WE ARE YOUR PRIMARY CONTACT —
BRINGING INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY
AND GOVERNMENT PARTNERS
TOGETHER TO OFFER SEAMLESS
SERVICES THAT MAKE IT EASIER TO
ACCELERATE YOUR EXPANSION TO CANADA.
In our rapidly changing world, there is no better place than Canada to do business.

We have the lowest average overall tax rate on new business investment in the G7, the strongest economic growth of all of the G7 countries last year, the most highly educated workforce in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and a government that is a ready and willing partner to businesses of all sizes.

We have opened the door to new markets—securing free trade agreements with the European Union and the growing markets of Asia—and kept the door open to our largest market through a modernized North American trade agreement. We now have comprehensive free trade agreements with countries representing nearly two-thirds of the world’s total gross domestic product and are the only G7 country with a free trade agreement concluded with every other G7 country.

Talented people choose to stay and set roots here. Our cities and towns are progressive, welcoming communities connected by ever-improving public transportation networks. They are home to world-class colleges and universities that produce some of the best and brightest graduates and supply our highly skilled workforce.

To help companies attract the highly skilled global talent they need, we introduced the Global Skills Strategy. Companies can now recruit top talent to Canada in as little as two weeks. We also launched the new Invest in Canada agency to simplify business support programs and provide a one-stop shop for global businesses looking to make Canada their new home.

We continue to make smart, targeted investments and forward-looking policy to create the right conditions for businesses and people to thrive in Canada. We introduced a new Accelerated Investment Incentive for all businesses, which will allow them to more quickly depreciate, for tax purposes, capital assets like computers, new machinery, and even long-lived investments, like buildings. We are also modernizing and updating our regulatory systems to make it easier for businesses in Canada to succeed and grow.

With the LNG Canada project—valued at $40 billion—we recently welcomed the largest private sector investment project in our country’s history. And we know that more will come. Our cities are among the fastest-growing hubs for breakthrough technologies and industries of tomorrow, including artificial intelligence, connectivity, and clean tech.

We will continue to boost investments in skills and training, and make historic investments in infrastructure and advanced technology, while working hard to make our economy one of the most globally connected in the world.

We recognize the enormous potential in technological change, a knowledge-based economy, and a commitment to global trade. Whether you have established roots here, or are exploring Canada for your next business expansion, I am confident that investing in Canada will be one of the best decisions you make this year.

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
As a top business leader and influencer, you understand the challenges and opportunities that lead to the evolution and growth of your business. You look to expand your business by investing in innovative, growing economies that are delivering solid and secure returns.

With diverse and highly skilled talent, access to large and growing markets, and a business climate featuring strong support for innovation in a range of technologies and sectors, Canada has an undeniably compelling value proposition.

Canada is an exciting investment destination and Invest in Canada is making it easier for you to build your innovative and global business here. By bringing together public and private sector partners, we can connect you with the right people in the right places across the country to accelerate your expansion project and support your business growth.

Whether you are considering Canada for the first time or you are ready to expand your existing footprint, this book provides you with a good overview of Canada’s competitive advantage and clearly demonstrates that Canada is open for business. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to our Invest in Canada team to assist you with anything you need.
"Canada is one of the most exciting investment opportunities for Salesforce. As the world’s fastest growing top 5 software company, we look forward to a great partnership and to expanding our employees, customers and innovation in Canada."

— MARC BENIOFF, CHAIRMAN AND CEO, SALESFORCE

INVEST IN YOU, INVEST IN CANADA

Global investors are recognizing Canada is in the best position to tackle the challenges of the 21st century economy.

We empower our partners and enable your business to thrive in the modern world. Our wealth of talent makes Canada’s digital ecosystem fresher, creative and more dynamic for start-ups and investors alike. By working together to leverage strengths in technology, physical infrastructure and digital connectivity, quality of life and sustainability, we are well positioned to enhance your performance in a globally competitive landscape.

