

A RESOURCE FOR BUSINESSES



Vol. 64. Issue 8  
August 2025



## AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

---

***AI Sovereignty, Automation &  
Canada's Digital Future***

---



**Business Link**  
Media Group

# PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Business Link Readers,

Welcome to the August edition of Business Link, where we spotlight the innovations, investments, and transformations shaping our communities and industries.

In our lead feature, we explore Canada's push for AI sovereignty—a national strategy combining federal incentives, provincial programs, and sustainable infrastructure to position the country as a global leader in digital technology.

This month's highlights also include:

- Automation breakthroughs: From robotics unloading trucks to advanced warehouse integration, technology continues to redefine efficiency.
- Sustainable data centres: How Canadian operators are using renewable energy and cutting-edge cooling methods to power the future.
- MIT's AI-designed plastics: A breakthrough in creating tougher, more sustainable materials with potential applications across multiple industries.
- Real estate trends: Understanding Canada's increasingly regional housing market shifts.
- Blockchain in finance: How major banks are investing billions as blockchain moves into the financial mainstream.

We hope you enjoy this issue and find it both informative and inspiring as we continue to showcase the innovations driving progress in our region and beyond.

Thank you for reading!

Yours in Business  
Marilyn Tian, M.B.A  
President & Co-Publisher  
Business Link Media Group



# CONTENTS

- 04** Niagara's \$3.6B Hospital Reaches Major Construction Milestone
- 06** Royal Canadian Henley Regatta Makes Waves in Port Dalhousie
- 07** Niagara Falls Launches Pilot Program for Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rentals
- 08** Niagara Events in August
- 10** Canada Races to Build Sovereign, Energy-Efficient Data Centres
- 12** Canadian Wildfires Trigger Widespread Air Quality Alerts Across the U.S.
- 14** Robots Finally Take on the Toughest Warehouse Task—Unloading Trucks
- 16** Smart Tech, Stronger Business: Unlocking Growth Through Digitization
- 19** Navigating Uncertainty: What Today's Business Leaders Need to Know
- 20** Canada's Housing Market Splinters, What's Gaining and What's Sliding
- 21** Banks Invest Billions as Blockchain Moves into the Financial Mainstream
- 22** AI Helps Chemists Develop Tougher Plastics

## PUBLISHER

Business Link Media Group  
 4056 Dorchester Road - Suite 102  
 Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6M9  
 Tel: 905.646.9366

## CIRCULATION

The Business Link is published 12 times per year and distributed digitally to businesses in Niagara Region and beyond.

## SUBSCRIPTION

You can subscribe to our monthly digital publication by sending us an email, or by following our social media channels!

[info@businesslinkmedia.com](mailto:info@businesslinkmedia.com)  
[www.businesslinkmedia.com](http://www.businesslinkmedia.com)

Any reproduction or use of the content within this publication without permission is prohibited. Opinions and comments within this publication reflect those of the writers and not necessarily that of The Business Link Media Group. All advertising is accepted subject to the Publishers' discretion. The Publishers will not be responsible for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for the space occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Any design, artwork, copyright or typesetting supplied by The Business Link Media Group is for the exclusive use by the Publishers. Any other use not authorized is an infringement of copyright. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without prior written permission of the Publishers.



## Building the Future: Niagara's \$3.6B Hospital Reaches Major Construction Milestone

### VILLAGE REPORT

A major step forward has been reached in one of the Niagara Region's largest and most transformative infrastructure projects: the South Niagara Hospital is now officially halfway through construction.

With a budget of \$3.6 billion, this future-focused healthcare facility is being built in Niagara Falls at the corner of Montrose and Biggar roads. The 12-storey, 1.3 million-square-foot hospital will centralize and modernize healthcare services that are currently spread across multiple sites in the region. Once complete in 2028, the new hospital will play a critical role in addressing the growing needs of Niagara's aging and diverse population.

#### **A Hospital Designed for the Next Generation**

The new South Niagara Hospital will include 469 single-patient rooms, eight state-of-the-art operating suites, two MRI machines, and 42 hemodialysis stations. Services will include emergency care, intensive care, mental health support, complex continuing care, and more—making it one of the most comprehensive healthcare facilities in the province.

But this isn't just about more beds or newer equipment. The facility is also being built to WELL certification standards, making it one of the first hospitals in Canada designed to promote health and wellness through architectural elements. From natural lighting and air quality to quiet spaces and thermal comfort, the hospital will create an environment that supports recovery and staff well-being alike.

#### **Construction in Full Swing**

As of summer 2025, 10 of the planned 12 storeys are already under construction. More than 700 workers are on-site daily, with that number expected to exceed 1,000 during peak phases. Progress includes concrete pouring, installation of electrical and mechanical systems, windows, roofing, and interior finishing. Exterior landscaping and infrastructure work, including roads and parking areas, will follow.



This milestone comes just over two years after shovels first hit the ground, and marks a moment of pride for all involved. EllisDon Infrastructure Healthcare was awarded the contract to design, build, finance, and maintain the project in early 2023, and construction began shortly after.

### A Community-Centered Vision

The project is rooted in a broader vision for equitable, accessible care. A dedicated Indigenous healing space and garden is being co-designed in consultation with Indigenous partners, ensuring the hospital offers culturally safe and inclusive environments.

