



NEWS RELEASE

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Office of the Premier
Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

First innovation commissioner to champion B.C.'s tech sector

VANCOUVER – British Columbia's thriving tech sector will have a new voice in Ottawa and abroad, following Alan Winter's appointment as the province's first innovation commissioner.

"We're thrilled to have Alan Winter take on this newly created role of innovation commissioner, and we look forward to creating new opportunities for B.C. tech companies, shepherding innovation across all industries and all regions of the province, and generating good jobs for people in B.C.," said Premier John Horgan. "Today's announcement is an example of what can be achieved through co-operation and putting the people of B.C. first. I know that Mr. Winter will proceed in that spirit of co-operation to strengthen national and cross-border relationships, and ensure that B.C. maximizes federal funding to benefit B.C. innovators and employers."

The innovation commissioner is a component of the Confidence and Supply Agreement with the B.C. Green Party caucus to help B.C.'s tech sector access the capital, as well as the national and international connections it needs to succeed. Recognizing its potential for success, the B.C. government has adopted the concept as part of its efforts to establish B.C. as a preferred location for new and emerging technologies.

"We proposed the innovation commissioner to be an advocate and ambassador on behalf of the B.C. technology sector in Ottawa and abroad, to enable B.C. companies to more easily tap into existing federal programs and build key strategic relationships," said B.C. Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver. "Alan Winter's distinguished career as a leader in innovation makes him precisely the right person to champion our tech sector and help B.C. to capitalize on our strengths to build a thriving 21st-century economy."

As B.C.'s foremost tech advocate, Winter's mandate will include relationship-building with senior government leaders in Ottawa and with B.C.'s tech and innovation network, including partners in industry, academia and the province's regional tech accelerators.

"Alan Winter's breadth of senior leadership experience in the biotech and information technology fields makes him the ideal ambassador for our tech and innovation sector," said Minister of Jobs, Trade and Technology Bruce Ralston. "His appointment is one of the many ways your government is working to enhance B.C.'s economy and continue to grow our thriving innovation sector."

The innovation commissioner will help leverage federal funding programs in support of B.C.'s tech and innovation sector. He will also take an active role in B.C.'s partnership with Washington state to further develop the Cascadia Innovation Corridor.

"I want to make sure B.C. companies are at the front of the line for investment and partnership