

Joint letter from Minister Bailey and Minister Dix

From the start, our government has worked to make life better for people, and through the StrongerBC Economic Plan, we're taking action on the biggest challenges of our time through a clean and inclusive approach to growing B.C.'s economy.

Developed in close consultation with industry and academia, the B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy is a vision for the future that addresses the challenges we face today by building on our strengths, and maximizing opportunities for B.C. in the global innovation economy.

This is a challenging time for people. The pandemic, and supply chain challenges have shown us all that innovative solutions and new advances in health care are needed to strengthen British Columbia's pandemic and emergency preparedness, protect our loved ones, and play a key role in solving global problems. British Columbians want to know their government is committed to a healthier future for people, and they expect nothing less.

This strategy will position B.C. as a worldwide life sciences hub by nurturing new talent, developing new lab space, expanding clinical trial capacity, and leveraging research capacity as we support local businesses to grow and create good jobs for British Columbians.

As the home of one of Canada's fastest-growing life sciences sectors, B.C. has demonstrated its

competitive advantage with world-class talent and expertise in the industry. Virtually every COVID-19 vaccine candidate that reached late-stage development in 2020 used components that were initiated, developed or manufactured by a B.C. company or scientist, and this strategy builds on our accomplishments.

As a first step in this strategy, the Government of B.C. is launching a new National Biomanufacturing Training Centre that will provide more than 700 people annually with industry-recognized, theoretical and hands-on training, further positioning the province as a world leader in life sciences with highly skilled workers that will help businesses grow and innovate for the future of health care.

The last few years have taught us more clearly than ever that we're all in this together. Our deep appreciation goes out to all the B.C. life sciences experts and leaders who showed us where we can go, and how we can get there as we worked together to shape this strategy and build an industry that supports a healthy future for British Columbians.

The B.C. Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy will build on our accomplishments and expertise, and create clear pathways for innovators, entrepreneurs, and anchor companies to grow their businesses so they take their discoveries from bench to market to bedside while they create good jobs for British Columbians in an innovative, world-class environment.



A blue ink signature of Honourable Brenda Bailey, written in a cursive style.

Honourable Brenda Bailey

Minister of Jobs, Economic
Development and Innovation



A blue ink signature of Honourable Adrian Dix, written in a cursive style.

Honourable Adrian Dix

Minister of Health and Minister
responsible for Francophone Affairs

The opportunity

British Columbia's life sciences sector is internationally recognized for its innovation. We are known for our research and discovery in biopharmaceutical products, medical devices and vaccine components that improve people's lives, prevent disease and solve health-care challenges for people around the world.

Now is the time for a bigger vision: to invest in the people and infrastructure needed to better capitalize on the industry value chain, from discovery through to clinical trials and manufacturing. This will create the conditions for companies to test and manufacture their most promising drug candidates and medical device prototypes locally, so they can export globally. British Columbians will fully benefit from B.C.-funded research and innovation, more high-paying jobs, a clean manufacturing sector, higher export revenues and strong connections to the global life sciences ecosystem.

This strategy invests in talent development to meet industry's needs for workers with specialized skills, expand B.C.'s laboratory infrastructure, build our clinical trials capacity, and ensure the province is in the best position possible to develop and attract biomanufacturing anchor companies. In doing so, we will create thousands of new jobs, diversify our economy and grow a robust domestic supply chain – all while advancing health and pandemic preparedness here at home and internationally.

B.C. has the expertise and proven ability to make this vision a reality. We have a history of fostering successful collaborations with industry and academia, government and partners, and renowned experts from diverse sectors. We have innovative companies ready to grow and partner internationally. Our strong environmental, social and governance commitments make us an

attractive place for global companies to invest and create jobs. We can build on these strengths to generate economic, health and social benefits at every stage of the value chain.

While this strategy will better position B.C. as a key global supply chain partner, it will also mitigate the effects of global supply chain disruptions on local businesses and on British Columbians. The COVID-19 pandemic showed us all that we can't be over-reliant on other countries to source personal protective equipment and vaccines. Canada's Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy, released in 2021, outlined a vision of rebuilding the country's biomanufacturing sector, and this provincial strategy builds on that goal.

B.C.'s Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy will:

- **Create good-paying jobs for B.C. workers, including in new biomanufacturing positions**
- **Retain companies and intellectual property in B.C. by helping them to scale up and commercialize here**
- **Strengthen our connections to the global life sciences supply chain and international markets**
- **Make it easier for British Columbians to access innovative treatments in clinical trials**
- **Generate revenue and attract skilled talent to B.C., helping businesses hire the people they need to grow**
- **Support the province's economic transition to a cleaner, more sustainable, knowledge-based economy**
- **Improve government's ability to quickly respond to future pandemics and public health emergencies**



Vision

Position British Columbia as a global hub for life sciences and biomanufacturing, and as a leading centre for commercial-scale biopharmaceutical and medical manufacturing.



