



Economic Development Action Plan Update

Presented to
Committee of the Whole

Presented by
Jonathan Wheatle - York Region
David Kwok - York University
Hugh Chow - ventureLAB

Presented on
May 7, 2026



Presentation Overview

- **2025 / 2026 Economic Development Update**
- **York University Update**
- **ventureLAB Update**
- **Recommendation**



York Region: An Economic Powerhouse



Population 1.3 Million

Ontario's 3rd Largest
Municipal Jurisdiction



Ontario's 3rd Largest Business Centre

59,000 Business
Establishments
(625,000 Local Jobs)



Ontario's 3rd Largest Manufacturing Sector

and 5th Largest in Canada
(2,600+ Manufacturers)



4,800 ICT Companies

Canada's 3rd Largest
Technology Hub



Canada's largest Auto Parts & Electronics Manufacturing Cluster

250+ Core Sector Companies



Ontario's 2nd Largest Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Sector

5,300 Firms



3 of the Top 5 Corporate R&D Investors

in the Greater Toronto Area.
5 of Top 10 in the Tech Sector



Ontario's 2nd Largest F&B Processing Sector

and 4th Largest in Canada.
370 businesses

Strategic Themes That Defined 2025 Activities

Trade & Tariff Response

THE TARIFF IMPACT
A PODCAST NAVIGATING CHALLENGES FOR ONTARIO MANUFACTURERS

Brought to you in partnership by:
YORK LINK **TRILLIUM NETWORK**
FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

THE TARIFF IMPACT
EDC: All-in-One Banking, Insurance, Investment, and Advisory to Help Canadian Exporters Through Crises

THE TARIFF IMPACT
CME: What Canada's Largest Manufacturers and Exporters Industry Association is Seeing and Doing

#MadeInYR
Food and Beverage Processors
York Region Delegation at #HM25

Investment Attraction Support

MARVELL
Essential technology, done right

PROTECT ONTARIO **PROTÉGER L'ONTARIO**
Ontario

BUILDING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS
at SEMICON to help grow York Region's world-class tech sector

LGC GRAND OPENING
of the \$100M Organic Centre of Excellence in

TORONTO AREA'S YORK REGION
York Region is proud to be named one of "Canada's Best Locations" by Site Selection Magazine!

Innovation Capacity Building

OVIN REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT SITE COMING TO YORK REGION
Supporting autotech and mobility SMEs to accelerate their path to market

YORK REGION AGRI-FOOD START-UP PROGRAM
Empowering equity-deserving and Indigenous entrepreneurs
APPLY BY 11:59 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
yorklink.ca/FoodStartup

#HARDTECHSUMMIT 2025 ENTREPRENEUR INNOVATION FUND

2025 | Business Feedback

May Daou • 2nd
VP, Revenue Management at TERAGO | Product, Delivery & Customer Success...
2h • 🌐

Wonderful visit with the York Region Economic Development team!

It was great to connect and share how TERAGO is empowering Canadian businesses with advanced connectivity solutions that drive digital transformation and innovation in manufacturing and beyond.

... opportunity to collaborate further within the #YRtech ecosystem. Growth right here in Markham!

Sreyas Dasika • 1st
Business Manager @ Megalab Group Inc. | Driving Product Development
View my services
12h • 🌐

Feeling grateful to see **Megalab Group Inc.** featured by **York Link | York Region Economic Development** 🙌

It's been incredible to watch our team's vision come to life — from a small lab with big dreams to hosting a full house of founders, partners, and innovators exploring how accredited testing helps bring new technologies to market.

A sincere thank you to York Link, Mayor **Tom Mrazek**...

Buchner Manufacturing
1,306 followers
9mo • 🌐

Proud to be recognized alongside other great manufacturers in Georgina! Thanks to York Link for highlighting the strong and diverse industrial community we have here in York Region. We're honored to be part of the #MadelnYR initiative and continue our commitment to quality Canadian manufacturing.

RoboTape™
1,778 followers
11mo • 🌐

What an incredible opportunity to speak at the **York Link | York Region Economic Development** at **HANNOVER MESSE 2025!!**

- President and CEO **Michael Lalonde** took the stage for the Collaborating for Innovation panel, sharing insights on how...
- Global Partnership Development
- How to Get the Most Out of Your Event
- Impact and engagement

A huge thank you to York Region for such an impactful platform.