The South Niagara Hospital will also serve as a Centre of Excellence for stroke care and aging wellness, responding to key health needs in the region. Leaders across Niagara have been advocating for the hospital for years, and its progress is a result of both political will and community-wide support.

### A Sign of Progress and Promise

Niagara Health President and CEO Lynn Guerriero called the milestone a powerful reminder of what's possible when people work together:

"Reaching this point is really about the people behind it. This is a major step forward for health care in Niagara, and we're so grateful for the dedication and hard work that's gone into building something that will serve our community for generations."

The hospital is expected to be fully operational by summer 2028, and once complete, will stand as one of the most advanced, inclusive, and sustainable healthcare facilities in Canada.

Read more here: <https://www.villagereport.ca/village-picks/construction-of-new-36-billion-hospital-in-niagara-halfway-done-11031799>

# CIVICONNECT®

Bridging the Gap Between Education and Employment.





# Royal Canadian Henley Regatta Makes Waves in Port Dalhousie

## NIAGARA INDEPENDENT

The Royal Canadian Henley Regatta is back in full swing in Port Dalhousie, bringing with it a powerful blend of athleticism, history, and community spirit. Officially underway, this iconic rowing event has long held a special place in Canada's sporting calendar, drawing elite athletes and enthusiastic crowds to the shores of Martindale Pond. Since its inception in 1880, the regatta has evolved into one of the premier rowing competitions in North America, attracting thousands of rowers from across Canada, the United States, and beyond. The 2025 edition continues that legacy, welcoming over 2,400 athletes from more than 150 clubs to compete in nearly 400 races over eight days. The event serves as both a high-level competition and a vibrant summer celebration, energizing the local community and boosting tourism in the Niagara region.

Athletes aged 13 and older, representing diverse backgrounds and skill levels, are taking part in everything from single sculls to eights, showcasing the sport's depth and competitiveness. Spectators can be found lining the course with binoculars and programs in hand, cheering on rowers as they push through the water with intensity and precision. For many, the regatta is more than a race – it's a rite of passage and a deeply rooted tradition. The Henley Regatta also plays a significant role in youth development and the promotion of amateur sport. Its focus on fair play and inclusivity resonates with rowers and spectators alike, and its enduring presence continues to inspire the next generation of Canadian athletes.

Local businesses in Port Dalhousie are feeling the positive impact as well, with restaurants, hotels, and shops experiencing increased activity from the influx of visitors. The regatta not only boosts the economy but also reinforces Port Dalhousie's identity as a hub for water sports and outdoor recreation. Organizers and volunteers, many of whom are passionate advocates for rowing, help ensure the regatta runs smoothly while maintaining its welcoming, community-driven atmosphere. As the oars slice through the water and medals are earned stroke by stroke, the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta remains a powerful example of sport's ability to unite people and celebrate excellence.

Read more here:

<https://niagaraindependent.ca/royal-canadian-henley-regatta-officially-underway-in-port-dalhousie/>





## MEDIA RELEASE

# Niagara Falls Launches Pilot Program for Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rentals

The City of Niagara Falls has announced the launch of a new 14-month pilot program that will allow Owner-Occupied Short-Term Rentals (OOSTRs) in residential areas. Running from August 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, this initiative aims to support homeowners interested in offering short-term accommodations while maintaining the character and stability of residential neighbourhoods.

Under the program, up to 100 licenses will be available for qualifying properties. To be eligible, the rental must be located within the owner's principal residence or an accessory dwelling unit situated on the same property. Importantly, the owner must reside on-site during the rental period. Only one rental party is permitted at a time, and guest stays are limited to a maximum of 28 consecutive days. These guidelines ensure that while homeowners can earn supplemental income, the rentals do not function like traditional commercial lodging.

Licensed OOSTRs must adhere to a range of municipal requirements, including zoning and fire code regulations, as well as noise and parking by-laws. The pilot program is intended to test the viability of these types of rentals in residential zones and gather feedback to shape future policies. City staff will monitor compliance and evaluate the program's success throughout its duration.

Due to the limited number of licenses, interested applicants are encouraged to review the eligibility criteria carefully, as submitting an application does not guarantee approval. Full program details, including application forms and requirements, are available at [niagarafalls.ca/oostr](http://niagarafalls.ca/oostr). For further assistance, residents can contact the City Clerk's Office at 905-356-7521 ext. 0 or via email at [clerk@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:clerk@niagarafalls.ca).



AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 15

# EVENTS

## *Live Chess by the Falls*

**Saturday, August 16, 2025 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM**  
**Queen Victoria Park (Corner of Murray St and Niagara Parkway)**

Event: [livechessbythefalls.com](http://livechessbythefalls.com)

---

## *Niagara Irish Festival 2025*

**Fri, Aug 22, 2025 5:00 PM - Sat, Aug 23, 2025 10:30 PM**  
**Firemen's Park, 2275 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S4**

Event: [www.eventbrite.com/e/niagara-irish-festival-2025-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/niagara-irish-festival-2025-tickets)

---

## *Niagara Grape & Wine Festival*

**September 5–28, 2025**  
**8 Church Street, Suite 100, St. Catharines, ON L2R 3B3**

Event: [niagarawinefestival.com](http://niagarawinefestival.com)

---

## *Ovarian Cancer Canada - Walk of Hope - Niagara Region*

**Sunday, September 7, 2025 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**  
**Oakes Park, Niagara Falls**

Tickets: [ovariancanada.org/events](http://ovariancanada.org/events)

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE THROUGH THE YEARS

## Introducing the Niagara 40 Under Forty Alumni Summit

A day of reconnection, insight, and impact for our 40u40 Community and Niagara's business leadership circle.

