

## YORK REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT // 2021

# YEAR IN REVIEW

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

On behalf of York Region Economic Strategy, I am pleased to present the 2021 Economic Development Year in Review. This is an overview of economic development activities undertaken this past year, highlights of business news from across the Region, and important economic indicators showing the strength and resilience of our business community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As 2021 continued to be a challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic, the rollout of vaccines brought a sense of optimism. As well, federal, provincial, and municipal government funding and other support programs provided hope to businesses and residents across the country.

York Region's economic engine is made up of a diverse mix of small, medium, and large businesses and they also responded, demonstrating resiliency and creativity. In fact, while they all felt the impact, many entered new markets with solutions targeted towards supporting the global pandemic response.

At the local level, in response to the pandemic, our economic development community comprising local municipal economic development staff and other stakeholders continued to pull together to identify and implement ways to help businesses. This resulted in several impactful initiatives over the last two years focused not just on pandemic response but also long-term recovery, many of which are highlighted in this Year in Review.

Finally, thank you to the Economic Strategy team for their tremendous efforts dedicated to delivering best-in-class service to the business community.

As we look back on 2021, we continue to celebrate all the entrepreneurs and businesses across York Region and look forward to a year of growth in 2022. I invite you to visit [yorklink.ca](http://yorklink.ca) for more information on support services available to businesses across York Region, business news, events, and more.

*Jonathan Wheatle  
Director, Economic Strategy  
The Regional Municipality of York*

YORK REGION

# WHERE TALENT AND OPPORTUNITY INTERSECT

Please note: Original and stock photos in this publication come from a variety of sources and were taken both prior to, or during, the COVID-19 pandemic. The public should continue following COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.

Photo Credit: Level Studio



# YORK REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS



## YORK REGION'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY DIVISION CONTINUES TO FACILITATE GROWTH IN BUSINESS, INNOVATION, AND TALENT

The Regional Municipality of York |

Over the last 10 years York Region economic development programs and services facilitated the creation of over 7,300 new and expansion jobs, as well as the retention of tens of thousands of local jobs as companies continuously assess and evaluate their business location options.

In addition, over 4,600 new jobs were facilitated via key entrepreneurship and innovation partner agencies directly funded or supported by the Region, such as ventureLAB and York University's YSpace.

York Region's Economic Strategy team remained engaged with the business

community throughout the pandemic, delivering a range of services, programs and initiatives in collaboration with local municipalities and other economic development partners. These include direct-to-business advisory, economic development marketing, economic and business research, industry cluster development and innovation network support.

The York Region Economic Development 2021 Year in Review highlights business community success stories, economic development initiatives facilitated by the Region over the past year, and important business and key economic market indicators.



**Meena Hassanali**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Business Specialist  
Planning & Economic Development, York Region



## DELIVERY OF REGIONAL BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

The Regional Municipality of York |

Regional-level business retention and expansion advisory services targeting established companies across York Region focus primarily on growth industry sectors in the knowledge-based economy. These services leverage regional economies of scale, the award-winning 'York Link' marketing platform, economic/business research, and a network of external partners to augment and extend the reach of local-municipal corporate call programs being undertaken.

Regional staff also provide small business and entrepreneurship services in York Region's northern six municipalities through the York Small Business Enterprise Centre (YSBEC).

Since the COVID-19 state of emergency was declared across Ontario in March 2020, York Region transformed all its business advisory services to online delivery where possible.

In 2020 and through early 2021, direct-to-business advisory services focused primarily on supports related to business continuity and recovery in the face of pandemic-related restrictions in highly-impacted industries.

As the economy continues to re-open, business advisory services and programs are increasingly refocused on the growth needs of the local business community, as well as, businesses looking to locate in York Region.

### BUSINESS ADVISORY SERVICES

- Industry sector data and advisory
- Partnered business investment and expansion support
- Strategic B2B/B2G connections
- Talent attraction support
- Small business & entrepreneurship support services
- Community relations and awareness building marketing
- Advisory on Provincial and Federal government programs

FOR MORE: [YORKLINK.CA/SERVICES](https://yorklink.ca/services)





## FOSTERING **INNOVATION** IN YORK REGION REMAINS A KEY AREA OF FOCUS

The Regional Municipality of York |

Innovation is a fundamental driver of economic growth and prosperity, regardless of the economic climate. York Region has earned its place amongst the largest innovation hubs in Canada, and it continues to play an active role as an enabler of initiatives that support innovation across all sectors.

The York Region Economic Action Plan 2020 to 2023 includes several actions designed to support innovation in York Region and this Year in Review captures many of them, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Collaboration with YSpace – York University's entrepreneurship hub – to deliver the York Region Food and Beverage Accelerator, which is focused on supporting high-growth consumer packaged goods ventures in scaling up their operations and acquiring new distribution channels.
- Continuing partnership with ventureLAB – York Region's Research and Innovation Centre – to support the delivery and promotion of core incubation and acceleration services,

the Hard Tech Conference and the Hardware Catalyst Initiative, which has received nearly \$10 million in federal funding support

- Leveraging the York Region Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund, administered by ventureLAB, to support development of the Region's innovation network by supporting promising early-stage start-ups, accelerators, incubators, and community partners
- Supporting the expansion of the Hardware Catalyst Initiative and the development of a soft-landing program for foreign-based hardware tech companies looking to invest in the Region by leveraging \$1.5 million in funding from the York Region Innovation Investment Fund
- Supporting YorkNet – the builder and operator of York Region's open-access dark fibre network – with its successful funding applications to the Improving Connectivity for Ontario program and the Universal Broadband Fund to enable a significant expansion of the network by 2025

## REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR **TALENT** ATTRACTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY REMAINS A KEY PRIORITY AREA

The Regional Municipality of York |

The attraction and retention of high-quality talent has become the top priority for business leaders in the knowledge-based economy. Fostering an environment that draws such talent is a key priority for York Region Council.

Through multiple departments, the Region cultivates a dynamic and inclusive ecosystem for the local workforce and talent development.

York Region's 2020-2023 Economic Development Action Plan includes several talent-focused action areas. This publication covers some of the related activities that were undertaken or progressed in 2021 by the regional Economic Strategy office including, but not limited to:

- Placemaking marketing focused on tech talent attraction via a Masterclass activation at Collision From Home tech conference, as well as, through York Link's social media

- Delivery of talent-focused business advisory services including referral of qualified companies to the Federal Government's Global Skills Strategy programs to assist them with accessing highly-skilled international talent in occupations for which there are demonstrable shortages.
- Collaboration with the Workforce Planning Board of York Region to expand access to the 'Work in York' job board and talent information tools, benefiting employers and job seekers across the region
- Entrepreneurship development through the York Small Business Enterprise Centre (YSBEC) in partnership with local SBECs in southern York Region and business incubators/accelerators such as ventureLAB, YSpace, Seneca Helix, and the Treefrog Accelerator





# THE YORK REGION BUSINESS RECOVERY SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP FACILITATED COVID-19 BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND RESILIENCE

The Regional Municipality of York |

The COVID-19 pandemic has a profound impact on the global, national, provincial, and regional economies. More than ever, this highlighted the need for partnerships in delivery of the Region's Economic Development Action Plan.

In mid-2020, the Regional Municipality of York's Economic Strategy division launched the York Region Business Recovery Support Partnership (BRSP) focused on COVID-19 pandemic related support for the business community.

Members include York Region's Economic Strategy division, nine local municipal economic development offices, nine local Chambers of Commerce/Boards of Trade, York Region Business Coalition, Workforce Planning Board of York Region, ventureLAB, Seneca College and York University. The BRSP consists of four subgroups of focus including agri-food, business advisory, supply chain, and tourism arts and culture.

Together the partners collaborated on localized activities and initiatives that are complementary to pandemic business supports provided by upper-tier levels of government and a variety of industry associations.

Targeted initiatives were important in 2020 and were again undertaken in 2021, aimed at facilitating business continuity and recovery in the sectors most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Region's small business community in particular.



Notable initiatives and outcomes of the BRSP in 2020-21 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Manufacturing supply chain resilience study in partnership with Supply Chain Canada, a national industry association, and a number of York Region municipalities
- Supporting the development and launch of the Accelerate Business Recovery Virtual Hub; a chamber of commerce led self-serve business advisory resource for small businesses in York Region

- Targeted \$500,000 regional COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Program
- Virtual business recovery webinar series in collaboration with Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in the Region
- Centralized online COVID-19 business support resources portal on York Link
- Northern York Region Professional Services Access Program providing specialized advisory with experts in such areas as legal, human resources, marketing, and accounting
- #ReadyWhenYR and #ShopLocal regional marketing campaigns to support re-opening and recovery of main street, hospitality and tourism businesses across York Region
- Partnered business recovery accelerator webinar series for the food and beverage processing industry
- Targeted economic impact research and insight including, but not limited to, COVID-19 Economic Impact Analysis study in collaboration with The Conference Board of Canada, business impact surveys, monthly labour force indicators, commercial/industrial real estate market data tracking, and others
- Distribution and communications of Public Health COVID-19 regulations, health and safety information for employers and business establishments in York Region
- Temporary foreign worker campaign to raise awareness of, and support for, workers in the local Agri-Food sector impacted by COVID-19 mitigation measures
- Mobile COVID-19 testing at farm locations throughout York Region, as well as, health and safety training for farm operations



FOR DAILY UPDATES FOLLOW YORK LINK

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COVID-19 BUSINESS RECOVERY SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



ACCELERATE BUSINESS RECOVERY HUB  
Newmarket Today | [York Region](#)

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with York University, launched in October the “Accelerate Business Recovery Virtual Hub” to help York Region businesses adapt to a rapidly changing landscape and prepare for the new normal.

The program – sponsored by Aurora-based Desjardins Insurance in partnership with York Region, the Town of Aurora, and the Government of Ontario – provides local businesses free consultation with experts in a variety of fields, along with virtual instruction from York’s Schulich School of Business.

“The new economic climate requires businesses to rethink their business models from operations, to marketing, to finance. It is imperative that we created this Hub as a self-guided resource so that business owners can work around their hours of operation while learning how to improve their management skills,” said Sandra Ferri, president and CEO of the Aurora Chamber of Commerce.

“The Hub supports the development and growth of businesses by providing personalized training, development and mentorship for entrepreneurs and business owners,” said Christine Elliott, MPP for Newmarket-Aurora and Deputy Premier of Ontario, “up to 350 people will receive training using a series of webinars, recorded sessions and consultation sessions. They will also benefit from an online resource centre for one-on-one mentorship.”



COVID-19 REGIONAL SMALL BUSINESS FUNDING PROGRAM  
The Regional Municipality of York |

In 2020, Regional Council approved \$500,000 in support of small businesses, leveraging the Innovation and Investment Fund, to be distributed to eligible local businesses through an application process administered by the four Small Business Enterprise Centres that serve York Region and through some local municipal Community Improvement Programs (CIPs).

The program was complementary to major financial support programs launched by the Federal and Provincial governments to assist businesses during the pandemic.

Close to 100 businesses were supported through the four Small Business Enterprise Centres and the King and Stouffville CIPs.

#READYWHENYR GOLD MARCOM AWARD  
The Regional Municipality of York |

The York Region Economic Strategy team was honoured to receive a 2021 Gold MarCom Award for the #ReadyWhenYR marketing campaign. This business support initiative was a collaboration with the York Region Arts Council and helped drive new interest in local tourism in the Region. If you’re planning to explore the region visit: [experienceyorkregion.com](#)



YORK REGION MARKETING SPOTLIGHT



YORK REGION AT COLLISION FROM HOME 2021 VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE  
The Regional Municipality of York |

Marketing and promotion of the local technology sector remains a regional economic development priority considering that York Region is home to Canada’s second largest cluster of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) companies.

In April 2021 York Region participated in the global ‘Collision From Home’ virtual technology conference through a Masterclass activation.

