

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION**

*For consideration at the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on  
July 15, 2026*

### **1. Reviving and Accelerating the Vision for a Central Tech Innovation Hub in Vancouver**

Submitted by: Councillor Klassen

#### **WHEREAS**

1. The City of Vancouver serves as the economic and technological centre of British Columbia and Western Canada, with the Metro Vancouver region accounting for approximately 77 per cent of provincial technology employment and supporting a technology workforce of more than 125,000 professionals concentrated in major innovation districts throughout the region;
2. On February 1, 2023, Vancouver City Council unanimously approved Mayor Ken Sim's motion, 'Supporting and Expanding Vancouver's Tech Hubs, Clusters, and Districts,' directing staff to explore strategies to facilitate, aggregate, and modernize technology-focused employment spaces across the city;
3. Leading global innovation ecosystems have established flagship physical innovation hubs, including Station F in Paris and Newlab in New York City, that bring together startups, investors, researchers, and industry partners to accelerate commercialization, talent development, investment attraction, and economic growth;
4. The Mayor's Business Growth Task Force recommended the development of a 'Pacific Innovation Corridor' to strengthen Vancouver's position in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, life sciences, clean technology, and other high-growth sectors;
5. Provincial and federal governments continue to prioritize innovation-led economic development through initiatives supporting technology commercialization, intellectual property development, business scaling, talent attraction, and regional innovation ecosystems;
6. The Government of Canada's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy, "AI for All," identifies the acceleration of AI commercialization, talent development, research collaboration, and regional innovation ecosystems as national economic priorities, creating a significant opportunity for Vancouver to strengthen its position as a leading innovation centre and to explore the development of a flagship innovation hub capable of attracting investment, supporting scale-up companies, and advancing Canada's leadership in emerging technologies;
7. The 2026–2029 Service Plan of Innovate BC prioritizes technology commercialization, intellectual property development, and the expansion of British Columbia companies into global markets;
8. Vancouver is increasingly serving as a host city for major international

technology, innovation, and investment events that attract global entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, and industry leaders, creating a strategic opportunity to leverage these gatherings into lasting economic development outcomes, commercialization opportunities, and long-term investment attraction;

9. The Province of British Columbia's 2026 Budget introduced a \$400 million Strategic Investment Special Account to support partnership opportunities with the federal government on major economic development initiatives, including defense technology and critical minerals;
10. Major Canadian innovation centres, including Montreal's Centech, have established flagship innovation hubs that bring together entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, and industry partners to support technology commercialization, business scaling, and company growth;
11. Innovation hubs such as Platform Calgary have demonstrated the economic benefits of coordinated innovation infrastructure by supporting entrepreneurship, investment attraction, talent development, and business growth, while also strengthening their ability to attract firms and investment from other Canadian jurisdictions;
12. The Vancouver region is home to globally recognized research institutions, technology companies, and entrepreneurial talent. However, continued efforts to strengthen commercialization, scale-up capacity, and investment attraction are necessary to ensure that intellectual property and high-growth firms created in British Columbia can grow and remain in the province;
13. The City previously supported an innovation and community development by providing space and capital funding for The HUB at 312 Main, nevertheless the city remains without a unified, central physical hub to foster foundational community, high-growth startup density, and structured industry mentorship;
14. Access to leading global innovation ecosystems and networks is increasingly recognized as a key factor in the successful commercialization and international scaling of technology companies, enabling entrepreneurs to accelerate learning, access investment opportunities, and bring innovations to market more quickly;
15. As competition among jurisdictions for technology investment, intellectual property, and high-growth firms continues to intensify, Vancouver's ability to attract capital, support commercialization, and retain scaling companies may be strengthened through the establishment of a prominent, centralized innovation hub; and
16. A flagship innovation hub could strengthen collaboration among entrepreneurs, post-secondary institutions, investors, industry partners, and governments while enhancing Vancouver's ability to attract investment, support the growth of technology companies, connect Vancouver-based firms to leading Canadian and global innovation ecosystems, create a lasting economic development legacy from major international technology and innovation events hosted in the region, and convert growing international attention into long-term economic assets for the city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council reaffirm its commitment to the strategic direction established through the February 2023 motion, 'Supporting and Expanding Vancouver's Tech Hubs, Clusters, and Districts,' and direct staff to evaluate pathways for establishing a flagship physical innovation hub in Vancouver that supports technology commercialization, entrepreneurship, investment attraction, talent development, and business scale-up activities.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to undertake, through appropriate internal and/or external resources, engagement with relevant federal, provincial, academic, industry, and investment partners, including PacifiCan, Innovate BC, post-secondary institutions, representatives of the technology sector, and leaders from established innovation hubs across Canada and internationally, to assess potential governance, funding, programming, and partnership models for such a hub, including opportunities to strengthen global market access, investment attraction, commercialization, international scale-up pathways, and the long-term economic development benefits arising from major technology and innovation events hosted in Vancouver.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to undertake, through appropriate internal and/or external resources, an assessment of opportunities to leverage existing federal and provincial economic development programs, including the Province's Strategic Investment Special Account, to support the development of a flagship innovation hub.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to investigate potential locations and real-estate strategies for such a hub, including opportunities within the Downtown, Yaletown, Broadway Corridor, and other employment-focused areas of Vancouver, and identify any municipal tools that could support its establishment.
- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council by no later than Q2 2027 with recommendations respecting:
- Potential governance and operating models;
  - Funding and partnership opportunities;
  - Location considerations;
  - Anticipated economic development benefits;
  - Opportunities to establish strategic partnerships with leading Canadian and international innovation ecosystems to support commercialization, talent development, investment attraction, and global market expansion for Vancouver companies; and
  - Implementation options for establishing a flagship innovation hub in Vancouver.

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