

From: "Levitt, Karen" <karen.levitt@vancouver.ca>

To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"

Date: 4/24/2026 4:27:13 PM

Subject: ACTION REQUIRED: Web Summit 2026

Attachments: Appendix A - Web Summit 2025 Legacy Paper.pdf

Appendix B - City Logo Uses.pdf

Appendix C - WSV 2026 Conference and Related Events.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

This email provides an update on Web Summit 2026, the second of three annual conferences held in Vancouver, often referred to as "the Olympics for Tech." The information herein is all public. The event is focused on promoting collaboration in technology, celebrating local companies and innovations, and building networks of business leads and partnerships. Web Summit Vancouver (WSV) will be held May 11-13, 2026 at the Vancouver Convention Centre, bringing an estimated 15,000-20,000 participants from the global technology community to the city.

Time-sensitive Council actions

1. There are a limited number of complimentary conference tickets available to Council members, which will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. **If you would like a ticket, please advise Michelle Collens, Director, Tourism, Film, and Destination Events by end of day Friday May 1, 2026.**
2. Appendix C lists all the Web Summit-related events that are taking place. Should you be interested in attending an event to which you have not been directly invited, please register directly with the event organiser.
3. You may want to place a hold in your calendar for the VIP welcome reception at the Vancouver Art Gallery hosted by Minister Brenda Bailey, Minister Gregor Robertson, and Mayor Ken Sim to take place on Monday May 11 (likely 730 pm to 10 pm, but event time is not yet finalised).

The Web Summit conference series

- The Web Summit Vancouver conference presents an opportunity to support the Vancouver tech sector and to profile the City's own technological successes.
- In 2024, the City was part of an coordinated effort to bring Web Summit to Vancouver for a three-year term, from 2025 to 2027. In April 2024, Council approved the provision of one-time grant funding of \$250,000, plus three annual value-in-kind offset grants totalling approximately \$400,000 in value.

Web Summit 2025

- In its inaugural year in Vancouver, Web Summit 2025 attracted nearly 16,000 attendees and over 1,100 exhibiting startups, which was a record for any first-year Web Summit event. Of these 1,100 startups, more than 250 were from British Columbia, making for one of the largest-ever showcases of BC technology at a single global conference.
- The City actively participated in over 25 meetings with investors and showcase opportunities featuring Vancouver businesses.
- A WSV 2025 legacy paper was developed by Invest Vancouver, summarising investor engagement and global exposure achievements and lessons learned (Appendix A). These lessons are being applied to preparations for the upcoming 2026 conference.

Web Summit 2026

- Innovate BC is the lead conference organizer for 2026, working in partnership with the BC Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG), Destination Vancouver, PacifiCan and Invest Vancouver.
- In addition to the financial support referenced above, the City is collaborating event organisers to support a successful event, through the following activities.

- Joint invitations to national and international delegations bringing potential investment leads to the conference.
- Facilitating necessary City permits and plan approvals for conference events to occur, including night summit activations.
- Utilizing the BC Pavilion within the Convention Centre to support Vancouver businesses to engage directly with investors and business partners.
- Leveraging destination and sector promotion materials from Invest Vancouver and Destination Vancouver to support key messages on City social media channels.
- As a supporting partner, the City of Vancouver logo is included on the BC Pavilion, in key messages, in promotional materials, and on staff uniforms on the conference floor (Appendix B).
- City staff are coordinating timing for an announcement during the conference with Nutanix, a US based software firm that recently made the decision to expand into Vancouver and grow a significant office of tech engineers in the downtown core.

Tickets for Web Summit 2026

- A ticket is required to access the Vancouver Convention Centre for any portion of the conference, and tickets are non-transferrable.
- The City has been allocated six complimentary tickets for Council members, available on a first-come, first-served basis. (As an invited Speaker, the Mayor will have complimentary access to the event.) Any member of Council who is not able to acquire a complimentary ticket can opt to purchase one, using expense account funds.
- These tickets, valued at \$625 each, provide "regular access," which excludes access to the Speakers Lounge, official evening receptions, exhibition floor lounges, as well as food and beverage services. There is an option to upgrade a complimentary ticket to a "Chairperson" level ticket, at a cost of \$38,095.
- A small number of staff members will be attending the conference, including Tadhg Healy, Chief Technology Officer, Michelle Collens, Director, Tourism, Film, and Destination Events, and Peter Wright, Manager, Business and Economy Office.

Web Summit 2026 events

- Outside of the formal conference schedule, many affiliated and unaffiliated events are organized by investors, foreign delegations, professional service firms, and government entities to support networking and promotion of business opportunities (listed in Appendix C). Many of these are open to registration without a Web Summit Vancouver ticket.
- Council members may be invited by the organiser to participate in these events, or can opt to register directly with the event organiser.
- Three "night summits" will be held during Web Summit as part of the conference program, which can be accessed on a first-come, first-served basis by the holders of a "regular access" pass.
 - Monday, May 11 – taking place at Bentall Plaza at 1055 Dunsmuir Street in Downtown Vancouver
 - Tuesday, May 12 – taking place at The Rec Room at 855 Granville Street in Downtown Vancouver
 - Wednesday, May 13 – taking place at The Shipyards at 125 Victory Ship Way in North Vancouver

Thanks,

Karen

Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
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Appendix A



websummit
VANCOUVER



Legacy Paper

Web Summit Vancouver 2025



**Naturally
Innovative**
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Photo credits: One Group Agency



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Executive Summary

In 2025, Canada, British Columbia, and Vancouver welcomed the global technology community to the inaugural **Web Summit Vancouver (WSV)** — the newest addition to one of the world’s most influential series of tech conferences widely regarded as “the Olympics of tech”. Behind its successful launch was the **Naturally Innovative Alliance (NIA)**, a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership dedicated to leveraging WSV to elevate British Columbia as a global centre for innovation, investment, and inclusive economic development.