We bring the best mix of what is important to international companies: a diverse and inclusive economy; a skilled and talented workforce; accessible programs to enhance and boost innovation; expansive infrastructure; strong cybersecurity; and a stable, predictable political and economic landscape with open access to the world.

It is a vibrant and exciting time to share competitive advantages, commercialize new inventions and connect to a vast array of global supply chains. Canada’s digital economy sees post-secondary institutions cooperating with cutting-edge companies, geared towards innovative breakthroughs that make Canada a global leader in the deep-learning revolution.

Canada is strengthening its position as a global tech hub through public-private investment. Our skilled workforce ensures this hub remains a strong, central core for global trade. Canada’s robust programs and tremendous reach secure the scalability your business deserves.

The extraordinary characteristics of this country mean businesses don’t simply remain at the forefront of their communities. They push the boundaries to make lives better; they innovate to make life exceptional. Canada is on the move in the right direction. Join us.

With a sound financial system, a vibrant and innovative economy, and a proactive approach to long-term fiscal policy, we view Canada as a compelling investment opportunity.

— BlackRock, 2016
"The Global Skills Strategy has made the [talent acquisition] process more approachable, translating to faster results and positive business impact."

— WILLIAM ZHOU, CEO, CHALK

A WEALTH OF TALENT

To succeed in today’s ever-changing world, you need a steady supply of skilled talent to calculate and anticipate what’s coming next. Canada’s skilled, educated and diverse people are the foundation of Canada’s economic growth, equipping it with the adaptive flexibility to manage technological, economic and political changes. Fifty-one percent of Canadians are post-secondary graduates, making Canada the most educated population in the world.¹

Canada’s Wealth of Diversified Talent

In addition to our home-grown talent, Canada’s rich background attracts millions of international students each year. The growing interest in Canada’s technological evolution is apparent in its post-secondary institutions. Canadian universities saw a 26% increase in international applications for 2017-18² and Canada now ranks as the world’s fourth most popular destination for international students.³ As a world leader in post-secondary research, Canada is outpacing other G7 countries on investment in higher education.⁴ Attracting top talent results in a diverse workforce. Canada has over 200 identified languages spoken and it’s on the rise! We welcome international students and talent by offering several government programs to ease the transition to their new Canadian home.

While representing 22% of the population in Canada, immigrants are a significant portion of highly skilled labour, filling half of all Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-related jobs in Canada.

¹ Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

² Source: Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE)

³ Source: Universities Canada

⁴ Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

10 TALENT
Canada = brain gain

Canada’s Global Skills Strategy makes it easier for businesses to attract the talent needed to succeed in the global marketplace. The strategy allows you to attract and bring top international talent to work for your company quickly. Eligible foreign workers with employer-approved applications can move swiftly through the immigration system and receive work permits within two weeks.

In addition to speed, employers receive client-focused white-glove service through a dedicated and knowledgeable team of officers who understand the perspective of new companies driven to compete on the global stage.

The streamlined system means Canada has attained top-of-class status when it comes to the brain gain, according to CBRE’s Annual Tech Talent Scorecard. Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and Ottawa had a combined brain gain of more than 65,000 tech workers in 2017. This tech talent gain is greater than San Francisco (over 46,592) and Seattle (over 10,118) combined.5

Navigating the digital shift

A country of 36 million and punching above our weight in innovation, Canada has become the world’s tech incubator. Canada’s digital economy leans heavily on students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Universities are an integral collaborator in incubators that launch student inventions and start new companies. It’s why our universities and colleges are global leaders in the co-operative experience, combining academic studies with real-world experience and fueling entrepreneurial spirit. Our graduates bring the skills and knowledge needed to push Canada’s innovation agenda and create projects having tangible outcomes.

Canada also welcomes international talent to work on world-changing innovations. Together, we possess and share the expertise to shape and empower a skilled and diverse digital workforce. Canada’s ongoing investment in innovation, borders open to entrepreneurs and tech industry workers, and the influx of talent marks a new stage in the country’s innovation. You’ve built your business; our wealth of talent will make it much more consequential.

