohorts of students to complete research internships.

Umbrella advantages

- Ability to bundle a series of smaller related projects to support planning or collaboration
- Convenience of advancing a proposal ahead of formally securing academic supervisors, interns, or partners
- Opportunity to support embedded internship programs in which cohorts of students are required to complete research internships

Umbrella model quick facts

Part 1

Umbrella proposal: undergoes external review. No project-level details are required. This part should provide an overview of the internships that the umbrella holder intends to pursue within the Accelerate and/or BSI program, including potential for impact, feasibility, and highly qualified personnel training. Names of program participants — e.g., supervisors, interns, or partners — are not required at this stage.

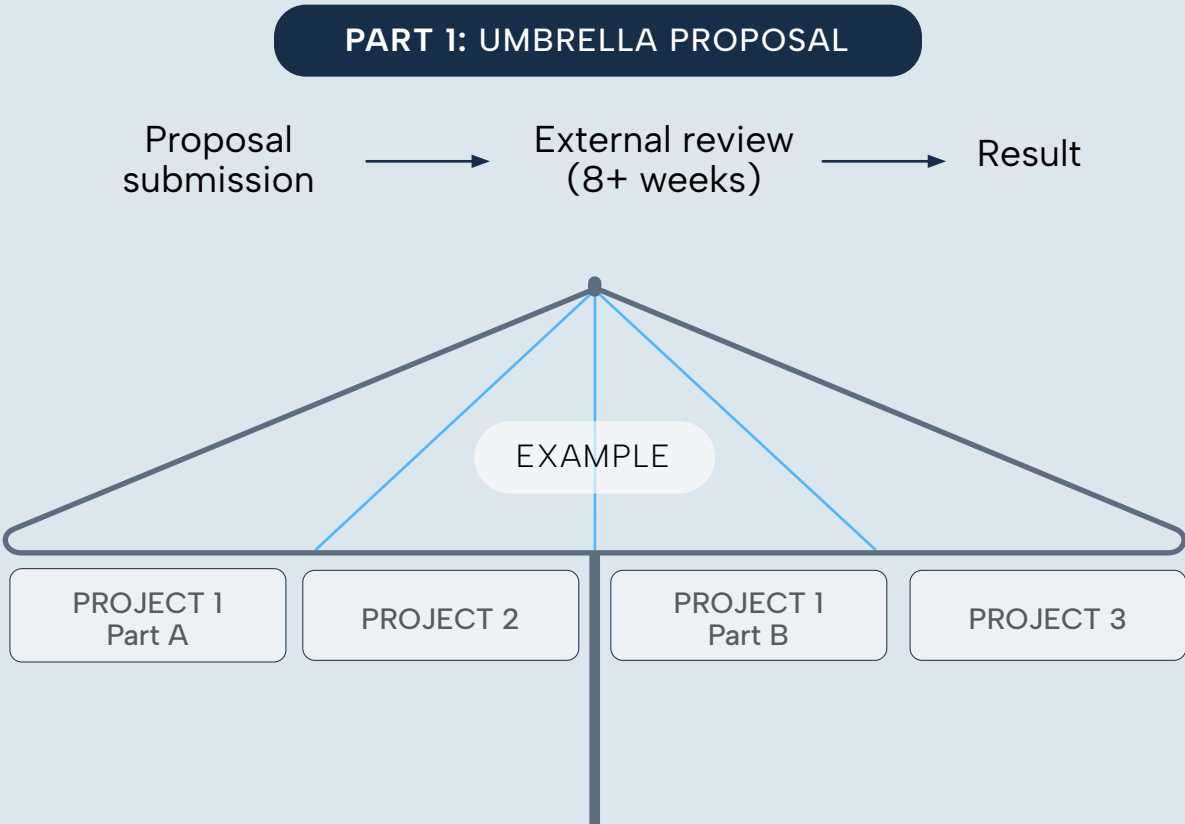
Part 2

Internship activation: forms may be submitted up to two years after part 1 was approved, when all project-level details are known and the participants are ready to start the project. An Umbrella is expected to support multiple projects, each potentially including several intern start dates. Individual internships may also span longer than the two-year timeline. For example, an intern activation form may be submitted for a two-year internship in the second year of the Umbrella.