This partnership group of funding and delivery partners from across government and industry — including the Government of Canada, through Pacific Economic Development Canada (PacifiCan), the Province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG), Innovate BC, Invest Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, and Destination Vancouver — shared one vision: attract WSV to Vancouver and maximize opportunities around it to grow B.C.’s tech economy, globally and inclusively.

In year one, the Naturally Innovative Alliance was more than a partnership, it was a startup in itself. It required trust, experimentation, and learning-by-doing. As one partner put it, “We built the plane as we flew it.” Thanks to its success, the Alliance has laid the foundation for a replicable model for public-private collaboration, and a new approach to hosting business events focused on driving economic development.

This document highlights the NIA’s key initiatives and outcomes, which have helped accelerate a strategic, aligned, and high-impact future for the B.C. tech ecosystem.



The Origin Story: Why Web Summit Vancouver, Why Now, Why the Alliance

A Global Opportunity Lands in B.C.

B.C. and Canada stand at a critical moment in time. Technologies like AI, and quantum computing are ushering in a new industrial revolution that is impacting every aspect of society in Canada and around the world. These emerging technologies also have the power to shape economies, as entrepreneurs and tech sectors worldwide compete for investment and talent, and look to seize the countless new economic opportunities before them.

To succeed and thrive in this ultra-competitive race to develop new products and grow market share, B.C. must position itself as an innovation leader at the forefront of this technological wave and demonstrate why it is the best place for investors and workers in the global tech sector to grow thriving companies and careers.

B.C. Tech Sector at a Glance

COMPANIES



12,400

EMPLOYMENT



182,000

(274 companies have 100+ employees).



1st

Vancouver ranks first in North America in high tech job growth.

GROWTH



Fastest

Technology is the fastest growing sector in the province.

REVENUE



\$54 billion

in 2023

GDP



\$33 billion

in 2023

UNICORNS



Unicorn companies include [Dapper Labs](#), [Trulioo](#), [Clio](#), [Blockstream](#), [Layer Zero Labs](#) and [Visier](#)



In 2023, Web Summit was entering the final year of its contract with Toronto for the hosting of Collision, the only North American edition of its prestigious series of tech conferences, recognizing that Toronto's run was ending and Web Summit was seeking a new host city, a delegation of key stakeholders from British Columbia seized the opportunity to keep this important global gathering of tech leaders platform in Canada and bring it west.

A group of government, tourism, and technology organizations sought to bring Collision to Vancouver and leverage it to benefit the tech sector across the province. They saw the event as a platform that could exponentially expand our global exposure, grow strategic clusters, and scale-up local companies to drive accelerated economic growth in British Columbia.

Hosting the event would be an investment in British Columbia's economy that had the potential to yield significant returns in terms of FDI, job creation, and long-term economic growth.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of the B.C. and Canadian government stakeholders joining forces with regional economic development agencies to pitch Vancouver's many attributes (walkable, sustainable, globally connected, and home to one of the fastest-growing tech ecosystems in North America), Vancouver soon emerged as a compelling option, and in 2024, Web Summit announced a three-year partnership to hold its Web Summit conference in Vancouver, beginning in May 2025.





A New Kind of Partnership

From the outset, it was recognized that Web Summit Vancouver couldn't be "just another event." It had to drive lasting value — for startups, investors, communities, and B.C.'s innovation economy.

Destination Vancouver signed the Host City Agreement with Web Summit and the Contribution Agreement with PacifiCan, on behalf of the B.C. and Canadian government stakeholders, and the Naturally Innovative Alliance (NIA) was formed. The new partnership co-developed a model relationship from scratch which included shared governance, working groups, joint programming, and coordinated delivery.

The result was a dynamic, province-wide activation that supported and showcased hundreds of startups, hosted hundreds of international delegates, and seeded new global relationships.

What started as a bid to host a conference evolved into a platform for long-term ecosystem impact, built on new collaborations and bold experimentation.





The Naturally Innovative Alliance's ability to engage key ecosystem partners in collaboration around Web Summit Vancouver was a powerful example of B.C.'s innovation sector working together to create global opportunities. It was an incredible experience for InBC, our investor network, and for entrepreneurs across British Columbia, advancing our mission to drive sustainable economic growth and job creation in the province.

Jill Earthy, former CEO, InBC Investment Corp



A Vision for B.C.'s Tech Future

To guide and align their approach, the NIA partners created a vision and developed goals to guide their WSV-related work.

Vision

Elevate Vancouver and British Columbia as a preferred centre of innovation, technology and as a tourist and event destination on the global stage.

Catalyze, foster, and grow tech innovation and collaborations made in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Canada with landed investments and jobs created.



Goals

GLOBAL RECOGNITION



Increase worldwide awareness of the B.C. tech ecosystem and its recognition as a global centre for opportunities in technology and innovation.

PARTICIPATION



Ensure maximum opportunities for the B.C. tech ecosystem to participate in Web Summit Vancouver, including clusters outside the Lower Mainland, Indigenous communities, underrepresented groups, and for youth to see future careers in technology.

COMMERCIAL WINS



Increase trade, investment, and strategic partnership successes in B.C.'s tech ecosystem.

STRATEGIC PLANNING



Catalyze the creation/refinement of a long-term technology and innovation plan for the advancement of B.C.'s tech ecosystem.