PHOTO: PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE

The life sciences industry

This strategy focuses on organizations that are advancing human health. The life sciences industry includes pharmaceutical biotech companies that develop, manufacture and commercialize drugs or therapeutics; contract organizations that conduct

research or manufacturing on behalf of companies; and medical technology companies that design, develop, manufacture or commercialize physical or digital medical products used for preventive, diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

B.C.'s life sciences and biomanufacturing sector

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated scientific and regulatory collaborations and innovations, while also increasing federal investments for life sciences sector. This has led to rapid growth, with pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing in the province growing 16 per cent annually between 2015 and 2021. Medical equipment and supplies manufacturing grew at an annual average rate of 11 per cent over the same period, making them our fourth- and eighth-fastest-growing B.C. manufacturing sectors respectively.

Although B.C.'s life sciences sector is relatively small on a global scale, we're well known for groundbreaking scientific research at our post-secondary institutions, research centres and institutes. Exciting discoveries in our labs have led to significant medical innovations that are improving health care and saving lives.

Virtually every COVID-19 vaccine candidate that reached late-stage development in 2020 used components that were initiated, developed or manufactured by a B.C. company or scientist. The lipid nanoparticle delivery system that enables mRNA to be transported safely into a cell was developed by B.C. scientists. And the first therapeutic authorized to treat COVID-19 was developed using a B.C. biotech company's unique drug discovery platform technology. Disciplines where we have notable strengths include lipid nanoparticles, mRNA, antibodies, radiopharmaceuticals, genomics, oncology, precision medicine and medical device design.



PHOTO: ABCELLERA BIOLOGICS

B.C.'s life sciences and biomanufacturing sector employs almost 20,000 British Columbians whose salaries are close to 30 per cent higher than the provincial average. Historically, this sector has largely consisted of small businesses. Of the nearly 2,000 life sciences companies active in B.C., most have five or fewer employees. In recent years, however, we've seen 39 companies grow over the 50-employee threshold. And although B.C. only counts a handful of companies with more than 200 employees, we're home to Canada's largest biotech company, STEMCELL Technologies; at least four¹ of Canada's biotech companies with over \$1 billion in market capitalization; and StarFish Medical, Canada's largest medical device design, development and contract manufacturing company.

¹ AbCellera Biologics, Aurinia Pharmaceuticals, Chinook Therapeutics and Xenon Pharmaceuticals.

The path forward

The **Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy** is based on five key pillars that build on our strengths and maximize opportunities:

PILLAR 1: Improving access to talent

PILLAR 2: Growing innovative local companies

PILLAR 3: Increasing biomanufacturing capacity and attracting anchor companies

PILLAR 4: Expanding our clinical trials capacity

PILLAR 5: Leveraging and commercializing research capacity

What we have achieved to date is impressive, and B.C.'s success in discovery and innovation is remarkable. There is still room to grow by making it easier for innovators, entrepreneurs and anchor companies to take their discoveries from bench to market to bedside.

As part of the process of developing this strategy, we engaged extensively with B.C.'s life sciences stakeholders, the federal government and national organizations through interviews, meetings and formal roundtables. Leaders from the province's life sciences and biotechnology companies told us of their challenges and pain points – including the difficulty of finding the people, space and funding support needed to take their organizations to the next stage of growth. Their insights have laid the foundation for this strategy, which outlines a path to take the sector to the next level by creating conditions where more life sciences discoveries and innovations can be tested and manufactured here in B.C.

By investing in new talent, laboratory infrastructure and clinical trials – and creating the conditions necessary to attract industrial production opportunities – we can grow the province's promising life sciences and biomanufacturing sector into a world-class hub of innovation. These investments will deepen our capacity across the entire value chain, from initial research and discovery to clinical trials and the manufacturing of therapeutic products on a commercial scale.

Biomanufacturing value chain



B.C.'s strengths

- Innovative research and discoveries
- Strong startup ecosystem
- Established federal and provincial funding programs

Maximizing positive impacts across the value chain

- Creating high-value, well-paying clean manufacturing jobs for British Columbians
- Commercializing more B.C. innovation
- Increasing exports and stronger connections to global supply chains
- Retaining intellectual property in B.C.



