



NEW VENTURES BC

25th Annual Awards Ceremony
October 1, 2025



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digital program

PRESENTED BY



innovate BC

Program

4:30pm Registration & Networking

5:30pm Awards Ceremony

AWARDS CEREMONY HOST William Johnson, Vice President of Strategy and Operations at Overstory Media Group

Welcome Remarks

Video Remarks from the Province of BC

Honourable Brenda Bailey, Minister of Finance

Alumni Impact Award Presentation

PRESENTERS Wal van Lierop, Founding Partner, Chrysalix Venture Capital and Chair, NVBC Board of Directors & Todd Farrell, NVBC Board Member

2025 Top 10 introduction & Final Jury Remarks

PRESENTER Jennifer Hamilton, 2025 Final Jury Member & Business Development Advisor to Life Sciences Ventures

Remarks from Innovate BC

PRESENTER Elizabeth Dutton, Chief Operating Officer, Innovate BC

Innovate BC \$10,000 Woman-led Venture Prize

PRESENTER Julie Durnan, Founder & CEO of Ginger Desk, 2023 Woman-led Venture Award prizewinner

Innovate BC \$10,000 Health Tech & Life Sciences Prize

PRESENTER Ashok Kasilingam, Executive Director, M2M Tech

SFU VentureLabs Top Science-Based Company Prize

**\$10,000 Leap to the Cloud Prize,
Presented by National Bank of Canada**

PRESENTER Shannon Walters, Senior Private Banker, National Bank of Canada

Thank you to NVBC Volunteers

NVBC Diamond-in-the-Rough Prize

PRESENTER Floyd Sijmons, Mentor/ Jury Wrangler, NVBC

Innovate BC \$10,000 Sustainability Prize

PRESENTER Daryl Hatton, NVBC mentor and past NVBC prizewinner

Innovate BC \$35,000 Third Prize Package

PRESENTER Ishaan Kohli, Founder & CEO of SkyAcres Agrotechnologies, 2024 NVBC Second prizewinner

Innovate BC \$60,000 Second Prize Package

PRESENTER Kamyab Zandi, Co-founder, CEO & CTO of TIMEZYX, 2024 NVBC First prizewinner

Innovate BC \$110,000 First Prize Package

PRESENTER Elizabeth Dutton, Chief Operating Officer, Innovate BC

Winner's Remarks

Closing Remarks

6:30pm Networking & Celebration

2025 PRIZES

\$135,000 Innovate BC first-prize package

- \$80,000 cash from Innovate BC
- \$6,000 in-kind services from EY
- \$9,000 in-kind services from Fasken
- \$20,000 in-kind hiring services from Backstretch Recruitment
- \$10,000 in-kind video services from Pushr
- \$5,500 in-kind media training from TalkShop Media
- \$4,500 in-kind services from Convergence
- \$1,000 in-kind services from NVBC's silver & bronze sponsors

\$55,000 Innovate BC second-prize package

- \$40,000 cash from Innovate BC
- \$6,000 in-kind services from EY
- \$6,000 in-kind services from Fasken
- \$2,000 in-kind services from NVBC's silver & bronze sponsors

\$30,000 Innovate BC third-prize package

- \$20,000 cash from Innovate BC
- \$6,000 in-kind services from EY
- \$3,000 in-kind services from Fasken
- \$2,000 in-kind services from NVBC's silver & bronze sponsors

\$10,000 Leap to the Cloud Prize

Presented by National Bank of Canada
\$10,000 cash from National Bank of Canada, awarded to the most promising Software as a Service (SaaS) startup in the Top 10 or Top 25. The winning startup will showcase an innovative edge with a market validated by either sales, partnerships or trials.

\$10,000 Innovate BC

Health Tech & Life Sciences Prize

\$10,000 cash from Innovate BC, awarded to the most promising startup placing in the Top 10 or Top 25, that is focused on drug development, diagnostics, med-tech, therapeutics, or health technology.

\$10,000 Innovate BC

Woman-led Venture Prize

\$10,000 cash from Innovate BC, awarded to the most-promising venture with a woman CEO or Co-Founder in the Top 10 or Top 25. Preference will be given to CEOs, then to Co-Founders who hold 20% or greater ownership. This prize is open to anyone who self-identifies as a woman.

\$10,000 Innovate BC Sustainability Prize

\$10,000 cash from Innovate BC, awarded to a for-profit venture, placing in the Top 10 or Top 25. The venture must aim to create a strong social or environmental impact that creates shared value to the local community and society at large, in addition to economic profits.

\$4,500 NVBC Diamond-in-the-Rough Prize

Awarded to the most promising company that is pre-revenue and pre-investment as of March 31, 2025 (less than \$50K of dilutive financing or revenue). This award is generously funded by members of NVBC's volunteers.

