

DIGITAL 2023-24 Annual Report

# **Disclosure Letter as of March 31, 2024**

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# Additional Annual Disclosures for Fiscal Period Ending March 31, 2024

In accordance with our annual reporting requirements for the fiscal period ending 2023-24, we confirm the following:

## Financial Reporting

Since implementation, the financial controls operated as intended.

Since our last fiscal year, we have implemented or updated the following policies, procedures or standards:

1. the Delegation of Authority policy to ensure proper lines of approval are in place.
2. The Advance Policy to strengthen the due diligence and balance monitoring procedures.
3. the Co-Investment guidelines to incorporate changes from the Contribution Agreement amendment effective March 30, 2023.

There were no audits or evaluations carried out during the year outside of the audit of the financial statements.

Staff are paid a salary, short term incentive based on personal and organisational performance, and benefits according to our Board approved compensation policy. Funding of these salaries is from various sources including industry and ISED. For the fiscal period ending March 31, 2024 and in regard to ISED funding, one employee was paid in excess of \$300,000 and the ranges of salaries for senior employees were:

- Officers: \$175,000 - \$450,000
- Directors and Vice-Presidents: \$95,000 - \$250,000

## O&A Funding Sources for FY 2023-24

	GIC	PCAIS	NQS	ESDC	Housing Growth Innovation	Total Cost
ISED	3,461,383	1,096,252	112,875	-	-	4,670,510
ESDC	-	-	-	364,227	-	364,227
Membership and Program Management Fees	1,675,039	512,954	53,433	-	-	2,241,426

Other Government Contribution	-	-	-	-	120,346	120,346
<b>Total</b>	5,136,422	1,609,206	166,308	364,227	120,346	7,396,509

#### Financial Reporting for FY 2023-24

	Operating and Administrative Costs (O&A)	Technology Leadership Project Costs	Talent + Capacity Project Costs	COVID-19 Project Costs	Total Cost
Funded Eligible Costs	6,227,347	67,791,138	10,362,434	1,353,216	85,734,134
Unfunded Eligible Costs	684,589	2,856,875	99,040	3,910	3,644,414
<b>Total</b>	6,911,936	70,648,013	10,461,474	1,357,126	89,378,548

#### Industry Matching Funds

Type of Cost	Industry Matching Funds (2023-24)	Total Industry Match (Cumulative/Spent)	Total Industry Match (Cumulative/Committed)
Operating and Administrative Costs	2,241,425	9,446,643	15,207,500
Technology Leadership Project Costs	42,998,506	113,244,537	171,021,916
Talent + Capacity Project Costs	3,970,858	6,173,474	22,391,798
COVID-19 Projects	84,075	20,075,359	21,799,418
<b>Total Cost</b>	49,294,864	148,940,013	230,420,633

**O&A Expenses**

Type of organization	Contributions Toward O&A Costs in Current Fiscal Year	Contributions Toward O&A Costs to Date
Industry	2,241,425	9,446,643
ISED	4,670,510	25,072,838
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,911,936</b>	<b>34,519,481</b>

**Intellectual Property Strategy**

DIGITAL updated its Intellectual Property and Data Strategy which was approved by the Board in September 2023. The Intellectual Property and Data Strategy operates as intended and continues to support the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan. This updated Intellectual Property and Data Strategy sets out how DIGITAL supports members at large to maximize the benefits of their IP and data, and DIGITAL's IP and data policy requirements to (a) ensure our project investments are aligned with government goals and priorities, (b) reflect the provisions in our current Master Project Agreements, and (c) support our members and project teams in positioning themselves to grow and scale successfully, especially given this landscape is evolving quite quickly.

There were no instances where the reported Foreground Intellectual Property was not included in the Member-accessible registry.

There were no Member disputes referring to the dispute resolution mechanism regarding ownership of and access to Foreground Intellectual Property.