PHOTO: SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Biomanufacturing

Manufacturing is the process of transforming raw materials into products. In the life sciences sector, biomanufacturing refers to manufacturing processes that use raw materials such as micro-organisms or cell cultures to

develop drugs, vaccines and medical devices at a commercial scale. Biomanufacturers must follow very strict, sterile and complex protocols and comply with good manufacturing practices and other regulations.



Pillar 1: Improving access to talent

A strong and competitive life sciences and biomanufacturing sector requires people with specialized knowledge and skills. To build our province's biomanufacturing capacity, we need facilities and equipment operators, experts in biomanufacturing operations, scientists and engineers, artificial intelligence specialists and regulatory experts. We need innovators who can identify promising discoveries in the lab and then advance them through the regulatory approval process to create new drugs and therapeutics. Businesses need people with advanced skills to operate biomanufacturing facilities and lead startups as they scale up and grow.

B.C.'s life sciences and biomanufacturing companies have told us that finding the right talent is their most significant barrier to growth. It's estimated that an additional 16,000 biomanufacturing workers will be needed in Canada by 2029 (of which at least 3,400 will be needed in Metro Vancouver) and another 49,000 employees will be required for supporting roles in distribution, logistics and quality control.²

By investing in education and training, we can ensure that B.C.'s life sciences and biotech companies have the people they need to grow and thrive. This will also create well-paying jobs for British Columbians while improving people's lives here at home and around the world.

Build a biomanufacturing talent pipeline for industry

Until recently, specialized, practical training in biomanufacturing was not available in Canada. Establishing training opportunities here in B.C. will develop our talent, keep our industry competitive and ensure small startups and large anchor companies alike can secure the staff they need to advance, test and manufacture their products. In collaboration with industry, we will create training opportunities that will:

- ▶ Deliver industry-recognized and customized training to teach specialized biomanufacturing skills to new graduates and reskill or upskill workers
- ▶ Train people in the theoretical and hands-on knowledge needed for large-scale manufacturing operations, including clean room protocols, quality assurance, technical bioprocessing and good manufacturing practices
- ▶ Strengthen partnerships with post-secondary institutions to provide students in biomedical engineering and other academic programs with access to hands-on biomanufacturing training

² BioTalent Canada, 2021. Close-up on the Bio-economy: Metro Vancouver.



PHOTO: BCTI

Support traditional new-talent pipelines

The 2022 edition of B.C.'s Labour Market Outlook³ shows that 80 per cent of the one million job openings expected over the next 10 years will require post-secondary education and training. The most in-demand jobs will be in the care economy and scientific and technical services sector. We will support traditional educational paths that are preparing B.C. residents to succeed in this sector by:

- Continuing to partner, through the upcoming Future Ready: Skills for the Jobs of Tomorrow Plan, with post-secondary institutions to ensure British Columbians can access the specific learning they need – whether that's a micro-credential or an advanced degree
- Upskilling the existing workforce to meet the demand for specialists who can drive innovation in this sector

Build a pool of new and experienced leaders

This sector needs leaders who have both technical knowledge of the industry and the business skills to develop innovative products, export to new markets and grow companies. We will achieve this by:

National Biomanufacturing Training Centre

The new National Biomanufacturing Training Centre (NBTC), located on the Richmond campus of the BC Institute of Technology, will offer industry-recognized hands-on biomanufacturing training to current and future employees in the sector. In collaboration with the Canadian Alliance for Skills and Training in Life Sciences, the NBTC will provide the leading-edge curriculum and equipment that meets industry's specialized needs.

- Continuing to use immigration streams, such as the Provincial Nominee Program and the international post-graduate category, to encourage immigrants to choose B.C. as a place to live and apply their skills
- Supporting and promoting leadership training for B.C.'s workforce, including through micro-credentials and other academic offerings. This will ensure leaders have the wide-ranging skills in strategy, marketing, finance and human resources to navigate change

³ British Columbia Labour Market Outlook 2022-2032 Forecast.



Pillar 2:

Growing innovative local companies

In life sciences, advancing an innovative discovery into an established revenue-generating product requires infrastructure, investment and strong intellectual property protection. By creating an environment where these elements are in place, we can help small companies evolve into profitable job-creating businesses that contribute to health and well-being.

What are wet labs and small-scale biomanufacturing facilities?

Wet labs are at the heart of the life sciences discovery, research and development process. These facilities are carefully designed to meet the controlled environment regulations life sciences researchers and industry must adhere to, with purpose-built technology and equipment for safely handling chemicals and other substances.

Small-scale biomanufacturing facilities are lab spaces that follow good manufacturing practices guidelines to safely produce small batches of therapeutics for use in clinical trials or for specific local needs.