B.C. Tech Ecosystem Engagement

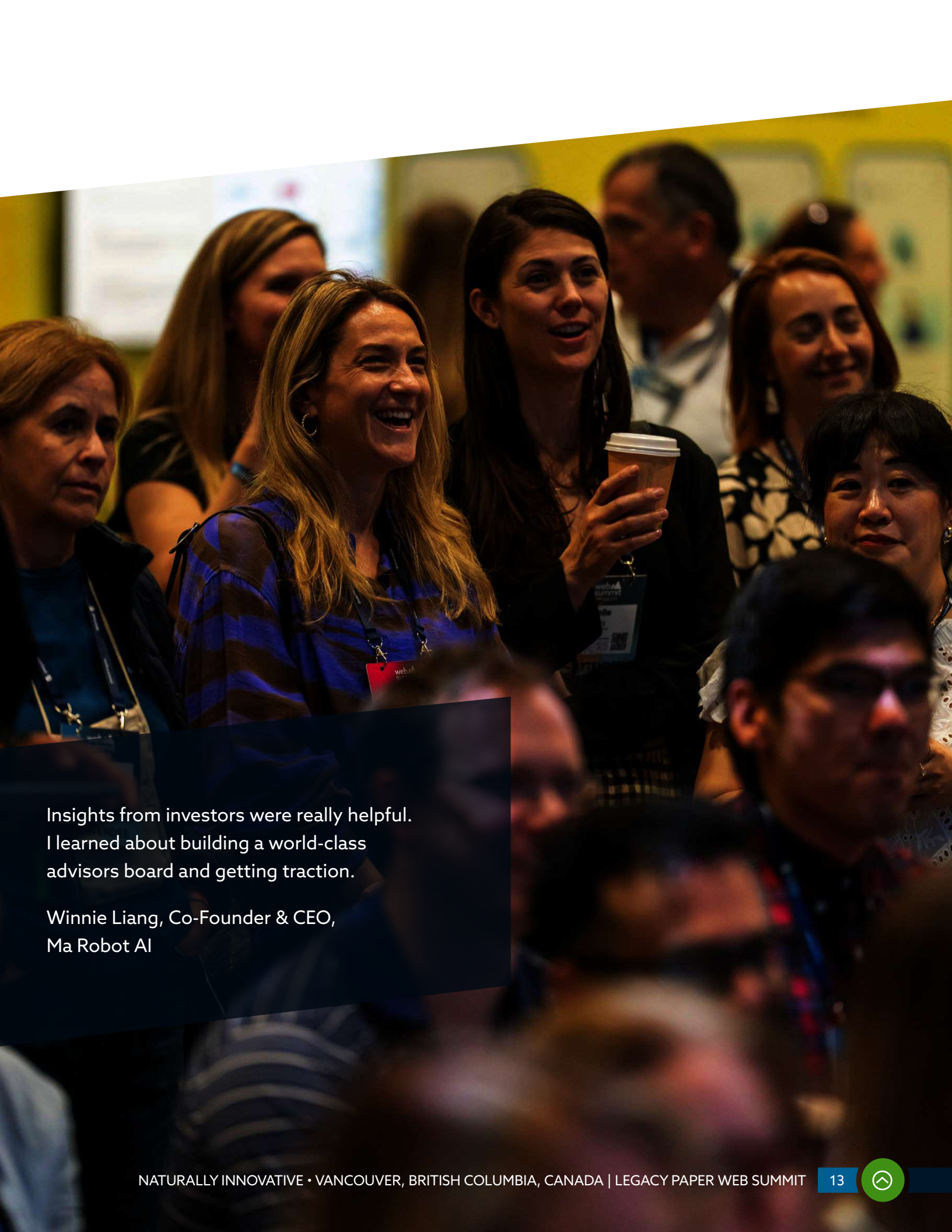
Road to Web Summit Vancouver (R2WSV), engaged the entire B.C. tech ecosystem.

- Innovate B.C. worked with 20 industry partners across the ecosystem to develop and implement a comprehensive suite of programming and events that enable B.C. companies to capitalize on the opportunities available at the conference. This approach helped maximize participation from founders across British Columbia's various sectors, regions, and diverse communities.
- There are twelve unique tech sectors in British Columbia. In 2025, the B.C. Pavilion showcased digital media and entertainment, life sciences, AI, and quantum computing. By 2027 all twelve will have participated in the B.C. Pavilion.
- The NIA partners worked closely with industry associations and post-secondary institutions. 2026 sees these relationships growing.

Participating in the R2WSV was a transformative experience for me and my team at SensoDrive. The initiative not only helped us refine our pitch and connect with key stakeholders but also gave us the opportunity to showcase our work at the B.C. Pavilion—an incredible platform that amplified our visibility and credibility. Being part of the Pavilion allowed us to engage directly with investors, partners, and fellow innovators, making our Web Summit experience far more impactful. R2WSV was a vital steppingstone in our journey, and I'm excited to see how it continues to support B.C. startups.

Sasan Pasha, CEO and Founder, SensoDrive Technology



A photograph of a group of people at a conference. In the foreground, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt, is smiling broadly. Behind her, another woman with dark hair is holding a coffee cup and looking towards the right. Other people are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The scene is indoors with warm lighting.

Insights from investors were really helpful.
I learned about building a world-class
advisors board and getting traction.