Jason Falbo • 1st
Making the world safer, smarter, more livable leading...
Visit my website
1h • 🌐

Kudos to our pals down the road at **AMD** for helping reinforce the messaging that **York Region (The Regional Municipality of York)** is serious when it comes to housing global champions of trade.

Mike Meshkati • 2nd
We enable print & packaging companies to sell a huge variety of...
19m • 🌐

Thank you, **Katie Maginn**, **Gordon Scheel**, **CITP**, and the entire York Region Economic Development team for visiting SinaLite!

Grateful for York Region's continued support and commitment to helping local businesses thrive. Big thanks to the entire York Link team for taking the time to visit and for the important work you do in championing growth and innovation across the region.

... to building stronger partnerships and a more advanced manufacturing future right here in Markham!

Richmond Hill Economic Development • 1st
The official City of Richmond Hill Economic Development LinkedIn account.
12mo • ...

Thank you for hosting this insightful event!

Like • 🗳️ 1 | Reply

Michael Burgess • 2nd
Founder and Chief Executive Officer at Nerpy's Inc. | Mentor | Public Speaker |...
1y • ...

Thank you for the invitation to attend. It was very informative and insightful.

Like • 🗳️ 3 | Reply

La Rocca Creative Cakes
5,901 followers
1y • ...

Such a great event! 🍰💖🥳

Like • 🗳️ 2 | Reply

David Spadafora • 2nd
Founder & CEO
1y • ...

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity! 🙌🥳

Like • 🗳️ 2 | Reply

Simmering Copenhagen Aps
869 followers
1y • ...

Thank you for being great hosts and bringing producers of great products to the event. Looking forward getting the samples to Denmark

Like • 🗳️ 2 | Reply

Peter Husted Sylvest • 2nd
Partner & Co-Founder of Simmering Copenhagen - Board Member - Growth ...
1y • ...

Great video and great event 🙌

2025 | Economic Development Partner Feedback

AHK Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce Inc. 9,627 followers
5h • 🌐

#MemberMonday Spotlight: This week, we're highlighting **York Region (The Regional Municipality of York)** – one of Canada's fastest-growing and most innovative business hubs!

Located just north of Toronto, **York Region (The Regional Municipality of York)** is home to 59,000+ businesses and 1.2 million residents, making it Ontario's third-largest business centre. Known for its dynamic economy, strong talent pool, and thriving innovation ecosystem, it's where IT, clean tech, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences drive growth.

York Link | York Region Economic Development actively fosters collaboration with Germany, especially in technology and sustainable urban development; regularly welcoming delegations and trade missions that build bridges across the Atlantic.

We're proud to have **York Region (The Regional Municipality of York)** and their economic development team as part of the **Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce Inc.** community – let's continue connecting innovation with opportunity between Canada and Germany **Gordon Scheel, CITP, Katie Maginn** and the whole team!

#Canada #Germany #Partnerweltweit #partnerworldwide



ventureLAB 17,029 followers
5mo

Thank you for your support and for joining us at **#HardTechSummit!** 🌟

EDC Export Development Canada | Exportation et développement... 126,843 followers
24m • 🌐

Thank you for sharing **York Link | York Region Economic Development**. These conversations are both timely and essential in these uncertain times. We remain dedicated to supporting our exporters through initiatives like the Trade Impact Program and exploring new market opportunities.

GEORGINA Town of Georgina 3,944 followers
2d • 🌐

Thank you **York Link | York Region Economic Development** for participating in and contributing to the conversation at the EDCO Central Regional Event yesterday at Clearwater Farm in **#Georgina**. Your contributions helped make the day a dynamic and engaging experience!

Vincent Caron • 1st
CME VP | Girl Dad | Policy Leader | Manufacturing Advocate
11m • 🌐

📣 Calling out York Manufacturers!

This year we worked with **York Link | York Region Economic Development**...

Cristina Liu • 1st
Wanderlust Economic Development Officer | Creatively marketing communities...
17m • 🌐

The **Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville** is fortunate to be home to a diverse and growing landscape of innovative companies like **Portfolio+ CA** 🍀

From fintech to advanced manufacturing, our business community continues to punch above its weight — and **Portfolio+** is a shining example. A women-led team, a proudly Canadian codebase, and a workplace culture rooted in purpose and creativity — Thank you **York Link | York Region Economic Development** for the spotlight and visit to Stouffville!