The conference activation featured a 30-minute promotional video of subject matter experts highlighting the business attraction advantages of the Greater Toronto Area and York Region, in particular, the local start-up support ecosystem in York Region, and corporate considerations for setting up a local business.

Over 140 participants watched throughout the Region’s masterclass; making it one of the most attended economic development themed masterclasses at the Conference.

Attendees came from such companies and organizations as IBM, Royal Bank, TD Bank, Interac Corp, Nestle USA, Invest Canada, Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Enterprise Ireland, Netherlands Consulate, US Commercial Service, The British High Commission, Frankfurt Economic Development, and the Japan External Trade Organization, to name a few.

To date, the Masterclass has generated over 1,000 views on the York Link YouTube channel. Close to 200,000 additional views of segment clips, promoted on various social media channels, are building further awareness of the tech sector and talent advantages offered by York Region and its local municipalities.

York Region Economic Strategy and local partners will have a booth at the 2022 Collision Conference; currently scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> in Toronto subject to public health guidelines.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKETING INITIATIVES THROUGH ‘YORK LINK’ SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESS RECOVERY AND GROWTH  
The Regional Municipality of York |

York Region’s 2020-2023 Economic Development Action Plan calls for expanding the York Link marketing platform to communicate with the business community and promote York Region as a leading destination for business, innovation, and talent.

While York Link was originally focused on the promotion of York Region as a destination of choice for knowledge-based employers in and around the region’s urban centres and transit corridors, in January 2021 the platform was re-aligned to become the primary communications vehicle for York Region’s Economic Strategy division across program areas and strategic industry sectors.

The award-winning York Link marketing platform has become a recognized brand within the business and economic development community across the GTA and beyond with over 26,000 followers across our social media, 1.5 million content views annually, and over 15,000 e-newsletter subscribers.

York Link’s digital channels were extensively leveraged during the peak phases of the COVID-19 pandemic to keep the local business community up to date with support programs, resources and health and safety guidelines, complementing the regional government’s official COVID-19 public health information portal.

Prior to 2021, the Region’s economic strategy team managed multiple websites providing business resources and related information to the community, including York Link, the York Small Business Enterprise Centre, and the York Region Innovation Portal.

To better serve the business community these websites were consolidated in early 2021 into [yorklink.ca](#). Businesses of all sizes, other business-focused organizations, and even job seekers can now conveniently access all kinds of business resources from a single source.





# YORK REGION PARTNERS WITH MUNICIPALITIES AND SUPPLY CHAIN CANADA TO ASSESS IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE MANUFACTURING SUPPLY CHAIN

The Regional Municipality of York |

The Regional Municipality of York has joined with the City of Markham, City of Richmond Hill and the City of Vaughan to partner with Supply Chain Canada to study the resilience of the manufacturing sector supply chain in York Region due to the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We know many businesses, including those in the manufacturing sector, have been impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said York Region Chairman and CEO Wayne Emmerson. "Supply chain resilience is fundamental to economic recovery at local, provincial and national levels. Assessing our manufacturers' state of readiness will help us better understand business recovery."

There are over 2,500 manufacturing businesses operating within York Region's nine cities and towns, making it the third largest manufacturing cluster in Ontario and fifth largest in Canada.

The Building Supply Chain Resilience report provides key recommendations for manufacturers to safeguard their businesses in times of uncertainty, plus steps levels of government may implement to support this industry.

"Supply Chain Canada is proud to have brought together the expertise and collaborative spirit to deliver such an important report with York Region and its member municipalities," said Christian Buhagiar, President and CEO of Supply Chain Canada. "This report is a model for other jurisdictions across Canada and has meaningful insights for supply chain leaders and policy makers who want to foster economic recovery and future prosperity."

This report will assist in business recovery from the current challenges brought upon by the pandemic and serve as a guide for manufacturers and governments," said City of Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "It will help towards understanding, assessing and managing manufacturing supply chain risks and business continuity in the face of future external economic shocks."

"The long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our manufacturing sector may not be known for many years," said City of Richmond Hill [former] Acting Mayor Joe DiPaola. "It is crucial to provide guidance and support to manufacturers, with their continued input, as they focus efforts on a lasting recovery. This report is an important first step of the process."

"The economic and trade challenges resulting from the global COVID-19 pandemic have impacted manufacturers in communities across Canada. Risks and uncertainties have emerged relating to supply chains in key manufacturing sub-sectors," said City of Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua. "As a region, we remain committed to working with job creators, industry leaders and stakeholders to usher in a resilient, resourceful and competitive future for the manufacturing sector."

Thirty York Region-based manufacturers from five manufacturing sub-sectors were consulted to form the basis of the analysis and recommendations of the report, including electronics and electrical, agriculture and food processing, building materials, automotive components, and life sciences.

**READ THE FULL REPORT:**  
[YORKLINK.CA/SUPPLYCHAIN](http://YORKLINK.CA/SUPPLYCHAIN)



## STUDY LEADS TO ACTION ON THE GROUND

The study served as one of the cornerstones for the GTA-wide Supply Chain Onshoring Resilience & Expansion (SCORE) Program launched in late 2021 by Toronto Global – GTA's investment attraction municipal partnership with the Provincial and Federal governments.



# YORK REGION'S AUTOMOTIVE AND AUTOTECH SECTOR PROMOTED AS CANADA'S INDUSTRY LEADER

The Regional Municipality of York |

York Region's automotive sector has quietly been a leader in the industry for many years with some of North America's largest auto parts manufacturers such as Magna, Martinrea and Multimatic headquartered in the Region, alongside the Canadian head offices of OEMs including Honda, Hyundai, Volvo, and BMW. Recently, the ecosystem has been making waves in the news with major announcements such as Tesla's recent expansion into Markham

with a new manufacturing facility. This facility builds on the company's local battery tech capabilities, which started with an acquisition of Richmond Hill headquartered company Hibar Systems. High-end niche automotive assembly company, Multimatic, has also landed a new contract to build the all-new extreme 2023 Ford Bronco DR after its succesful run of manufacturing the Ford GT supercar.

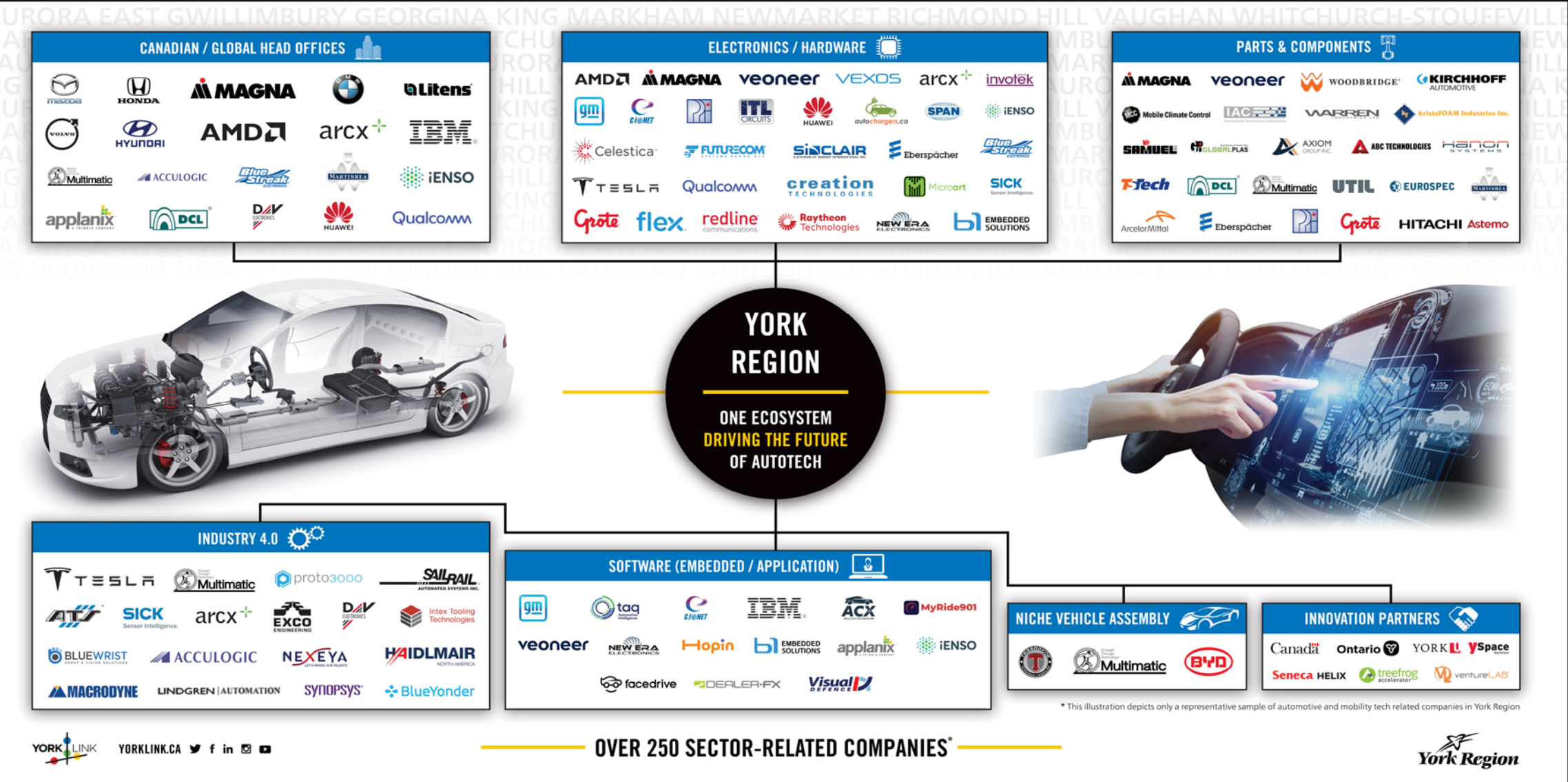


Photo Credit: Ford Motor Company | Ford GT is built in York Region by Multimatic

Multimatic also specializes in developing new technology and parts innovation, primarily focused on the auto racing circuits both on-road and off-road. It has been a few years but General Motors also joined the Region's autotech ecosystem when they opened Canada's largest automotive innovation hub in Markham, scaling up to over 700 software and hardware engineers.

These are just a few of the highlights coming out of York Region. With over 250 automotive and mobility tech related companies in the Region there are surely even more exciting announcements to come. We encourage you to explore our autotech sector map below of some of the companies that are driving the future of AutoTech innovation in York Region.

## TORONTO AREA'S YORK REGION // LEADING CANADA'S AUTOTECH INDUSTRY





# THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND METROLINX ANNOUNCE ADVANCED PLANS FOR YONGE NORTH SUBWAY EXTENSION INTO YORK REGION

Ontario Government & Metrolinx | York Region

The Ontario Government, in partnership with the Government of Canada, shared updated plans for the Yonge North Subway Extension, one of the province’s four priority subway projects that will bring better rapid transit to the Greater Toronto Area.

The Yonge North Subway Extension will transform the commute in York Region, North York and beyond by extending the TTC’s Line 1 service north from Finch Station in Toronto to Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill, connecting four cities.

When it goes into service after the Ontario Line is complete, the extension is expected to see 94,100 daily boardings, and make it faster and easier for more people to travel between York Region and downtown Toronto while cutting down on traffic congestion and pollution.

Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario are teaming up with municipal and regional partners to move the Yonge North Subway Extension forward quickly, in the best way possible.

Not only will extending Line 1 service to Richmond Hill make it easier to travel between York Region and downtown Toronto, it will create convenient connections with local transit services and allow more subway riders to complete their journeys without having to transfer.

The proposed extension will connect to the Richmond Hill GO train and Highway 407 GO bus service, as well as local bus routes at every station.

Transit hubs are proposed at Steeles Avenue and within the Highway 7/Highway 407 corridor (Bridge Station).

A station at High Tech Road would serve future communities envisioned within the Richmond Hill Centre area. Clark Station will offer riders seamless connections to the planned extension of the Viva Orange bus rapid transit line, which serves communities along Highway 7.