Winnie Liang, Co-Founder & CEO,
Ma Robot AI



Naturally Innovative Alliance Initiatives by the Numbers



Global Recognition

WSV MEDIA COVERAGE

3,376 mentions of WSV

1,627 different media outlets from **73** countries

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS AT WSV

156 international delegates from **13** regions managed by TIBC

WEB SUMMIT RIO

20 person delegation from Canada

Canadian Trade Commission Services programming facilitated over **60** B2B meetings and **7** validated business opportunities

7 Canadian Startups (Alpha & Beta) selected to participate at WS Rio



Commercial Wins

INVESTOR TRACTION

87 international investors attended side events organized by Trade and Invest B.C. (TIBC) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

88 meetings were held

40 Venture Capitalists recruited by TIBC's Trade and Investment Representatives

29 multinationals looking at tech scouting



Participation & Inclusion

B.C. PAVILION

1 Indigenous panel

4 individual welcomes
representing 3 Nations

4 member drum/dance

22 panel discussions

60 tech ecosystem
organizations participated
on stage

Wordly, an AI-powered
platform, was used to offer
real-time live transcription
of stage content at the
pavilion

R2WSV

249 Women led startups

20% of startup
participants were from
outside of the Lower
Mainland

BC Regional Showcase and Networking Event

117 Canadian, B.C., and
international attendees

7 economic regions from
British Columbia

21 regional representatives

Through the Innovation & Investment Insider Tours, global investors stepped beyond the conference floor to witness the Metro Vancouver region's unmatched ability to turn bold ideas into world-class innovation.

Jacquie Griffiths, President, Invest Vancouver

B.C. has a lot of innovation that people don't know about across Canada and the world. The stage is set for Vancouver, and we need to take advantage of it. What excites me as an investor is seeing the journey — from early-stage founders at Startup Week to growth-stage companies here at Web Summit Vancouver.

Christopher Chung - Investor





Strategic Planning & Ecosystem Building

R2WSV IBC HOSTED EVENTS

4 events with 1,109 registered guests

835 startups engaged

30% Women

1% Indigenous

3% Youth

R2WSV PARTNER PROGRAMMING

40 initiatives delivered by 20 partners

1 Indigenous founders series

2 women in tech programs

B.C. PAVILION

72 startups showcased

3,200 visitors per day
= 10,048 attendees

Digital Media & Entertainment, Life Sciences, AI, and Quantum programming.

Web Summit Vancouver has been fantastic. The B.C. Pavilion is a great hub to network, showcase quantum and AI, and make connections that would be harder to build elsewhere. Focusing on quantum and AI here is a unique opportunity to highlight the companies and people driving innovation in the sector. British Columbia has so much happening in tech that sometimes it's hard to step out of our own environments and see it. Web Summit allows us to connect locally and globally. This opportunity to network – both within B.C. and internationally – is fantastic for the province's economy.

Louise Turner, CEO, Quantum AI

The Path Forward

We look forward to using WSV 2026 & 2027 as a catalyst to grow this new model — an evolving platform for international visibility, talent attraction, commercial wins, and sector growth.

Web Summit Vancouver has exceeded expectations. It brings a global audience and a cross-section of industries together — and Canada has raised the bar of knowledge while sparking powerful new collaborations. Bringing Web Summit to Vancouver highlighted our own expertise, talent, and even some of our 'secret unicorns.' We learned from each other and showcased the power of collaboration.

Brett McFarlane, Founder, MLD



Case Studies



British Columbia Pavilion

1. Overview

The British Columbia Pavilion at Web Summit Vancouver showcased the province as a global hub for innovation, technology, and investment opportunities. The B.C. tech sectors showcased in 2025 included digital media and entertainment, life sciences, AI, and quantum computing.

2. Objectives

The B.C. Pavilion aimed to highlight the strength and diversity of B.C.'s technology ecosystem while supporting economic development goals.

Key objectives included:

- Elevating B.C.'s global profile as a leader in technology and innovation.
- Generating trade, investment, and partnership opportunities.
- Enabling broad participation from across B.C.'s tech ecosystem, including Indigenous communities and underrepresented groups.
- Advancing long-term strategic planning for B.C.'s innovation ecosystem.

3. Execution

The B.C. Pavilion was constructed as a 15m x 15m booth on the exhibition floor, designed with interactive showcases, lounge areas, a stage for panels and keynotes, and meeting spaces. A collaborative working group including representatives from the Ministry of Jobs and Economic Growth (JEG), Destination Vancouver, Innovate BC, Pace Group, and TK Events guided the planning and delivery of the B.C. Pavilion. Weekly meetings ensured the planning partners were aligned and made timely decisions that achieved a balance between creative vision and budget considerations. The space's design elements emphasized B.C.'s natural beauty, sustainability, accessibility, Indigenous representation and an open, high-quality environment.



The Ministry worked directly with the tech sector associations to map out programming. Each sector was given a day to highlight their industry on the pavilion stage. Themes included Indigenous innovation, quantum and AI, healthtech, digital media and gaming, and investment.

The B.C. Pavilion also included a B.C. Venture Spotlight zone which gave 72 startups selected by Innovate BC each had a half-day to showcase themselves to an international audience. Innovate BC also hosted a popular startup pitch competition on day one and two, with the finals taking place on the closing day of the Summit.

4. Outcomes

The Pavilion successfully engaged thousands of attendees, providing significant exposure for B.C.'s technology sector.

Key outcomes included:

- Strong international recognition of B.C. as a centre for innovation.
- Enhanced visibility and networking opportunities for B.C. based companies.
- Active participation from Indigenous communities and startups.
- Positive attendee engagement with cultural, technological, and sustainability themes.
- Establishment of a strong foundation for future Web Summit Vancouver events.

5. Highlights

- The B.C. Pavilion's design featured natural and Indigenous elements.
- The program delivered a diverse mix of expert panels and informative keynotes, and an exciting three-day pitch competition.
- Sustainability-related features of the B.C. Pavilion included a reusable booth design, biodegradable F&B materials, and locally sourced rentals.
- The B.C. Pavilion offered numerous visitor engagement opportunities through booth activations, networking opportunities, meeting spaces, and stage programming.