Top Science-Based Company Prize

Courtesy of SFU VentureLabs

- 12-month membership with regular industry mentoring
- Market Intelligence and Assessment
- Marketing Powerup Project: Access support on a marketing deliverable
- Curated Introductions to Investors



Thank You to Our Diamond-in-the-Rough Funders

Andy Edelmeier
Craig Thomson
Floyd Sijmons
Julien Sellgren

Manoj Manathunga
Thealzel Lee
Cassandra Strategy Group Ltd.
Harper Grey LLP (Steve Lukas)

2025 Top Ten Finalists



Binta Financial
bintafinancial.com | Vancouver

CO-FOUNDERS

Paschal Okwundu, Brian Mukeswe

NVBC MENTORS

Brady Fletcher, Sara Wang, Paul McAfee



BuildMapper
buildmapper.ai | Vancouver

CO-FOUNDERS

Jithan Virk, Randeep Dhese, Basab Dey

NVBC MENTORS

Bruce Sharpe, Chris Randall, Zach Weber



CanDry Technologies
candrytechnologies.com | Coquitlam

CO-FOUNDERS

Maddie Aliasl, Behrouz Aliasl Khiabani

NVBC MENTORS

Byron Thom, Vasant Jain, Anant Singh



CaterDash
caterdash.com | Burnaby

FOUNDER

Shreyansh Manchanda

NVBC MENTORS

Craig Thomson, Wei Chou, Feisal Nasser



EyecareX
eyecarex.com | Vancouver

CO-FOUNDERS

Justin Asgarpour, Andrew Asgarpour, Ziv Pollack

NVBC MENTORS

Dave Brown, Geoff Fawkes, Barb Kinnaird



ImageCyte Technologies
imagecyte.bio | Vancouver

CO-FOUNDERS

Samuel Berryman, Hong Ma

NVBC MENTORS

Hugh MacNaught, Cam Melvin, Gabe Kalmar



Minpraxis Solutions
minpraxis.com | Vancouver

FOUNDER

Stefan Nadolski

NVBC MENTORS

Bob Harper, Alicia Lenis, Sebastian Nicholson



PeerSupport.io
peersupport.io | Langley Township

CO-FOUNDERS

Chirag Jadhvani, Sarah Johnstone

NVBC MENTORS

Ray Silva, Herman Lo, Chris Carvalho



PINA Creation
pinacreation.com | Burnaby

FOUNDER

Maryam Bari

NVBC MENTORS

Jeff Addison, Udi Daon, Walter Wardrop



Sigen AI
sigen.ai | Vancouver

CO-FOUNDERS

Alexander Kurtynin, Alexey Iskrov, Igor Kolos

NVBC MENTORS

Abhay Ghatpande, Adam Lorant, Nari Rampersad



25 Years of Impact

For twenty-five years, the **New Ventures BC (NVBC) Competition** has been the cornerstone of British Columbia's startup ecosystem, helping entrepreneurs transform bold ideas into thriving companies. Since its inception in 2000, more than **4,000 companies** have participated in the competition, collectively raising over **\$3 billion** in investment and creating **13,000+** jobs across the province.

Backed by **Innovate BC**, NVBC has awarded over **\$4 million** in non-dilutive funding and prizes, growing from a \$90,000 prize pool in its early years to today's **\$250,000 annual prize package**, anchored by the \$110,000 Innovate BC First Place Prize. This support has consistently catalyzed startups at their earliest, most vulnerable stages, helping them accelerate growth, build teams, and scale globally.

Catalyzing Impact Across 25 Years

- **Expanding Reach:** From 80 entries in its early years to over 200 annually today, NVBC has become the **flagship startup competition in BC**.
- **Spotlighting Innovation:** New awards such as the **Sustainability Prize** and **Woman-Led Venture Award** highlight NVBC's commitment to equity, inclusion, and climate-positive innovation.
- **Building Capacity:** Through programs like the **Startup Sprint Education Series**, **Market Validation Training**, and **AccelerateIP**, NVBC delivers thousands of mentorship hours and training sessions annually to help founders succeed.
- **Alumni Impact:** Companies such as **AbCellera**, **Aspect Biosystems**, **SemiosBio**, **Jane Software**, **DarkVision**, and **Lumen5** demonstrate the transformative potential of NVBC alumni, with global reach, acquisitions, and billion-dollar valuations.

The Power of Partnerships

NVBC's enduring success is built on collaboration. **Innovate BC**, as title sponsor since 2009, scaled up prize funding and broadened

reach across the province. Over **450 volunteer mentors**, from CEOs to venture capitalists, have contributed more than **5,000 hours of mentorship**, creating lasting relationships and strengthening BC's innovation ecosystem.