### Program Highlights

#### Panel on Political Leadership

Mayor Jim Diodati • Mayor Mat Siscoe • Councillor Chris Dabrowski • Former Mayor April Jeffs

Moderated by Former Mayor Walter Sendzik

Also featuring discussions on Educational Partnerships and Financial Shifts

**Sep 23, 2025, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Americana Conference Resort Spa, 8444 Lundy's Ln, Niagara Falls



Reserve your ticket at or scan the QR code:  
[www.businesslinkmedia.com/2025niagaraalumnisummit](http://www.businesslinkmedia.com/2025niagaraalumnisummit)



## CANADA RACES TO BUILD SOVEREIGN, ENERGY-EFFICIENT DATA CENTRES

CBC NEWS

Canada is rapidly advancing its ambitions to host major AI and data infrastructure domestically driven by desires for digital sovereignty, energy efficiency, and strategic autonomy.

### Backed by Policy Support and Sovereign Strategy

In December 2024, the federal government unveiled a “Canadian Sovereign AI Compute Strategy,” which allocates up to \$700 million to support private-sector investment in AI-specific data centres. Additional layers include up to \$1 billion in public supercomputing infrastructure, and a \$300 million Compute Access Fund to aid businesses in accessing AI compute capability. Provinces like Alberta are also rolling out their own programs. Alberta’s strategy, released early in 2025, includes regulatory streamlining, investor “concierge” services, and partnerships with Indigenous communities through economic reconciliation programs.

### Sustainability and Innovation in Cooling and Power

Canadian operators are adopting cutting-edge techniques to balance massive power demands with environmental goals:

- Liquid and immersion cooling are reducing energy use for server heat removal by up to 20%, making facilities more efficient and sustainable.
- Some data centres repurpose waste heat for district heating systems—for example, redirecting excess warmth into public district energy networks or residential buildings, reducing overall emissions.
- In Toronto, Enwave’s Deep Lake Water Cooling facility delivers natural cold water—cutting cooling power consumption in half at linked data centres.
- 

Equinix and Bell Canada have adopted these approaches. Bell’s AI facility in Kamloops achieves a PUE under 1.1, an excellent benchmark for energy use in data centres.

## Why Canada Is Attractive to Hyperscalers

With 239 existing data centres and soaring demand tied to AI, Canada offers competitive advantages: relatively low electricity costs (especially hydro in Quebec and BC), a cool climate ideal for natural cooling, and abundant clean energy supply. Major markets—Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver—are seeing massive hyperscaler interest: demand from companies like Microsoft, Google, and AWS is pushing new campuses across these regions.

## The Power Grid Challenge

Despite enthusiasm, challenges remain. Canada's aging electricity grid will require upgrades to meet new demand safely. Experts warn that without grid modernization, surge loads from AI data centres could risk reliability and resilience, especially amid aging transmission infrastructure.

Alberta is positioning itself as a hub—its deregulated electricity market, access to renewables, and relatively low energy prices make it fertile ground for large-scale data centre campuses. Companies including eStruxture and Beacon Data Centres are planning multi-hundred-megawatt developments in the Calgary/Rocky View area.

## Toward a Green, Sovereign Digital Future

The convergence of federal incentives, provincial strategic plans, renewable energy potential, and global AI demand puts Canada at the forefront of a new era in digital infrastructure. With sustainability baked in—from energy-efficient cooling to waste heat recovery—future data centres aim to be both tech powerhouses and climate-conscious hubs.

This shift reflects more than corporate ambition—it signals an evolving national posture: building critical digital infrastructure that is secure, sustainable, and anchored in Canadian soil and communities.

Read more here:

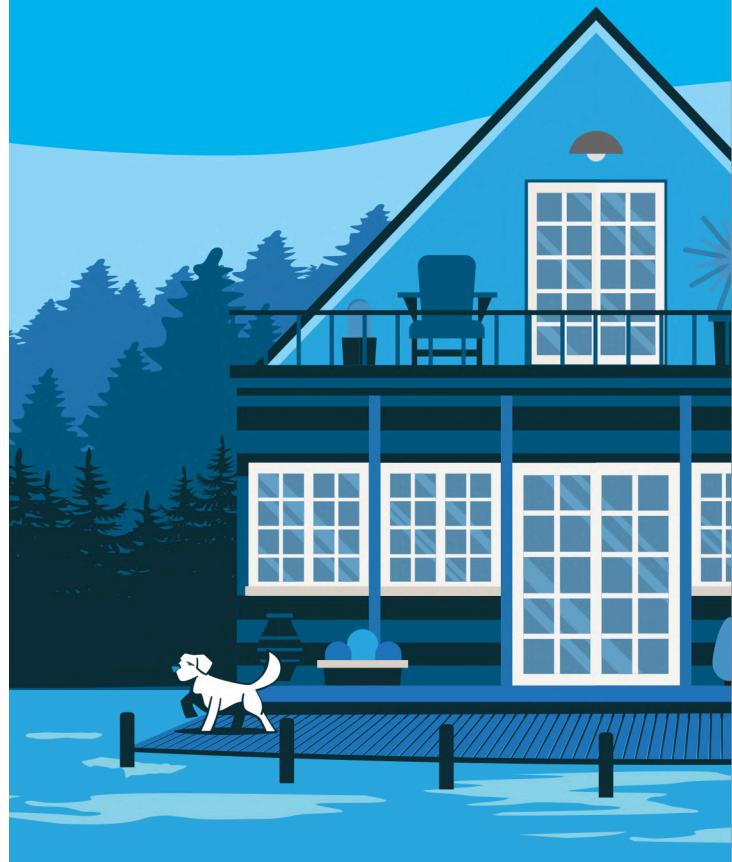
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/canadian-companies-racing-to-build-sovereign-energy-efficient-data-centres-1.7597092>

**erion**  
INSURANCE GROUP

## Your trusted companion.

Erion Insurance Group has you covered for all of life's milestones. Our brokerage has deep roots in the Niagara Region, and we offer a wide range of personalized options for individuals, families, and businesses. With a wealth of experience and unrivalled expertise, we're here to help make sense of it all when insurance gets complicated. We're right around the corner, so we can be there by your side.

**erioninsurance.com**  
**1.866.955.2281**



# CHOKING SKIES

## CANADIAN WILDFIRES TRIGGER WIDESPREAD AIR QUALITY ALERTS ACROSS THE U.S.



NBC NEWS

A thick haze has descended across the Upper Midwest and Northeast, as smoke from hundreds of wildfires burning in Canada continues to drift south, creating hazardous air conditions for millions of Americans.

More than 700 wildfires are currently active across Canada, with provinces such as British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan facing some of the most severe blazes. Fueled by dry weather and intense heat, the fires have sent massive clouds of smoke into the atmosphere—blanketing parts of the United States in a dense, yellow-gray smog.

By early August, more than 80 million people in the U.S. were under air quality alerts, stretching from the Great Lakes region to the Eastern Seaboard. States hit hardest include Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New England. Major cities like Chicago, Minneapolis, New York City, and Boston have all reported days of dangerously high Air Quality Index (AQI) readings, in some cases ranking among the worst in the world.

Health officials are warning that these elevated AQI levels—driven primarily by fine particulate matter (PM2.5)—can pose serious health risks, especially for vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and people with heart or lung conditions. Even healthy individuals may experience coughing, throat irritation, headaches, and fatigue when exposed for extended periods.

“It’s not just a haze—it’s harmful,” said a spokesperson from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. “The particles from wildfire smoke are small enough to enter deep into your lungs and even your bloodstream.”

**Experts are urging residents in affected areas to take precautions:**

- Limit outdoor activity, especially exercise or manual labor
- Keep windows and doors closed
- Run HEPA air filters or set air conditioning to recirculate
- Wear N95 or KN95 masks when air quality is labeled “unhealthy” or worse

Meteorologists say the current weather pattern is making matters worse. A stubborn high-pressure system over parts of the eastern U.S. has trapped smoke near the ground, preventing it from dispersing. While some relief may come with shifting winds later in the week, many areas will continue to experience unhealthy air conditions through midweek or longer.

This isn’t the first time Canadian wildfire smoke has affected U.S. air quality in recent years—but it may be among the most persistent. The fires are part of a growing trend tied to climate change, which is increasing both the frequency and intensity of wildfires across North America. Drier forests, warmer temperatures, and prolonged drought conditions have created a dangerous new normal.

Officials warn that this may be a preview of summers to come. As wildfire seasons grow longer and more intense, cross-border cooperation and stronger climate resilience strategies are becoming more urgent.

For now, millions are keeping their eyes on the AQI maps—and hoping for clearer skies.

Read more here:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/poor-air-quality-remains-concern-upper-midwest-northeast-canadian-wild-rcna223084>