“The Yonge North Subway Extension is a long-awaited project that will bring faster transit to more people across York Region and Toronto. It is a vital piece of the transit network that we are building across the region and will connect communities and people for decades to come”, said Phil Verster, President and CEO of Metrolinx.

“Our government hasn’t stopped working to deliver a world-class transit system the people of Toronto and York Region deserve,” said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. “The Yonge North Subway Extension will strengthen connectivity across the region, reduce travel times and greenhouse gas emissions, and provide more people with access to rapid transit.”

“Public transit is at the heart of a clean, inclusive recovery. As a part of the largest investment in public transit in the GTA’s history, the Government of Canada is investing up to \$2.24 billion in the Yonge North Subway extension, helping to kickstart our economy and create thousands of jobs,” said Catherine McKenna, (former) Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities.

**Note: Proposed route accurate as of December 2021. All alignments, locations, names, and quantity of stations are subject to change.**



● “The Regional Municipality of York is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Ontario, with the population anticipated to grow to over 2 million people by 2051.

Expanding the number of stations on the Yonge North Subway Extension will help accommodate the future growth of our communities while also increasing options for those who travel throughout our communities.

As the top transit priority of York Regional Council, we thank our partners at all levels of government and Metrolinx for their sustained commitment to providing this vital link in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area transit network.

Moving forward with a fourth station at Clark Avenue will better serve all travellers across our Region.”

- Wayne Emmerson  
York Region Chairman & CEO

Subway construction photo is from York-Spadina Subway Extension to Vaughan



# YORK REGION AGRICULTURE & AGRI-FOOD UPDATE



## YORK REGION'S AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD SECTOR STRATEGY WELL UNDERWAY

The Regional Municipality of York |

In 2021, York Region continued to deliver on the Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector Strategy. First endorsed by Regional Council in 2017, the strategy contains more than 45 action items aimed at supporting and growing the sector.

There are nearly 1,000 sector-related businesses and 57,000 jobs in the Region with an economic impact of over \$6 billion, according to the 2016 Census of Agriculture from Statistics Canada.

The implementation of the strategy is on track with 90% of actions either underway, planned or completed.

### Key highlights include:

- Partnered with York University to secure \$106,000 in funding for the first Regional Food & Beverage Accelerator Program
- Continued to support York Farm Fresh to raise awareness of local agricultural products and develop the Farm Fresh Guide Map and a new mobile application with a total reach (est.) of more than 361,000 online
- Launched a local food awareness campaign to raise the profile for agriculture and agri-food in the Region, including a dedicated agri-food webpage, a spotlight series to showcase local farmers and businesses, a video tour of the Region's agriculture and agri-food sector, and more

## YORK FARM FRESH LAUNCHES NEW APP

The Regional Municipality of York |

The York Farm Fresh association launched a new app – on Android and iOS – to help you find local food right from the palm of your hand. The app lists 36 farms and eight farmers' markets to explore and is available in eight languages. The development of the mobile app was made possible through York Region's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund.



## YORK REGION FOOD & BEVERAGE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM SUPPORTS FOOD ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Regional Municipality of York |

In 2021, York University's YSpace launched the second year of the York Region Food and Beverage Accelerator, in partnership with the Regional Municipality of York.

This program is a five-month accelerator focused on supporting high-growth consumer packaged goods ventures in scaling up their operations and acquiring new distribution channels.

One of the success stories include Remix Snacks, founded by two local Markham residents that launched into 50+ retail locations and saw a 200% month over month revenue growth during the program.

**"We owe our success of launching into the local programs at Metro, Sobeys, and Loblaws, growing our e-commerce, and expanding our production to the amazing network we were connected with over the last few months [being a part of the York Region Food & Beverage Accelerator.]"**

— Jamie Lee & Isabelle Lam  
Founders of Remix Snacks

The York Region Food & Beverage Accelerator has run two successful cohorts to support 20 ventures. Collectively, the 20 ventures generated over \$912,000 in revenue, gained an additional 456 retail locations, and created 15 new job opportunities during the program.

The program has also been featured by major media outlets such as BNN Bloomberg, the Toronto Star, and a few participants have even gone on to land deals on CBC's Dragons' Den.

[YSPACE.YORKU.CA/FOOD-ACCELERATOR](https://yspace.yorku.ca/food-accelerator)



## YORK REGION HOSTS SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL 2021 AGRI-FOOD FORUM

The Regional Municipality of York |

The 2021 Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum is an annual event that brings together stakeholders from across Ontario to learn, network and celebrate our diverse agriculture and agri-food sector.

The theme for this year's event was Innovation and Resiliency in the Agri-Food Sector, focused on showcasing agri-tech, entrepreneurship, and innovative ways of doing business and building a resilient sector in light of the pandemic.

Over the two-day event more than 200 attendees joined in to listen and learn from an engaging lineup of over 60 speakers, such as world-renowned Futurist Nikolas Badminton, local agri-food businesses and industry leaders.

It also provided an opportunity to showcase York Region's diverse agriculture and agri-food sector by highlighting local businesses and key sector statistics, including:

- \$2.7 Billion in annual GDP
- 57,000 Agri-food jobs
- 270+ Food and beverage manufacturers and processing companies; 4th largest in Canada
- 700+ Farm-based businesses
- #1 Gross farm revenue per acre in the GTA
- 140,000 Acres of farmland

[YORKLINK.CA/AGRIFOOD](https://yorklink.ca/agrifood)



## YORK REGION WELCOMES HISTORIC FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Regional Municipality of York |

On August 6, 2021, the Government of Canada and the Ontario Government announced the allocation of \$230 million to be invested in broadband infrastructure projects in Central Ontario that will serve communities in Central Ontario and bring reliable, high-speed internet to homes and businesses across the region, which will benefit nearly 53,000 households.

Up to \$63,390,358 of these funds will be allocated to York Region, which will allow the expansion of its dark fibre network by more than 500 kilometres and target over 5,000 underserved homes and commercial or industrial properties by the year 2025. This expansion will focus on several rural communities across York Region and will be overseen by YorkNet; the Region-owned corporation that plans, builds, operates, manages and maintains the Region's high-speed, open-access, dark-fibre network.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has shined a bright light on the vital importance that broadband connectivity plays in all aspects of our economy and our daily lives. These include accessing health care services, the education of children, and shopping for groceries and other goods and services. For many, access to high-speed internet is what has allowed them to remain gainfully employed throughout this crisis and this will continue to be the case once it is in the past. Unfortunately there are many communities that have been especially challenged during this time due to a lack of sufficient broadband services.

With the support and commitment of Regional Council and the YorkNet Board of Directors, led by Chair and Mayor of Georgina, Margaret Quirk, and Vice-Chair and Mayor of King Township, Steve Pellegrini, York Region is working to improve access to high speed broadband in our communities. Through the expansion of its dark fibre network, York Region is enabling improved high-speed connectivity for institutions, businesses and residents across the region.

Ongoing support from the federal and provincial governments and through partnerships with Internet Service Providers, York Region is taking important steps toward closing the digital divide for our communities and to ensuring more equitable broadband access for all.





## **BUSINESS COMMUNITY & ECOSYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS**







**BUSINESS PARK IN GEORGINA WILL BRING 200 ACRES OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CREATE 2,000 JOB OPPORTUNITIES**  
Town of Georgina | [Georgina](#)

Panattoni Development Company has acquired 200 acres of zoned industrial land in Keswick, which can be readied for immediate development. The site is located three kilometres from Highway 404 in an area that has seen considerable growth.

With another 2,500 residential units in the approval process and a future Multi-use Recreation Complex, this development further supports Georgina’s commitment for well-balanced economic growth.

With Highway 404 now extended to Georgina, further major transportation infrastructure extensions planned, and the installation of dark fibre in progress, Georgina’s business park lands are a desirable opportunity for investors looking to move just north of the Greater Toronto Area’s urban core. The site is one of the largest available development opportunities within an ideal distance of Toronto, zoned to permit a wide range of industrial uses, as well as professional offices.

**CANADA’S FIRST SMART HOSPITAL LEVERAGES DIGITAL DEVICES TO ENHANCE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**  
Hospital News | [Vaughan](#)

Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital, Canada’s first smart hospital and the first net new hospital in Ontario in more than 30 years, has taken emergency preparedness to the next level.

In February 2021, Cortellucci Vaughan Hospital implemented a digital platform for clinical communication and workflow, to become the first Canadian hospital to fully integrate its overhead communication system with smartphones using a mobile application.

“The digital platform prioritizes incoming communications using real time alerts that are secure, providing the situational awareness needed to make timely and informed decisions,” said Felix Zhang, Chief Technology Officer at Mackenzie Health.

“The platform enables the right person to receive the right information at the right time, and to know which information is important, like when a cardiac arrest code is activated, it not only alerts staff of a medical emergency, but the hands-free capabilities let staff provide hands-on patient care improving patient outcomes.”



**YORK UNIVERSITY MARKHAM CAMPUS MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE EN ROUTE TO 2023 OPENING**  
Yorkregion.com | [Markham](#)

The official unveiling of University Boulevard in Markham Centre is yet another milestone en route to the opening of York University’s Markham campus.

University Boulevard will welcome students to the heart of York University’s Markham campus, slated for opening in the fall of 2023.

Together with YSpace, the Markham Small Business Centre, the city’s Economic Development initiatives and technology companies already based in Markham, the new campus will help foster innovation and entrepreneurship in Markham and the region.

The campus is also expected to attract more skilled, diverse talent to study, work and settle in Markham, further growing the city’s reputation as a leading technology and innovation hub.

**KINGLORY ANNOUNCES MARKHAM AS ITS CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
GlobeNewswire | [Markham](#)

On July 12th, 2021, distinguished guests attended a ceremony to celebrate Kinglory selecting Markham to be its corporate headquarters. With a team of over 200 tech experts from Canada, the United States, and elsewhere Kinglory is a public, open-source platform that is dedicated to maintaining and developing a blockchain community. Kinglory brings a major technological overhaul to the existing blockchains in the data, network, consensus, incentive, and application layers.



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9,393,169 followers  
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Tesla Canada ca Joignez-vous à notre équipe en pleine croissance à Markham!

Tesla Canada ca Come join our growing team in Markham! <https://lnkd.in/gk-jeTRE>

**TESLA LAUNCHES A MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN MARKHAM FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERY PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT**  
Reuters | [Markham](#)

Tesla Inc. opened a factory to produce battery manufacturing equipment in the city of Markham. In 2019, the U.S. electric carmaker acquired Richmond Hill-based Hibar, which manufactures pumps used in fast-speed battery assembly that Tesla is introducing for its new 4680 cells.

Last year, Tesla senior vice president Andrew Baglino said that its “vertical integration” with Hibar and others would allow them to build batteries faster and scale up production of its 4680 battery cells.

“I’m delighted to share that Tesla Canada is joining our already robust automotive and technology ecosystem by locating a manufacturing facility in the City of Markham,” said mayor Frank Scarpitti. “The facility will produce state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment to be used at the Gigafactories located around the world in the production of batteries.” City official Bryan Frois told Reuters the Markham facility opened [last] summer, marking an expansion of another site in neighboring Richmond Hill.



**LIFE SCIENCES COMPANY LGC RELOCATING TO VAUGHAN, BRINGING 400 ‘HIGHLY-SKILLED’ JOBS**  
Yorkregion.com | [Vaughan](#)

LGC is expected to open its 200,000 sq.ft. facility in 2024. Vaughan Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua said LGC is going to bring about 400 highly skilled jobs into the city that could possibility create a “new cluster and a brand-new area” in Vaughan, catering to innovation-based approaches to growing the economy.

“We are excited to make Vaughan our new home in Canada and are grateful for the partnership and support that we have received from Mayor Maurizio Bevilacqua, the ZZEN Group and our other local partners in helping to turn our vision for a new facility into reality,” said Euan O’Sullivan, LGC President and CEO.