**IP awareness and education**

- DIGITAL led bespoke IP Thought Leadership webinars during fiscal year 2023-24. These sessions focused on building awareness about public-private licensing and collaboration, valuing IP rights, national security and protecting digital innovations, cybersecurity preparedness, and IP and data considerations such as organizational AI adoption, data as a commercial asset, Canada's voluntary AI Code of Conduct, and innovation and governance through a regulatory landscape in the context of collaborative engagements. 1,684 people registered with 38% from SME organizations and more than 2,120 organizations have since accessed the recorded webinars on YouTube.
- Our monthly newsletters also provide information, guidance, references and links to other educational opportunities relating to IP and data to over 4,360 subscribers.
- DIGITAL is a collaborating partner and program advisory committee member in AccelerateIP, an initiative led by New Ventures BC, delivery partner in ISED's ElevateIP program, supporting IP training and development through IP awareness and education and strategic IP guidance
- Both DIGITAL and our members from various organizations participated in other pan-Canadian and international events organized by our external partners including IPON (Intellectual Property Ontario), FORPIQ (the International Intellectual Property Forum - Quebec), IAC (Innovation Asset Collective) and Forum InCyber Amérique du Nord. These events included conference panels and specialised training in IP and governance, cybersecurity, data commercialization and governance, leveraging IP for business growth, IP standards, collaborative data ecosystems, and innovation and IP strategies for economic renewal.

## IP support

- DIGITAL's team provided over 2,800 project-specific touchpoints during 2023-24 to provide guidance and advice on IP and data matters, including:
  - With 257 organizations as they developed project proposals as part of our Horizon AI – Technology Commercialization Stream and Cycle 6 of our Technology Leadership Program;
  - With 70+ organizations as they contracted for approved projects, and;
  - As part of our IP disclosure process for all project teams as they execute their approved projects, resulting in 230 new IP assets generated in projects including 4 new patent applications for a total of 57 to date.

It should be noted we are not privy to the IP advice that organizations get from their own lawyers.

## Data Strategy

No updates were made to the Data Strategy.

In addition to steps taken to protect network and data security as included in our Data Strategy, we have continued to implement various security measures to safeguard our operations. These measures include ongoing security risk assessments, adopting best practices from security frameworks like ISO 27001 and PCI-DSS, and developing information security policies based on Canadian Baseline Cyber Security Controls and ISO 27001 standards. We continue to enforce access controls, multi-factor authentication, and secure mobility practices for employee devices while ensuring regular operating system and application patching. Employee security awareness training is provided through KnowBe4.com, and all corporate public-facing websites are encrypted with HTTPS (TLS 1.2) and actively monitored and patched.

## Ecosystem Development

DIGITAL passed the milestone of working with over 1,400+ organizations and 120+ Members in 2023-24, with close to half of the new organizations joining from outside British Columbia. As outlined in our [Corporate Plan](#), our goal remains ongoing to recruit and retain an engaged membership base and foster meaningful engagements with our stakeholders. We were successful in attracting new customer/adopter members in the areas of digital health and natural resources and environment.

Throughout the year we worked with members to amplify their accomplishments to our 9,800+ followers on social media and 4,360+ newsletter subscribers. Our website has seen a unique visitors average of 3,830 per month, and sessions averaged 6,750 a month over the past 12 months.

We proudly showcased our Members at industry and community engagements, the IP educational series that has drawn over 623 organizations to date. Industry events included the Asia Pacific Business Conference, BC Natural Resources Forum, Swiss Innovation Fest, Governor's Gala & Rix Awards, Data Effect Summit, PPF Canada Growth Summit, BC Tech Technology Impact Awards, Housing Summit 2024, Globe Forum, G7 Strengthening Security & Sustainability, CityAge Vancouver: The Urban Zero Challenge, Pacific Agriculture Show, Genome B.C.'s Annual Genomics Forum, Mastercard Cybersecurity, YWCA Women of Distinction Awards, Life Sciences BC Awards, 22nd Annual Healthcare Summit, Cascadia Innovation Corridor, Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity 19<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Privacy, Security & Trust, and Plant Forward.