It's companies like this that make Stouffville more than just a beautiful place to live — it's a place where big ideas are built. 🧠🌟

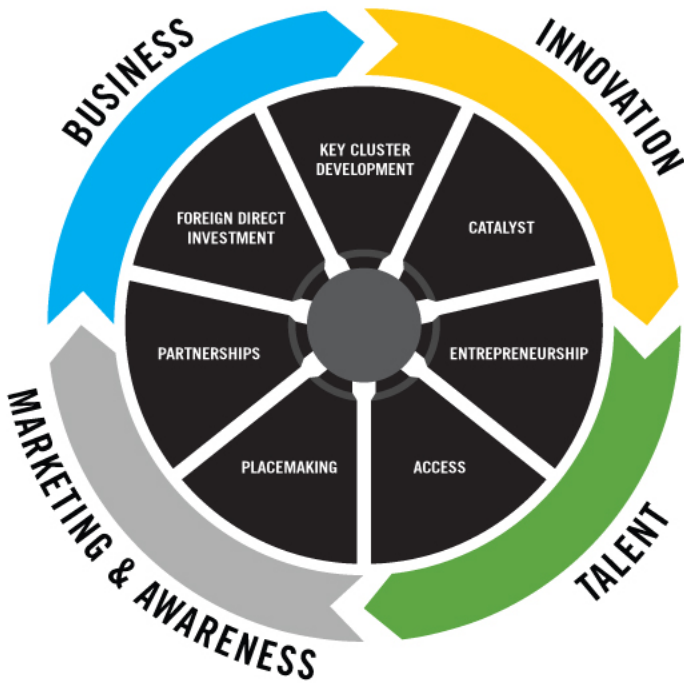


YORK REGION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZED WITH
2025 EDCO AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

M Markham Economic Development 1,800 followers
18m • 🌐















Thank you **York Link | York Region Economic Development** for bringing such an amazing Markham-based company to the spotlight!

Highlights of 2025 Economic Development Accomplishments



Outcomes related to the four pillars of the Council-approved 2024-2027 Economic Development Action Plan are highlighted to the right.

Additional details are provided in the **2025 York Region Economic Development Year In Review**.

BUSINESS	INNOVATION	TALENT	MARKETING & AWARENESS
 <p>900+ Business Engagements 45% were in-depth consultations providing support and guidance</p>	 <p>280 Businesses Supported & 820+ Jobs Created Through York Region Innovation Investment Fund program partners including ventureLAB and York University - YSpace</p>	 <p>Talent Toolkit: Manufacturing Released in collaboration with Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters to help auto parts and electronics manufacturers locally and in Canada address workforce challenges</p>	 <p>1,100,000+ Views York Link social media & website</p>
 <p>International Market Diversification Direct Support to 35+ Companies Hannover Messe, IAA Mobility, Semicon, Denmark Agri-Food Market Masterclass, & other supply chain resilience sessions</p>	 <p>York Region Established an OVIN Regional Technology Development Site (RTDS) Leveraged \$2 million from York Region Innovation Investment Fund to establish an OVIN RTDS initiative valued at \$13 million</p>	 <p>2,800+ Visits to Work in York Talent Tools Collaboration with the Workforce Planning Board of York Region to promote talent tools including a general- and tech-focused job board of career opportunities with York Region-based companies</p>	 <p>33,000+ Followers York Link social media & e-newsletter delivering daily social posts and monthly email updates.</p>
 <p>Foreign Direct Investment Support & Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosted York Region's FDI visibility through targeted collaborative in-market activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported local-municipal FDI priorities through cost-shared investment readiness & prospecting services • Coordinated ongoing collaboration with Toronto Global 	 <p>ventureLAB Hosts 124 Events, Attracting 3,000+ Attendees As part of core services this led to 37 new clients and distribution of \$100,000 in York Region Entrepreneurship & Innovation Fund (EIF) funding to 11 community organizations and tech companies</p>	 <p>Entrepreneur Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York Region Agri-Food Start-Up program offers entrepreneurship training to indigenous and underrepresented communities • The York Small Business Enterprise Centre delivers training to student entrepreneurs through the Starter Company Program and to small business operators through the Starter Company Plus program 	 <p>30,000 Engagements Social media likes, comments, shares</p>
			 <p>#MadeInYR Campaign Highlighted local companies that manufacture products in York Region to support 'Buy Canada' initiatives</p>  <p>17,000+ Tariff Resource & Tariff Impact Podcast Views A trade resource web page and a 4-episode podcast series providing valuable trade and tariff insights during the early days of tariff threats</p>