Many B.C. life sciences companies get their start through research discoveries in university labs. To advance to the next stage of development, they need their own lab space in specially designed facilities that have the advanced equipment required to handle chemicals safely and according to strict regulatory protocols.

To grow early-stage companies, more off-campus wet lab space is needed. With more space, companies will be able to further develop their products and they will be able to manufacture pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices at small scale for testing and trials. B.C. companies will be able to retain and develop their intellectual property to its full value here at home – all while generating revenue, providing local employment and enhancing health-care outcomes.

Increase available wet lab space and small-scale biomanufacturing facilities

Many B.C. companies are ready to grow, but simply don't have access to the space or capital to establish their own lab. Increasing the number of wet labs and small-scale biomanufacturing production facilities will make it easier for companies to develop products or manufacture small batches of therapeutics for clinical trials.

To support this goal, we will:

- Increase available specialized wet lab and office spaces in an innovation hub concept so early-stage biotech companies can benefit from greater flexibility, efficiencies and access to expertise and programming
- Support investments in small-scale biomanufacturing facilities



An innovation hub planned for St. Paul's

The new St. Paul's Hospital and health campus will include the Clinical Support and Research Centre (CSRC), a state-of-the-art research and medical complex for discovery, research and innovation. The CSRC aims to keep B.C. at the forefront of medical breakthroughs that have global impact. The CSRC will forge ahead into new frontiers of medical sciences such as

bioengineering, nanotechnology, virtual reality, augmented reality and simulation. At the building's nexus, the Innovation Centre will bring medical staff and researchers together – along with academic, industry and other partners – to prototype ideas and bring preventions, treatments and cures from the lab to the bedside and eventually to the marketplace.

Two new wet lab facilities for emerging B.C. life sciences ventures

New pilot-scale wet lab facilities in Vancouver and southern Vancouver Island will provide early-stage biotech companies with much needed access to turnkey-ready labs, cutting-edge equipment and supportive programs and mentorship.

In Vancouver, adMare BioInnovations is building a 30,000-square-foot facility that will support 20+ early-stage ventures annually. The facility is located in the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood that is home to many of the province's leading biotech and life sciences companies.

On Vancouver Island, a new 6,700-square-foot biomanufacturing scale-up and lab facility will support up to six local emerging ventures every year. The Vancouver Island Life Sciences Association will oversee this facility, the first of its kind on the island, and tenants will benefit from the association's large network and extensive experience.

Improve access to capital

Growing a company and developing products in life sciences takes capital. Existing tax credit programs support early-stage company growth and product development. In 2022/2023, the Small Business Venture Capital Program provided \$19 million in tax credits to British Columbians investing in B.C. life sciences startups. That money has directly funded company growth, enabling innovators with promising ideas to test products and ramp up commercialization efforts.

To make it easier for companies to access capital, we will raise more awareness and promote the benefits of:

- B.C.'s Small Business Venture Capital Tax Credit program, which offers tax credits to those investing in B.C.-based small technology and manufacturing businesses
- The provincial and federal government's Scientific Research & Experimental Development program, which offers tax incentives to qualified businesses
- InBC Investment Corp., a Crown corporation with a mandate to invest \$500 million in growing B.C. companies, including those in the biotechnology and life sciences sector

Establish intellectual property strategies

Intellectual property is perhaps the most valuable asset in the life sciences sector. It's also one of the most vulnerable. The Province is developing an intellectual property strategy to support innovation and commercialization for B.C. companies. This strategy will align with a similar national effort to help companies maximize the potential of their ideas and products. As outlined in the StrongerBC Economic Plan, we are committed to developing an intellectual property strategy to support the growth and innovation of B.C. companies.



PHOTO: ABCELLERA BIOLOGICS

ESG performance can attract investment and partnership

An organization's environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance is increasingly important when it comes to securing capital and partnership opportunities. While life sciences and biomanufacturing companies stand out for their significant positive social contributions and generally low environmental impact, they must demonstrate their ESG performance to prospective partners or investors. Similarly, pharmaceutical companies look at the ESG

performance of potential contract manufacturing organizations before asking them to join their supply chain.

B.C.'s life sciences sector will benefit from our province's reputation as a clean and socially responsible jurisdiction, and the future ESG Centre of Excellence – a [StrongerBC Economic Plan](#) commitment – will support organizations to meet international ESG standards and increase business opportunities.