DIGITAL was also active in speaking and panel engagements that included the Virtual Health Data Conference, APEC Conference, PPF Annual Testimonial Dinner, INOVAIT Discovery Forum, National

Forum on AI in Healthcare, Digital Health Conference, Agri-Food Innovation Council Spring Engagement Session, Agritech Conference, Poly-Monde 2022 West Coast Tour, Rotary Club of Edmonton Glenora, IAPP Canada Privacy Symposium, Inveture\$, New Economic Opportunities in Vancouver's Tech Community Big Data and AI Toronto and the 22nd Annual Healthcare Summit.

DIGITAL international engagements remain ongoing, with hosted delegations and touchpoints received from various foreign innovation agencies and trade missions from Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. We additionally participated in international-based conferences including the Asia Business Advisory Council for APEC, the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, the Canada-in-Asia Conference in Singapore, Asia Business Leaders Advisory Council (ABLAC) and the Canada-Mexico Dialogue in Vancouver.

DIGITAL unlocks the growth and prosperity of Canadian scaleups and anchor companies with 71% of our co-investments allocated to SMEs, comprised of 415 different SMEs with an average of 3 SMEs per project.

With the continuation of the Digital Learning Lab, DIGITAL is delivering on Canada's commitments to build skilling and job opportunities that advance equity, diversity and inclusion, with over 70% of the 11,000+ workforce placements being developed going to under-represented groups. We work alongside Canadian industry leaders to create fast, affordable pathways to digital jobs, build leadership in innovation and drive community-based training and development.

## Programs

DIGITAL supports digital technology and talent development across various programs, comprised of multiple areas of interest (health & wellness, natural resources & agriculture etc.) for investment. Between April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, we launched calls for proposals under 5 programs: Technology Leadership, Horizon AI (with dedicated streams for Technology Commercialization and Global Advantage), Housing Growth Innovation, Quantum Commercialization and the Digital Learning Lab.

For clarity, all our digital technology innovation programs and resulting projects are classified under our *Digital Innovation Lab*, with all our talent development programs and resulting projects classified under our *Digital Learning Lab*. For the purposes of showcasing the broad range of our investment areas, the below projects are classified under their area of interest.

The following projects under their respective areas of interest were announced between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024:

Industrial Transformation & Productivity	Natural Resources + Agriculture	Health & Wellness	Talent & Connectivity
<a href="#"><u>Advanced Robotics Sorting of Consumer Recyclables</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Data Driven Surgical Mining</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Canadian Platform for Genomics &amp; Precision Health</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Advancing Growth in Canada's Indigenous Digital Workforce</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Accelerating</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Coding in Colour</u></a>

		<a href="#"><u>Cancer Trials with Digital Twins</u></a>	
		<a href="#"><u>Managing Hospitalization Risk &amp; Better Home Care Delivery Using LLMs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Introducing Black Canadians to Tech Skills &amp; Jobs</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Advanced AI Wound Care Network</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Customer-Facing Tech Roles: The Missing Piece</u></a>
		<a href="#"><u>Leveraging AI for Next Generation Clinical Trial Technologies</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Digital Horizons: Indigenous Technology Training for the New Economy</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>Intercultural Digital Hospitality Skills Accelerator Project</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>SkillingUp</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>Raising Voices</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>DigitalWorks</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>Supporting Local Storytellers in Haida Gwaii</u></a>
			<a href="#"><u>Empowering Informed Ice Travel for Indigenous Communities</u></a>