6. Looking forward to 2026

Building on the success of 2025, planning is well underway for the 2026 BC Pavilion at Web Summit Vancouver. Learnings from the first year will inform improvements to booth layout, programming, and onsite logistics. The B.C. Pavilion will continue to serve as a central showcase for B.C. innovation over the next two years of the hosting period, driving investment and global recognition for the province's technology ecosystem.





Road to Web Summit Vancouver 2025 (R2WSV)

1. Overview

Road to Web Summit Vancouver (R2WSV), powered by Innovate BC, was a technology and innovation sector development program designed to equip B.C. companies with the tools, skills, resources, and connections to succeed on the global stage at Web Summit Vancouver. As part of R2WSV, 20 organizations hosted 40 events and initiatives across B.C.'s tech ecosystem, with Innovate BC directly delivering four key R2WSV events.

2. Objectives

The key objectives of R2WSV were:

- Build momentum and equip startups with skills in investor readiness, media engagement, and global networking for Web Summit Vancouver.
- Strengthen the visibility of B.C.'s innovation ecosystem to international audiences.
- Engage tech ecosystem partners to maximize participation from startup founders across B.C.'s various sectors, regions, and diverse communities (including Indigenous, women, newcomers, and people of colour).
- Leverage Web Summit Vancouver as a platform to attract investors, acquire customers, and drive growth for B.C. companies.

3. Execution

As a part of R2WSV, Innovate BC worked alongside partners across the ecosystem to develop and implement a comprehensive suite of programming and events that enabled B.C. companies to capitalize on the opportunities available at Web Summit Vancouver. Events were designed in a progressive sequence, starting with a virtual kick-off and culminating in a hybrid bootcamp. Each event addressed a key readiness theme: program orientation, investor engagement, media relations, and strategic preparation. Engagement was broad, spanning startups, investors, media experts, and community leaders.

The R2WSV program featured four key events, hosted by Innovate BC:

- Feb. 5, 2025 – **Road to Web Summit Vancouver: Kickoff for B.C. Startups** introduced startups to R2WSV’s goals and the resources available to them to make the most of the many opportunities presented by WSV.
- Apr 1, 2025 - **Beyond the Pitch - The Investors Perspective: Building a Fundable Start Up** provided startups with useful information on investor-related programming at WSV and how to make the most of opportunities to engage and initiate connections with local and international investors.
- Apr 9, 2025 – **Beyond the Pitch: Crafting Your Startup’s Media Story**, a virtual and in-person event, that provided startups with practical information on how to effectively promote themselves and attract the attention of the hundreds of local and international business and tech journalists attending Web Summit Vancouver.
- May 15, 2025 - **Road to Web Summit Vancouver: Bootcamp** helped B.C. delegates get the most out of their Web Summit experience through actionable strategies, networking tips, and insider knowledge to maximize opportunities for learning, collaboration and growth.

4. Outcomes

The R2WSV program successfully:

- Engaged 1,109 registrants representing 835 startups across four Innovate B.C.-led events.
- Fostered collaboration and helped build connections among 20 ecosystem partners.
- Ecosystem partners hosted 40 events and initiatives. Delivered high satisfaction scores across all events, rating them an impressive 8.4 to 9.1 out of 10.
- 72 startups showcased in the B.C. Pavilion.
- **Company stage of startups** (note – not all participating in R2WSV identified their stage)

Idea	35
Discovery	71
Validation	264
Efficiency	88
Scale	125
Mature	10

5. Looking forward to 2026

The success of R2WSV in 2025 sets the stage for future sector development initiatives as we prepare for WSV 2026. Learnings from event design and delivery will guide continued programming, ensuring B.C. startups are even better prepared for global opportunities. Future plans emphasize sustaining momentum, expanding international networks, and embedding global readiness into B.C.’s innovation strategy.





Innovation & Investment Insider Tours

1. Overview

On May 26, 2025, Invest Vancouver partnered with InBC Investment Corp, SFU Venture Labs, NorthX, Life Sciences BC, DigiBC, AlnBC, Invest Surrey, Innovation UBC, and the Naturally Innovative Alliance to host the Innovation & Investment Insider Tours. The event showcased groundbreaking innovation across cleantech, life sciences, and creative tech sectors to a global audience of investors and media. The program provided a unique opportunity to highlight the Metro Vancouver region's role as a hub for innovation and investment.

2. Objectives

The Insider Tours were designed to:

- Showcase three of the Metro Vancouver region's leading technology sectors to global investors.
- Highlight anchor company success stories and growth potential in the region.
- Facilitate meaningful connections between investors and local companies.
- Strengthen the Metro Vancouver region's reputation as a centre for global innovation and investment.

3. Execution

The event began with a luncheon hosted by the City of Surrey where a forward-looking panel spotlighted leaders from four companies that are driving scalable, globally relevant solutions. During the panel, leaders shared their perspectives on how being located in the Metro Vancouver region helps their businesses succeed. Attendees also enjoyed a networking and exhibition session that featured 13 local companies, including: Sarcomere Dynamics, CIMtech Green, ThoughtsWin Systems, Moment Energy, CO280, Fuse, CereCura, Sonus Microsystems, VodaSafe, Buffalo Buffalo, Phase Lab, Simply Sweet Games, and Coal Car.

Attendees were then divided into three sector-specific groups that were taken by bus to the headquarters of leading companies in B.C.'s cleantech, life sciences, and creative tech sectors, where they toured the facilities and enjoyed presentations by some of B.C.'s top innovation

leaders and CEOs. The life sciences companies included AbCellera, Gandevea Therapeutic, and Kardium. The cleantech companies included Hydron Energy, Arca Climate, and pH7 Technologies. The creative tech companies included Industrial Light & Magic and Kabam.