"A key reason why Amazon continues to invest in Canada is because of the diverse and exceptionally talented workforce that exists here."
— ALEXANDRE GAGNON, VICE PRESIDENT, AMAZON CANADA

Global game developer Ubisoft started investing in Montreal in the ’90s. While its Montreal operation holds the distinction of being the world’s single-largest game development studio, Ubisoft is capturing the advantages of Canada’s urban centres and now has thriving productions in Quebec City, Saguenay, Toronto, Winnipeg and Halifax.

“The creation of these massive digital worlds is increasingly complex, and it’s critical that our development teams have access to the best tech and tools to continue to develop the most innovative games in our fast-paced, highly competitive market,” says Yannis Mallat, CEO of Ubisoft Canadian Studios.

The Montreal studios are responsible for the creation of The Assassin’s Creed and Far Cry series. With over 3,000 employees who have created more than 80 games, they are part of Ubisoft’s global network of more than 13,000 team members operating in over 30 countries.

Over 1/5 of Canadian workers were born outside of Canada. We aim to attract 1M more over the next 3 years.
Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2018

50% immigrants hold about half of all STEM degrees in Canada.
Source: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, 2018
”We’re not just keeping AI talent here [Canada], but we’re attracting the very best from around the world.”

— YOSHUA BENGIO, UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL PROFESSOR AND CO-FOUNDER, ELEMENT AI

CANADA: THE WORLD’S TECH INCUBATOR

Canada is where new technologies come to life. Where values, knowledge and creativity come together to shape the future.

Together, we are fostering an innovative ecosystem that connects foreign and domestic ingenuity with initiatives, incentives and funding programs.

The global digital shift is being driven by the desire to push boundaries and make life better. It is a value system shared by leaders and researchers in every field, from decoding the restorative power of stem cells and exploring the principles of quantum mechanics to sustainable development of the ocean frontier and teaching cars to think.

Canada’s innovation agenda is stimulated by the drive to evolve from resources to resourcefulness. Infrastructure now means fast, smart, connected, and the country is emerging as a tech powerhouse. Today, Canada’s tech sector is by far the largest private sector investor in research and development (R&D).

40% of all Canadian R&D scientists work in the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector.

Source: Global Affairs Canada, 2018

Toronto #8
Montreal #22
Vancouver #25
Canadian cities among the top 25 most high-tech cities in the world.

Source: Business Insider

#1
First in the world to develop an AI strategy.
$125M for a Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy.

Source: Statistics Canada

$6.1B
ICT sector’s investment in research and development.

Source: Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

66,000+
companies in the ICT sector and almost 1.4M people working in ICT occupations.

Source: Statistics Canada, LMIC

$87B
ICT sector’s contribution to Canada’s GDP in 2018.

Source: Statistics Canada

$2B
The superclusters are projected to infuse up to $2B into the economy and grow Canada’s GDP by $50B over the next ten years.

Source: Statistics Canada
As a global leader in cutting edge R&D, Canada supports investors with significant incentives for large-scale industry partnerships and challenges them to work together on ambitious, market-driven proposals to supercharge innovation ecosystems. This delivers simpler and more efficient support to business and entrepreneurs, making it easier for companies to invest in Canada.

For example, the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) bolsters business investments in Canada’s most dynamic and innovative sectors by supporting innovative business activities such as R&D projects, firm expansion, attraction of large-scale investments to Canada and collaborative technology demonstration projects. Focussing on support requests over $10 million, the fund connects hundreds of projects to other programs and services.

Where people connect and come together, ideas are born. Superclusters are areas of intense business activity – hotbeds ripe for innovation. Through strategic investments, Canada is supporting business-led superclusters with the greatest potential to energize the economy and become engines of growth. Matched dollar-for-dollar by the private sector, five superclusters pull together more than 450 businesses, 60 post-secondary academic institutions and 180 other participants in sectors covering more than three quarters of Canada’s economy. It is strength in numbers defined.