# ROBOTS FINALLY TAKE ON THE TOUGHEST WAREHOUSE TASK—UNLOADING TRUCKS

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

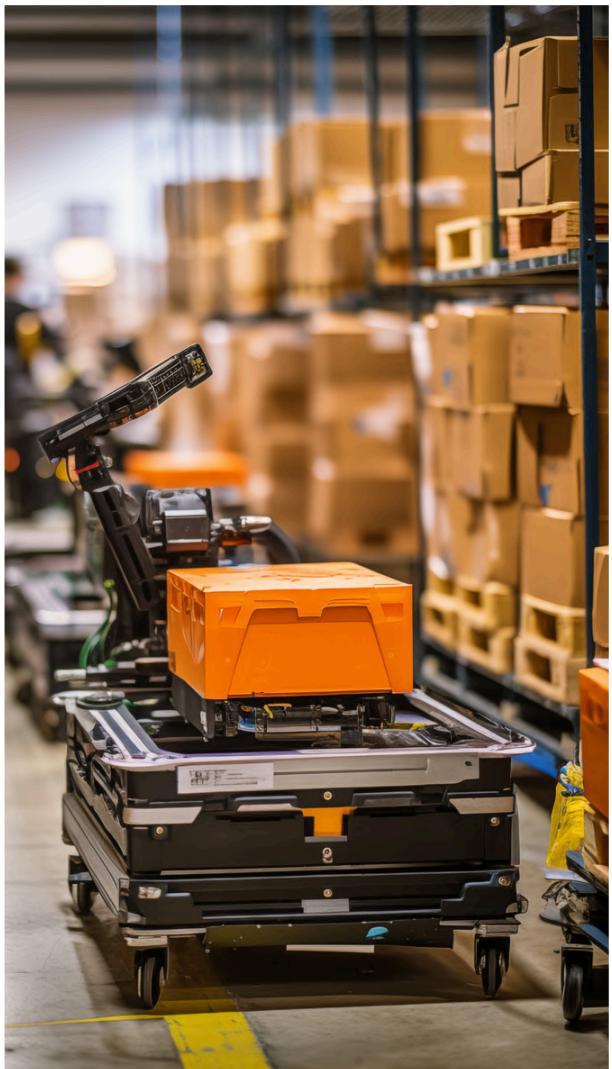
A major leap in warehouse automation has arrived. A new robot, developed by Boston Dynamics in partnership with logistics giant DHL, is now capable of fully unloading trucks—a task long considered one of the most difficult to automate in the supply chain industry. Known as “Stretch,” the robot uses a suction-based gripper and computer vision to carefully and efficiently handle boxes of varying shapes and sizes. Unlike traditional systems that require customized infrastructure, Stretch is mobile and can be easily moved from one truck to another, increasing its flexibility and value for warehouse operations.

This development marks a significant breakthrough in warehouse logistics, where the labor-intensive job of unloading has often been a bottleneck. Stretch not only reduces the need for human workers to perform physically demanding tasks but also addresses ongoing labor shortages that continue to impact the industry. By automating one of the last manual stages of warehouse operations, companies can improve safety, speed, and reliability in the supply chain.

Boston Dynamics says that Stretch is already being used in pilot programs and will see wider deployment in the coming months. The success of this robot could pave the way for broader adoption of warehouse automation technologies that were once deemed too complex or costly to implement. It also signals a shift toward smarter, more agile logistics systems that can keep up with the demands of e-commerce and global trade.

As businesses continue to seek ways to optimize efficiency, reduce costs, and future-proof their operations, innovations like Stretch represent a glimpse into the automated warehouse of tomorrow.

Read more here:  
<https://www.wsj.com/business/logistics/the-holy-grail-of-automation-now-a-robot-can-unload-a-truck-ad527ba8>



# REVOLUTIONIZE YOUR OPERATIONS WITH TRIPLE AUTOMATION

**Smart Robotics. Seamless Integration. Scalable Solutions.**

Triple Automation brings cutting-edge robotics and automation solutions to businesses of all sizes. Our systems are designed for precision, efficiency, and reliability, helping manufacturers, warehouses, and production lines boost productivity, reduce operational costs, and future-proof their business.