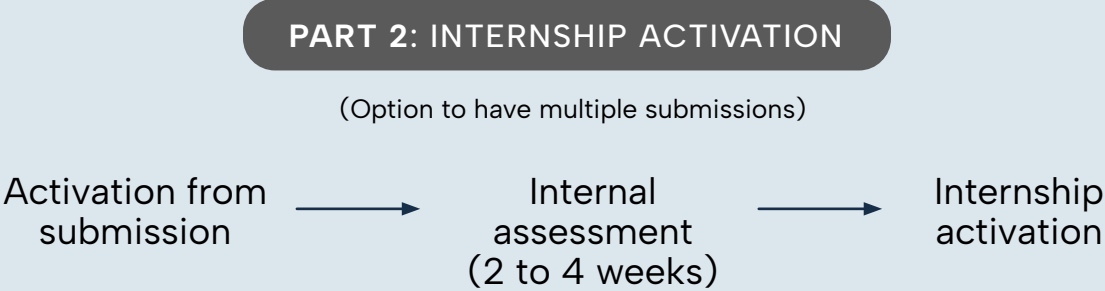
Internship activation will be assessed for eligibility under the Accelerate and/or BSI program and alignment to the scope of the approved Umbrella. If acceptable, the internships will be approved and the project will be sent to external reviewers as part of a quality assurance audit process.



Proposal for program of activities



Up to two years after approval:



Concluding remarks

Over the past 25 years, Mitacs has built a network that includes more than 200 postsecondary institutions across Canada, with colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs representing more than half of our institutional partners. Working with tens of thousands of partners in Canada and globally, Mitacs has helped drive innovation, supporting research collaborations that have contributed more than \$1.68 billion in Canadian R&D from April 2018 to March 2026. Through these partnerships, Mitacs helps students and researchers gain practical experience while enabling organizations to address real-world challenges through research and innovation. By connecting talent, research, and industry, Mitacs strengthens Canada's innovation ecosystem and supports economic growth across the country.

Canada's colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs represent one of the country's most extensive innovation networks, delivering applied research in more than 900 communities and serving as a primary R&D partner for SMEs nationwide. Through applied research, regional reach, and close ties to industry and communities, they help transform knowledge into action and create meaningful impact across the country. Their industry-driven, rapid-turnaround model — where partners retain IP — enables ideas to move quickly from concept to commercialization.

Mitacs and Canada's college sector are essential partners in driving industry-academic collaboration, deploying skilled talent, and building innovation capacity to strengthen Canada's productivity and global competitiveness. The impact stories highlighted throughout this publication showcase the strength of this partnership in practice, from technology adoption and commercialization to community resilience, sustainability, and Indigenous-led innovation. Through programs such as Accelerate, Business Strategy Internship, Indigenous Pathways, Labs4, and other flexible partnership models, Mitacs connects talent, research, and organizations to address real-world challenges in collaboration with the college sector.

Mitacs is grateful for the commitment and engagement of our partners across Canada's colleges, institutes, polytechnics, and CEGEPs. We remain committed to deepening engagement with the college sector for a strong and resilient Canadian economy powered by ideas, talent, and innovation.





Get in touch with Mitacs

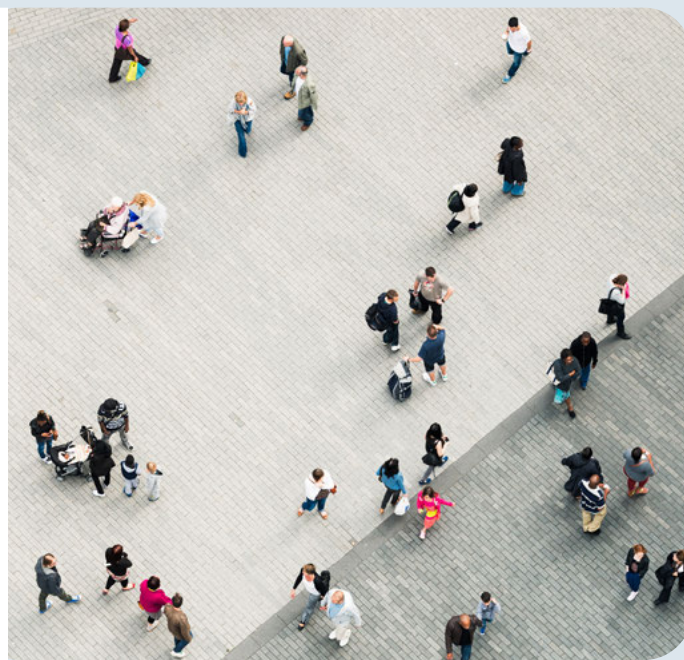
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