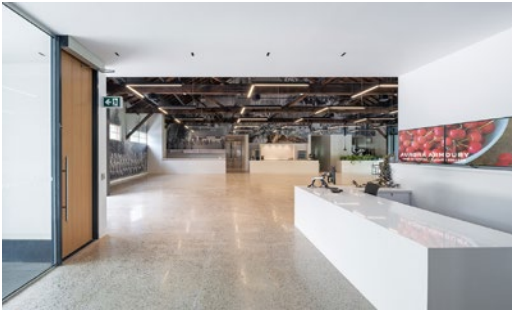


**MAGNA INTERNATIONAL AND MAPLE ADVANCED ROBOTICS TOGETHER RECEIVE FUNDING BOOST FROM NGEN CANADA**  
Manufacturing Automation | [York Region](#)

The Autonomous Adaptable Robot System (AARS) developed by Aurora headquartered Magna and Richmond Hill-based Maple Advanced Robotic received funding from Next Generation Manufacturing Canada (NGen), the industry-led organization behind Canada’s Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster.

The AARS project is for manufacturers who require flexible solutions but may not have the scale of work or resources needed to justify larger investments in automation systems. The solution will allow operators to easily modify a robots path and workspace.





**AURORA ARMOURY CANADIAN FOOD AND WINE INSTITUTE WINS A LIV HOSPITALITY DESIGN AWARD**  
Town of Aurora | [Aurora](#)

The Aurora Armoury won a global design award for its Canadian Food and Wine Institute (CFWI). The award, handed out by LIV Hospitality Design Awards, recognized the Armoury’s CFWI as the winner in Architectural Design Event Space. The annual awards celebrate quality architectural ventures and interior design diversity.

The event space has been designed to be flexible in all aspects of its use, from the most complex events, to small simple intimate gatherings. The design of the space showcases pays tribute to the historical events and features of this magnificent site. The layout has brought the richness of the surrounding area, natural light, mature trees, and the grandeur of Aurora’s Town Park.

The Aurora Armoury was originally established as a military drill shed, built in 1874. Declared surplus by the provincial government in 2012, the Armoury was purchased by the Town of Aurora, and through a collaboration with Niagara College, converted into an outpost location for the CFWI – a space for post-secondary culinary instruction, and a venue for general interest courses and community events.

**CANADA’S DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY SUPERCLUSTER HAS ANNOUNCED A \$20 MILLION PROJECT TO DEVELOP A NEW DIGITAL WELLNESS PLATFORM FEATURING TECH FROM WYSDOM AI**  
BetaKit | [Richmond Hill](#)

The new digital wellness platform is being developed in partnership with Lululemon, Richmond Hill headquartered Wysdom.AI, Microsoft, Mitacs, and Queen’s University. The platform will be based on Wysdom AI’s conversational AI-optimization technology.

The project aims to use AI and machine learning technology to digitize users’ “complete state of wellbeing” and develop digital virtual agents to help them.

**HOW DRONE AND DATA COMPANY SKYX FOUND A HOME AND ROOM TO GROW IN CANADA’S AIRSPACE**  
Invest Ontario | [Vaughan](#)

SkyX provides solutions for autonomous, long-range Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems to collect bird’s-eye view aerial data for companies in sectors like oil and gas. Using drones to continuously monitor remote assets like pipelines is more efficient and provides data that can’t be gathered by traditional methods.

With its head office in Vaughan, SkyX has taken advantage of the thriving technology scene in the area. “I believe Toronto is one of the greatest tech hubs. It’s evolving much faster than... San Francisco right now,” says Didi Horn, SkyX CEO. “They take serious care of startups here, and that’s very nice to see.”

For such a tech-heavy startup, the kind of support the province provides—such as an Ontario investment tax credit for scientific research and experimental development—can be key to any new company’s research and development phase. For SkyX, R&D was critical for the first three and a half years.



**29 YORK REGION-BASED COMPANIES MAKE CANADA’S TOP GROWING COMPANIES LIST FROM THE GLOBE & MAIL**  
The Globe & Mail | [York Region](#)

Overall, there are a total of 448 businesses ranked with a total of 29 companies based in York Region on Canada’s Top Growing Companies list from The Globe & Mail.

The program ranks participating private and public Canadian businesses on three-year revenue growth. Regardless of where they’re located, what they make or whether they’ve been operating for five years or two decades, all these companies have one thing in common: Each managed to grow in unprecedented times this year.

The 29 companies in York Region came from Aurora, Newmarket, Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan and operate across a variety of industry sectors from technology to agri-food.



**KONTROL BIOCLOUD PROVIDED REAL-TIME VIRAL DETECTION TECHNOLOGY FOR CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AT TOKYO GAMES (HELD IN 2021 DUE TO PANDEMIC)**  
Cision | [Vaughan](#)

Kontrol Technologies provided BioCloud units to the Canadian Olympic Committee for real-time viral detection to help safeguard the health and safety of Team Canada during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games; held in 2021.

These safe space technology units were used at the Olympic Games within Team Canada’s residential areas including the Athletes’ Village.

“Protecting the health and safety of Team Canada, which has always been a top priority, needs innovative solutions in our current global context,” said Dr. Mike Wilkinson, Team Canada’s Chief Medical Officer. “The addition of Kontrol BioCloud really complements the stringent protocols put in place by the COC, International Olympic Committee and Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee to protect the health and safety of our team.”

**RICHMOND HILL-BASED STAGEZERO LIFE SCIENCES DEVELOPED SCREENING TEST AIMS TO DETECT EARLY-STAGE CANCER USING BLOOD SAMPLES**  
CTV News | [Richmond Hill](#)

StageZero Life Sciences is a Richmond Hill-based health care company that has developed a way to simultaneously screen for a wide variety of cancers using a single blood sample. Some of the cancers that StageZero can detect include breast, cervical, endometrial, prostate, liver, stomach, bladder and colorectal.

“We’re adding a whole series of additional ones. And as we continue to build out, we’ll continue to add to them,” StageZero Chairman and CEO James Howard-Tripp.

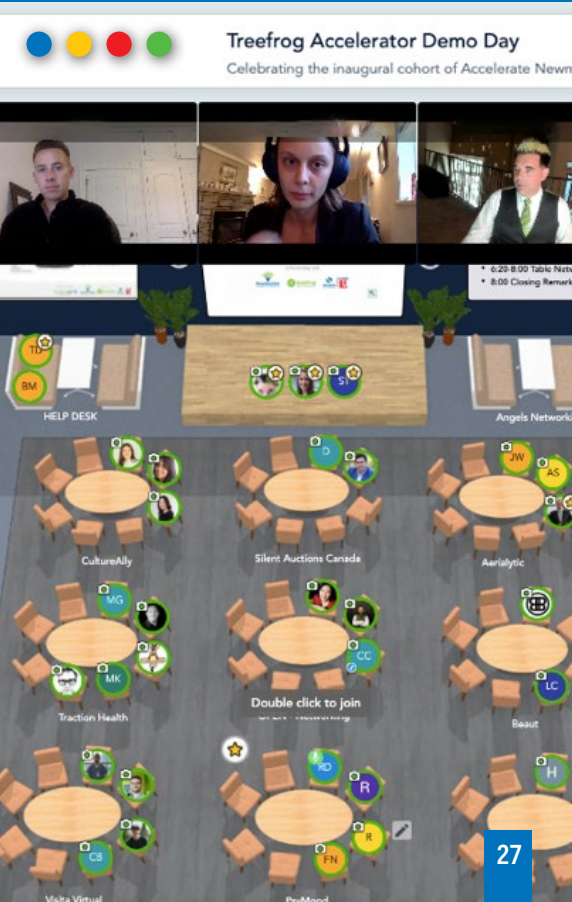
**WANT MORE YORK REGION BUSINESS COMMUNITY NEWS?**  
*Visit [yorklink.ca/news](https://yorklink.ca/news) where you can see all the aggregated news and highlights.*

**NEW ACCELERATOR IN NEWMARKET BRINGS INCREASED OPPORTUNITY FOR STARTUPS AND ENTREPRENEURS**  
York Link | Newmarket

The first cohort of the Treefrog Accelerator set out on a path to complete a new 5-week business program, setting the stage for startups and founders to continuously learn and develop new skills, connect with local startup ecosystem leaders and investors, and improve their businesses. This culminated with a virtual open house on July 8, where the participants showcased their businesses to investors, stakeholders, partners and many others who tuned in to watch.

The very first Treefrog Accelerator cohort had an impressive 17 businesses and 25 participants. They took part in roughly 32 hours of course content over five weeks, with 10 mentors and 27 speakers sharing their expertise and lessons learned.

The Treefrog Accelerator program is part of a new initiative called Accelerate Newmarket – a collaborative business-focused program between the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, Schulich School of Business at York University and Treefrog. The participating organizations designed this program to support Ontario-based entrepreneurs and startups, while enhancing the local economy.







## SENECA AND KINGSBRIDGE CENTRE TEAM UP AND PLACE KING AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

Globe Newswire | King

Seneca and Kingsbridge Centre are creating an innovation hub that will deliver a real-world setting and programs to help entrepreneurs build and scale businesses in the agriculture, food production and processing, energy and environmental sectors.

Through shared resources in business development and applied research, Seneca and Kingsbridge Centre will help companies grow and solve challenges related to technology, infrastructure and sustainability. The collaboration is the latest addition to the thriving innovation ecosystem in York Region and will harness the unique assets located in King Township.

Seneca's contributions to the initiative include applied research infrastructure, faculty expertise and access for aspiring entrepreneurs to HELIX, Seneca's business incubator and accelerator. HELIX has built a strong reputation in York Region helping young business owners with mentorship, infrastructure, access to investors and professional development opportunities.

Seneca and Kingsbridge Centre will also engage with community members directly to identify and address employment gaps for those adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## AI COMPANY EAIGLE LAUNCHED A NEW PROOF OF VACCINATION PLATFORM TO PROVIDE ORGANIZATIONS WITH ENHANCED HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTECTION

Cision | Markham

Artificial Intelligence (AI) company EAIGLE, has launched a new proof of vaccination platform to provide its existing five (5) million monthly users with an additional layer of health and safety protection.

The Digital Vaccine Pass is a proof of vaccination platform that enables governments and organizations to verify vaccination status at scale.

"We recognize the growing need to protect workplaces and public spaces via a flexible and automated solution that is reliable, easy to implement, and scalable," said Amir Hoss, EAIGLE CEO. "This is why we have designed a platform that's in line with current market expectations but can easily evolve to meet the needs of a dynamic landscape," Hoss added.

## GEORGINA WELCOMES SCOTT-WOODS TRANSPORT AS COMPANY EXPANDS

Town of Georgina | Georgina

Scott-Woods Transport is a heavy haul trucking company that employs more than 100 people. The company has outgrown its existing location and sees this relocation to Georgina as an opportunity for expansion and growth.

The company transports shipments throughout North America and is known as one of Canada's most technologically advanced in specialized trucking fleets. Easy access to the major transportation networks across the GTA and the planned east-west transportation corridor were the main selling points in choosing to move to Georgina. The company also noted that aside from the Town's infrastructure, many of its employees live in northern York Region.

Plans for the new location include building a 25,000 square foot office and mechanical garage with parking areas for employees and a truck fleet.



## BIG BOOM WILL SEE EAST GWILLIMBURY POPULATION NEARLY TRIPLE OVER 30 YEARS

Newmarket Today | East Gwillimbury

York Region is expected to get the highest portion of population growth in the GTA over the next 30 years. According to the 2020 Growth and Development report, York Region is expected to add another 800,000 residents by 2051. By that year, the population of East Gwillimbury — currently about 31,100 — is anticipated to be almost as large as its neighbour Newmarket, between 90,000 and 110,000 residents. Part of the reason for East Gwillimbury's explosion of growth is because it is one of the areas identified in York Region where land is being designated for future urban growth.

The report identified a total of 245 hectares in East Gwillimbury, just north of Newmarket, for future urbanization as the population continues to grow over the next 30 years.