4. Outcomes

The event achieved strong results:

- 351 registrations were received, with 234 approved applications.
- 200 attendees, representing 17 countries.
- The event was oversubscribed and sold out, with a 20% attrition rate accounted for in planning.
- Positive global visibility for the Metro Vancouver region's cleantech, life sciences, and creative tech sectors.
- Strengthened relationships between local innovators and international investors.

5. Highlights

- Strong collaboration among nine B.C. sector organizations: Invest Vancouver, DigiBC, AlnBC, Life Sciences BC, NorthX Climate Tech, Innovation UBC, SFU VentureLabs, InBC Investment Corp., and Invest Surrey.
- The exhibits at the luncheon showcased a diverse mix of innovative local companies.
- The industry-specific tours provided tailored exposure to investors' interests.
- High levels of international participation, with representation from 17 countries.
- Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with investors requesting early registration for 2026.

6. Future Outlook

Given the success of the Innovation & Investment Insider Tours in 2025, planning for 2026 tours has already begun in response to partner and investor demand. Future tours will continue to showcase B.C.'s tech sector strengths while providing additional opportunities for investor engagement.

The event is poised to become a flagship initiative, strengthening the Metro Vancouver region's position as a global destination for innovation and investment.



web summit VANCOUVER



Pacific Economic
Development Canada

Développement économique
Canada pour le Pacifique

Canada

DESTINATION
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A service of metrovanancouver



innovate BC



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Appendix B



WEBSUMMIT VANCOUVER 2026 - CONFERENCE AND RELATED EVENTS

Web Summit and Related Events - Monday, May 11

Official Web Summit Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location
1	Web Summit Vancouver Conference: Opening Night Session	6:00-8:00pm	The Opening Night Session is the big kick-off to Web Summit Vancouver. It features world-renowned speakers, cutting-edge ideas, and fun networking	Open to all WSV attendees, but must register for the event before it sells out	15,000-20,000 attendees	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
2	Official Night Summit #1	7:30pm-10:-00pm	Food trucks, a beer garden, and live music hosted by the Downtown BIA and Hudson Pacific Properties.	Open to Web Summit ticket holders	Open to first 1500 attendees	Outdoor plaza, 1055 Dunsmuir St, Vancouver
3	Web Summit Opening Night VIP Reception	7:30pm-10:00pm	Web Summit will be hosting a VIP Government Reception with Minister Bailey, Minister Robinson, and Mayor Sim	By invitation only	High-level politicians, celebrities, and business leaders	750 Hornby Street, Vancouver Art Gallery
Unofficial Web Summit Associated Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location
4	Invest Vancouver Tech Advantage Tours	9:00am-2:00pm	Invest Vancouver is coordinating multiple curated regional bus tours that will showcase the Metro Vancouver region’s major assets, economic and innovation clusters, and anchor companies, culminating in B2B networking opportunities.	https://techadvantagetours.eventify.io/t2/proposal/1859496480375801	FDI targets interested in partnerships with post-secondary institutions	UBC, SFU, DigiBC, Centre for Digital Media

5	Executive Luncheon at Web Summit	11:30am-1:00pm	Hosted by Builders Collective and Invest Hong Kong, this luncheon will bring together a curated group of growth-stage CEOs, senior executives, and government officials looking to explore Asian markets	https://luma.com/jabkw5tb?locale=en-CA	CEOs, executives, government officials	TBC
6	Investor Showcase (IBC)	2:00pm-5:00pm	An investor showcase is a curated event where entrepreneurs and startup founders present their business models to a room of potential investors, such as venture capitalists and angel investors.	TBC	VCs, VCCs, pre-selected BC Companies	TBC
7	Sky's the Limit	3:00pm-5:00pm	A high-impact gathering of founders, investors, and tech leaders will meet to network about all things tech.	https://luma.com/ibzwoqm4?locale=en-CA	Investors, tech community members, executives, VCs	555 West Hastings, Vancouver Lookout Tower
8	Export Café (GAC)	3:00pm-5:00pm	A tremendous opportunity for Canadian companies seeking trade to support to international markets to meet with trade commissioners, trade and investment representatives, sector associations, and partner organizations and learn invaluable insights on exporting	TBC	Canadian companies seeking meetings with TCs, TIRs, sector associations, and partner organizations	2nd Floor Library Square, 300 West Georgia Street

9	Lawson Lundell Networking Reception	6:00pm-9:00pm	Hosted by Lawson Lundell, a networking reception in a relaxed atmosphere where curated international delegations are available to meet with local investment attrition advisors, businesses, and government officials.	TBC	International delegations recruited by TCs, TIRs, and GAC Investment Advisors	Paradox Hotel, 1161 West Georgia Street
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Web Summit and Related Events - Tuesday, May 12

Official Web Summit Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location
1	Web Summit Vancouver Conference	9:30am-5:00pm		Access through purchased tickets	15,000-20,000 attendees	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
2	BC Pavilion at Web Summit Vancouver Conference	9:30am-5:00pm	The hosting consortium will operate a BC Pavilion booth space at Web Summit Vancouver which will include 12 stations featuring companies from key sectors (on a rotating schedule) to engage with interested attendees.	Free to attend on the Web Summit Vancouver Floor	Drop-in for all attendees	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
3	Official Night Summit #2	6:00pm-10:00pm	Music, games, and good times in the Granville Entertainment District	Open to Web Summit ticket holders	Open to first 1000 attendees	The Rec Room, 855 Granville Street
Unofficial Web Summit Associated Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location
4	Connection Indo-Pacific Companies to Metro Vancouver with Invest Vancouver	8:00am-9:30am	This expert-led seminar explains why Metro Vancouver is a compelling entry point for Indo Pacific companies	https://connectingindopacificcompanies.eventify.io/t2/proposal/1862035941953770	Businesses, investors, VCs, government officials	Lawson Lundell, 925 West Georgia Street, #1600