Tech has always been about getting in early. Being first translates to being a leader. With the 2017 release of its Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy, Canada secured its position as a leader in AI research and training. The strategy aims to establish clusters of scientific excellence, develop global thought leadership on AI’s economic, ethical and legal implications, and support the national AI research community.

AI has tremendous potential to revolutionize healthcare, empower science, improve the lives of Canadians and transform the way we think about health, treatment and patient care. Canada has growing assets, capabilities and strong partnerships that include leading universities, top talent and rapidly emerging companies and start-ups that are crossing the bridge of digital technologies to health applications.

Canada’s AI advantage includes three world leading AI institutions: the Montreal Institute for Learning Algorithms (MILA), the Vector Institute and the Alberta Machine Learning Intelligence Institute (AMII) that are conducting world-leading research in machine and/or deep learning.

Support through private and public collaboration for Canada’s entrepreneurship landscape is setting us up to be a world leader in R&D. Significant investments in Canada’s post-secondary institutions are leading to innovative breakthroughs creating unique opportunities for companies like yours to remain competitive.

Investors can also access an expansive array of programs through Invest in Canada, including Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program – or SR&ED, which provides billions in tax credits and incentives to businesses conducting R&D in Canada. SR&ED allows investors to claim expenditures such as wages and salaries, contract expenditures, overhead and materials. These cost advantages are significant for investors who find product testing and software development among some of their largest expenses during the development phase of a project.

Canada’s nearly two million small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are key drivers of job and wealth creation in all sectors of the nation’s economy. Delivered by a network of hundreds of advisors located in communities across Canada, the NRC Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) provides financial support to qualified SMEs engaged in innovative, technology-driven activities to help them quickly advance their innovations.

The distinction of being the easiest location in the G20 to start a business belongs to Canada. All it takes is two procedures and two days. Great timing for those investors ready to push their potential and be bold in Canada. And it’s simpler than ever for businesses to find the right support to fuel their growth. Canada offers hundreds of programs and services designed to help businesses grow and innovate. Innovation.ca uses an AI-enhanced algorithm to match businesses with the best fitting programs and services from coast to coast to coast – all in about two minutes.

An innovative and prosperous Canada for your business is innovation for a better world. Canada is the innovation destination driving real economic growth for the next generation. Make it your destination.

Canada’s Artificial Intelligence Pioneers (L–R)

Yoshua Bengio - University of Montreal
Geoffrey Hinton - University of Toronto
Richard Sutton - University of Alberta
"Increasingly, Canada is being recognized as a global leader in technology and the investments we are making today and into the future will help ensure Canada continues to be a hotbed of innovation."
— KEVIN PEEKER, PRESIDENT, MICROSOFT CANADA

## SETTING THE STAGE

Canada brings the best mix of what is important to international companies: a diverse and inclusive economy; a skilled and talented workforce; accessible programs to enhance and boost innovation; expansive infrastructure; strong cybersecurity; and a stable, predictable and economic landscape with open access to the world.

Business investment in Canada grew about 8% in 2017, representing the fastest rate of growth in five years.\(^1\) Foreign direct investment (FDI) increased from $551 billion in 2008 to $824 billion in 2017, and FDI inflows into manufacturing in 2018 were at an impressive 61.76 percent increase over the previous year.\(^2\) Canada is more than a contender for business; we lead the G7 in economic growth and have done so for the past three years.

### Ease into connectivity

Businesses appreciate world-class connectivity to international markets while operating in one of the safest and most economically robust countries in the world. Timeliness and innovation are at the core of passenger and cargo transit in Canada, ranks 12th in the world in Airport Connectivity.\(^3\) thanks in part to our 23 international airports stationed coast to coast to coast. This dependability is supported by an integrated transportation system of road and rail networks. Combined with secure trade corridors and gateways.