## DRONE DELIVERY CANADA OPENED A NEW COMMERCIALIZATION CENTRE TO AUGMENT ITS MAIN FACILITY AND TEST RANGE

Cision | Vaughan

The new commercialization centre is on approximately 100 acres west of the Company's main office in Vaughan and will be operational in November 2021. The Condor is currently the Company's largest drone with an expected range of 200 kilometres and a payload capacity of 180 kilograms.

"With the ongoing successful testing of our Condor delivery drone and as we work towards its commercialization, this location will facilitate engineering testing, pre-customer delivery verification, customer demonstrations, customer & employee training, and maintenance of Condor drones, as well as for future drone platform enhancements and modifications for an anticipated diverse range of future applications, potentially to include inspection and data collection services. The new Commercialization Center will bring lasting commercial benefits across the whole organization," said Michael Zahra, President & CEO of DDC.



## FIRST CANADIAN UN LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTRE OPENING AT YORK UNIVERSITY

York University | Markham

As a leader in the effort to build a more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable world, York University and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research are proud to announce the establishment of Canada's first Centre International de Formation des Acteurs Locaux (CIFAL) at York's new Markham campus.

CIFAL York will be uniquely positioned to help achieve the UN's sustainable development goals around emergency and disaster management, diversity and inclusion, economic development, health, and entrepreneurship.

Rhonda L. Lenton, President & Vice-Chancellor of York University stated, "The world is facing complex global problems — from the climate crisis to inequality to rapid technological change to the pandemic — that call for collaboration across sectors and across countries to solve.

The creation of this CIFAL Centre, in partnership with UNITAR, will enable us to bring leaders from governments, not-for-profits, and industry together with researchers and educators to share experiences and expertise, and to train new generations of global leaders. We are proud to host CIFAL York as part of our commitment to building a healthier and more just, sustainable, and prosperous world."

Wayne Emmerson, York Region Chairman and CEO added, "York Regional Council and The Regional Municipality of York are proud of the strong partnerships shared with York University and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research which have led to a more welcoming and inclusive community for all who call York Region home.

In welcoming a CIFAL Centre to York University, we are expanding collaborative opportunities between all levels of government, international organizations, the business community, and the public sector to continue building strong, caring, safe communities where everyone can develop to their full potential."





**VENTURELAB ANNOUNCES NEW INDUSTRY LEADING PARTICIPANTS, BROADENING CANADA’S HARDWARE CATALYST INITIATIVE**  
ventureLAB | [York Region](#)

ventureLAB announced new participants in its Hardware Catalyst Initiative (HCI), Canada’s only lab and incubator for hardware and semiconductor companies.

The announcement comes on the heels of an additional \$4.7 million investment made by the Federal Economic Development Agency of Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), bringing the total government investment to \$9.7 million.

The new participants signal the growing importance of Canada’s hardware and semiconductor industry, as demand for chips and sensors continues to surge, causing global shortages and production disruptions.

The new participants – Siemens Canada, Dell Canada, Dassault Systems, and NeuronicWorks – join a global network of experts and industry leaders, including:

- AMD
- Synopsys
- Silicon Catalyst
- TSMC
- Arm
- Keysight
- Nuvia
- And others

Hardware Catalyst Initiative partners have committed over \$15 million in resources, equipment, expertise, and mentorship for the participating companies.

According to The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development and MP for Markham-Thornhill, “These new partnerships are great news for ventureLAB and for Canadian businesses. The global demand for microchips has provided an opportunity for Canada’s hardware and semiconductor industry to grow and expand.”

“Entrepreneurship is in our DNA at Dell Canada, so supporting emerging innovations and startups in Canada is a natural fit for us,” said Pam Pelletier, Canada Sales Leader and Country Manager, Dell Canada.

[VENTURELAB.CA/HCI](#)

**VENTURELAB RECEIVES OVER \$6 MILLION IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT CANADA’S FIRST HARDWARE LAB AND INCUBATOR**  
Cision / York Link | [York Region](#)

In 2021, ventureLAB received multiple funding investments. The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) announced a contribution of \$4.73M to expand Canada’s first hardware and semiconductor-focused lab, ventureLAB’s Hardware Catalyst Initiative and the Regional Municipality of York authorized an additional \$1.5 million in funding over five years from the Region’s Innovation and Investment Fund.

Funded in part by the Government of Canada, through FedDev Ontario, this competitive program helps southern Ontario-based tech SMEs accelerate their time to market in a sector that normally incurs lengthy entry and scale times, enabling Canadian hardware and semiconductor companies to grow and scale locally, and compete globally.

With an initial investment of \$5 million from the Government of Canada, the Hardware Catalyst has gained rapid momentum as Canada’s Hardware Hub with a growing global network of private sector industry partners.

**ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES ACROSS THE REGION**  
The Regional Municipality of York | [York Region](#)

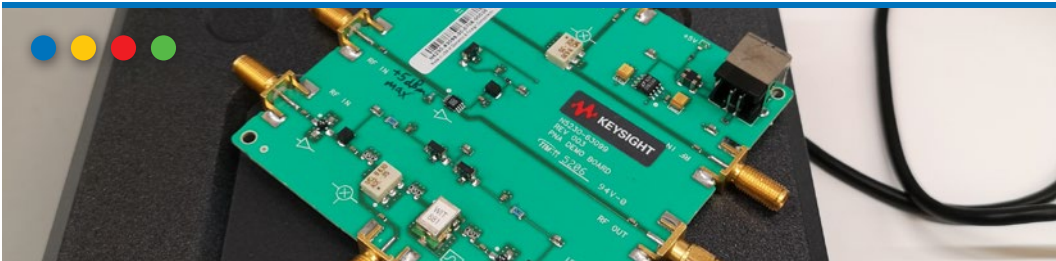
The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund supports development of the innovation network in York Region by supporting promising early stage start-ups, accelerators, incubators, and community partners.

ventureLAB and York Region are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Fund. The funds were presented to nine companies and organisations in York Region. Funded with the generous support of the Regional Municipality of York, the fund allows local organisations to increase innovation and elevate sustainability in York Region while expanding inclusion, diversity, and accessibility. The fund is divided into two streams, one for [non-profit community partners](#) and the other for [small businesses and entrepreneurs](#).

**2021 Recipients:**

- ELLA Accelerator
- Mely AI Technologies
- TechConnex
- OVA.ai
- AutoMetrics
- Portable Intelligence
- DeepSight
- Qoherent
- Mech Solutions

[VENTURELAB.CA/INNOVATIONFUND](#)



**HARDTECH CONFERENCE BRINGS TOGETHER INDUSTRY LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS TO DISCUSS GLOBAL SEMICONDUCTOR CHALLENGES**  
The Regional Municipality of York | [York Region](#)

In 2021, ventureLAB launched HardTech, Canada’s premiere hardware and semiconductor event for innovators, leaders and hardware enthusiasts. Over two days, the sold out conference brought together industry leaders, tech founders, expert panelists, audiences from coast-to-coast, media, and government.

From insights on the future of hardware to a dynamic pitch competition, HardTech challenged the way we envision Canada’s role in tech innovation. Panel discussions centered around the global semiconductor industry and the role it plays in building transformative technologies like smart energy, autonomous vehicles, and innovative healthcare solutions.

Hardware and semiconductors are essential to building sustainable and revolutionizing solutions to global challenges with the potential to create greener solutions, modernize traditional sectors, and develop trailblazing products.

As part of the conference, ventureLAB partnered with the Regional Municipality of York and other HCI partners to provide startups developing hardware and semiconductor focused products the opportunity to showcase their innovative solutions.

After a rigorous national application process, eight finalists developing product-level and chip innovations in electronic hardware battled it out in front of a live audience and top-notch public and private sector judges for \$100K in cash and in-kind prizeing.

**HARDTECH PITCH WINNERS:**

- ROCKMASS
- TITANS HAPTICS
- CYBERWORKS ROBOTICS

**HARDTECH CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE**



333

HARDTECH ATTENDEES

7

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

\$100,000

CASH & IN-KIND PRIZES

25

SPEAKERS & JUDGES



## NEW AMAZON DELIVERY STATION IN RICHMOND HILL WILL OPEN IN 2023 AND CREATE 400 NEW JOBS

The Liberal | Richmond Hill

Amazon Canada has chosen Richmond Hill as the home of its newest delivery station.

The 224,000 sq.ft. facility is being constructed on 10.85 hectares of land adjacent to Highway 404 in the Headford Business Park just north of 16th Avenue. It will serve as the “last mile” of Amazon’s order fulfilment process, providing service to customers throughout central York Region.

Targeted to open in early 2023, the new facility is expected to bring 400 new jobs to the city, including over 200 full-time positions, which offer comprehensive benefits starting on day one.

The online retailer is also committed to fully transitioning its fleet at the Richmond Hill facility to electric vehicles by 2030, supporting the Richmond Hill council’s strategic priority to balance growth and green.

Amazon Canada joins other multinational companies in Richmond Hill, including BMW, Staples, Olympus, Compugen, Tesla Hilar, and others.



## CEPHEID LAUNCH DIRECT COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN MARKHAM

Cision | [Markham](#)

Cepheid Canada’s operations in Markham will include direct service, order management, and technical support.

Cepheid is the global company behind GeneXpert® Systems and Xpert® tests that deliver fast, accurate, and reliable real-time PCR test results. These systems are already in use across Canada in many community hospitals, clinics, and at the Public Health Agency of Canada’s National Microbiology Lab. With the launch of direct commercial operations in Canada, Cepheid plans to strengthen its partnership with Canadian healthcare leaders.

“We are excited to announce the opening of our offices in Markham, Ontario, to support current and new customers across Canada,” said Irfaan Remtulla, Cepheid Vice President of Canada Commercial Operations. “We are proud to deliver innovative solutions to help Canadian communities, from small medical clinics to high-volume reference laboratories and hospitals, to access the speed and accuracy of molecular diagnostics.”



## MULTIMATIC SELECTED AS THE PRODUCTION PARTNER FOR THE NEW 2023 FORD BRONCO DR RACE SUV PRICED AT \$300K

The Car Guide | [Markham](#)

Ford has unveiled the all-new Bronco DR (as in Desert Racer), an extreme SUV designed solely for off-road use and endurance competitions.

Ford has secured Multimatic as its production partner. The Markham, Ontario company already manufactures the Ford GT supercar, which is bowing out after the 2022 model year, and will next focus on this wild Bronco creation.

A prototype will make its race debut in 2022 and is targeting entry in Mexico’s SCORE Baja 1000, wearing Ford Performance red, white, black and blue livery honouring the Baja 1000 victory.

The first 50 units of 2023 Bronco DR will be available for sale late next year with a starting price of a little more than \$300,000.



## 80 NEW GREEN ENERGY JOBS AT GE HITACHI IN MARKHAM POWER CLIMATE ACTION, FUTURE WORKFORCE

Yorkregion.com | [Markham](#)

Eighty new green energy jobs in Markham will not only provide well-paying professional jobs, but also play a major role in solutions to climate change and develop the workforce of the future.

GE Hitachi announced the expansion tied to the development of the company’s BWRX-300 small modular reactors (SMRs) while it cut the ribbon on its SMR facility in Markham.

“GE has operated in Canada for nearly 130 years and is uniquely positioned to scale a workforce to support Canada’s clean energy vision,” said Markham resident and GE Canada president & CEO Heather Chalmers.

“SMRs are an important solution piece of the climate change challenge; a challenge whose urgency increases daily to ensure we meet our carbon reduction goals while also generating the necessary clean energy required to power our communities.”

It created the 80 skilled positions to support the deployment of new, carbon-free nuclear power technology, with the goal of having the first grid scale SMR at Darlington by 2028.

## MAGNA FOUNDER HAS PLANS TO BUILD A NEW HEADQUARTERS IN STOUFFVILLE FOR SARIT, A 3-WHEELED ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Yorkregion.com | [Whitchurch-Stouffville](#)

Frank Stronach, founder of Magna International, plans to develop a new light industrial assembly facility and global headquarters just east of Highway 404 on Aurora Road in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The new SARIT (Safe Affordable Reliable Innovative Transport) facility is intended as an assembly plant and display centre with most production occurring elsewhere in York Region and other locations in Canada.

