

2025 Banff Venture Forum

 Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity



OCTOBER 22 & 23, 2025

Banff, Canada

 Banff Venture Forum

 @BanffVF | #BVF2025

Wednesday October 22, 2025

Banff, Alberta

[REGISTER](#)

07:30 - 08:25 **Check in & Networking Breakfast**

08:25 - 08:30 **Conference Chair Welcome Remarks**



Steven Hnatiuk
Managing Partner



08:30 - 08:45 **Industry Outlook - State of the Ecosystem** | Presentation



08:45 - 09:30 **Meet the Investors - The Opportunity Landscape** | Panel Session

We bring together key players from some of the most differentiated and active venture funds. These leading VCs will dive deep into the evolving opportunity environment—exploring high-growth areas such as artificial intelligence, the infrastructure supporting it including data centers, and the broader issues and challenges shaping today's investment landscape.



09:30 - 10:30 **Alberta Innovates Scaleup GAP Super Session Pitch Competition** | Pitch Session

Watch Alberta's top emerging startups pitch live at BVF! Ten companies, selected through a competitive application process, will compete for over \$150,000 in prizes and the attention of investors. This high-energy session features live scoring, public voting, and expert feedback—offering founders real opportunities for funding, growth, and strategic partnerships.

Company announcement coming soon!

10:30 - 11:15 **Networking Break**

11:15 - 11:20

VERDEX CAPITAL | Presentation

Verdex Capital is a purpose-driven venture capital firm that invests in the Canadian food and agricultural sectors. Our mission is to Advance Canadian Agriculture. Verdex actively invests from **Carrot Ventures**, a venture studio that forms and funds new companies around breakthrough AgTech innovation, and **Verdex AgriFund**, a co-investment vehicle for Seed and Series A stage AgTech companies whose innovation helps advance Canadian agriculture.



11:20 - 11:50

“The Greatest Show on Earth - Ag & Food Innovation Game Changers” | Panel Session

Positioned at the intersection of Cleantech and Life Sciences, Ag and Food Innovation now represents one of the greatest opportunity landscapes in history. Leading investors will take us through the rapidly evolving innovations in Ag and Food Innovations that are incorporating every element of emerging technology - from drones, robots, IoT, lasers, and AI, to genomics, and the microbiome. Canada is uniquely positioned to further cement its global leadership in these arenas.



11:50 - 12:20

Canada’s Innovators: Spotlight on Emerging Talent | Panel Session

Discover the cutting-edge innovation happening across Canada as top companies from diverse sectors step into the spotlight. This session will feature ventures that have graduated from the prestigious Canadian Technology Accelerator (CTA) program, an initiative by Global Affairs Canada’s Trade Commissioner Service. These high-growth, high-potential Canadian tech firms have honed their strategies and scaled their operations through the program’s intensive support in 12 global innovation centres, including Boston, San Francisco, and Tokyo.



12:20 - 13:20

Networking Lunch

13:20 - 14:05

Why Your First AI Investment Should Be In Games | Panel Session

From industry giants like **Electronic Arts** to startups like Saskatchewan’s **LocalThunk**, the games industry is shaking off recent layoffs and gearing up for new growth. The difference this time? AI is set to anchor the next surge — and those advances are already unfolding right here in Western Canada. Our expert panel dives into why this trend makes game and game-adjacent startups a very smart first bet.



14:05 - 14:55

Empowering Innovators: Showcasing Breakthrough Tech Ventures | Pitch Session

This dynamic pitch session features a lineup of high growth potential tech ventures presenting their groundbreaking innovations and solutions shaping the future of industry. Emerging companies will take the stage for a short-format live pitch to a feedback panel of seasoned investors.



14:55 - 15:35 **Networking Break** | Round Table Discussions

15:35 - 16:05 **Teams, Technology, Traction** | Panel Session

Hear from leading voices across venture and the startup ecosystem as they explore what drives company success. With a focus on “Teams”... human capital, talent acquisition, and building high-performing leadership, this session also examines how technology and traction shape opportunities and decisions in today’s market.