Pillar 3:

Increasing biomanufacturing capacity and attracting anchor companies

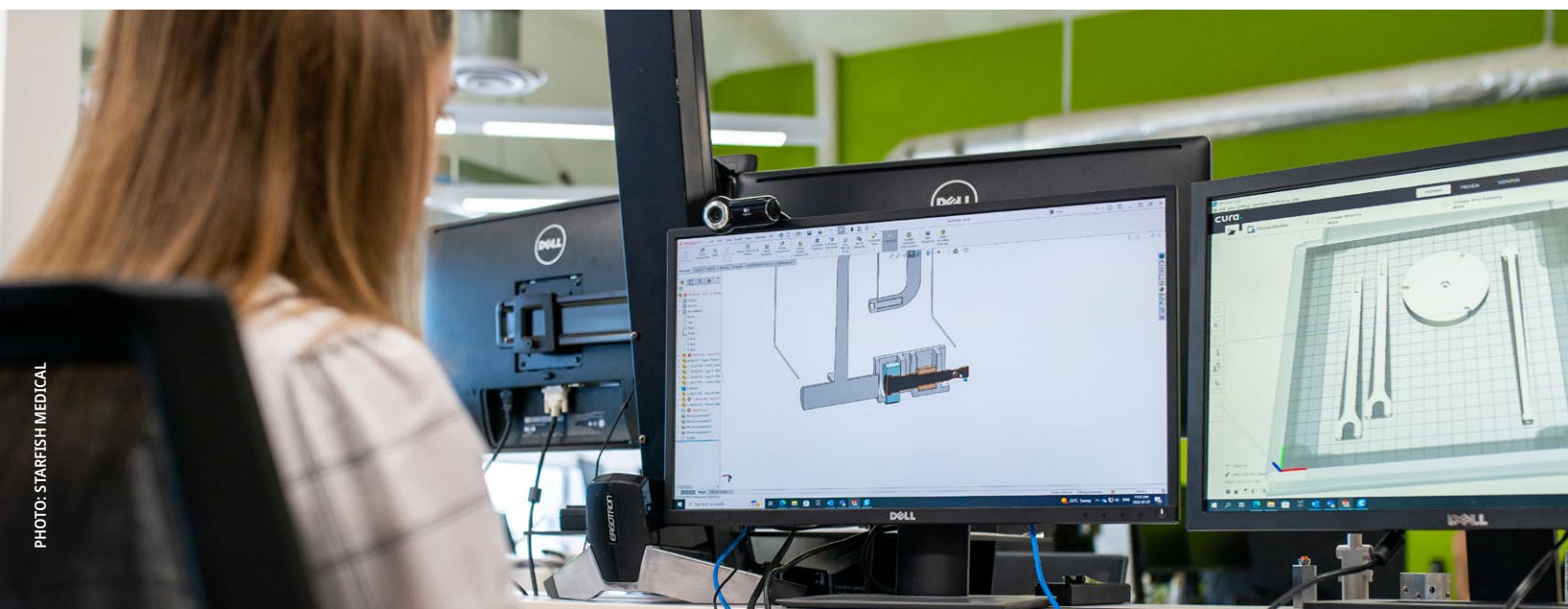
Anchor companies generate high-paying jobs, support a robust ecosystem of small and medium-sized local companies, and often create strong partnerships with post-secondary institutions that vitalize the sector through research partnerships and educating the next generation of talent. We will build a vibrant life sciences ecosystem across the entire value chain by encouraging anchor companies – large established businesses – to choose B.C. for their next location and by supporting B.C. companies to expand their existing operations.

These anchor companies also open doors to global markets and connections. Supply chains and markets have become so complex that, today, no country can sustain an independent biomanufacturing industry on its own. Anchor companies connect the local life sciences industry to the global market, creating a rich flow of goods,

services and ideas. Finally, anchor companies can play an important role in conveying an international point of view and help catalyze our local understanding of strengths and investment priorities.

This strategy will also create the conditions for local firms to expand, building an even more vibrant ecosystem of companies and talent. In turn, this will make B.C. an increasingly desirable location for global firms seeking a new manufacturing or research hub.

However, high construction and land costs make it expensive for new companies to enter the market and for growing B.C. companies to continue to expand here. We'll work to create a healthy and thriving industry sector by making it easier for contract manufacturing companies and anchor companies to access capital and land.