The SARIT vehicle can travel 100 kilometres on a single charge. It is very compact, measuring three feet wide, six feet long and five feet high.



## EXPONENTIAL GROWTH HELPS LMN TO DOUBLE ITS COMPANY EMPLOYMENT SIZE

Cision | [Markham](#)

LMN, a B2B landscape business software company, is recruiting additional team members across all departments including human resources, sales, marketing, customer service, and training. The addition of these new hires will nearly double the size of LMN’s current team. This expansion is a result of the tech company’s exponential growth in 2021.

LMN, recognized as one of the fastest-growing companies in Canadian Business 2020 Growth List, has kept pace with the evolving needs of business owners in the landscape industry across the U.S. and Canada. This includes expanding its online LMN Academy program, software updates, as well as the launch of Landscape Disruptors.



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY PIZZA’S NEW MASTER FACILITY IN VAUGHAN PRODUCING UP TO 100,000 FROZEN PIZZAS PER MONTH, MORE THAN DOUBLING OUTPUT

Business Wire | [Vaughan](#)

General Assembly Holdings Limited, a Toronto pizza restaurant turned omnichannel consumer packaged goods brand, announced the opening of its “expanded kitchen” – a 42,060 square-foot master production facility in Vaughan, Ontario. The company secured the new production facility in July and commenced production on September 9. The facility has increased the Company’s monthly output of frozen units to 100,000, with greater output expected to come.





**QEA TECH WINS THIRD PLACE AT THE SHENZHEN INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION-2021**  
QEA Tech | [Markham](#)

Markham-based climate-tech & energy audit startup won a prize of USD \$64,500 at the 5th Sci Innovation Competition and its global session Shenzhen Innovation & Entrepreneurship Competition. QEA Tech was placed 3rd amongst 189 enterprises from Canada, the US, Australia, Japan, Israel, the UK, Germany, Spain, Netherlands, and China.

QEA won a Canadian divisional third place prize – \$4,500, a second place prize in the digital economy sector – \$15,000, and a third place prize in the Grand Finale – \$45,000. The Canadian Delegation won a total of 20 prizes adding up to C\$450,000.



**18 YORK REGION-BASED COMPANIES MAKE THE 2022 GTA'S TOP 100 EMPLOYERS LIST**  
Canadastop100.com | [York Region](#)

This year marks the 16th annual edition for the Greater Toronto's Top Employers competition, which has become the benchmark in the GTA for workplace best-practices.

Like the metropolitan area it represents, the competition has become exceptionally strong and competitive — so much so that, for Toronto-area employers, the minimum scores to secure a place on the GTA list routinely rank among the highest in the nation.

The 2022 winners were announced via The Globe and Mail in December; 18 York Region-based companies, with either head office or major presence locally, made it on the list.

**TWO YORK REGION FOOD COMPANIES SECURED DEALS ON CBC DRAGONS' DEN**  
York Link | [York Region](#)

Over the last year food startups across York Region have been busy securing deals and creating delicious products, of course. Some companies prefer to work in the background, while others like to go all-in and make a splash on national television.

Appearing recently on CBC's Dragons' Den, startups, It's Souper and Dear Snackers, made their pitch to the five Dragons and both secured deals for their companies at \$180,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

**TERAGO PARTNERS WITH MCMASTER UNIVERSITY TO DEPLOY THE FIRST INSTITUTION-BASED PRIVATE 5G MILLIMETER WAVE NETWORK**  
Cision | [Markham](#)

TeraGo has partnered with McMaster University to jointly build and deploy the first university-based 5G millimeter wave private network for research. The two entities plan to develop the most cutting-edge technologies for advanced manufacturing and Industry 4.0 in Canada.

A 5G millimeter wave private network delivers higher speeds and lower latency and is a prerequisite to advanced manufacturing and logistics. With these capabilities, users can access the benefits of machine learning, augmented reality, remote automation, edge computing, and more, to improve current products and processes.



**ZOGLO'S INCREDIBLE FOOD AND CLASSIC TOUCH FOODS PARTNER TO LAUNCH NEW PLANT-BASED PRODUCT LINE**  
Cision | [Markham & Vaughan](#)

Zoglo's Incredible Food announced that it partnered with Classic Touch Foods to introduce 100% plant-based and vegan offerings that will be made available to both retail and food service sectors. Leveraging different strengths of each company, the partnership will entail the creation of a co-branded product line including ready-to-heat and eat offerings.



**ONTARIO OPENS HIGHWAY 427 EXPANSION TO MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE IN VAUGHAN**  
Ontario Government | [York Region](#)

The Ontario Government opened a 10-kilometre expansion of Highway 427 from Finch Avenue to Major Mackenzie Drive to help improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and move people and goods safely.

A 6.6-kilometre extension of the highway includes eight new lanes from Highway 7 to Rutherford Road and six new lanes to Major Mackenzie Drive. Three new interchanges at Langstaff Road, Rutherford Road and Major Mackenzie Drive have also been constructed to connect roadways without interruption. A four-kilometre segment has also been widened to eight lanes from Finch Avenue to Highway 7 along with an upgraded full interchange at Highway 7.

The expansion of Highway 427, which serves as a heavily-used commuter route to the City of Vaughan and neighbouring communities, is expected to save commuters up to 25 minutes of total travel time for a two-way trip during peak periods.



**GENERAL MOTORS CANADIAN TECHNICAL CENTRE MARKHAM FACILITY AT CENTRE OF PROVINCE'S \$56.4M PLAN TO DRIVE DEALS FOR HYBRID, ELECTRIC VEHICLES**  
Toronto Star | [Markham](#)

GM Canada's Canadian Technical Centre in Markham was the site of a recent announcement regarding the province's latest commitment to putting Ontario at the forefront of global demand for cleaner, safer, more sustainable transportation solutions.

Delivered in partnership with the Ontario Centre for Innovation, the government's \$56.4-million investment in the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network was announced by Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Vic Fedeli on December 2nd, 2021 to a limited number of guests.

The investment is part of Driving Prosperity: The Future of Ontario's Automotive Sector, the government's plan to drive deals and secure production mandates for hybrid and electric vehicles, create a domestic battery ecosystem, and strengthen Ontario's position as a North American automotive and EV innovation hub.

Minister of Transportation Caroline Mulroney said the flagship program will go a long way toward supporting the area's talented workforce, electric vehicle R&D, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**SENECA HELIX HOSTS 5TH ANNUAL SUMMER INSTITUTE INITIATIVE**

The Regional Municipality of York | [York Region](#)

In 2021, York Region continued its ongoing partnership with Seneca HELIX – the college's innovation and entrepreneurship incubator – by supporting the fifth-annual Summer Institute initiative. Other partners included Southlake Regional Health Centre, ventureLAB, Humber College, George Brown College, and Kingbridge Centre. This event focuses on addressing real-world issues faced by health care providers and since 2017 this initiative has engaged 166 participants from across York Region and beyond, including 34 participants in 2021.





## YORK REGION SMALL BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS





# YORK SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE (YSBEC)



## STARTER COMPANY PLUS HELPS NEW ENTREPRENEURS GET STARTED

YSBEC | [York Region](#)

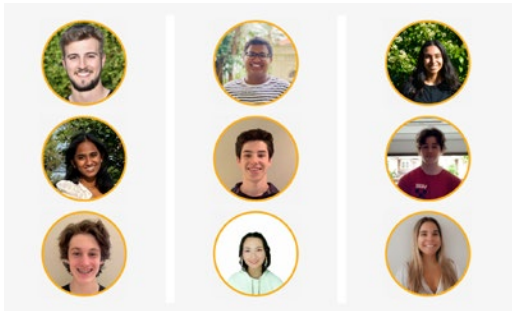
Starter Company Plus is an entrepreneurship program, funded by the Ontario Government’s Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, geared to help adults over 18 to start or grow their business. The program provides a variety of services, including mentoring, training, workshops, and a provincial grant up to \$5,000.



## STARTER COMPANY PLUS - SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY SUPPORT PROGRAM HELPED BUSINESSES ADAPT TO CHALLENGES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

YSBEC | [York Region](#)

The Starter Company Plus – Small Business Recovery Support Program (SCP-BRSP) provided free training and mentoring opportunities to help local businesses adapt to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was funded entirely by the York Region Innovation Investment Fund as part of the COVID-19 pandemic business recovery effort and delivered by the four SBECs across York Region. The SCP-BRSP also offered grants of up to \$5,000 to help businesses adopt new tools, increase their online presence and implement new strategies. This year, 47 small businesses leveraged the program.



## NINE STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY IN THE 2021 SUMMER COMPANY PROGRAM

YSBEC | [York Region](#)

From drone photography to car detailing services, the 2021 Summer Company program featured a diverse mix of young entrepreneurs; participating in a fully-virtual format. The York Small Business Enterprise Centre administers its Summer Company program in partnership with the Ontario Government. The program is designed to foster and develop the entrepreneurial spirit in students between the ages of 15 to 29, and who are registered to return to school full-time the following fall. Along with a start-up grant of up to \$3,000, the program provides young entrepreneurs mentoring from community business leaders and hands-on training such as writing a business plan, building a marketing strategy, and managing a budget. The nine students accepted into the program made a total combined revenue of over \$16,800 and each of them completed the program successfully.

## SPOTLIGHT: GOBLETS AND GOBLINS

YSBEC | [Newmarket](#)

Goblets and Goblins is a board game cafe based in Newmarket, offering customers a warm atmosphere to enjoy food, drink and play a variety of board games. Eddie Rayle, Co-Owner of the cafe wanted to see what his options were for support as a first-time business owner and found the YSBEC through a google search. YSBEC’s Small Business Consultant, “helped me out with my business plan and guided me through all of the licenses I needed, and what next steps to take,” said Mr. Rayle, “I found it very helpful and I think it’s something you can keep on doing. I would recommend it to anyone.”



## SPOTLIGHT: MONA HAIR SALON

YSBEC | [Aurora](#)

Mona Sohrabibalsini started her business with a dream – she had over 20 years of experience and wanted to finally venture out on her own. Based in Aurora, Mona Hair Salon specializes in hair services such as cutting, styling, colouring and even threading. Mona knew she could use some help during the COVID-19 pandemic, so she called the York Small Business Enterprise Centre for support. “COVID-19 was a very tough time for all businesses, including me,” said Mona. “I reached out to the YSBEC to improve my online presence, and they really helped me out.” She met with an YSBEC Small Business Consultant for a free consultation and began the Starter Company Plus program as it provides training, mentoring and the opportunity to receive a grant of up to \$5,000. With the grant, she was able to improve her online presence. Mona also participated in many seminars and workshops to help her gain knowledge in new areas, including social media, e-commerce and market research. Mona is using her new skills to grow her business and is currently hiring new staff for the salon to handle an influx of clients. “I strongly recommend the York Small Business Enterprise Centre if you want to start or grow your business,” said Mona. “I’d like to thank them for helping me manage the challenges of COVID-19 and improving my business.”

## SPOTLIGHT: WHOLE FAMILY HEALTH FOOD

YSBEC | [Georgina](#)

Whole Family Health Food is a community-focused health food store in Georgina, Ontario, offering vitamins minerals, herbs, specialty, grocery, natural body care, and even a section for pets. Business Owner, Kristen Schiener, came in with a business plan looking for a bit of support, “it was very specific for what I needed to learn and where we wanted to grow. The mentors they selected for me were top notch.”

## NORTHERN YORK REGION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCESS PROGRAM PROVIDED FREE PROFESSIONAL ADVICE TO 100 SMALL BUSINESSES

YSBEC | [York Region](#)

With the unprecedented economic impacts of COVID-19, having access to professional services is critical for the success of any business. However, not all business owners can easily afford these costs. The Northern York Region Professional Services Access Program (PSAP) provided eligible businesses with access to free professional advice, on topics including:

- Legal
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- And more...