5	Global Affairs Canada B2B Matchmaking Sessions	8:30am-5:00pm	Curated matchmaking session where Global Affairs Canada matches businesses with VCs, foreign technology buyers, and potential business partners.	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScslRevGNfvUiCkC4ypnU7ewiXiK0boxppNdIMGpETuwGo8ZQ/viewform	Canadian companies, VCs, foreign tech buyers	Vancouver Club, 915 West Hastings Street
6	Korea Global Startup Bridge Showcase	9:30am-2:00pm	The event features conference sessions, panel discussions, networking opportunities, and pre-arranged 1:1 meetings with participating startups. It is designed to facilitate both inbound investment into Korean companies and collaborative partnerships with Canada-based firms, offering a practical platform to explore Korea-Canada innovation and business opportunities.	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/korea-global-startup-bridge-showcase-by-kotra-tickets-1987005353501?aff=ebdssbdestsearch	VCs, startups, government, ecosystem partners	SFU Venture Labs, 11th Floor 555 West Hastings Street
7	Alacrity Connect: The Breakroom	11:00am-3:00pm	A flexible, drop-in space for those in-between moments, a quick reset, or a chance to connect without an agenda.	https://luma.com/ngonjsb3?locale=en-CA	VCs, startups, government, ecosystem partners	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
8	ClimateGlobal2026: Connecting Canadian Climate Tech to the World	2:00pm-8:00pm	An opportunity for climate tech companies and investors to meet-up.	https://luma.com/3nze18ji?locale=en-CA	International operators, investors, and founders	UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street
9	Raise & Rise: Empowering Women in Tech Capital (SFU Venture Labs, GAC, TIBC, Dentons)	3:00pm-5:00pm	Designed for woman founders and executives in tech, deeptech, or life sciences, building something bold. Whether one is navigating their next funding round, scaling their company, or stepping fully into the CEO role, Rise & Raise is the best space to learn, connect, and grow.	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/raise-raise-empowering-women-in-tech-capital-tickets-1981974335591?aff=oddttdtcreator	TCs, GAC Investment advisers, TIRs, VCs, VCCs, foreign tech buyers	Dentons – 250 Howe St 20th floor

10	Alacrity Connect: Happy Hour	3:30pm-6:30pm	Networking opportunities with founders, investors, and ecosystem partners in a relaxed and welcoming environment	https://luma.com/96vog3r1?locale=en-CA	Founders, investors, and ecosystem leaders	TBC
11	BC Pavillion Reception at Web Summit	4:00pm-5:00pm	The BC Pavilion will highlight local innovation across cleantech, AI, quantum, life sciences, creative tech, agritech, and oceantech. Visit the Pavilion and connect with cutting-edge BC companies, listen to presentations, and catch eye-opening conversations.	Free to attend on the Web Summit Vancouver Floor	Successful FDI clients, FDI Prospects, TIRs, GAC Investment Advisors, BC Regional EDOs	BC Pavillion at Web Summit
12	Human Leadership in the Age of AI	5:00pm-6:30pm	A curated gathering of sector experts for a high-signal conversation on leadership in an AI-driven world	https://vancouverside.events/event/b3638541-089d-45a4-9c42-def3d3434a50	Founders, executives, investors, and operators	MNP, 609 Granville Street, Suite 2400
13	Quiet Networking	5:00pm-7:00pm	An experimental, structured networking event for people who want networking, but without the noise	https://luma.com/q9vef1n0?locale=en-CA	Founders, employees, investors	TBC
14	AI, Talent and the Human Factor	5:00pm-7:30pm	A relaxed evening of conversation and networking to discuss AI with the tech community in Vancouver	https://vancouverside.events/event/a94edbc9-eb0b-4141-80d2-198e4455c6b7	Tech leaders, community partners, and investment advisors	Klue Office, 777 Hornby Street
15	Health Tech Unwind 2.0	5:00pm-8:00pm	Health Tech Unwind 2.0 is a Web Summit 2026 side event hosted by Nimbus Synergies, Pender Ventures, Fasken, and Life Sciences BC. This networking event provides space for health tech startups, investors, and ecosystem partners to connect outside of the main conference.	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeP1F_FGknvTYQEtnhKp8o36aqjWKQA16w8dTrzsGQk-mBgxw/viewform	Health tech startups, ecosystem partners, investors	TBC

16	French Consulate and MLT Aikins Partnership Event	5:00pm-7:00pm	Make connections with business leaders, innovators and supporters from Canada and France while enjoying curated French wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres. This intimate evening	https://59fjt.share.hsforms.com/2pyqSEELpTPKs6BJ8UsgfrQ?utm_campaign=40533117-2026%20Vancouver%20French%20Consulate%20Event&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz-	Business leaders, tech companies, businesses looking for partnerships	MLT Aikins LLP, Suite 2400, 1066 West Hastings Street,
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Web Summit and Related Events- Wednesday, May 13

