Venture for Canada is a national charity that develops entrepreneurial leadership skills through training and supporting youth to work at innovative Canadian startups and small businesses. Venture for Canada fosters community and economic development through developing the entrepreneurial leaders of tomorrow.

2018 was a year of significant growth for Venture for Canada as we launched our Atlantic Internship Program, announced our Fellowship expansion into British Columbia and grew our team.

We’re on a mission.

Atlantic Internship Program
With $4.4 million in funding from the Government of Canada, we launched our Atlantic Internship Program to support work integrated learning for post-secondary students in Atlantic Canada with 500+ internships and 450+ Innovation Jam participants over 3 years.

BC Expansion
At the end of the year we announced plans to launch our Fellowship Program in British Columbia in 2019.

Team Growth
Our organization grew from a team of 3 to 16 full-time staff across 4 provinces. This extensive growth allowed us to scale our impact within the Venture for Canada Community and explore new opportunities in social innovation and work integrated learning.

Take it from them.

"Upon hiring a participant of Venture for Canada, I learned much more about the organization and the fantastic network and training provided for young Canadians. Not only has Venture for Canada been an excellent source of talent for our growing company, but I also admire the guidance and support VFC provides. Supporting young Canadians as they build their own career paths is a core value of mine and I am proud to support an organization that shares in this mission."

- Dr. Hatley Forrest McMicking, Tickit Health

30+
post secondary institutions represented.

150+
volunteers at events across Canada.

250+
Fellowship Members in the VFC Community.

Venture for Canada Impact Report 2018
Fellowship highlights.
The Venture for Canada Fellowship is a two year program that provides recent graduates the opportunity to gain full-time, hands-on work experience while developing entrepreneurial skills in a diverse and supportive community.

Training Camp
2018 marked the largest Fellowship Training Camp hosted at Queen’s University in Kingston, ON with over 85 attendees. Training Camp provides Fellowship Members the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills, while exploring the various roles within a startup over the course of 4 weeks.

National Impact
With new funding, we were able to hire our first full-time employee in Vancouver at the end of 2018 to begin recruitment efforts with the goal of 10 Fellowship Members contracted to the region by Spring of 2019.

Breakdown of the cohort.
The 2018 Fellowship Cohort is a diverse addition to the Venture for Canada Community, with a growing number of STEM post-secondary graduates and Fellowship Members that identify as female.

- Marcos Wilkinson, 2018 Fellowship Member

Even within the first week of training camp, it was obvious that diverse past experiences and skill sets were complimentary. In my role, playing to strengths, recognizing them in others, and sharing when you can has become a mantra.

93% intend to continue working in the entrepreneurial ecosystem post Fellowship.

82% are satisfied with their participation in the Fellowship.

78% of Alumni agreed the Fellowship had a significant positive impact on their career.

Venture for Canada Impact Report 2018
“Venture for Canada is the perfect first step into the launch of your career post graduation as it bridges this gap by providing a network, professional skill set, and the opportunity to work at a startup. Now we’re working full-time for ourselves and are devoted to growing our company, Mirror Image Media, here in Atlantic Canada. Looking back, we’re so grateful for Venture for Canada because it got us to this point in our careers.”

- Marie & Meaghan Wright, 2016 Alumni

97% of employers are satisfied working with Venture for Canada.

92% of Fellowship Members are meeting or exceeding employer expectations.

$386 M in investment capital raised by employers since hiring a Fellowship Member.

42 jobs created by employers as a direct result of employing a Fellowship Member.

92% of employers would recommend Venture for Canada to a colleague.

“As an early-stage high-growth company, we’re always in need of bright, motivated candidates, but don’t have the time or resources to execute broad-based recruiting searches. Venture for Canada has been a tremendous resource to fill that gap. We were so impressed by the candidate pool that we hired more than planned and we look forward to their contributions.”

Fiona Lake Waslander, Co-Founder & COO, Skylight

“As a smaller startup, we rely on every single employee to contribute to the success of the organization and the Fellowship Members have exceeded our expectations. Our current Members are responsible for some of the most important functions of our business and their decision-making and pro-active nature have allowed our company to grow at a rapid pace. When we have a new position open up, our first look is at VFC to support the future growth of our company.”

- Tim Rice, President & VP Sales, The Rounds

Venture for Canada Impact Report 2018
“Venture for Canada has provided me with the opportunity to work at a fast-growing startup, and learn how to build a company from the ground up from some of Canada’s leading entrepreneurs. The phenomenal people I have met through the fellowship have been a key source of support for achieving my personal and professional goals and for this, I am most grateful.”