**Robotic Arms & Automation Systems**

**Custom Integration & Engineering**

**AI-Powered Quality Control**

**Industrial Automation Software**

**Maintenance & Technical Support**

**Manufacturing | Food & Beverage | Automotive  
| Packaging & Logistics | Electronics**



**TRIPLE AUTOMATION**

**Let's Build the Future of Automation—Together.**

**Contact us:** 289 455 1074 | [info@tripleautomation.com](mailto:info@tripleautomation.com)

# SMART TECH, STRONGER BUSINESS: UNLOCKING GROWTH THROUGH DIGITIZATION

By Ryan Li

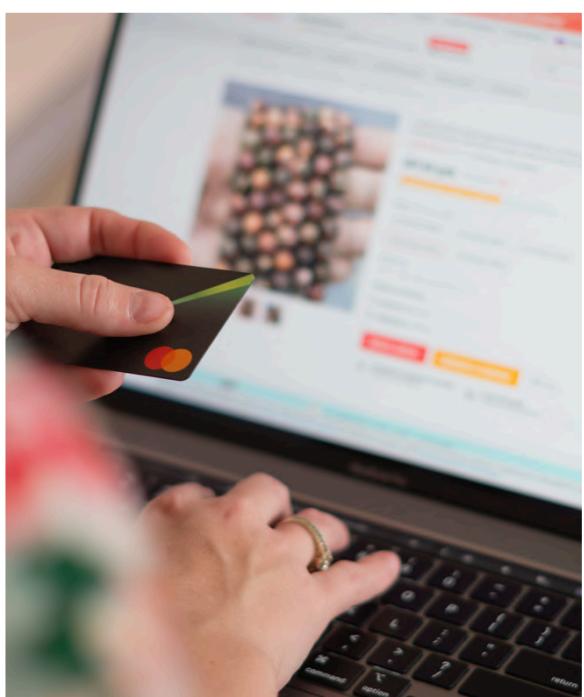
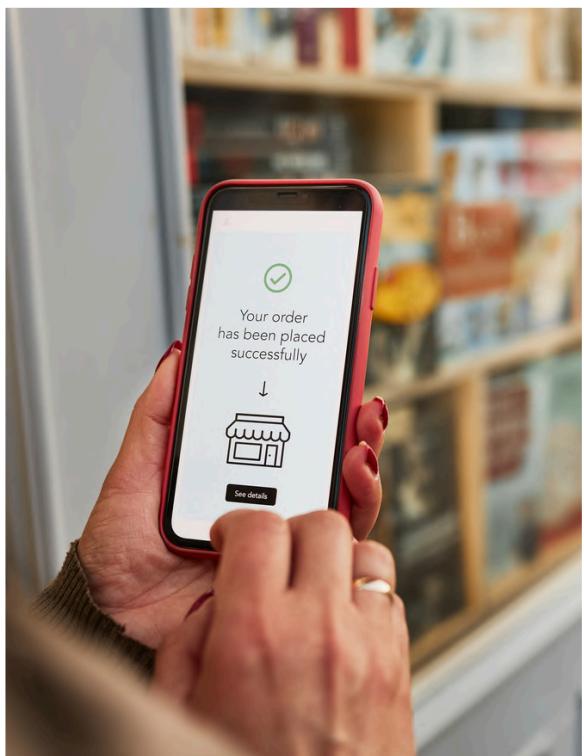
In an online world, the difference between a customer choosing your business and your competitor's could be a simple website. But digitization goes much further than having an online domain. From integrating inventory management and cashless payments into a digital platform to offering an online ordering system that reduces errors and supports a loyalty program, even the smallest businesses in the most niche sectors can leverage digitization to run more efficient operations, improve the customer experience and ultimately grow their revenue while reducing stress.

But these benefits aren't just theoretical: the Ontario Centre for Innovation reports that digitization in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has increased outputs by 14%, reduced operational costs by 23%, and saved over 192 hours in operational and labour costs per month (the equivalent of 24 entire working days!).

In response, Queen's Park has unveiled four exciting programs and over \$15 million in funding to support SME digitization across the province. Here's a brief look at all four programs:

The Ford government has allocated over \$7.5 million to the province's Digital Competence Centre (DCC), which provides targeted modernization grants up to \$115,000 and offers Ontario-based training and digitization guidance.

In July, the Associate Minister of Small Business, Nina Tangri, announced a further \$5 million for the Digital Modernization and Adoption Plan (DMAP), which helps small and medium businesses assess their digital needs and work with consultants to develop tailored technology roadmaps. DMAP provides grants of up to \$15,000 to match private



investment designated to modernize technology, and despite the relatively smaller size of these grants, the payoff has been great. Since the creation of DMAP in 2022, 249 companies, in fields ranging from manufacturing to IT, have begun modernizing their businesses, and have since reported a combined increase of \$380 million in revenue, clearly demonstrating that modernization is a worthy investment. To apply for a DMAP grant, for-profit businesses must be based in Ontario and have no more than 499 employees, ensuring that this money goes to SME that otherwise could not afford these significant improvements.

Once a company has completed a DMAP project and have generated at least \$500,000 in annual revenue in one of the past three tax years, it can apply for a further \$100,000 from the province's Technology Demonstration Program, which once again matches private investment in new technology that supports job creation and business growth.

For small businesses, there exists a fourth, more targeted avenue for modernization through the Retail Modernization Project Grant, where eligible businesses can receive matching funds of up to \$5,000 to help cover the cost of adopting digital tools such as online payment systems, inventory management software, cybersecurity protections, and artificial intelligence. To be eligible, firms must be a for-profit retail firm based in Ontario, with a physical store front that has generated at least \$100,000 in annual revenue, been in business for more than a year, and has no more than 50 employees.

If you're a small or medium business owner in Ontario, ignoring these programs means leaving opportunity—and money—on the table. Whether you've already begun digitizing or are still running things on paper and pen, these resources can make your challenging job of being a business owner a little bit easier. In a world that never stops changing, the choice is simple: adapt and thrive, or fall behind. Which one will you choose?



#### About the Author:

*Ryan Li is a dedicated Youth Journalist from Vancouver. He is known for his insightful reporting and passion for journalism. Currently, Ryan is studying public policy at Georgetown University in the U.S.*

**Coming soon:  
40U40 Awards Ceremony & Gala Night**

12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL



October 30th, 2025  
**Carmen's Event Centre**  
1520 Stone Church Rd E, Hamilton

**SAVE YOUR SEAT AT**  
[www.businesslinkmedia.com/event-details-registration/hamilton-12th-40u40-business-achievement-awards-gala](http://www.businesslinkmedia.com/event-details-registration/hamilton-12th-40u40-business-achievement-awards-gala)

**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Email us at: Charlie@businesslinkmedia.com



# NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY: WHAT TODAY'S BUSINESS LEADERS NEED TO KNOW

FINANCIAL TIMES

In an era marked by geopolitical instability, economic shifts, and rapid technological change, navigating uncertainty has become a defining challenge for business leaders. Traditional forecasting models are no longer sufficient, as disruptions emerge from multiple directions—supply chains, labor markets, climate volatility, and global conflicts. Success increasingly depends on agility, adaptability, and a strong sense of purpose.

