



## **Grand Opening of New Innovation Hub, Co. Innovation (COIC), Showcases Collaborative Space with Interactive Product Demos and Guided Tours**

**June 7, 2024 – St. John's, NL:** Today, Co. Innovation Centre (COIC), together with government representatives, partners, supporters, and various stakeholders, participated in the official ribbon-cutting at the new space on Torbay Road, signifying its official launch as Newfoundland & Labrador's Industry-led innovation centre.

This morning's launch event included greetings from: The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency; The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Labour and Seniors; and The Honourable Andrew Parsons, Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

Programming at COIC will encourage and enable collaboration and technology growth to accelerate the development of the innovation-driven economy. The primary focus of COIC-led programming will be related to remote operations. COIC will also work with partners and 3rd parties to offer additional cross-sector relevant programming to support businesses as they digitize.

COIC will support transformative advancements in technology, business, and sustainable development through programming that directly responds to the needs of growing & established businesses. COIC will achieve this through a focus on digitalization & tech development, collaboration, and demonstration. Specific activities that will be offered for members and broader stakeholders include: workshops, RO related training, semi-permanent business focused installations and demos, innovation challenges, keynotes and panels, and much more to support multi-sector collaboration.

"Unveiling this world-leading facility marks a pivotal moment for cross-industry collaboration in Newfoundland and Labrador," says Meagan Kay-Fowlow, President of COIC. "We have a rich history of Innovation in our province and COIC will leverage this strength to help connect ideas, people, and businesses, to grow beyond their individual potential."

The project is hosted and supported by techNL, with strong partnerships with Energy NL, Canada's Ocean Supercluster (OSC), Energy Research and Innovation Newfoundland and Labrador (ERINL), and econext, along with support from many other companies and organizations.

"The realization of the Co. Innovation Centre is a monumental achievement, reflecting years of dedicated effort from countless contributors," says Florian Villaum , techNL CEO. "When

multiple organizations join forces to drive significant initiatives, we collectively achieve greater success and innovation."

After the official launch & ribbon cutting, Co. Innovation Centre celebrated with stakeholders and the public through guided tours, demos from cross-industry ecosystem partners, food & refreshments, and a cross-industry social within COIC's outdoor greenhouse.

### **Government Funding Partner Quotes**

"Congratulations to the team at techNL and the Co. Innovation Centre as they celebrate the launch of their new world-class innovation hub. The opening of the Co. Innovation Centre is another big win for Newfoundland and Labrador's growing tech industry and will provide our innovators with the support they need to grow their businesses."

- The Honourable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

"I am immensely proud to see this opening, thanks to the hard work and dedication of so many individuals. Today is about providing another building block to further advance our tech community, create more opportunities and strengthen our economy. We understand the importance of getting great minds in the same space to solve problems and develop new products and look forward to seeing the power of collaboration in this space over the coming years."

- The Honourable Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"Today we are adding the Innovation Centre to the list of incredible resources our province has for innovative tech companies. We made this investment because we're confident in the benefits that the Co. Innovation Centre will provide to our rapidly growing tech sector. This is a space where new and growing companies can come together to collaborate and co-create."

- The Honourable Andrew Parsons, KC, Minister of Industry, Energy and Technology.

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### **About COIC**

Co. Innovation Centre (COIC) is an innovation hub that fosters industry, business, and ecosystem collisions across multiple sectors. It is focused on fostering collaboration and technology growth to accelerate the development of the innovation-driven economy across the province. This trailblazing initiative was born out of the needs of the innovation community and broader ecosystem. It is directly supported by techNL, in partnership with

Energy NL, Canada's Ocean Supercluster (OSC), and Energy Research & Innovation Newfoundland & Labrador (ERINL) and econext, with support from many other companies, organizations, and volunteers.

The space itself is dedicated to cultivating innovative connections, collaborations, and co-creations, between industry and established & growing businesses through unique programming, access to special technology assets, proximity to other innovators, and as a demonstration space providing visibility. More information can be found on the website: [www.coic.co](http://www.coic.co)

### **About techNL**

techNL is a not-for-profit membership association that enables a thriving innovation-driven economy in Newfoundland and Labrador. techNL provides visibility, business growth services and a collective influential voice to the tech sector in Newfoundland and Labrador with a vision to make Newfoundland and Labrador the most sought-after Canadian tech ecosystem, globally recognized for its collaborative community, diversity and quality of life.

A key focus on business growth includes programs and services to support talent pipeline expansion, member connections, digital transformation and ecosystem development in Newfoundland and Labrador. More information can be found on the website: [www.technl.ca](http://www.technl.ca).