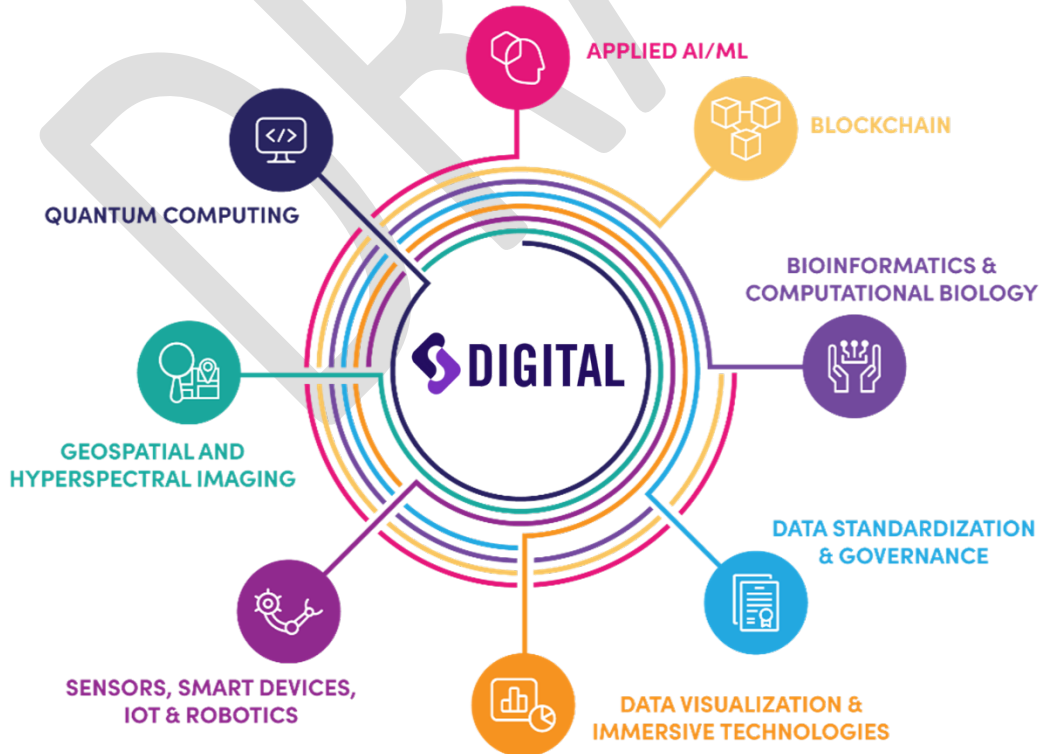


			<a href="#">Sky Keepers</a>
			<a href="#">Cybersecurity Training &amp; Work Integrated Learning Program</a>
			<a href="#">TradeUp</a>

In addition to the list above, the following number of projects were selected under various programs but had not been announced as of March 31, 2024:

- 4 projects selected through the Technology Leadership program with a total value of \$43,685,501, comprised of \$14,476,033 DIGITAL funds and \$29,209,470 from other consortia members.
- 5 projects selected through the Technology Commercialization stream of the Horizon AI program with a total value of \$25,033,812, comprised of \$9,569,815 DIGITAL funds and \$15,463,999 from other consortia members.
- 11 projects selected through the Global Advantage stream of the Horizon AI program with a total value of \$11,472,381. This includes a commitment of \$2,750,000 DIGITAL funds and \$8,722,381 from other consortia members.

Areas of technology advancement across numerous programs include:



## Project Descriptions

The following projects are supported by Global Innovation Cluster funding unless noted otherwise.

### Talent + Connectivity

*Digital workforce and talent development spanning the creation of pathways to digital jobs, leading digital change and growing connected communities.*

#### Autonomous Systems Technician

Status: Completed

#### Advancing Growth in Canada's Indigenous Digital Workforce<sup>1</sup>

Status: In closing

#### Asia Competence for Tech Professionals

Status: Complete

#### Athena Digital Leaders

Status: Complete

#### Athena Pathways

Status: Complete

#### Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator (CTTA)