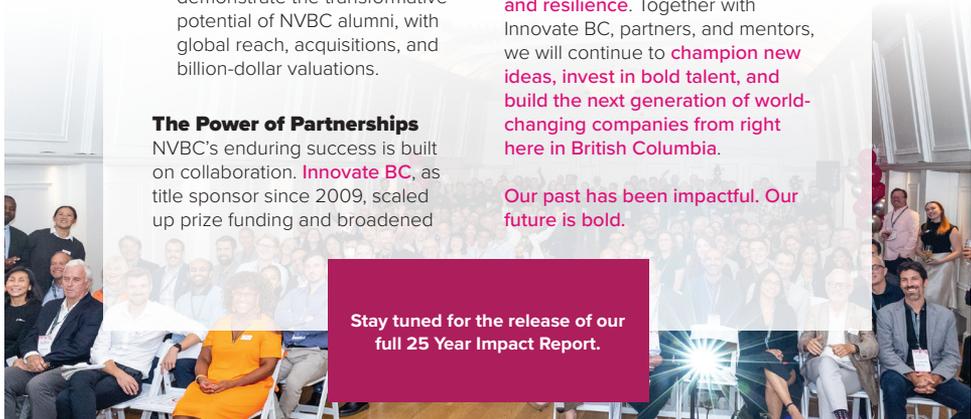
Our Future is Bold

The past twenty-five years have proven the power of NVBC as a catalyst for bold ideas and transformative ventures. But the future holds even greater promise. BC's entrepreneurs are tackling some of the most urgent global challenges, from healthcare to clean technology to digital transformation. NVBC will continue to meet them with mentorship, funding, and community support.

As we celebrate 25 years of impact, NVBC looks ahead to a future defined by **ambition, collaboration, and resilience**. Together with Innovate BC, partners, and mentors, we will continue to **champion new ideas, invest in bold talent, and build the next generation of world-changing companies from right here in British Columbia**.

Our past has been impactful. Our future is bold.

Stay tuned for the release of our full 25 Year Impact Report.



JURY & MENTORS

Thank you to our volunteers who generously share their time, knowledge, and expertise with startups across B.C.

ROUND 3 AND 4 JURY

Andy Edelmeier	Julien Sellgren	Rochelle Grayson
Guy Roy-McHabée	Maria Pacella	Simran Chahal
Irene Dorsman	Mehrsa Raeiszadeh	Thealzel Lee
Jennifer Hamilton	Rasool Rayani	

ROUND 2 AND 2.5 JURY

Aaron Cruikshank	Geoff Henshaw	Mike Montian
Aaron Davey	Geoff Hultin	Monique Morden
Abhay Ghatpande	Gilbert Lei	Mustafa Mohamedali
Alain Rivere	Glen Sampson	Nana Collett
Alfred Lam	Gord Elder	Nari Rampersad
Amogh Oak	Gordon Deans	Nate Xia
Anant Singh	Gurminder Minhas	Olivia Olczak Day
Andrew McFarlane	Guy Roy-McHabée	Omar Mawji
Angus Fraser	Hassan Pardawalla	Paul Brassard
Barry Haglund	Havind Sehmi	Paul Lomonossov
Bill Archer	Helen Goddard	Paul McAfee
Bob Harper	Herman Lo	Pawandeep Singh
Brady Fletcher	Hugh MacNaught	Payman Samavarchi-Tehrani
Branden Haynes	Ilyas Sahib	Penelope Wood
Brian Bapty	Jacek Mis	Peter Andersen
Bruce Sharpe	Jacob Kurian Pattara	Peter Parrish
Byron Thom	Jane Desrochers	Peter van Bodegom
Cam Melvin	Jason Jones	Peter Wilkins
Chin Chang	Jeff Addison	Peter Yap
Chris Carvalho	Jeff Graham	Prashant Agrawal
Chris Goward	Jeff LaPorte	Rakesh Kumar Saini
Chris Randall	Jeff Sinclair	Raul Vejar
Chris Wiesinger	Jennica Palecek	Ray Silva
Christene Best	Jim Pratt	Richard Mardon
Christopher Chong	Joe Parenteau	Rob Muir
Claire Skillen	John Carter	Rod Malehmir
Claire Xanton	John Zubak	Saif Hashmi
Clayton Weir	Judy Zhu	Sam Pirzadeh
Cody Shirriff	Kate Dilworth	Samantha Simonton
Connor Wilson	Kathleen Norman	Sara Khosravi
Cynthia Shipham Brett	Katrina Carroll-Foster	Sara Wang
Dan DeBeyer	Kenneth Odoh	Sebastian Nicholson
Dan Howe	Kirk Hamilton	Sejung Yung
Darin Herle	Kookai Chaimahawong	Shavi Morsara
Darren Frew	Kyle Cheriton	Simon Backer
Daryl Hatton	Lauren Kulokas	Sophie Ngo
Dave Brown	Lesley Esford	Stewart Marshall
Dave Thomas	Luke Krueger	Stewart Rogers
David Dunnison	Maithri V Ven	Teresa Au
David Wong	Malcolm Kendall	Tim Collings
Dean Pick	Manoj Manathunga	Tom Mitchell
Doug Manness	Marc Bitanga	Vallen Li
Ehab Samy	Marjan Miremadi	Vasant Jain
Emily Wu	Marty Yaskowich	Veronica Zammitto
Eric Cormier	Mayank Gupta	Victor Holysh
Ernest Daddey	Meredith Kennedy	Walter Wardrop
Feisal Nasser	Michael Liu	Wei Chou
Gabe Kalmar	Michelle Ng	
Geoff Catherwood	Michelle Sklar	
Geoff Fawkes	Mike Hilton	