In 2021, this program, which is unique to YSBEC clients, helped more than 100 business access critical support from a variety of professionals, such as lawyers, accountants, and financial analysts. Details including a full list of service options is available here: [yorklink.ca/psap](http://yorklink.ca/psap)



**“The program was incredibly helpful for helping me think outside the box, gain clarity in where I’m heading and gave me a tangible jumping off point to take my business to the next level.**

**Thank you for your help.”**

*- Owner, Front Porch Refillery*



### 'OUR FIRST YEAR WAS A WHIRLWIND': THE MAKER'S MARK, SELLING ARTISAN CRAFTS IN NEWMARKET, MARKS THEIR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Yorkregion.com | Newmarket

Erin Gooderham and Meghan Larkin bonded on the artisan market circuit. Gooderham creates original drawings, paintings and prints under the company pea + GRUFF, while Larkin makes keepsake stuffed animals under the company Sew Shenanigans.

"We connected immediately over our shared passion for supporting the handmade community and over our desire to find a better way of selling handcrafted goods," they said in an email.

In the middle of the pandemic, they launched The Maker's Mark. On November 28, the Newmarket business marked its first anniversary.

The business provides a retail location where artisans can sell high-quality, handmade goods year-round without incurring the costs and risks normally associated with owning a storefront, Gooderham and Larkin said.

It also offers a venue where makers can teach, learn and collaborate.



### LOCAL DIRECTORS' MOVIES SCREENING AT REEL ASIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Toronto Star | Newmarket

Newmarket-raised director Albert Shin was invited to the Reel Asian International Film Festival with his moving short film, "Together."

Ganesh Thava's "The Orchid and the Tree" was included in this year's Shorts programming. Thava is a Tamil Canadian writer and director, of the second generation of immigrants from Sri Lanka, who grew up in Markham.

"It is nice that the festival is featuring BIPOC films. I'm really appreciative that they are providing the space," Thava said, adding he felt very grateful, nervous and vulnerable, "because every aspect of the film was crafted and decided by me, which means what people are seeing is truly me — that's scary."



### MARKHAM RESIDENT REALIZES DREAM OF OWNING RESTAURANT, SMASH Yorkregion.com | Markham

Jason Goodis is owner of Markham's Smash Kitchen and Bar, Next Door Restaurant and a charcuterie and bottle shop called CharBox.

Born and raised in Unionville, he entered the restaurant industry at age 14 when his father brought him to Lick's Homeburgers and Ice Cream at McCowan Road and Hwy. 7 to get a job. He fell in love with the restaurant industry and later attended the University of Guelph to study hospitality.

CharBox, opened during the pandemic, focuses on locally crafted cheeses and cured meats. As for Next Door Restaurant, its specialty is Canadian seasonal cuisine.



### YORK REGION'S FIRST SUPERMOON JAPANESE CHEESECAKE STORE OPENS Yorkregion.com | Newmarket

With lineups out the door, Wasim Jarrah considers his new business, Supermoon Japanese Cheesecake, to be a success.

The real estate agent and business owner celebrated the grand opening of his new venture on Saturday, Dec. 11. The store, located at 695 Stonehaven Ave., offers fluffy Japanese-style cheesecakes.

"We brought it into the market to fill a gap. People wanted something different," Jarrah said, adding that the dessert isn't very heavy but has a sweet taste to it.



### LONGTIME FAMILY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT BUSINESS CHOOSES NEWMARKET FOR SECOND LOCATION

Newmarkettoday.ca | Newmarket

A new medical equipment supplier, Homestead, has officially opened its doors in Newmarket.

The business, which supplies oxygen, mobility equipment like walkers and grab bars, and medical devices like CPAP machines, celebrated the grand opening of its location at 17305 Leslie Street on October 7, 2021.

One of the owners, Geoff Patton, said he never imagined himself in this position. As a former professional hockey player, he didn't expect to return to his hometown of Lindsay, Ontario or run a family business.

Now his focus is to further grow his family's business and after considering a few markets, they chose Newmarket.



### EAST GWILLIMBURY WOMAN SEARCHED FOR HIGH-QUALITY TOYS, NOW SHE SELLS THEM IN HER OWN STORE

Yorkregion.com | East Gwillimbury

When Sherry Paymani was growing up in Iran, her father made musical instruments and would fashion beautiful toys for her out of wood, such as cubes and figures.

So, when she had her daughter, Rae, on Nov. 30, 2018, she wanted her to have access to quality toys too and set out to search for the best toys. But Sherry found quality toys difficult to find. She had wanted to find wooden toys, like the kind she grew up with and Montessori-inspired resources, too.

"It was mind-blowing these weren't available," said Paymani, who lives in East Gwillimbury. In the end, she decided to open her own store called Little Rae Goods, an all-natural children's toy boutique.

### MOM AND SON DUO BAKE DELICIOUS LOCAL MACEDONIAN FOOD AT THIS NEWMARKET SPOT

CBC | Newmarket

Nicholas Georgievski is the young owner behind the tiny shop, Macedonian Secrets. He just turned 30 in August. He was born in Richmond Hill, and identifies as Macedonian.

His parents, Maggie and Louie, are from Strumica, a southern city close to the Bulgarian border. They came to Canada over 30 years ago when they were young, and Maggie's first job was running a coffee truck.

Nicholas worked at one of the oldest pizza places in town, but soon realized that he wanted to do something a bit more traditional.

He wanted something more Macedonian, something that's harder to find. He wanted to do something inspired by his mom, who was known for making her own flat breads and savoury pastries. So they found a former pizza shop, with the oven intact, and they started experimenting.

You can find Macedonian Secrets at 16700 Bayview Avenue in Newmarket.



# YORK REGION BUSINESS & ECONOMIC INDICATORS



**1.2** **MILLION**  
RESIDENTS

**600,000**  
LOCAL JOBS

**1,200**  
NEW BUSINESSES  
ANNUAL AVERAGE (2011 - 2021)

**3** **RD** LARGEST  
BUSINESS HUB IN  
ONTARIO  
54,000 EMPLOYER ESTABLISHMENTS

**2** **ND** LARGEST  
ICT SECTOR IN CANADA  
WITH 4,500+ COMPANIES  
AND HIGHEST DENSITY OVERALL

**16** FORTUNE 100  
COMPANIES  
HAVE CORPORATE / DIVISIONAL OPERATIONS  
IN YORK REGION

**20%**  
OF GREATER TORONTO'S **STEM** AND **BUSINESS**  
GRADUATES LIVE IN YORK REGION

**2** **ND** LARGEST  
FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES SECTOR IN  
ONTARIO WITH 6,500 FIRMS

**6** OF GREATER TORONTO AREA'S  
**TOP 10** ICT  
CORPORATE R&D SPENDERS

**3** **RD** HIGHEST  
POPULATION WITH  
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION  
AMONGST CANADA'S LARGEST MUNICIPALITIES  
(70%)

**10,000+**  
NEW HOMES & CONDOS SOLD  
IN YORK REGION | 2021

**\$5.1** **BILLION**  
CONSTRUCTION VALUE (2021)

**656,000**  
LOCAL LABOUR FORCE  
[est. 2021]

**3** **RD** LARGEST  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY  
SECTOR IN ONTARIO  
WITH OVER 2,600 FIRMS

**\$4.6B**  
10-YEAR NEW PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE  
INVESTMENT (2020 - 2029)

YORK REGION REAL GDP  
**\$64.7**  
**BILLION** [est. 2021]

**3** **RD** LARGEST  
POPULATION IN ONTARIO  
FOR RESIDENTS BORN OUTSIDE OF CANADA  
(47%)

**18** **PUBLIC** COLLEGES AND  
UNIVERSITIES  
WITHIN COMMUTING DISTANCE

**2,700**  
COMPANIES EXPORTING GOODS  
[est. 2021]

**#1** CANADA'S LARGEST  
AUTO PARTS & MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

**YORK REGION IS AN**

**ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE**



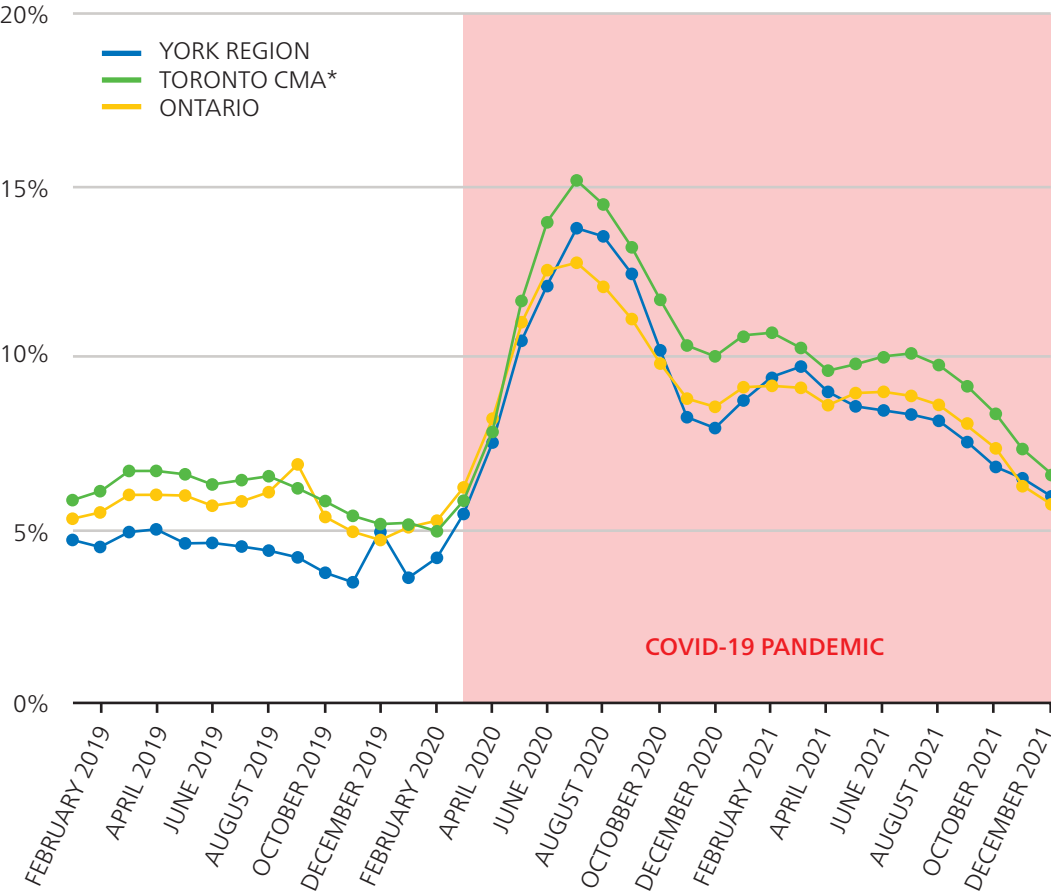
EMPLOYERS IN YORK REGION BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

| BUSINESS COUNT                                       |       | BUSINESS COUNT   |       |
|--|-------|--|-------|
| 54   Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 9,628 | 53   Real Estate and Rental and Leasing                                    | 2,694 |
| 23   Construction                                    | 6,309 | 31 - 33   Manufacturing  | 2,502 |
| 44 - 45   Retail Trade                               | 4,927 | 56   Administrative and Support, Waste Management and Remediation Services | 2,350 |
| 62   Healthcare and Social Assistance                | 4,660 | 52   Finance and Insurance   | 2,062 |
| 81   Other Services (Except Public Administration)   | 3,650 | 48 - 49   Transportation and Warehousing                                   | 2,012 |
| 41   Wholesale Trade                                 | 3,356 | 61   Educational Services  | 794   |
| 72   Accommodation and Food Services                 | 2,838 | 51   Information and Cultural Industries                                   | 651   |
| Other*   | 5,504 | TOTAL: 53,937  |       |