Status: Phase 1 complete. Phase 2 in closing.<sup>1</sup>

#### Coastal First Nations Connectivity Network

Status: In closing

**Competency Assessment Mapping Platform for Industry Responsive Education (CAMPFIRE)**

Status: Completed

**Cybersecurity Training & Work Integrated Learning Program<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Customer-Facing Tech Roles: The Missing Piece<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Coding in Colour<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**DigitalWorks: Digital Skilling & Workforce Development in Underserved Communities & Coastal Community Workforce Development<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Digital Horizons: Indigenous Technology Training for the New Economy<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Design for Startups**

Status: Completed

**Digital Lift**

Status: Phase 1 complete. Phase 2 in closing.<sup>1</sup>

**Diversifying Talent in Quantum Computing**

Status: Completed

**Digital Innovation & Leadership Initiative (DIAL)**

Status: In progress

**Diversity Assessment Tool**

Status: Completed

**Empowering Informed Ice Travel for Indigenous Communities<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Future Capital**

Status: In closing

**HyperTalent**

Status: Completed

**Innovation, Development, Enrichment and Action (IDEA Lab)**

Status: Completed

**Intercultural Digital Hospitality Skills Accelerator Project<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Introducing Black Canadians to Tech Skills & Jobs<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Raising Voices<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Sky Keepers<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Supporting Local Storytellers in Haida Gwaii<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**SkillingUp<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**TradeUp<sup>1</sup>**

Status: In closing

**Upskilling Imperative**

Status: In closing

**Virtual Clean-Energy Training Platform for First Nations Communities**

Status: Completed

**Virtual Production Innovation Studio**

Status: In progress

**W Venture**

Status: Completed

**Natural Resources & Agriculture**

***Advancing food security, environmental health and strengthening Canada's natural resources sectors to succeed in a prosperous, low carbon economy.***

**Advanced Robotics Sorting of Consumer Recyclables**

Status: In closing

**Data Driven Surgical Mining<sup>2</sup>**

Status: In progress

**Earth Data Store**

Status: Completed

**Earth X-ray for Low-Impact Mining**

Status: In closing

**Forest Machine Connectivity**

Status: In closing

**Fresh Water Data Commons**

Status: Completed

**Mining Microbiome Analytics Platform**

Status: In closing

**Precision Agriculture to Improve Crop Health**

Status: Completed

**Protecting Our Oceans**

Status: Completed

**Satellite-based Environmental Analytics**

Status: Completed

**Standard Data Platform for Autonomous Agriculture**

Status: In closing

## Industrial Transformation & Productivity

*Creating technologies for real-time operations management, simulation, modelling and training that enhances business productivity and competitiveness.*

### AI-Enabled Metaverse Campus

Status: Completed

### Augmented Reality for Maintenance and Inspection

Status: Completed

### Digital Aircraft Records System

Status: Completed

### Predictive Analytics for Manufacturing Processes

Status: Completed

### The Learning Factory Digital Twin

Status: Completed

## Service & Systems

*Supporting data integration and mobilization to empower more connected systems; developing intelligent support tools for better, quicker decision making; and robotic applications for increased productivity.*

### DirectFood.store (DFS): Securing the Food Supply Chain

Status: Completed

Digital Telework for Remote Physical Work

Status: Completed

Emergency Food Distribution Network

Status: Completed

Indigenous Digital Health Ecosystem

Status: In progress

Looking Glass: Protecting Canadians in a Return to Community

Status: Completed

Rapid Assessment of Disability Claims During and Post COVID-19

Status: Completed

Scaling Safe Food Delivery for Canadians (including Feasibility Study: Feeding the Frontlines)

Status: Completed

## Health & Wellness

*Providing more equitable access to care, improving health outcomes and enabling sustainable healthcare systems in Canada and around the world.*

Accelerating Cancer Trials with Digital Twins

Status: In closing

Advanced AI Wound Care Network<sup>2</sup>

Status: In progress



[AI-based Prediction Tool for COVID-19 Patient Care](#)

Status: Completed

[Autism Sharing Initiative](#)

Status: Completed

[CanDETECT](#)

Status: Cancelled

[Compass](#)