2026 Strategic Projects

DEFENCE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

UNLOCKING **AEROSPACE & DEFENCE** SUPPLY CHAIN OPPORTUNITIES FOR YORK REGION MANUFACTURERS



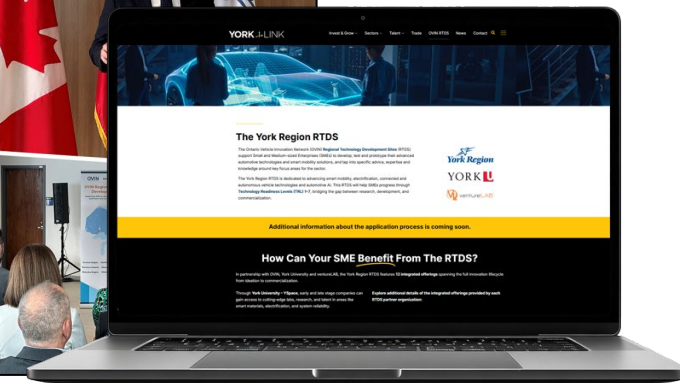
#YRdefence B2B Site Visit: MHI Canada Aerospace



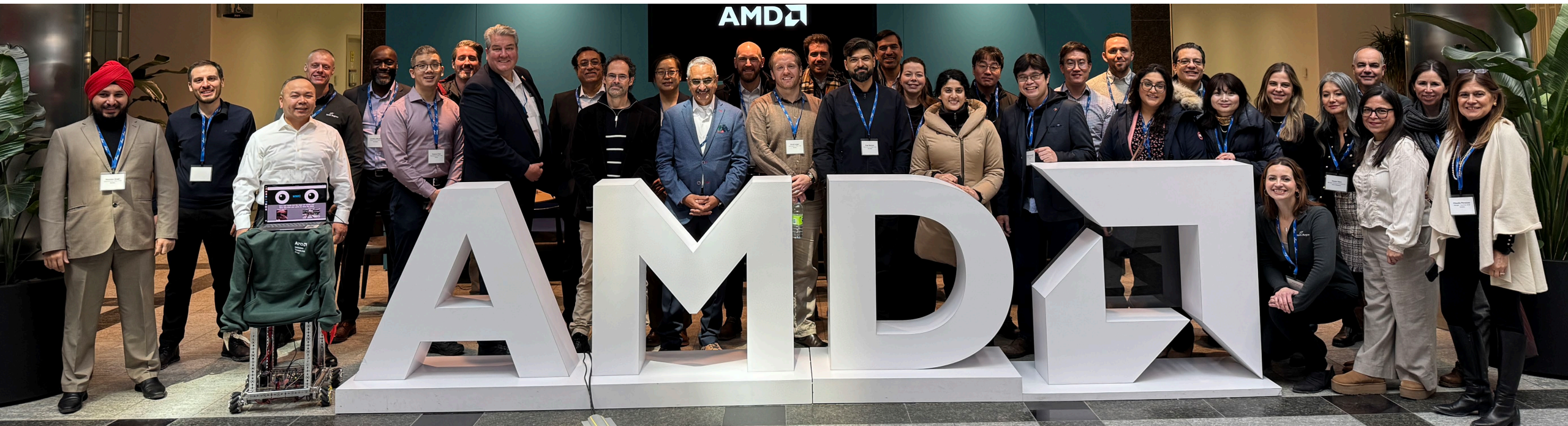
MOBILITY INNOVATION VIA RTDS

OVIN REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT SITE **COMING TO YORK REGION**

Supporting autotech and mobility SMEs to accelerate their path to market



2026 Economic Development Activities (Jan – May)



York Region's Canadian Defence Market Entry Roadmap Takes Centre Stage in Toronto at NGen Canada's N3 Summit

Canadian Defence Market Entry Roadmap

York Region Tourism Fund APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

UP TO \$5,000
FOR LOCAL TOURISM PROJECTS

APPLY NOW: yorklink.ca/TourismFund

Summer Company 2026

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

yorklink.ca/SummerCompany

GATEWAY TO PATHWAYS: TALENT AND INDUSTRY FORUM

CONNECTING JOB SEEKERS, EMPLOYERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

INNOVATION HUB CANADA

SEW EURODRIVE OPENS THEIR NEW SOFTWARE-FOCUSED R&D CENTRE IN VAUGHAN, YORK REGION

#YRTECH

HELPING FARMERS PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE AT THE **FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOP**

9

Upcoming Significant Events in 2026



CANADA'S LEADING DEFENCE, SECURITY & EMERGING TECHNOLOGY EVENT.