SPEAKERS

Ada Slivinski
Charlyne Fothergill
Dave Thomas
David Steinley
Geoff Pedlow
Irene Dorsman
James Rowe
Jason Yen

Jiyeon Witham
Keith Ippel
Lesley Duncan
Matthew Heydt
Michelle Sklar
Mike Volker
Nina Rajic
Pieter Dorsman

Rochelle Grayson
Roger Kuypers
Samantha E Leung
Sean Hodgins
Steven Forth
Vallen Li

MENTORS

Abhay Ghatpande
Adam Lorant
Alvin Chubbs
Anant Singh
Barb Kinnaird
Bob Harper
Brady Fletcher
Bruce Sharpe
Byron Thom
Cam Melvin
Chris Carvalho
Chris Goward
Chris Randall
Christene Best
Christopher Chong
Claire Xanton
Clayton Weir
Cody Shirriff
Craig Thompson
Dan DeBeyer
Dan Howe
Daryl Hatton
Dave Brown
Dean Pick
Don Furseth

Ean Jackson
Feisal Nasser
Frank Leffelaar
Gabe Kalmar
Geoff Fawkes
Gordon Deans
Gurminder Minhas
Guy Heywood
Hassan Pardawalla
Herman Lo
Hugh MacNaught
Jane Desrochers
Jared Byer
Jason Jones
Jeff Addison
Kevin Jampole
Kyle Cheriton
Malcolm Kendall
Mark Thomson
Marty Yaskowich
Michael Liu
Michele Wallcraft
Michelle Ng
Monique Morden
Nana Collett

Nari Rampersad
Nate Xia
Olivia Olczak Day
Paul Koros
Paul Lomonossov
Paul McAfee
Peter Andersen
Peter de Verteuil
Peter Wilkins
Rakesh Kumar Saini
Ray Silva
Richard Miller
Rob Fuller
Samantha Simonton
Sara Wang
Sebastian Nicholson
Stewart Rogers
Teresa Au
Udi Daon
Vasant Jain
Veronica Zammitto
Victor Holysh
Walter Wardrop
Wei Chou
Zach Weber

ROUND 2.5 MENTORSHIP

Thank you to SFU VentureLabs for providing pitch mentorship to our Round 2.5 ventures.



Sponsors

LEAD PARTNER



innovate BC

GOLD



FASKEN



SILVER



BRONZE



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MEDIA



AWARDS CEREMONY AUDIO VISUAL PARTNER



NVBC Team & Board of Directors

New Ventures BC Competition Team

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Angie Schick

MENTOR/JURY "WRANGLER"

Floyd Sijmons

COMPETITION TEAM

Clara Ng, Justine Nadia, Liz
Bowell, Mackenzie Dorsey,
Monique Collins

New Ventures BC Society Board of Directors

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Partner, Chrysalix Venture
Capital

VICE-CHAIR

Todd Farrell, Entrepreneur &
Investor

TREASURER

Anita Chang, Partner, EY

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winner, Chair, Augurex Life
Sciences

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Chair in Innovation and
Entrepreneurship, SFU Beedie
School of Business

Geordie Henderson, Past
Competition winner

Larkin MacKenzie-Ast, Head,
Personnel Compliance Office,
Google

Geoff Pedlow, Partner, Fasken

J. Brock Smith, Professor,
Winspear Scholar, Peter B
Gustavson School of Business,
University of Victoria

David Shore, Co-Founder,
Codezero Technologies

Bree Stanlake, Site Director,
Creative Destruction Lab
Vancouver and UBC Sauder
School of Business

Michael Volker, CEO, WUTIF
Capital & Angel Investor

Bob de Wit, Angel Investor

25 YEARS | **New Ventures BC**

COMPETITION

Presented by Innovate BC