Streamline access to light industrial zoned land and buildings for biomanufacturing activity

Light industrial zoned land is in short supply across the Lower Mainland and large regional urban areas where many life sciences and biomanufacturing companies want to set up operations. We will:

- ▶ Collaborate with First Nations and municipalities that have light industrial zoned land and are interested in investing in infill or real estate opportunities to secure high-value jobs in their jurisdictions
- ▶ Develop an industrial land strategy to identify and preserve land suitable for supporting sustainable industrial activity and economic benefits in rural and urban communities throughout the province

Establish mechanisms to attract investment and co-invest in strategic projects that will expand clean biomanufacturing operations

Building a large biomanufacturing base in the province will require targeted investment and support. We will create mechanisms to leverage federal and private funding and support investments in growing operations, including:

- ▶ Providing support for strategically important major investment projects and leveraging federal investments

Contract organizations are a valuable piece of the global supply chain

International pharmaceutical companies rely on contract organizations for services from drug development through to manufacturing. Outsourcing these services is an economical and effective way for pharmaceutical companies to

get their products to market, while they focus on discovering and marketing new treatments. The global biopharmaceutical contract manufacturing market is expected to grow at an annual rate of seven per cent.⁴

⁴ PwC, 2019. Current trends and strategic options in the pharma CDMO market



Pillar 4:

Expanding our clinical trials capacity

Companies that have developed a promising treatment must test it in clinical trials to prove it is effective and safe. Only then can the treatment be produced at scale and prescribed to treat disease and improve health. Jurisdictions with a robust clinical trial environment benefit in many ways. Not only do they have greater connections between research and care, their residents also have access to novel treatments.

Over 1,300 clinical trials take place across the province each year; however, we have limited capacity for Phase 1 clinical trials, which must be conducted within hospital settings. B.C. hospitals however do not currently have Phase 1 clinical trials facilities, resulting in local companies having to test their products out of the province at higher costs, often leading to subsequent trials being conducted in the same jurisdiction.

Oncology trials in B.C.

B.C.'s 10-year Cancer Care Action Plan, recently announced, includes a \$150M to the BC Cancer Foundation to support cancer research, including clinical trials across all cancer centres in the province. These trials will: allow for greater participation of patients living outside of large cities; increase studies on radiation treatment approaches; and include precision radiation therapy research to enhance effectiveness of radiation treatment while reducing toxicity.

Expanding B.C.'s clinical trials capacity, including Phase 1 trials, will create both health and economic benefits. B.C. life sciences companies will be able to conduct early-stage clinical trials here at home, making it less expensive and more streamlined than if they had to carry them out in other jurisdictions. If the initial stages of the trial are successful, these companies can get more value from their intellectual property, which ultimately empowers them to invest in new research, hire more people and continue to grow here in B.C.

Increasing our clinical trials capacity will also enable us to attract more foreign companies who want to test their therapeutics in a province that boasts an ethnically diverse population, province-wide health authority structure and highly respected clinical researchers.

Maximize the health, educational and economic benefits of clinical trials for British Columbians

In collaboration with stakeholders that include Michael Smith Health Research BC and its Clinical Trials BC Unit, the Province will undertake initiatives to mobilize innovation from the bench to the bedside. We'll achieve this by:

- Building our capacity to conduct clinical trials by enabling infrastructure, accelerating skills training and streamlining the research approvals process
- Fostering a research-positive culture across the health system



PHOTO: PROVIDENCE HEALTH CARE

What are clinical trials?

Clinical trials test the safety and efficacy of new drugs, medical treatments and health interventions to prevent, treat or manage medical conditions or diseases. Phase 1 is the first phase that involves in-person testing of the treatment for safety. Phase 2 evaluates a treatment's effectiveness on diseases and dosing

requirements, Phase 3 tends to focus on larger numbers of patients to further monitor for side effects and compare to other treatments, and Phase 4 looks at post-market risks and benefits. In early 2023, more than 1,300 active clinical trials were under way in B.C., with over 90 per cent being later-stage trials.



Pillar 5: Leveraging and commercializing research capacity

Research is the foundation of the life sciences sector. It's what leads to new products and technologies that save lives and improve health. B.C. has a strong track record in this area. Fundamental research in the province has led to globally significant life-saving and health-enhancing products and technologies, and our world-class research in immunology and bioengineering offers very promising applications for the future.

The Province has long supported life sciences research through targeted investments. As part of Budget 2022 and in alignment with the StrongerBC Economic Plan, we announced a record \$195 million in grant funding to Michael Smith Health Research BC and Genome BC to further support research. And from 2017 to 2022, the BC Knowledge Development Fund has awarded over \$93 million to co-fund the state-of-the-art facilities and equipment needed by scientists for over 190 health and life sciences research projects. We are also preparing for the future of health research: in June 2022, the Province announced \$25 million in funding for a new Biomedical Engineering Building at UBC to explore the best integrative solutions across engineering, medicine and biology.

Provincially funded organizations and funding streams currently support our scientific research, and the success of B.C.'s life sciences discoveries shows the value of our approach.

By supporting more seamless coordination between researchers and industry, we can accelerate the translation of promising results into commercially viable products and processes.