MAY 27-28, 2026
EY CENTRE, OTTAWA

CANSEC

- Supports:
- Aerospace & Defence
 - Manufacturing



CANADA AUTOMOTIVE SUMMIT



Canada Automotive Summit

Tuesday, June 9, 2026
8:00am-7:00pm

Canada's flagship automotive summit bringing together top industry voices.

With over 400 attendees, the

APMA Canada Automotive Summit

- Supports:
- Auto Parts & Auto Tech
 - Mobility

Food and Beverage Roundtable: MARKET DIVERSIFICATION & FINANCING ACCESS FOR AGRI-FOOD BUSINESSES



EVENT DETAILS
WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2026 - 9:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.

9:30 A.M. Registration and networking
10 A.M. Introductions and welcoming remarks
10:30 A.M. Market diversification and access to financing presentation by Export Development Canada (EDC)
11 A.M. Panel Discussion with Agri-Food Businesses
11:30 A.M. Showcase & One-on-One Consultations with EDC (Asia-Pacific, EU, Mexico)
12 P.M. Industry Networking


HOSTED BY: YSPACE
YSpace YORK REGION

REGISTRATION LINK
yorklink.ca/GrowingGlobal



Food & Beverage Roundtable: Market Diversification

- Supports:
- Food & Beverage



AI TOGETHER

TaiNEX 1 & 2 | TWTC | TICC

JUNE 2 - 5, 2026


Ontario Automotive Export Business Mission to JSAE 2026

Sector: Automotive
Market Region: Asia and Australasia
Date: May 27, 2026 to May 29, 2026

The Government of Ontario is leading an Automotive Export Business Mission to JSAE Yokohama 2026 (May 27-29, 2026). Hosted by the Japan Society of Automotive Engineers (JSAE), the event is the largest automotive technology expo in Japan. JSAE 2026 will be offered both in virtual and in-person formats with 600 exhibitors and 80,000 attendees expected over three days. The show attracts visitors working directly in automotive engineering, as well as senior engineering decision-makers.

Calendar of International Trade Programs and Events

Information about upcoming trade missions and exhibitions, incoming buyers missions, exporter education seminars and workshops for Ontario businesses looking to export outside Canada.



Provincial Market Diversification & Export Support Events

- Supports:
- Technology
 - Auto Parts & Auto Tech

York University Update

David Kwok

Director of Entrepreneurship & Innovation



“

*YSpace is York University's pan-university **entrepreneurship & innovation hub** supporting startups and entrepreneurs from a variety of sectors and communities. Our programming spans across scaling ventures through customer and investor capital support.*

Our focus areas are:

- *Technologies Ventures*
 - *Automotive & Mobility*
- *Food & Beverage Ventures*
- *Women-Led Ventures*
- *Black-Led Ventures*
- *Soft landing for International Ventures*

”

YORK 

YSpace's Overall Impact

1,755

**Ventures
Supported**

\$401 M

**Revenue
Generated
By Ventures**

\$182 M

**Funding Raised
By Ventures**

2,138

**Jobs Created
By Ventures**

1,878

**Work
Integrated
Opportunities**

Project JumpSTART | Impact in numbers (2025-26)