Bennett Jones



INNOVATE
CALGARY



METIS SETTLEMENTS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



RAIVEN
CAPITAL



16:05 - 16:35

From War Stories to Wins: Lessons in Company Building and Venture Growth | Fireside Chat

Tracey Scarlett, Executive Director at VCAA, will sit down with Pat Lor, Managing Partner at Panache Ventures, for a candid fireside chat reflecting on the evolution of Canada’s venture capital and startup ecosystem since the inception of the Banff Venture Forum. Together, they will share hard-earned lessons and “war stories” from the frontlines of company building and funding, explore how the landscape has shifted for founders and investors alike, and dive into the opportunities and challenges that continue to shape innovation and growth today.



16:35 - 18:00

BVF Networking Reception

Thursday October 23, 2025 Banff, Alberta

08:00 - 08:55 **Hot Networking Breakfast**

08:55 - 09:00 **Opening Remarks**

09:00 - 09:45 **Meet the Investors - Insights from Leading VCs** | Panel Session

This dynamic panel session gathers top investors from some of the most innovative and active venture funds. These industry experts will offer an inside perspective on their investment strategies, sharing what drives their decisions and the emerging opportunities they see in the tech market.



Bennett Jones

inovia



ADVANCING CANADIAN AGRICULTURE



09:45 - 10:35

Canada’s Innovators: Spotlight on Emerging Talent | Pitch Session

Discover the cutting-edge innovation happening across Canada as emerging companies from diverse sectors step into the spotlight. High growth potential companies will take the stage for a short-format live pitch to a feedback panel of seasoned investors.



GREEN GRAVITY®



10:35 - 11:20

Networking Break

11:20 - 11:50

“Building Tech Corridors: Seizing Opportunities from Canada to Silicon Valley and Beyond”

| Fireside Chat



Nicholas Brathwaite
Founder & Managing Partner



With a keen focus on the Canadian tech sector, Nicholas will share his unique perspective from his base in Silicon Valley, discussing why Canada is an attractive market for tech investment. As Celesta Capital expands its focus on developing a thriving deep tech venture ecosystem within Canada, he will explore why now is the perfect time for U.S. investors to look north. In addition, Nicholas will discuss

the opportunities and challenges of expanding into global markets, drawing on Celesta’s successful investments in India and Israel. This session is a must-attend for anyone interested in the intersection of cross-border investments, global expansion, and high-growth opportunities beyond the U.S. and Canada.

11:50 - 12:40

Canada’s Innovators: Spotlight on Emerging Talent | Pitch Session

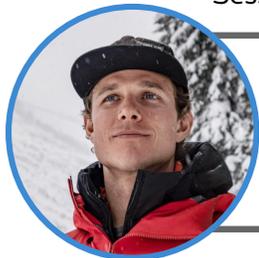
Discover the cutting-edge innovation happening across Canada as emerging companies from diverse sectors step into the spotlight. High growth potential companies will take the stage for a short-format live pitch to a feedback panel of seasoned investors.



PEGASUS

12:40 - 13:10

From Mountain Rescues to Personal Recovery: Lessons in Risk, Resilience & Readiness | Keynote Session



Mark Herbison
Search & Rescue Expert

In this powerful keynote, Mark draws from a lifetime of search and rescue experience to share mountain rescue stories alongside personal reflections on his own accident and recovery. With a unique ability to move between the roles of rescuer and patient, Mark offers hard-earned insights into risk management, decision-making under pressure, and the value of preparation. Through storytelling, he delivers lessons on resilience and determination that resonate far beyond the mountains.

13:10 - 13:15

Closing Remarks

13:15 - 14:00

Networking Lunch

Reserve your seat today for this outstanding program!

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Contact Us

Marc Elrick
Executive Director
Phone: 403-819-0383
marc@criticalpathgroup.com

Spencer Coulter
Program Director
Phone: 587-224-9403
spencer@criticalpathgroup.com

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