



## MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

UPDATED: May 14, 2018

# Update: Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster Appoints Industry Leader and Visionary Sue Paish as CEO

Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster has appointed Sue Paish as CEO. Born and raised in BC, Paish has a long track record of results-driven leadership and successful growth, most recently as the CEO of LifeLabs Diagnostic Laboratories, the largest diagnostic laboratory in Canada, where she advanced precision health services for consumers.

Paish began her career as a lawyer at Russell & DuMoulin, (now Fasken), where she worked for 25 years and was the firm's youngest managing partner, before moving into business leadership. Paish received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the 2018 Influential Women in Business Awards. Her wealth of experience across multiple sectors, as well as her talent and vision, have prepared her for undertaking the role of Digital Technology Supercluster CEO and driving successful outcomes that will benefit all Canadians.

The Supercluster entity will be fully operational by June 2018, with Phase One pilot projects beginning in September 2018. Initial pilot projects will focus on health, natural resources, and industrial applications, recognizing the strength of these sectors in Canada.

Examples include:

- **A Digital Learning Factory:** Facilitate collaboration on the development of virtual environments that enable design, rapid experimentation, and testing of cost-saving approaches to address the most significant challenges in modern manufacturing. This project is estimated to result in \$220 million in GDP impacts.
- **Indigenous Talent Development:** Create a training platform for Indigenous talent development and enterprise. This project is estimated to result in \$30 million in GDP impacts, along with 1,000 work-integrated learning opportunities and 1,000 graduates from Indigenous communities.
- **Earth Data Store:** This project creates a digital twin of 85% of the world's land on a daily basis, providing a single source of geographic data for the resource sector along with the opportunity to mine an enormous amount of Earth data on a daily basis using various data analytics and visualization platforms. This project will result in an estimated \$330 million in GDP impacts.

## Fast Facts

The Digital Technology Supercluster was one of five proposals awarded funding from the Government of Canada's Innovation Supercluster Initiative in February 2018. Over the next five years, the federal government will invest up to 950 million dollars in the five superclusters to drive major economic, social and industrial benefits for the country.

Superclusters encourage and leverage investment in new areas and strengthen supply chains through motivating and driving results from partnerships between the private sector, post-secondary institutions, innovation intermediaries and government.

The Digital Technology Supercluster was selected from a shortlist of nine proposals, and more than 50 groups who submitted letters of intent as part of the Federal Government Innovation Supercluster Initiative. The Digital Technology Supercluster demonstrated pragmatic potential to generate significant economic impacts and commercial results that will establish Canada as global leader in innovation and digital technologies. The BC-led supercluster has committed an additional 500 million dollars, in addition to federal support, to propel innovation and technological growth.

The Digital Technology Supercluster will generate new jobs, grow the GDP and increase Canada's global competitiveness using virtual mixed/augmented reality, data analytics and quantum computing to create scalable, applicable solutions.

Through collaboration, superclusters turn ideas into solutions that will address the biggest challenges facing the world today.

## BC-led Initiative, Canada-Wide and Global Impact

- BC has the fastest-growing technology sector in Canada, generating \$26 billion in annual revenue.
- More than 350 organizations from across the province and country are members of the Supercluster.
- Members include some of the biggest names in healthcare, telecommunications, natural resources and computing, along with startups, SMEs, Indigenous peoples, researchers and post-secondary institutions.
- Members have committed to work together to solve some of the most pressing productivity, health and sustainability challenges facing us today.

## Why Digital Technology?

The Digital Technology Supercluster will transform companies, address industry problems, and advance economic opportunities for Canadians by applying data in new and innovative ways:

- More data has been created in the last two years than in the entirety of human history.
- Less than 0.5% of this data has ever been analyzed.

- Within five years, there will be more than 50 billion smart connected devices in the world.
- Unlocking the potential of accumulating data will establish Canada as a global leader in digital technology in the era of the intelligent enterprise.

## Expected Economic Opportunities

The Digital Technology Supercluster will positively impact the Canadian economy from coast to coast to coast. Over a ten-year period, we anticipate that our efforts will generate:

- More than \$1.4 billion to fund over 100 collaborative projects involving more than 1,000 organizations;
- Opportunities for economic reconciliation with BC's Indigenous peoples
- More than \$5 billion in GDP impact; and 13,500 new jobs for Canadians over 10 years.

Source: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/093.nsf/eng/00011.html>

## Media Contact

Kathleen Reid

kreid@switchboardpr.com

604-724-1242

## Interview Opportunities

Interviews with Sue Paish, Chief Executive Officer, and Bill Tam, Co-Chair, and are available on request.