\$1.85M

Total Revenue Generated

All streams' companies combined

\$797K

Total Funding Raised

Non-dilutive + investment capital

128

Jobs Created

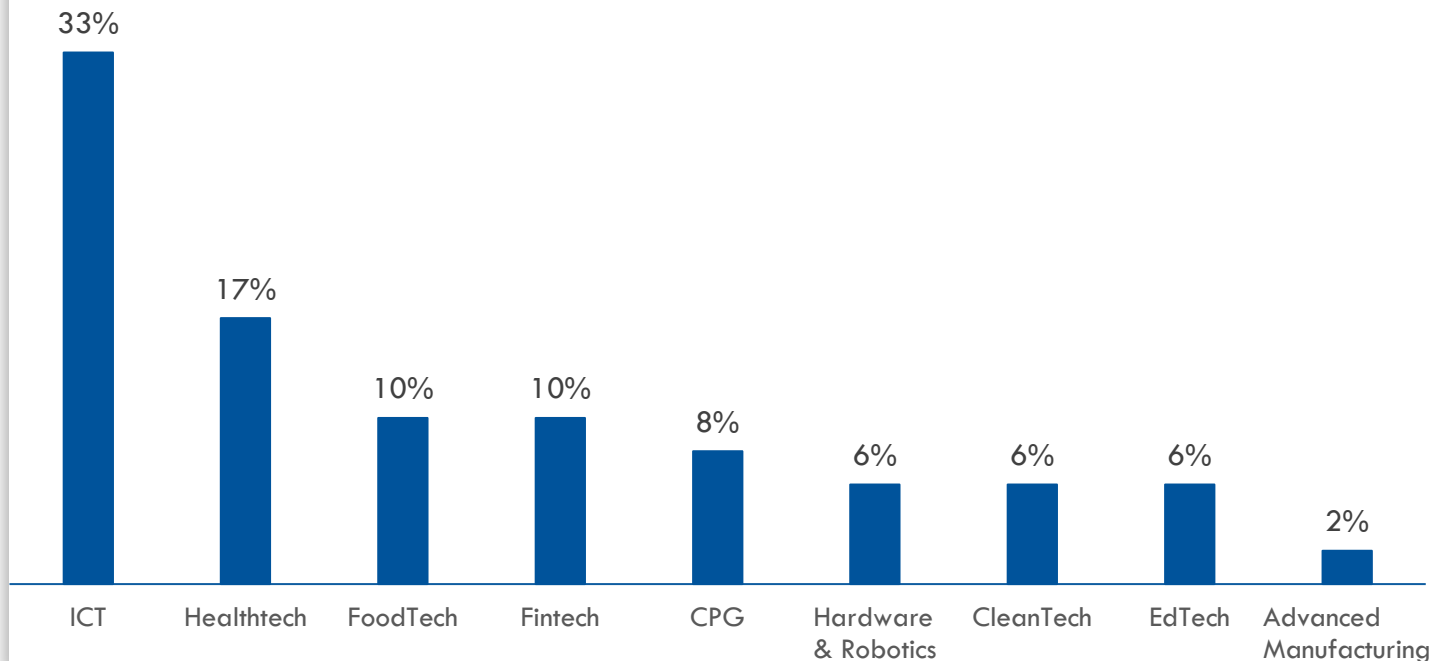
New FTE positions this year

79

Jobs Maintained

Retained & protected positions

Distribution by sector



Economic contribution to York Region (2025-26)

Est GDP impact ~\$3.3M

Est Total jobs supported in York Region ~435

GDP ROI from the project ~ 8x

Project JumpSTART (Women in Tech) | Success Stories

Founder Highlights

43 Women
Entrepreneurs
Supported

4 Founders
raised funding

3 Awards and
recognition



Yulia – PioneerIP
Named Top 40 Under 40 by the
Central York Chamber



Jennifer – LeopardAI
Represented Canada at G20 and
AI House Davos, scaling across
30+ countries and 5 continents



Mallory – Gibbly
#1 Education App on Canva.
Recognized by Hackergal hub as
a leading woman in STEAM



**Wintta – Moon Trades
Technologies**
Won TiE50 2025 award



Han Yan – EZSave
Closed an angel round with 3
investors



Fatemeh – IntRest
Represented Canada's AI
ecosystem at VivaTech 2025 Paris



Lisa - Bidblox
1st place at UpperBound AI pitch
competition and pitched at GITEX
Global Supernova stage in Dubai



**Shermineh – Novasher
Ventures**
Took the main stage at Elevate

Project JumpSTART (International) | Success Stories

Founder Highlights

5 Teams Raised Funding

8 Supported Founders from Countries

\$750K

Funding Raised by Ventures (over 2 years)



EZSmart Packing Technologies



HealGenix



METAMIND



Limitech SmartGlass Vision



Nexor Technologies



Lingua Talk (formerly Speakey)