Status: Completed

[Continuous Connected Patient Care](#)

Status: In closing

[Clothing to Remotely Connect to Care](#)

Status: Completed

[Confidential Virtual Addiction Treatment for Healthcare Workers](#)

Status: Completed

[COVID Cloud \(including Feasibility Study: \[Beacon - Realtime Data Sharing Network\]\(#\)\)](#)

Status: Completed

[Canadian Platform for Genomics & Precision Health](#)

Status: In closing

[Digital Mental Health Tools for Healthcare Workers Providing COVID-19 Care](#)

Status: Completed

[Dermatology Point-of-Care Intelligent Network](#)

Status: Completed

[Early Detection of COVID-19 through AI](#)

Status: Completed

[Global Clinical Network for Infectious Diseases](#)

Status: Completed

[Healthcare to Homecare](#) (including Feasibility Study: [Healthcare to Homecare](#))

Status: Completed

[Health Compass](#)

Status: In closing

[HEALTHYACCESS](#)

Status: Completed

[Intelligent Network for Point-of-Care Ultrasound](#)

Status: Completed

[Iris](#)

Status: In closing

[Improving ICU Capacity During COVID-19 Outbreaks](#)

Status: Completed

[Leveraging AI for Next Generation Clinical Trial Technologies<sup>2</sup>](#)

Status: In progress

[Leveraging AI in Canada's Social Response to COVID](#)

Status: Completed

[Lifesaver II \(including Feasibility Study: \[Lifesaver - Predicting Emerging Pandemics\]\(#\)\)](#)

Status: Completed

[Mobile Wellness Declaration](#)

Status: Completed

[Managing Hospitalization Risk & Better Home Care Delivery Using LLMs<sup>2</sup>](#)

Status: In progress

[Multi-Omics and Medical Imaging Engine](#)

Status: Completed

[Optimizing Healthcare through Applied Digital Twinning](#)

Status: Completed

[Personal Health Wallet](#)

Status: Completed

**Point-of-Care Ultrasound for COVID**

Status: Completed

**Project ABC**

Status: Completed

**Project ACTT - Access to Cancer Testing & Treatment in Response to COVID-19**

Status: Completed

**Protecting Canadians by Predicting the Evolution of COVID-19**

Status: Completed

**Providing Safe and Effective Home Care During COVID-19**

Status: Completed

**Rapid Deployment of Emergency Case Management**

Status: Completed

**Raven2: AI Platform for Novel Drug Discovery (including Feasibility Study: Rapid Repurposing of Drugs for COVID-19)**

Status: Completed

**Reduce Risk: Post-COVID Analytics Platform for Returning to Work**

Status: Completed

**ReSTART: Post-COVID Surgeries and Medical Procedures**

Status: Completed

**Reducing Opioid Use for Pain Management**

Status: Completed

**Screen O/S (including Feasibility Study: Risk Management Frameworks for Workplace Safety)**

Status: Completed

**Stronger Together: Social Infrastructure for Community Health**

Status: Completed

**Supporting Canada's Elderly During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Status: Completed

**Telewound Care Canada**

Status: Completed

**The Secure Health & Genomics Platform Program**

Status: Cancelled

**Tailored Health – Pharmacogenetics**

Status: Cancelled

**TRUSTSPHERE**

Status: Completed

**Virtual Pulse**

Status: Completed

**Wellbeing.ai**

Status: In closing

**Workplace Brain Health**

Status: Completed

**xrAI**

Status: Completed

<sup>1</sup> \*Funded by Employment & Social Development Canada’s (ESDC) Sectoral Workforce Solutions, Skills for Success and Community Workforce Sustainability Development programs.

<sup>2</sup> Funded by the Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy (PCAIS).

**Glossary**

Term	Definition
Closed	Final reporting and claims for project delivery commitments have been reviewed, accepted and reconciled by DIGITAL.
In Closing	Project delivery commitments fulfilled and consortium working through final reporting and financial review with DIGITAL.