### First in the G7 and 8th out of 126 countries for ease of investor protection.

Source: Global Innovation Index

### Canada’s banking system is ranked 2nd in the world and soundest in the G7.

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Index 2018-2019

### Second in the G7 and G20 countries, 8th among 149 countries for overall prosperity.

Based on economic quality, business environment, governance, education, health, safety and security, personal freedom, social capital, and natural environment.

Source: Legatum Prosperity Index

### The average overall tax rate in Canada on new business investment— as measured by the Marginal Effective Tax Rate (METR)—will fall from 17.0 per cent to 13.8 per cent. This will give businesses in Canada the lowest overall tax rate on new business investment in the G7, significantly lower than that of the United States.

Source: Fall Economic Statement, 2018

### 1.9 million Canadians are employed by foreign-controlled multinational enterprises in Canada.

Source: Global Affairs Canada, 2018
it facilitates continual supply chain and business operations, keeping businesses ahead of the competition, no matter the destination.

Here in Canada and globally, the bonds between us are increasingly digital. Our spectrum is regulated so we have the best – and safest – wireless experience anywhere. With Canada’s new Cyber Security Strategy, we continue to make confident strides in our digital age.

Central hub for global trade

Geographically, Canada is well situated to serve as a central hub for global trade. Our coastal ports provide direct maritime access to Asia, South America and Europe, while our inland Great Lakes provide easy access to several US states. On our southern border lies the world’s largest single-country consumer market with 328 million people. With 14 trade agreements, Canada is the only G7 country that offers investors preferential market access to more than 50 countries, with over 1.5 billion consumers and a combined GDP of nearly USD$50 trillion. The modernizing of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) and the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) guarantee market access to both the EU and North America. None of the other top investment destinations in the Americas can offer access to all 28 EU Member States. Once fully implemented, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) will give companies operating in Canada access to one of the largest trading blocs in the world, providing enhanced access to key Asian markets.

Export Development Canada (EDC) is Canada’s export credit agency. It is devoted to helping companies go, grow and succeed beyond Canada’s borders. EDC offers competitive financing to international companies to enhance your competitiveness and unlock business innovation.

Business Development Bank of Canada is the nation’s only bank devoted exclusively to entrepreneurs. As its investment arm, BDC Capital is as a strategic partner to the country’s most innovative firms. BDC Capital can provide global companies with insight, introductions and co-investment partnership opportunities in Canada’s vibrant technology sector.

Acclaimed for superior business climate

Canada understands the importance of its business community and has created an environment to encourage its success.

Canada is among the top countries in the G20 for business in 2019. We rank first in the G7 in a study measuring a country’s potential for investment and growth in its economic infrastructure. In Cornell University’s Global Innovation Index 2018, Canada ranks top in terms of ease of investor protection.

That’s a lot of international accolades propelling us forward. A leader in sustainable development, Canada has reinforced its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an ambitious agreement with 192 other countries to work toward sustainability, prosperity for all and reduced inequalities.

Canada is the lowest-cost G7 country in the manufacturing and the corporate services sectors. Four of North America’s top 10 financial centres are Canadian: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary. Canada also has the lowest business costs in the digital and R&D sectors.

For example, companies can write off up to 100% of new machinery and equipment costs and specified clean energy equipment to spur adoption of advanced technologies, processes for manufacturers as well as clean tech. Businesses in all sectors can also write off a larger share of costs for newly acquired assets, including long-lived assets like buildings and intangibles like patents and IP.

Open to doing business with the world

Canada ranks particularly well in numerous areas, including first overall for personal freedom and third for ease of starting a business. We also rank second among G7 countries in having a unique approach to becoming competitive and have one of the most multilingual societies, with over 200 languages identified as the mother tongue.

The Canadian way has always been defined as peace, order and good government; now we proudly add innovation, diversity and equality.

A tech-savvy country filled with strong business leaders and cutting-edge skills, Canada is well positioned to tackle the challenges of the 21st century economy. Sharp global investors recognize this—and see our doors are open.

Sample our vibrant destinations and dynamic business environments by hosting your next conference in Canada.