- Shannon Chen See, 2018 Fellowship Member

From the beginning.

“The idea of Venture for Canada was inspired by my own experience as a recent grad. While I was involved in entrepreneurial activities as a current student, I went to work for Goldman Sachs immediately after graduation. Startups have limited resources and often lack the time and money to recruit on campus. Consequently, they often lose out on hiring relevant entry-level talent, and recent grads lose out on experiential learning opportunities at startups.

At Venture for Canada our vision is a Canada where more youth develop the entrepreneurial skills to thrive in their careers, with the intended impact of building a more prosperous, innovative and inclusive country.”

- Scott Stirrett, Founder & CEO, Venture for Canada

The financials.

$1,760,965 in revenue in 2018.

$1,724,278 in expenses in 2018.
The Venture for Canada Atlantic Internship Program offers post-secondary students the opportunity to explore entrepreneurial short-term work experiences in Atlantic Canada, while developing invaluable work-ready skills.

"Venture for Canada helped me work towards my goals in life. As a tech student, I had little exposure to the type of training Venture for Canada offers. The Atlantic Internship Program provided me with the not only the opportunity to improve my entrepreneurial skills but the support I needed every step of the way. Working in the industry allowed me to reshape my academic skills and gain an active network essential to my future."

- Samad Bhuiyan, 2018 Atlantic Intern

Atlantic Internship highlights.

The Venture for Canada Atlantic Internship Program offers post-secondary students the opportunity to explore entrepreneurial short-term work experiences in Atlantic Canada, while developing invaluable work-ready skills.

**Training Camp**

With the launch of our first Atlantic Internship Cohort, 26 Interns participated in our 3 day Training Camp. This learning experience focuses on developing “future-proof” job skills with an entrepreneurial focus and connecting students across the region to each other and the ecosystem.

**Innovation Jam**

We hosted our first Innovation Jam with 45 students from across Atlantic Canada. Innovation Jams combine customizable workshops with creative and critical thinking, allowing students to develop in demand skills for the future of work.

- 94% of Innovation Jam attendees indicated that the event significantly improved their adaptability & flexibility skills.
- 100% of Atlantic Interns would recommend the program to a friend.

"Our Atlantic Intern, turned employee, embodies our culture and values as if they were her own, and the education and mentoring she’s received through Venture for Canada during Training Camp has helped her grow as a capable and reliable professional. We are incredibly lucky to have had this experience and when ready, we absolutely would not think twice about accessing the Venture for Canada Atlantic Internship Program again!"

- Ashley King, Co-Founder, Person Centred Universe

- 69% of the 2018 Atlantic Interns are STEM post-secondary students.
- 90% of employers have less than 10 employees.
- 92% of employers agreed that their working environment improved with the presence of intern.

Venture for Canada Impact Report 2018
Dear Venture for Canada Friends, Stakeholders, and Supporters,

We’ve had an exciting twelve months as 2018 was a year of significant growth and change for Venture for Canada; with the selection of the largest Fellowship cohort to date; the launch of the Atlantic Internship Program; and the expansion of Venture for Canada’s impact to British Columbia.

Venture for Canada provides young Canadians the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills through hands on experiential learning and supports growing Canadian small businesses to find the talent needed to grow and scale their impact. In an ever-changing world, all Canadians need entrepreneurial skills in order to succeed.

In 2019 over 300 youth from across the country will gain work experience at Canadian small businesses through Venture for Canada’s programs, which is a year-on-year increase of over 100%. As we look to the future, there is the potential for the number of youth benefiting from Venture for Canada’s programs to significantly increase and grow from coast to coast to coast.

In closing, we would like to thank and recognize Venture for Canada’s diverse cross-section of public and private supporters for enabling Venture for Canada’s impact and investing in Canada’s future. It is through the support of donors, board members, staff, community partners, volunteers, partner employers, and former/current program participants, that Venture for Canada’s social impact is created — thank you all.

Canada’s greatest asset is its people. Our country’s potential is unlimited if we catalyze the entrepreneurial potential that exists in all of our citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to read Venture for Canada’s impact report and we look forward to engaging with you throughout the coming year.

Sincerely,

Parm Gill
Board Chair

Abigail Slater
Marigold Capital
Treasurer

Pam Gill
Gill Group
Chair

Vanessa Paesani
RIDDl Tech
Secretary

Avi Pollock
Grapevine6

Kelly Bennett
Government of Nova Scotia

Niall MacGillivray
Nephila Capital

Preston Aitken
Blackbaud

A big thank you.

Says hello to our board.

Venture for Canada Impact Report 2018