

COLLISION WILL MOVE TO TORONTO IN 2019

Paddy Cosgrave, CEO of Web Summit, and Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, announce that Collision, North America's fastest growing tech conference, will be held in Toronto, Canada

Size of tech sector, diversity and inclusion of Canada and the Toronto Region are key factors in decision, says Paddy Cosgrave

Dublin, May 1: Collision will be held at the Enercare Centre, Toronto, Canada, in 2019, Paddy Cosgrave, CEO and co-founder of Web Summit, and The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, revealed today.

Collision is the fastest growing tech conference in North America. Now in its fifth year, Collision has gone from 5,000 to an expected 25,000 attendees in New Orleans in 2018. Created by the team behind Web Summit, the world's largest and most influential tech event, Collision attracts CEOs of the world's largest companies, founders of the most exciting startups, leading investors and media, from more than 120 countries.

Collision began in Las Vegas and then moved to New Orleans for three years. It has become the most significant startup, investor and technology conference in North America, praised as "the anti-CES" and rivalling SXSW Interactive.

Collision 2019 will be held from May 20-23, 2019, at Enercare Centre, Canada's largest exhibition and convention facility with over 1 million square feet of exhibit space. It is the seventh largest facility in North America.

The four-day international conference is the umbrella under which 12 other conferences take place over six stages, with sectors including AI, automated and connected vehicles, data, security, design, investment, software development, marketing, music and sustainability.

Collision is expected to bring more than 90,000 attendees to Toronto over the next three editions with an economic impact of \$147 million.

The organisers behind Collision looked at various locations around North America to support future growth and provide attendees with the best possible experience. They chose Toronto because the city is a global hub, boasts state-of-the-art infrastructure and conference facilities and is home to one of the most vibrant tech and startup sectors in North America, with a world-class AI hub headed by the godfather of AI Geoffrey Hinton.

The Toronto region ranks as the largest tech sector in Canada and the third largest in North America. The sector employs 401,000 people in 18,000 tech companies, accounting for 15% of all jobs in the Toronto region. The growth of the regional tech sector outpaced that of New York City and San Francisco combined in 2016. Based on that growth rate, Toronto will have more technology jobs than Silicon Valley within two years.

Paddy Cosgrave said:

"We are delighted to announce that Collision is moving to Toronto. Right now feels like a special moment for Canada, and for Toronto. There is such energy in the city, such an open, cosmopolitan and global atmosphere. Great companies are being started and incredible talent is coming out of University of Waterloo and University of Toronto and other institutions.

"New Orleans, Collision's home for three years, is a very special town, but as Collision grows we needed to find a bigger base with more global connectivity. I believe that Canada and Toronto have lived to some extent in the technology shadow of America. But that's changing and changing fast.

"A new wave of Canadian founders are building companies not just out of Canada but all over the world. At the very moment when some countries around the world seem to be shutting their borders, when intolerance is on the rise, Toronto stands for diversity and inclusion.

"It's true that some international tech entrepreneurs have been denied visas to attend Collision in New Orleans in recent years. At the same time, Canada now fast-tracks international work visas.

"We are incredibly excited to work with the City of Toronto, Mayor John Tory and the entire tech ecosystem to make sure Collision delivers an amazing experience for attendees in 2019. Our thanks go to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for his welcome support."

Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, said:

"Welcome to Canada, Collision. I'm happy you chose Toronto to host North America's fastest growing tech conference for the next three years but I have to say I'm not completely surprised. Toronto is a key global tech hub and an example of the diversity that is our strength. Here in Canada, we know innovation and inclusion go together and the rest of the world has taken notice.

"Tech talent is coming to our country in record numbers and with our skills and innovation plan our government is making it easier for innovators to succeed and for investors to support them. Whether it's thanks to the global skills strategy, the innovation superclusters or the women entrepreneurship strategy, we know Collision will bring even more energy and vision to Toronto's tech scene."

John Tory, Mayor of Toronto, said:

"Collision's decision to move confirms Toronto's status as an important innovation hub in North America and affirms what we already know – that Toronto is building an inclusive type of innovation that brings people together to solve the world's biggest challenges. We are looking forward to welcoming Collision and invite the rest of the world to join them."

NOTES TO EDITOR

About Collision

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About Enercare Centre

Enercare Centre is located at Exhibition Place, one of the most widely visited and historic locations in Canada. Situated on Toronto's scenic waterfront, five minutes from downtown and three minutes from the Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, it is Canada's premier exhibition and convention centre and home to some of Canada's most important convention, sporting and cultural events.

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FAST FACTS ABOUT TORONTO

A Global City

Fourth-largest city in North America, with a regional population of 7.7 million people and 40 percent of Canada's business headquarters

A diverse population with over 51 percent foreign-born in the City of Toronto, and 43 percent in the Toronto Region

Two airports serving 200 global destinations in 55 countries, welcoming a record-breaking 47.1 million passengers in 2017

Large Tech Community

Third largest tech sector in North America, with offices for Google, Facebook, Microsoft, IBM, Cisco, Airbnb, Uber and more

Over 18,000 tech companies employing over 400,000 employees in the tech sector

Over 4,100 tech related startups

VC investment in tech has grown by 2.5 times between 2013 and 2016

2017 was another record year for funding in Canada at \$2.7B US with Toronto seeing the most deals

Toronto Ranks Among the World's Fastest Growing Technology Innovation Hubs - <https://techvibes.com/2018/03/28/toronto-ranks-among-the-worlds-fastest-growing-technology-innovation-hubs>

Deep Talent Pool

Ten world-renowned universities and eight internationally-recognized colleges Over 1 million people with degrees in STEM and business-related fields

More than 40,000 new STEM grads each year

Startup Support

Over 65 business incubators and accelerators to support startups in tech, manufacturing, food production, fashion, the arts and music

Home to MaRS Discovery District, the world's largest urban innovation hub, occupying 1.5 million square feet in downtown Toronto

Prime Minister Trudeau has also recorded a [video](#) and see images [here](#).