Leaders are encouraged to embrace scenario planning, rather than relying on fixed strategies. By imagining a range of plausible futures, companies can build resilience into their operations and avoid being caught off guard. This mindset is particularly vital when facing the unpredictability of interest rate changes, inflation, and regulatory policies across different regions.

Equally important is fostering trust within organizations. Open communication, shared values, and a clear mission help anchor teams during times of ambiguity. Employees want to feel that their leaders are not only competent but also compassionate and transparent. This human-centered approach, combined with technological agility, forms a powerful combination.

Digital transformation continues to be a key tool, enabling organizations to pivot quickly and respond to changing consumer demands or market conditions. However, it's not just about adopting new tools—it's about cultivating a culture that supports experimentation, rapid learning, and continuous innovation.

In a world where the only constant is change, business leaders must blend strategic thinking with emotional intelligence. Those who succeed will be the ones who balance risk with vision, and stability with the courage to act decisively.

Read more here:

<https://www.ft.com/content/4b710247-ebdd-4926-80f9-94fbfa5ferd8>



# CANADA'S HOUSING MARKET SPLINTERS

## WHAT'S GAINING AND WHAT'S SLIDING

### WEALTH PROFESSIONAL

Canada's residential real estate market is undergoing a noticeable transformation, marked by increasing geographical divergence. While national headlines often focus on price corrections and affordability issues, a closer look reveals a more complex story playing out across provinces and regions.

In Alberta and parts of the Prairies, housing markets remain resilient. These regions are benefiting from relatively affordable home prices, economic stability, and population growth. Cities like Calgary and Edmonton are seeing steady demand, supported by interprovincial migration and investor interest. This stands in contrast to major urban centres in Ontario and British Columbia, where the combination of high home prices and elevated interest rates has significantly cooled demand.

Rising borrowing costs have particularly affected the more expensive markets, causing

potential buyers to reconsider their options or delay purchases altogether. In Toronto and Vancouver, the slowdown is evident not only in sales volumes but also in price corrections. Many buyers are now looking beyond these traditional hotspots in search of affordability and long-term value.

This shift is contributing to increased activity in smaller cities and suburban communities, where lower price points and improved remote work options are creating new opportunities. These areas, once considered secondary, are emerging as key players in the evolving housing landscape.

Industry experts suggest that this divergence will continue in the months ahead, driven by local economic conditions, employment trends, and housing supply. With immigration levels high and the cost of construction rising, supply shortages in affordable markets could further fuel competition.

As Canada's housing market rebalances, understanding the regional nuances is essential. Rather than a single national trend, the real estate landscape now resembles a patchwork of micro-markets—each shaped by its own set of pressures and potential.

Read more here:  
[www.wealthprofessional.ca/investments/alternative-investments/canadas-residential-real-estate-market-shows-geographical-divergence/389897](http://www.wealthprofessional.ca/investments/alternative-investments/canadas-residential-real-estate-market-shows-geographical-divergence/389897)





## BANKS INVEST BILLIONS AS BLOCKCHAIN MOVES INTO THE FINANCIAL MAINSTREAM

### DIGITAL WATCH

Major banks around the world are no longer sitting on the blockchain sidelines. With blockchain technology maturing beyond pilot programs and hype cycles, financial institutions are increasingly investing billions of dollars to integrate decentralized systems into their core infrastructure.

According to a recent report by Ripple, more than \$100 billion has been invested in blockchain-related infrastructure by financial institutions since 2020. These investments reflect a growing belief that blockchain can dramatically improve efficiency, transparency, and security in areas such as payments, asset tokenization, and digital custody.

#### Key banking priorities include:

- Digital identity and credentials
- Tokenized real-world assets, such as bonds and securities
- Interoperability between different blockchain platforms
- Decentralized finance (DeFi) infrastructure tailored for regulated environments
- Cross-border payments using digital assets and stablecoins



As of 2024, a significant number of global financial institutions are not just experimenting—they're building. Ripple's findings show that many banks expect blockchain to become a foundational technology in global finance by 2028. Already, projects like tokenized money market funds, licensed stablecoins, and blockchain-based settlement systems are shifting from theory to practice.

This shift is about much more than crypto trading. It reflects a fundamental transformation in how institutions approach trust, data, and value exchange. With continued regulatory developments and collaboration between the public and private sectors, blockchain is well on its way to becoming a permanent layer in the financial system.

Read more here: <https://dig.watch/updates/banks-invest-billions-as-blockchain-goes-mainstream>



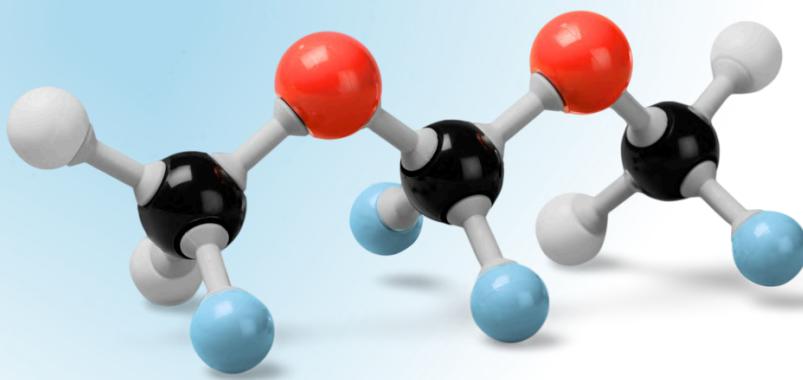
## AI HELPS CHEMISTS DEVELOP TOUGHER PLASTICS

MIT News

A new study by researchers at MIT and Duke University is showing how artificial intelligence can revolutionize the design of stronger, more durable plastics. By using machine learning, scientists have identified a class of molecules that could significantly improve the way polymers respond to stress—opening the door to smarter, more resilient materials.

