

CASCADIA INNOVATION CORRIDOR

A CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVE



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Regional Leaders Convene to Strengthen Canadian and US Cross-Border Ties in Cascadia Innovation Corridor

British Columbia and Washington State experts discuss progress and set course for the future of the region

VANCOUVER — Oct. 10, 2018 — Business leaders from British Columbia and Washington state today announced continued progress towards enhancing regional economic growth and prosperity as part of the two-day Cascadia Innovation Corridor Conference. The third annual conference brings together business, academic and government leaders from both sides of the border to explore and act on regional collaboration.

Specific announcements include:

- **An expected strengthening of ties between BC Premier John Horgan and Washington Governor Jay Inslee** through the signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- **[New research](#) from the Business Council of British Columbia** detailing strong regional growth in both British Columbia and Washington state, providing new insights on the trading relationship between Washington and B.C.
- **A new Incubator Internship Pilot** to foster stronger networks and ecosystem access for startups in the Cascadia region. The program is a collaboration between the University of British Columbia, the University of Washington, and Mitacs, a Canadian not-for-profit organization that supports entrepreneurship by developing talent and connecting innovative businesses with skilled researchers across all disciplines.
- **The [WeWork Cascadia Passport](#)**, a no-cost tool that provides 24/7 meeting space in 20+ locations throughout the corridor, to allow seamless collaboration and lasting connections.

Today's announcements build on new cross-border connections over the past two years, including a Seattle to Vancouver [seaplane service](#), ongoing feasibility studies of [high-speed rail](#) connecting Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, collaboration among [polytechnic institutions](#) throughout Cascadia, and the [Cascadia Urban Analytics Cooperative](#), a joint higher-education collaboration between the University of Washington and University of British Columbia which has supported 15 different projects to date, using data science for social good.

Since the fall of 2016 and the launch of the Cascadia Innovation Corridor initiative, emerging cross-border ties are uniting the region. Data from a [Research Co. study](#) shows 66% of British Columbia residents feel they have more in common with people from Seattle and Portland than with those in Toronto or Ontario, an increase of 8% since 2016. To drive further collaboration, a newly announced [Cascadia Innovation Corridor steering committee](#) will craft additional long-term strategies to bring the region closer together, looking ahead to 2021, the 100th anniversary of the Peace Arch at the US-Canada border.

QUOTES

John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia: “Governor Inslee and I are working together to make life better for people across the region, and the Cascadia Innovation Corridor is critically important to that work. This forward-thinking initiative brings together governments with the tech sector to grow the innovation economy. Our government will continue to work collaboratively to advance these shared goals and create good jobs for people on both sides of the border.”

Jay Inslee, Washington Governor: “Our region has a rich history of working together and creating innovations that change the world. Since we committed to building a new

innovation corridor, we've already made progress strengthening our shared ties and creating new economic opportunity. We will continue to develop transportation, education, and research initiatives that bring the Cascadia Innovation Corridor closer together."

Greg D'Avignon, President and CEO of the Business Council of British Columbia:

"This is a time for transformation – the Cascadia Innovation Corridor continues to press forward with emerging technologies, strategic research and academic partnerships and region-wide collaborations. The path ahead – in health care, economic growth and in environmental sustainability – is paved with opportunities to deliver lasting impact that contribute to better connectivity and services for everyone through the creation of new companies for the region and solutions for a changing world."

Chris Gregoire, President, Challenge Seattle, former Washington Governor: "The Cascadia Innovation Corridor represents a strong bi-national commitment to address existing challenges and pursue new opportunities together. We've made real progress in connecting our region through infrastructure, education, and research improvements, and we're just getting started. I look forward to our continued work across the border as we grow Cascadia into a globally-recognized hub for innovation."

Brad Smith, President of Microsoft: "By creating a strong bond from Vancouver to Seattle to Portland, we're building regional connections that allow us to compete on a global level. But we're looking beyond any short-term goal. At its core the Cascadia Corridor is about addressing local challenges head-on, including affordability, transportation and education, allowing us to build a sustainable framework and healthy growth for decades to come."

About the Cascadia Innovation Corridor Initiative: The Cascadia Innovation Corridor Initiative, led by the [Business Council of British Columbia](#) and [Challenge Seattle](#) links Vancouver, BC, Seattle, and Portland, holding the promise of increasing economic opportunity beyond what the cities and their surrounding regions could expect to achieve independently. The corridor's development strategy is built on four pillars: Grow the region's human capital and educational assets to create new opportunities and attract talent from around the world; Invest in transportation and other infrastructure to facilitate connections and collaboration; Build regional capacity for funding and investment to support new companies and collaborative initiatives; create a policy environment that spurs innovation. Read more about the Cascadia Innovation Corridor [here](#).

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