\*Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting; Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction; Utilities; Management of Companies and Enterprises; Arts, Entertainment and Recreation; Public Administration; Unclassified

Source: York Region, Planning & Economic Development analysis by NAICS; Statistics Canada; CBC by Location | 12/2021

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

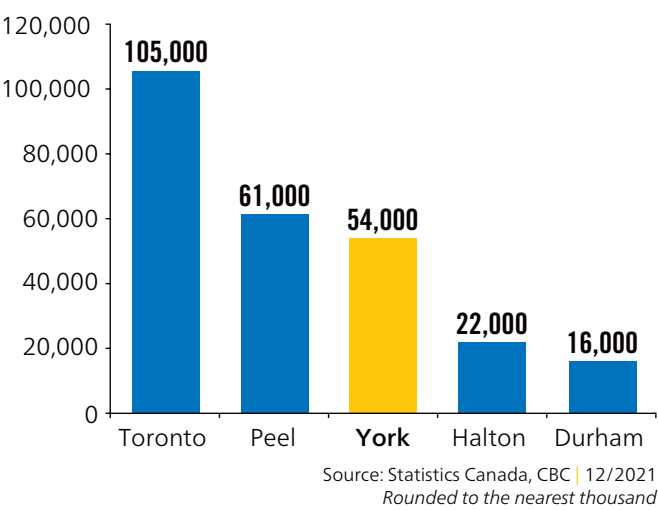


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Characteristics, 3-month moving average, unadjusted for seasonality | 2021

\*Census Metropolitan Area

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [YORKLINK.CA/ECONOMIC-INDICATORS](https://yorklink.ca/economic-indicators)

TOTAL EMPLOYER BUSINESSES BY GTA REGION



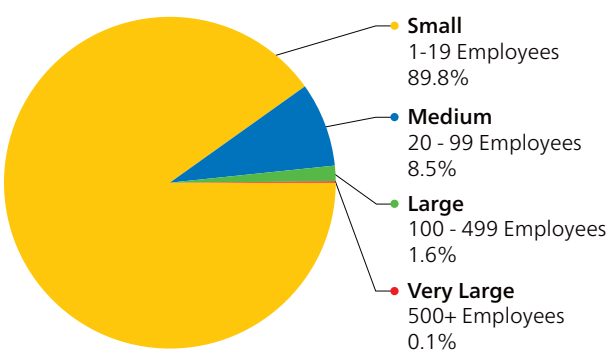
CANADA'S TOP TECHNOLOGY HUBS

| MUNICIPALITY       | # of ICT EMPLOYERS |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| City of Toronto    | 7,179              |
| <b>YORK REGION</b> | <b>4,580</b>       |
| Peel Region        | 4,416              |
| Montreal           | 4,329              |
| Greater Vancouver  | 4,238              |
| Ottawa             | 3,224              |
| Calgary            | 2,932              |
| Halton Region      | 1,777              |
| Edmonton           | 1,491              |
| Durham Region      | 967                |
| Waterloo           | 780                |

Source: Statistics Canada, CBC | 06/2021

York Region, Planning & Economic Development analysis by NAICS

YORK REGION BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT SIZE



Source: York Region, Planning & Economic Development analysis of 2-Level NAICS; Statistics Canada, CBC by Location | 12/2021 | (Numbers may not add up due to rounding)





BY 2051,  
YORK REGION  
IS PROJECTED  
TO GROW TO  
2.03 MILLION  
RESIDENTS  
AND 991,000  
LOCAL JOBS

Source: York Region, Planning & Economic Development | 2021

## 2021 TOTAL CONSTRUCTION VALUE

| REGION               | TOTAL VALUE            | CHANGE FROM 2020 |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| City of Toronto      | \$11,757,596,000       | 2.0%             |
| Greater Vancouver RD | \$10,296,313,000       | 1.4%             |
| City of Calgary      | \$5,894,018,000        | 63.2%            |
| <b>YORK REGION</b>   | <b>\$5,192,673,000</b> | <b>97.6%</b>     |
| City of Montreal     | \$4,962,240,000        | 11.2%            |
| Peel Region          | \$4,210,608,000        | 32.9%            |
| City of Ottawa       | \$3,701,704,000        | -12.7%           |
| City of Edmonton     | \$3,016,846,000        | -5.8%            |
| Durham Region        | \$2,780,477,000        | 11.0%            |
| Halton Region        | \$2,386,736,000        | -4.7%            |

Source: Local Municipal Building Permit Reports, 2021; Statistics Canada Building Permit Reports and Table 32.2 (unpublished) | 2021

Note: List includes cities, Regions, and Regional Districts as defined locally.

## GREATER TORONTO AREA NEW HOME SALES | 2021

| REGION              | TOTAL         | SINGLE FAMILY HOMES* | CONDOMINIUM APARTMENTS |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Toronto             | 16,071        | 356                  | 15,715                 |
| <b>YORK REGION</b>  | <b>10,878</b> | <b>5,080</b>         | <b>5,798</b>           |
| Peel Region         | 7,597         | 2,452                | 5,145                  |
| Durham Region       | 6,868         | 4,327                | 2,541                  |
| Halton Region       | 5,237         | 1,517                | 3,720                  |
| <b>GTA COMBINED</b> | <b>46,651</b> | <b>13,732</b>        | <b>32,919</b>          |

\*Single family homes, including detached, linked, and semi-detached houses and townhouses (excluding stacked townhouses).

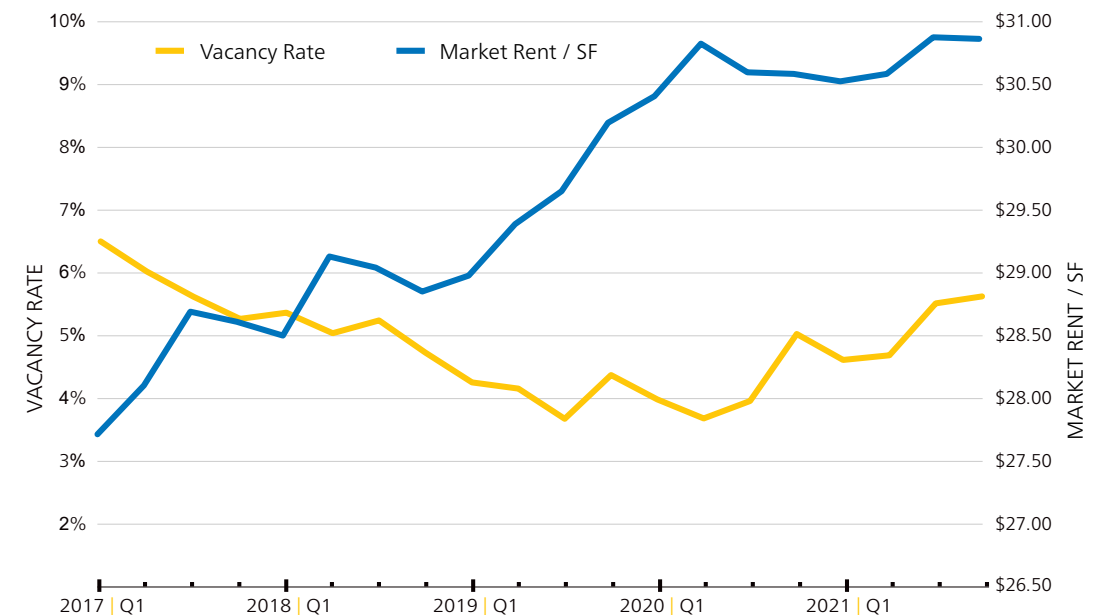
Source: Altus Group | 2021

## OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE IN YORK REGION

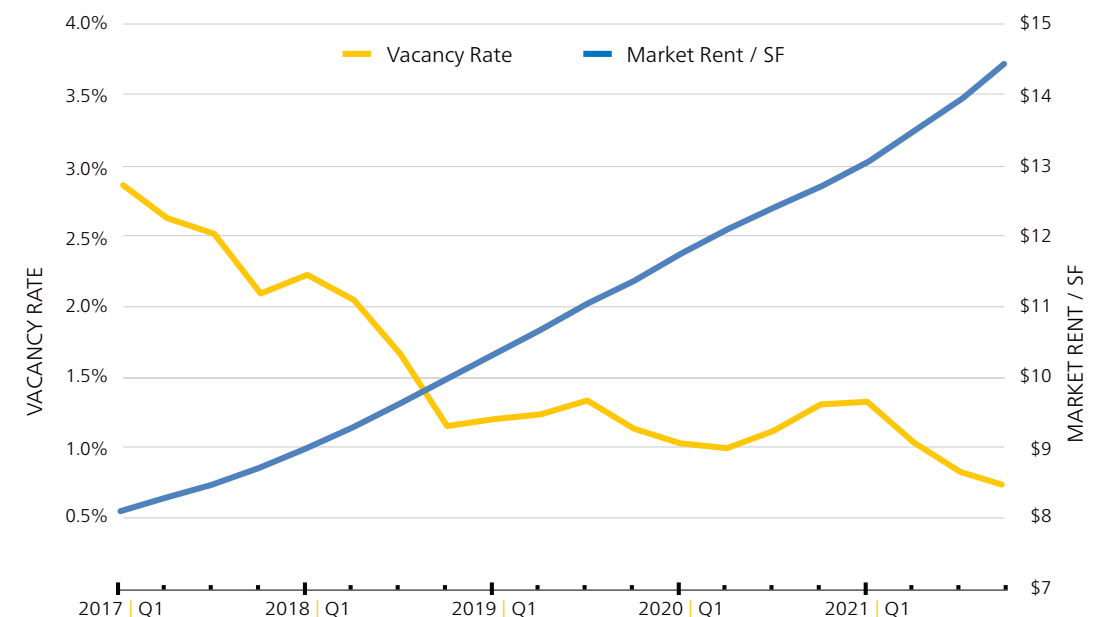
| TYPE                   | ESTIMATED HOUSEHOLDS |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Single                 | 240,807              |
| Semi-Detached          | 23,053               |
| Row / Townhouse        | 52,481               |
| Duplex                 | 15,160               |
| Apartment              | 62,982               |
| <b>ESTIMATED TOTAL</b> | <b>394,483</b>       |

Source: York Region, Planning & Economic Development | 2021

## YORK REGION OFFICE VACANCY RATE (%) AND MARKET RENT



## YORK REGION INDUSTRIAL VACANCY RATE (%) AND MARKET RENT



## YORK REGION COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL VACANCY RATE AND MARKET RENT

### OFFICE SPACE

Market Rent per SF, Annual Average: **\$30.74**  
 Market Rent per SF, 5-year Average: **\$29.63**  
 Vacancy Rate, Annual Average: **5.04%**  
 Vacancy Rate, 5-Year Average: **4.80%**

### INDUSTRIAL SPACE

Market Rent per SF, Annual Average: **\$13.74**  
 Market Rent per SF, 5-year Average: **\$10.96**  
 Vacancy Rate, Annual Average: **1.01%**  
 Vacancy Rate, 5-Year Average: **1.56%**

Source (all data on this page): CoStar | 2021



### IS YOUR BUSINESS CONSIDERING EXPANSION OR RELOCATION?

In partnership with York Region’s nine local cities and towns, York Region’s Economic Strategy team provides advisory and support services to companies looking to establish operations in York Region – part of the Greater Toronto Area – as well as supporting established York Region businesses seeking to expand.

We provide a range of complimentary services to help retain, grow, and attract businesses and talent in York Region, including:

- Industry sector data and advisory
- Location selection assistance
- Entrepreneurship and small business support programs
- Strategic B2B/B2G introductions
- Marketing and promotion support
- Access to government incentives
- Soft landing
- Talent acquisition support

We’re here to help. To speak with a member of the team, email: [edo@york.ca](mailto:edo@york.ca)

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Investment & Marketing

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Agriculture & Agri-Food Project Assistant  
Strategic Economic Initiatives

**Elya Djaffar**  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Project Assistant  
Strategic Economic Initiatives





WHERE TALENT AND OPPORTUNITY INTERSECT