The breakthrough centers around mechanophores, special crosslinker molecules that react to mechanical force. Instead of being points of weakness in a material, these molecules act as controlled breaking points that absorb stress and help slow or redirect cracking. This makes the material tougher and more resistant to damage over time.

Using computational simulations, the team studied hundreds of mechanophore candidates, assessing how much force would trigger a structural change. Then, a machine learning model trained on this data screened more than 11,000 molecules to predict their behavior under stress. Out of these, the AI helped narrow down a list of around 100 highly promising candidates.



One of the standout molecules—m-TMS-Fc—was synthesized and tested in a polymer network. The result: a plastic that responds to applied stress with greater resilience, thanks to the activation of its built-in mechanophores. This approach allows the material to dissipate energy and resist tearing in ways traditional plastics can't.

The innovation dramatically reduces the time it takes to identify and test effective mechanophores, speeding up what used to be a slow and labor-intensive process. Instead of evaluating molecules one by one, researchers can now explore vast libraries of compounds quickly and cost-effectively.

The potential applications are far-reaching. From consumer products to industrial components and medical devices, any field that relies on durable plastics could benefit from this kind of adaptive material. In the long term, this research could even pave the way for plastics that can self-strengthen or self-heal under pressure.

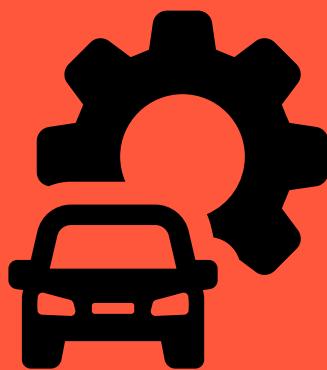
Beyond durability, this breakthrough could also impact sustainability. By extending the life of plastic materials and reducing the frequency of replacement, these smart polymers could help lower overall plastic waste and environmental impact. Combined with advances in recycling and bio-based polymers, AI-designed materials could contribute to a new generation of eco-conscious design.

The study is also part of MIT's broader effort to harness AI in materials science—from automating the search for heat-resistant polymers to enabling robotic labs that design compounds on demand. As tools like machine learning continue to evolve, scientists are unlocking new ways to create materials that are not only stronger, but smarter.

Read Full Article Here:

<https://news.mit.edu/2025/ai-helps-chemists-develop-tougher-plastics-0805>

## APPLICATION POTENTIAL



### AUTOMOTIVE



### MEDICAL



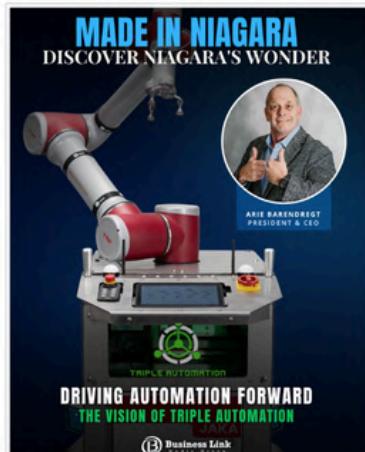
### INDUSTRIAL



### ELECTRONICS

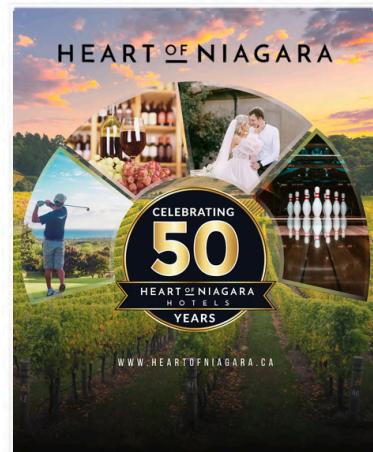
# SHOWCASE YOUR BRAND WITH BUSINESS LINK PUBLICATIONS

## Made in Niagara | Heart of Niagara | All in the Family



### MADE IN NIAGARA 2025

Promote your product or service in a publication with local impact and international visibility, including exposure in Asia and Europe.



### HEART OF NIAGARA 2025

Feature your business in our Summer 2025 in-room magazine, seen by thousands of guests across the region. Promote where Niagara travels, celebrates, and relaxes.



### ALL IN THE FAMILY 2025

Celebrate your legacy. This publication shines a light on local family-owned businesses, sharing the stories of tradition, resilience, and community connection.

Learn more or advertise with us: [info@businesslinkmedia.com](mailto:info@businesslinkmedia.com)

# FOLLOW US ON



@Business Link Media Group



@businesslinkmedia



@Business Link Media Group



@Business Link Media Group



@Business Link Media Group