Official Web Summit Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location
1	Web Summit Vancouver Conference	9:30am-5:00pm		Access through purchased tickets	15,000-20,000 attendees	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
2	BC Pavilion at Web Summit Vancouver Conference	9:30am-5:00pm		Free to attend on the Web Summit Vancouver Floor	Drop-in for all attendees	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
3	Official Night Summit #3	6:00pm-10:00pm	Food trucks, a beer garden and live music hosted by the City of North Vancouver and the Shipyards BIA.	Open to Web Summit ticket holders		Shipyards, North Vancouver
Unofficial Web Summit Associated Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location
4	FUNK and Friends	7:30am-9L30am	A low-pressure, high-energy morning social with founders, investors, and innovators	https://luma.com/jyfrbdz6?locale=en-CA	Founders, investors, and innovators	FUNK Coffee Bar, 1025 Dunsmuir Street
5	BC Regional Showcase and Networking Breakfast	8:00am-10:00am	Meet Economic Development Officers from across BC and discover unique opportunities for doing business in Metro Vancouver and throughout the province.	TBC	BC Regional EDOs, FDI Prospects, GAC Investment Advisors, TIRs	Vancouver Club, University Room, 915 West Hastings Street

6	Global Affairs Canada B2B Matchmaking Sessions	8:30am-5:00pm	Curated matchmaking session where Global Affairs Canada matches businesses with VCs, foreign technology buyers, and potential business partners.	Registration has closed	Canadian companies, VCs, VCCs, foreign tech buyers	Vancouver Club, 915 West Hastings Street
7	Alacrity Connect: The Breakroom	11:00am-3:00pm	A flexible, drop-in space for those in-between moments, a quick reset, or a chance to connect without an agenda	https://luma.com/ngonjsb3?locale=en-CA	VCs, startups, government, ecosystem partners	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
8	Nutanix Networking Reception	1:00pm-2:00pm	Nutanix will host an invitation only networking reception to introduce itself and celebrate its entrance into the Vancouver market	TBC	Businesses, industry organizations, government officials	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
9	Doing Business with Canada Investor Matchmaking Event	1:00pm-5:00pm 5:00pm-9:00pm	Matchmaking for investors and businesses, hosted by Global Affairs Canada	TBC	Canada's EDOs, FDI Prospects, GAC Investment Advisors, TIRs	Vancouver Club, University Room, 915 West Hastings Street
10	The Founders Circle: Happy Hour	3:00pm-5:00pm	A private gathering for a hand-picked group of founders, builders, and ecosystem leaders	https://luma.com/px799f9y?locale=en-CA	Founders, builders, and ecosystem leaders	Glowbal, 590 West Georgia Street
11	Alumni Venture Showcase with Creative Destruction Lab	3:00pm-8:00pm	The Alumni Showcase brings together 16 outstanding ventures across all of CDL's streams. The event will include demo stations, pitch sessions, and a curated networking reception	https://airtable.com/appey1KrZGMYc8wWU/shr9sqXzELLHFYb5q	Start-ups, investors, VCs, international partners	TELUS Garden, 510 West Georgia Street

12	Innovating at Scale: Talent, Growth, and the Metro Vancouver Advantage	4:00pm-6:00pm	The seminar explores why access to high quality talent is a defining advantage for companies scaling in Metro Vancouver and how firms successfully build and grow a team here	https://innovatingatscale.eventify.io/t2/proposal/1862036883570955	Businesses, investors, VCs, government officials	The Stack, 1133 Melville Street, Suite 1900
13	UBC Sauder & Thunderbird Alumni Rooftop BBQ	4:00pm-7:00pm	Networking BBQ for UBC and Sauder grads, hosted by Baseline Payments	https://luma.com/6rhvnmsy?locale=en-CA	UBC grabs, tech sector employees, investors	Rooftop, 2288 Manitoba Street
14	Beer Market Fit	4:00pm-7:00pm	A web summit mixer with no agendas or presentations, and conversation cards placed on every table to get the meeting going.	https://luma.com/t1x40jqf?locale=en-CA	Start-ups, investors, VCs, international partners	The Pint, 455 Abbott Street
15	Curated Meetings (SFU Venture Labs, GAC, TIBC, Dentons)	4:30pm-5:45pm	SFU Venture Labs will host curated meetings for businesses, investors, and VCs to focus on collaboration, partnerships, and investment	https://venturelabs.ca/event/curated-meetings-matching-companies-and-investors/	TCs, GAC Investment Advisors, TIRs, VCCs, foreign tech buyers	SFU Venture Labs, 11th Floor 555 West Hastings Street

Web Summit and Related Events Thursday, MAY 14

Official Web Summit Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location
1	Web Summit Vancouver Conference	9:30am-5:00pm		Access through purchased tickets	15,000 attendees	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
2	BC Pavilion at Web Summit Vancouver Conference	9:30am-5:00pm		Free to attend on the Web Summit Vancouver Floor	Drop-in for all attendees	Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Pl
Unofficial Web Summit Associated Events		Time	Event Description	RSVP	Attendees	Location

3	HeyGen Avatar Masterclass for Scaling Companies	1:00pm-4:30pm	SFU Venture labs hosts a hands-on masterclass designed for innovation-driven companies exploring ROI from AI tech	https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/heygen-avatar-masterclass-for-scaling-companies-tickets-1986034393333	Founders, growth teams, and high-growth companies	SFU Venture Labs, 11th Floor 555 West Hastings Street
4	Tech & Walk Women in Tech Meet-up	5:30pm-7:00am	Join women in tech and allies for a relaxed easy-going outdoor walk to unwind, share, and reflect	https://luma.com/nhzcga38?locale=en-CA	Founders, growth teams, and high-growth companies	Coal Harbour Viewpoint
5	AI Film Club: 05/14	6:30pm-10:00pm	Hosted by the BC + AI Film Club, this event will be a space for creatives to meet, screen films, and learn about AI tools that are changing the industry	https://luma.com/aifilm?locale=en-CA	Filmmakers, editors, VFX artists, editors, writers, and creative technologists	Multimodal Media Lab, V6Z2A9