Support academic research for new therapeutics and biomanufacturing

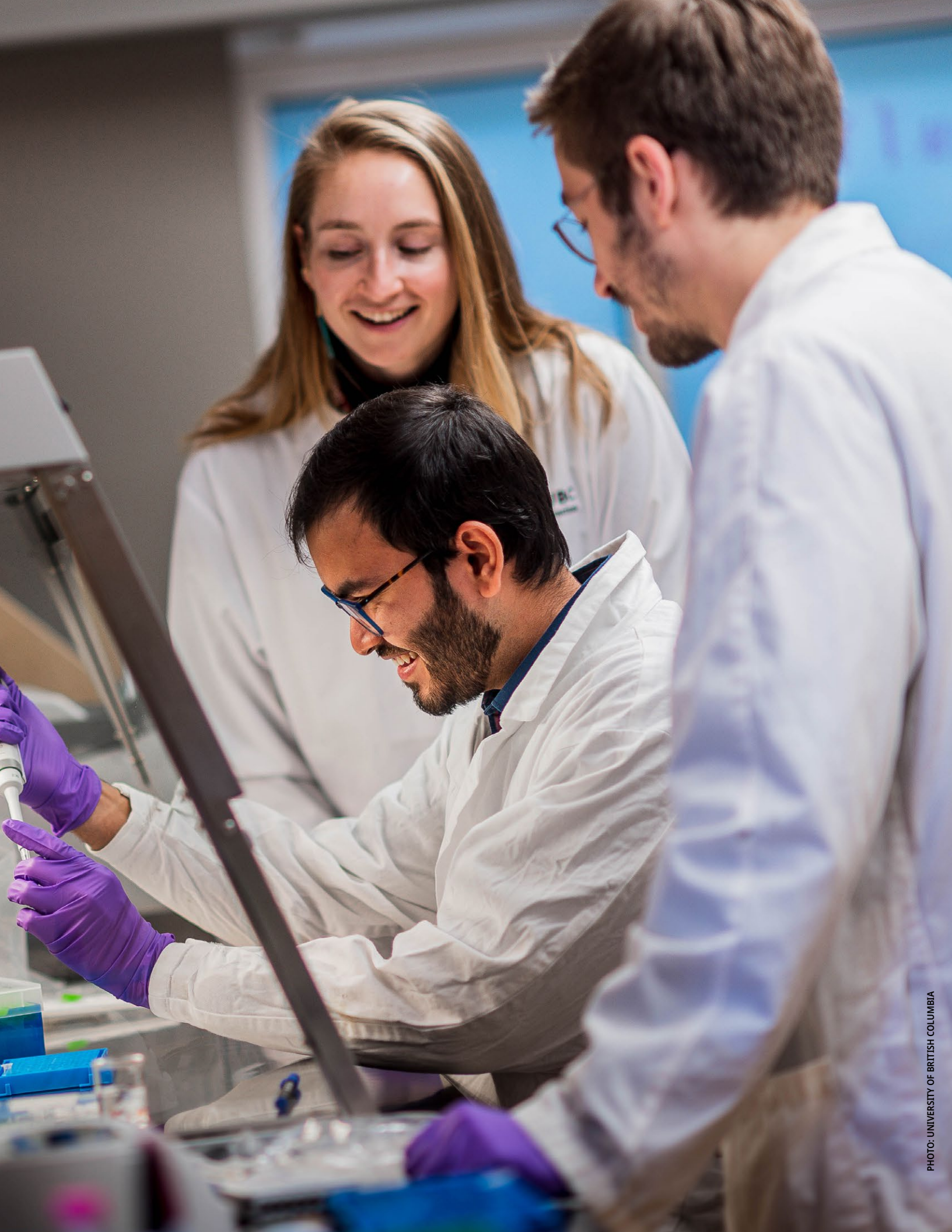
We will continue to support life sciences and biomedical research by:

- Strategically allocating funds through the BC Knowledge Development Fund, Michael Smith Health Research BC and Genome BC

Encourage research translation and commercialization

We will continue to support translating exciting research into commercial products that deliver positive impacts on our economy, create job opportunities and promote human health. We will support research translation by:

- Encouraging collaborations between industry and academia
- Supporting B.C. companies in commercializing their products
- Continuing to invest in programs, such as Mitacs, that bring research-trained innovators into positions in industry and government





Improving access to talent

A strong, sustainable and competitive life sciences and biomanufacturing sector requires well-trained people with specialized knowledge and skills.

By increasing our talent pool through collaboration with industry, academia and non-profit organizations, B.C. will ensure current and future employees will have the skills needed by businesses to grow.



