

TECHNOLOGY ACCESS CENTRES

Canada's Innovation Intermediaries

- TACs help 4,200 Canadian businesses improve their business processes, and move their innovative products and services closer to market each year.
- TACs are nationally-recognized applied R&D centres operating exclusively at selected colleges and cégeps, supporting all industrial sectors in all regions.
- Tech-Access Canada, a not-for-profit based in Ottawa, is the national network and voice of Canada's 60 TACs.



What is a Technology Access Centre (TAC)?

TACs are a public good. As an objective innovation intermediary, Canada's 60 TACs work with firms on a fee-for-service basis to solve their challenges via flexible engagements related to:

- conducting applied research and development projects;
- offering specialized technical services and objective advice; and
- providing training related to new types of equipment and processes.

Each TAC has defined areas of innovation expertise, and for each of these areas, they offer R&D and innovation support services that are tailored to fit the partner's timeline and budget.

TACs are equipped to support an industrial sector of importance to their region vertically, but also have the capacity and capabilities to help multiple industrial sectors.



TACs Develop Innovation Talent



TACs are fantastic incubators for developing talent with highly sought-after innovation skills, making it challenging to keep a full team roster. Due to their affiliation with a college or cégep, TACs are often ineligible as hosts for internship programs, such as Mitacs. Tech-Access Canada's proposed Innovation Apprenticeships Program aims to fill the pipeline for TACs with Made-in-Canada innovation talent that they desperately need to grow their operations. A modest increase in team capacity would enable our TACs to deliver support services to more than double the current number of Canadian entrepreneurs helped each year.



Ready to help: Network's Innovation Capacity

- **3,856,170 sq. ft.** of dedicated applied research space
- **\$477,036,876** worth of highly specialized equipment
- **2,073** multidisciplinary innovation experts on TAC R&D teams
- **2,353** college and university students in work placements at the TACs

TACs can serve any company, anywhere in Canada, helping them access the expertise, equipment, and facilities they need to solve their innovation challenges.



DID YOU KNOW?

Too many aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs—especially those from underrepresented groups—do not qualify for innovation funding due to the eligibility criteria for R&D programs. Tech-Access Canada's proposed Inclusive Innovation Initiative aims to help these individuals commercialize their brilliant ideas.

TACs focus their service offering on the mid-to-late stage TRLs, helping SMEs over the “valley of death” for commercialization.



DID YOU KNOW?

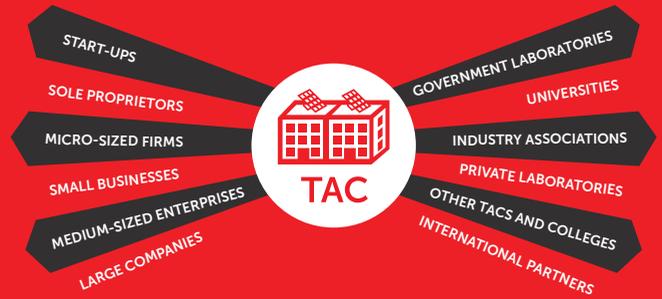
The private sector poaching TAC talent is a reality for the TACs, who need a constant pipeline of talent to keep their core teams full. Due to their affiliation with a college, TACs are often ineligible for internship programs such as Mitacs. Tech-Access Canada’s proposed Innovation Apprenticeships will help fill the pipeline for TACs with Made-in-Canada innovation talent.

4x Multiplier Effect of the TAC Network

The Technology Access Centre grants reward the best of the best in college applied research. The TAC designation is a five-year renewable award administered by NSERC. The seven competitions since 2012 have awarded 60 college-affiliated research centres with the nationally-recognized TAC designation. With a full complement of 60 TACs, NSERC’s annual investment in the TACs is \$14 million. In 2020, the TACs leveraged that investment into \$57 million worth of business expenditures on R&D with clients and partners, a 4X multiplier for Canada.



TACs Help All Innovators



DID YOU KNOW?

Of 100 companies who meet with a TAC to discuss a project, only 43 complete the project. Many are unfamiliar with the roles, responsibilities, timelines and costs associated with collaborative R&D. Tech-Access Canada has proposed initiatives to change that.

People Innovate. Companies Commercialize.

Innovation is risky, and projects can fail. As a public good, Canada’s TACs are a safe space for firms to de-risk R&D and innovation activities on their commercialization journey. To help innovative small companies stay nimble, the TACs’ industry-friendly Intellectual Property (IP) policies put the IP in the hands of industry to commercially exploit, no strings attached.

DID YOU KNOW?

The TAC model is designed to de-risk novel research and innovation activity for small firms working toward commercialization. The TACs avoid undertaking any routine work that is already provided adequately by private industry and strive to avoid unintended competition with colleagues in the private sector.

Interactive Visits Program

Since 2016, Tech-Access Canada has administered the Interactive Visits Program, and the TACs have completed over 800 short-term collaborative Visits with NRC-IRAP clients.

As a result of the Visits, companies report increased sales, decreased costs, the adoption of new technologies, hiring of new employees, and investing further in R&D activities.

The average cost of a Visit is \$3,248. Within 12 months, 59% of Visits turn into a follow-on collaboration between the client and the TAC with an average value of \$26,444.

Tech-Access Canada

A not-for-profit organization based in Ottawa since 2016, Tech-Access Canada is the voice of Canada’s TACs. We facilitate the sharing of best practices between members; work to harmonize service models across regions; collect performance metrics and data; promote college applied research to external audiences, and administer the Jumpball Initiative and Interactive Visits Program.