Business Events Canada offers organizers access to sought-after Canadian innovations and localized knowledge, making your conference a success.
"I’ve lived in some of the nicest places in the world. And with everything from the multiculturalism to the convenience of a wide open market, Canada is a phenomenal place to live and to work."
— GRAEME MOFFAT, PH.D., CHIEF SCIENTIST & VP REGULATORY AFFAIRS, INTERAXON

GREAT PLACES, GREAT PEOPLE

To get great people, you need to offer them a great place to live. Successful companies want to operate in areas attractive to employees and their families.

Being named the #1 country in the world for quality of life¹, Canada ranks far above average in well-being, personal security, housing, health status, social connections, environmental quality, jobs, earnings, education and skills. Our core belief in shared success sets us apart.

A well-functioning society engenders trust and participation, demonstrates political stability, upholds the rule of law and enjoys positive relations with other countries. Our free and independent media disseminates information, where citizens become well informed and public discourse leads to greater openness, collaboration and better decision-making.

Canadians are open-minded, tolerant and benevolent

A crucial building block in any society is education, which helps people learn, adapt and be resilient. Gender equality and worker’s rights are important elements of societies that uphold acceptance of the rights of others. Canada ranks first in the G7 in terms of overall living conditions and quality of life.²

The extent to which societies care for the young and promote development of knowledge and education of citizens is reflected in a skilled human capital base.

#1

Canada ranks first overall for the third consecutive year, for providing a good quality of life.

Based on 80 countries and 75 different metrics including political stability, strong job market, safe environment, good public education system.

Source: Best Countries, Y&R, BAV Group and Wharton School of Business

Canada ranks first in the G7 and fifth among the 36 OECD countries in terms of overall living conditions and quality of life.

Source: Global Innovation Index, 2018

Three Canadian cities make the top 10 on a global ranking of most livable cities, based on stability (rates of crime, terrorism and military unrest), universal access to quality health care, local culture and environment, quality of education and infrastructure. Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto earn perfect scores in most categories.³ Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal place in the top 30 cities worldwide for long-term success.⁴

Peace and tranquility

Canada ranks very high on the list of the world’s safest countries.⁵ Maintaining a peaceful environment translates into one where human potential can breed. Peacefulness also correlates with strong economic performance. Interest rates are lower and more stable in highly peaceful countries, as is the rate of inflation, while foreign direct investment is higher.⁶

With a significant share of the world’s natural ecosystems, much of Canada’s natural resources are protected like jewels. That brilliance means Canada is the third most filmed country in the world, while Toronto and Vancouver are among the top five most filmed cities.³ With these distinctions we still breathe easy. Canada’s air quality is ranked among the top ten in the world.⁸

Canada is a global leader in clean electricity generation with 66% coming from renewable sources. In fact, nearly 81% of electricity generated in Canada produces no greenhouse gas emissions. Access to clean, diverse and secure power sources offer global companies relocating energy-intensive operations to Canada the opportunity to lower their carbon footprint.

Environmental stewardship is important to Canadians. In addition to countless provincial and municipal lands, Canada’s vast national parks system includes world-renowned sites like Banff and Jasper. Canada’s natural environment has shaped not only the geography of our country, but also the course of its history and the experiences of the people who live and travel here.

We are also one of the friendliest countries in the world, based on attitude towards expats, ease of making local friends, and the likelihood expats will stay forever.⁹

Stay here and settle in. A warm welcome awaits you and your business.
With its inviting business climate, access to large and growing markets and its diverse, entrepreneurial and well-educated workforce, Canada is a great place for global business to invest and grow. Its sound banking systems, low business tax rate and strong geographical and sectoral clusters provide the foundation for innovation, growth and success.

An innovative and prosperous Canada for your business is innovation for a better world. Working closely with partners across Canada and capitalizing on the network of trade commissioners around the globe, we provide tailored and confidential support, connecting investors with the right people and locations to make successful investments. You stand to succeed by making a smart choice: Invest in Canada.