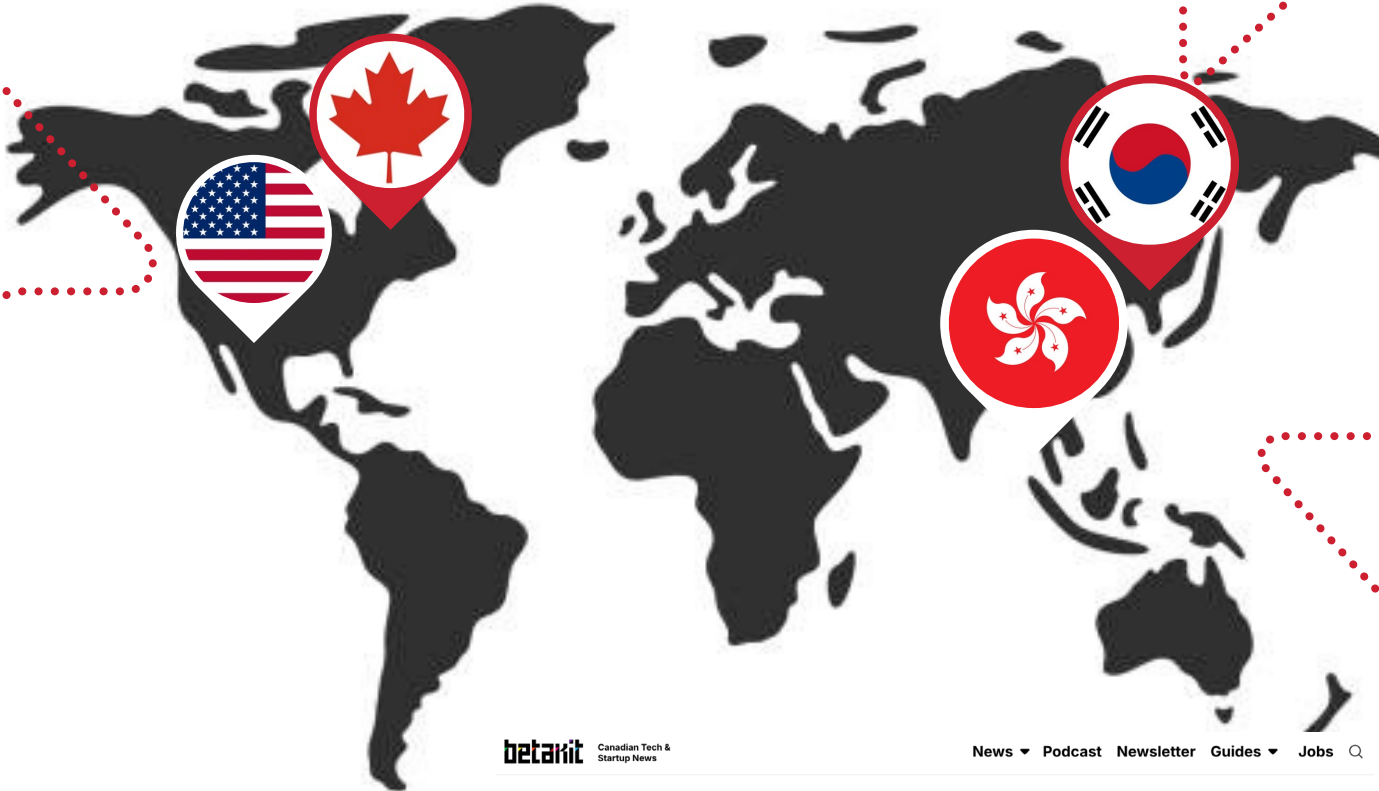
Flavorish



My Biolux Lighting Technologies

YSpace, York University open the door between Canada and Korea's tech ecosystem

By Isabelle Kirkwood / February 27, 2026



YSpace is turning Toronto and York Region into a springboard for Hong Kong startups

By Jacqueline Loganathan / August 13, 2025



GROWING WITH YSPACE



**AgriFood & AgTech
Investment Program**



**Black Entrepreneurship
Alliance**



**YSpace York-Simcoe
Hubs**



**ELLA National
Women's Program**



**Lab2Market
Commercialization**



**Women in Tech
Incubator**



**Invention to Founder
Fellowship**



**Vaughan Health
Care Precinct**



**York Region –
Regional Technology
Development Centre**



**Founder
Fundamentals**



VentureLAB Update

Hugh Chow

Chief Executive Officer

ventureLAB is grateful for York Region's steadfast support since our inception in 2011. As a founding partner, York Region remains integral to our ongoing growth and success.

Our Impact Over the Years

We enable companies in our community to create jobs, raise capital, and generate revenue through four key pillars: Capital, Talent, Technology & IP, Customers.