Growing innovative local companies

Transforming life sciences discoveries into commercially scaled products requires infrastructure, investment and strong intellectual property protection.

With partners, B.C. will make it easier for life sciences companies to access the physical space, supports and funding opportunities they need to thrive.



Increasing biomanufacturing capacity and attracting anchor companies

Well-established companies with global connections have a positive impact on local economies and can energize our life sciences sector.

By creating the right conditions, B.C. will attract and retain anchor companies and support home-grown success stories.

Conclusion

Growing B.C.'s life sciences and biomanufacturing sector will help build a strong, inclusive and innovative economy that works for everybody. We have proven our strengths in research and innovation, the essential elements on which this industry is based. We now have an opportunity to make the strategic investments in people and infrastructure that will allow us to compete globally in life sciences development, commercialization and manufacturing as we create high-paying jobs for British Columbians.

This strategy builds on the significant new investments in life sciences research announced in B.C. Budget 2022, and is designed to position our province as a global hub for life sciences and a centre for commercial-scale biopharmaceutical and medical manufacturing. It will:

- Build on our existing strengths and talent
- Support startups and innovators to grow in B.C., with easy access to funding and infrastructure



Expanding our clinical trials capacity

Jurisdictions with a robust clinical trial environment have stronger connections between research and care, creating positive benefits in health, employment and new discoveries.

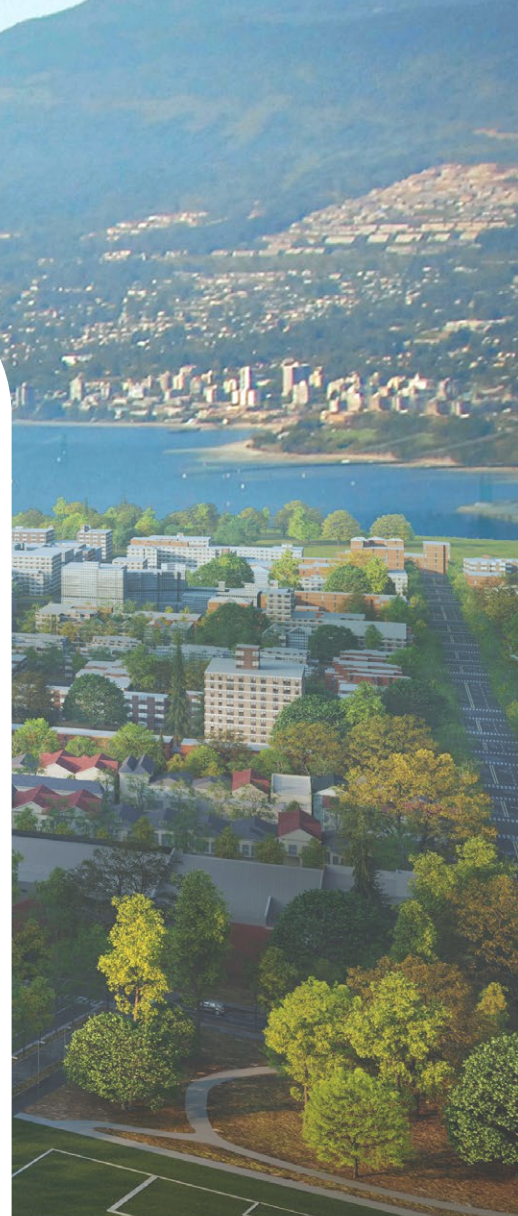
By expanding capacity to conduct clinical trials, B.C. will maximize health, educational and economic benefits for British Columbians.



Leveraging and commercializing research capacity

Discoveries in labs become the products that save lives, create jobs and build companies.

By continuing to support life sciences and biomedical research translation into commercial products that improve health, B.C. will gain a competitive advantage worldwide.



- Create high-value jobs in life sciences research and clean manufacturing, as well as in adjacent industries such as information technology and professional services
- Allow us to manufacture essential therapeutic components here at home so that we are less reliant on other jurisdictions in the event of future pandemics or health emergencies
- Expand our local clinical trials capacity and give British Columbians access to novel therapeutics not yet available commercially

- Support our transition to a knowledge-based economy that is better connected to global supply chains

This strategy will create the conditions to diversify B.C.'s economy in alignment with the [StrongerBC Economic Plan](#) and [CleanBC](#) targets – ensuring inclusive and clean growth that makes life better for everybody as we make the shift to a knowledge-based, innovation economy.



StrongerBC

for everyone

[STRONGERBC.GOV.BC.CA](https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca)

BCLifeSciencesStrategy@gov.bc.ca

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[WEBSITE: Life Sciences and Biomanufacturing Strategy](#)