4600+
TECH
VENTURES

7880+
JOBS
CREATED

\$977M+
TOTAL
REVENUE

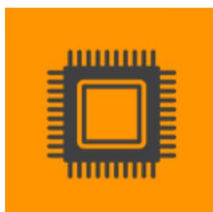
\$534M+
CAPITAL
RAISED

\$12M
LABS



Prototype & Testing Labs

VENTURELAB'S HARDWARE CATALYST INITIATIVE (HCI) IS CANADA'S ONLY LAB AND INCUBATOR FOR BUILDING HARDWARE AND SEMICONDUCTOR-FOCUSED PRODUCTS



\$12M+

World-class prototype and testing labs - the first of its kind in Canada



\$17.3M

Investment by the Government of Canada through FedDev Ontario



\$55M+

Tools, resources, equipment, expertise, and mentorship HCI partners





Hardware Catalyst Initiative

Canada Catalyst

G7 Representatives Gather in Markham and Toronto to Strengthen Global Semiconductor Partnerships – *Semiconductor Diest*

York University and ventureLAB collaborate to boost tech talent and innovation – *Canadian Manufacturing*

HARDWARE CATALYST INITIATIVE

\$1.5M

Invested by York Region

19

Companies Served

118

Jobs Created

358M

Potential Editorial Reach

CANADA CATALYST

8

Companies Onboarded

46

Jobs Created

503K

Potential Editorial Reach

The program giving global founders a reason to build in Canada – *BetaKit*

ventureLAB Marks Five Years of the Hardware Catalyst Initiative, Canada's First and Only Incubator for Hardware and Semiconductor Startups – *National Post*

Driving Canada's Innovation Future: countdown to the 5th Annual HardTech Summit – *CanadianSME*

ventureLAB and the Critical Industrial Technologies initiative are modernizing Canada's Industrial backbone – *BetaKit*

Success Stories in News

LILA Composter Begins a New Chapter with the Township of King



A Sustainability Milestone with the Township of King



Cheelcare Signs Five-year Lease for New Manufacturing Facility in Markham to Support Growth

Hyperlume raises \$17.8-million seed round to commercialize its AI data centre tech

NordSpace breaks ground on new Atlantic Spaceport Complex in Newfoundland

Blumind secures \$20-million Series A to build the AI chip we'd have if computers didn't exist



Niraj Mathur, co-founder and CEO of Blumind.

Health startups, Deep Breath and Vessl Prosthetics receive \$500,000 from Ontario Life Sciences Fund





CANADA'S PREMIERE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SUMMIT

SUPPORTING THE HARDWARE, SEMICONDUCTOR,
MEDTECH, AI, AND AUTOMOBILITY ECOSYSTEM

2025 Our Largest Ever!

- **1500+ Attendees**
- **40+ Exhibitor Booths**
- **Pitch Competition**
- **Sold Out Gala Dinner**



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND

Stream 1 — Non-Profit Organizations

Support, or enhance entrepreneurship or innovation for underrepresented communities operating in York Region.

20
APPLICANTS

40%
YR-BASED
APPLICANTS

2
FUND
RECIPIENTS

Stream 2 — Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs:

York Region-based startups and organizations with Agri-Tech and/or Cleantech focus.

43
APPLICANTS

28%
YR-BASED
APPLICANTS

7
FUND
RECIPIENTS

Stream 3 — HardTech Summit Pitch Competition:

Small and medium enterprises incorporated in Canada developing hardware innovations

54
APPLICANTS

45%
YR-BASED
APPLICANTS

2
RECIPIENTS



1ST PLACE



2ND PLACE



ventureLAB Across York Region



York Region's Chairman Eric Jolliffe, CAO Erin Mahoney, and team at ventureLAB's Vaughan MedTech Lab



Diem Le leading the Tech Startup Masterclass



East Gwillimbury visits the Hardware Catalyst Lab



Deputy Mayor of Newmarket, Tom Vegh at ventureLAB



Minister Tim Hodgson visits ventureLAB



YorkU Markham students tours our Innovation Space



Mayor Del Duca at HardTech Summit



Mayor Scarpitti at G7 Semiconductor POC Reception

Looking Ahead



Recommendation

Jonathan Wheatle

Director, Economic Services

Recommendation

The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Invest Ontario, Toronto Global, ventureLAB, York University, Ontario Centre of Innovation and local municipalities.

Questions & Discussion

For regular business updates we encourage you to follow our social media channels or sign up to receive the monthly York Region Business Update e-newsletter:

LinkedIn: **@York Link | York Region Economic Development**

Facebook & Instagram: **@YorkLinkca**

Newsletter: **yorklink.ca/newsletter**

ventureLAB: **venturelab.ca**

YSpace: **yorku.ca/yspace**