

2025 – 2026

ANNUAL REPORT





Campus 2Market



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A message from Dr. Graham Gagnon

Innovation and entrepreneurship are central to building the capabilities Canada needs over the long term, and we see that reality taking shape at Dalhousie. As Canada places greater emphasis on its ability to act independently, our strength as a research-intensive university is generating new knowledge and cultivating exceptional innovators and entrepreneurs, especially in the healthcare, ocean, environmental, and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Dal Innovates plays a critical role in this mission. By connecting research, talent and industry, we are helping students translate their ideas into real-world impact. Following the expansion of Lab2Market in 2024, Dal Innovates kept momentum by broadening the reach and depth of its student innovation and entrepreneurship programs. In 2025, Campus2Market expanded across Atlantic Canada, growing the number of participants in our flagship programs which is giving rise to new startups, new jobs and capital attraction.

Building on this progress and in response to demand for AI commercialization, we piloted AI2Market, a landmark training program for the next generation of AI builders. In March, the Government of Canada announced an \$8.5 million investment to broadly support the growth of Atlantic Canada's artificial intelligence ecosystem, including AI2Market. This generous support validates how targeted entrepreneurship and AI skills training can unlock local talent potential.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: to build an inclusive, connected innovation ecosystem that supports talent at every stage, from early ideas to globally competitive ventures.

I am incredibly proud of the Dal Innovates team, our partners, and most importantly, our students whose desire to make this world better continues to inspire us.

This fall, I invite you to Dal Innovation Week from October 5-9, 2026. It is an opportunity to see firsthand how our ecosystem is shaping the future. Come and discover what is possible when innovation is within reach.



Dr. Graham Gagnon,
Vice President Research & Innovation
Dalhousie University

A message from Jeff Larsen

Growth is what every student entrepreneur seeks: growth in ideas, customers, and impact. It is also what defined this past year at Dal Innovates.

Across our programs, students are brainstorming new ideas, building prototypes, and launching ventures. This report highlights the journeys of three students: Sheheryar Khan, Catherine Evans, and Rudransh Goyal. Whether developing bioplastics, tackling climate change, or applying prototyping skills to secure an internship, their stories show what's possible with a growth mindset.

In 2025–26, Dal Innovates expanded its programming. We piloted AI2Market to help students turn ideas into scalable, AI-driven solutions from day one. Developed with ShiftKey Labs and built on the nationally recognized Lab2Market model, the program equips students across Atlantic Canada to create the next generation of AI-driven ventures.

Eight institutions also joined Dal Innovates to launch a refreshed Campus2Market brand, unifying our 2Market programming and creating a clear pathway for post-secondary students to grow at their own pace.

The results are clear: 466 students participated across AI2Market, Campus2Market, and Lab2Market programs, and 148 ventures were launched.

Engagement continues to grow across the ecosystem. Our sandboxes supported thousands of students through more than 200 hands-on events, while our venture-focused programs are driving economic impact. The Emera ideaHUB supported 66 ventures that created 139 jobs, and Creative Destruction Lab-Atlantic supported 56 companies that generated \$830 million in equity value – underscoring the strength of our scale-up pipeline.

Together, these programs create a connected ecosystem committed to growth—supporting innovators from first idea to ventures that scale globally.



Jeff Larsen,

Assistant Vice-President, Innovation,
Entrepreneurship, Commercialization and Partnerships
Dalhousie University



Bring Your Vision to Life

Dal Innovates is more than a program. It's an ecosystem of partners, mentors, and changemakers who walk beside you at every stage, from your earliest spark of curiosity to the moment your idea reaches the market and beyond.

That ecosystem is powered by five university sandboxes, each designed to meet you where your ambitions live. Whether you're turning academic research into a venture through Lab2Market, exploring the frontier of artificial intelligence through AI2Market, building the life and career you want through

Cultiv



PULSE
biomed HUB

SHIFTKEY
LABS

SURGE
Science Unleashed

AI
2Market
Discover

Campus
2Market
Discover

Lab
2Market
Discover

AI
2Market
Validate

Campus
2Market
Validate

Lab
2Market
Validate

AI
2Market
Launch

Campus
2Market
Launch

Lab
2Market
Launch

Sandbox

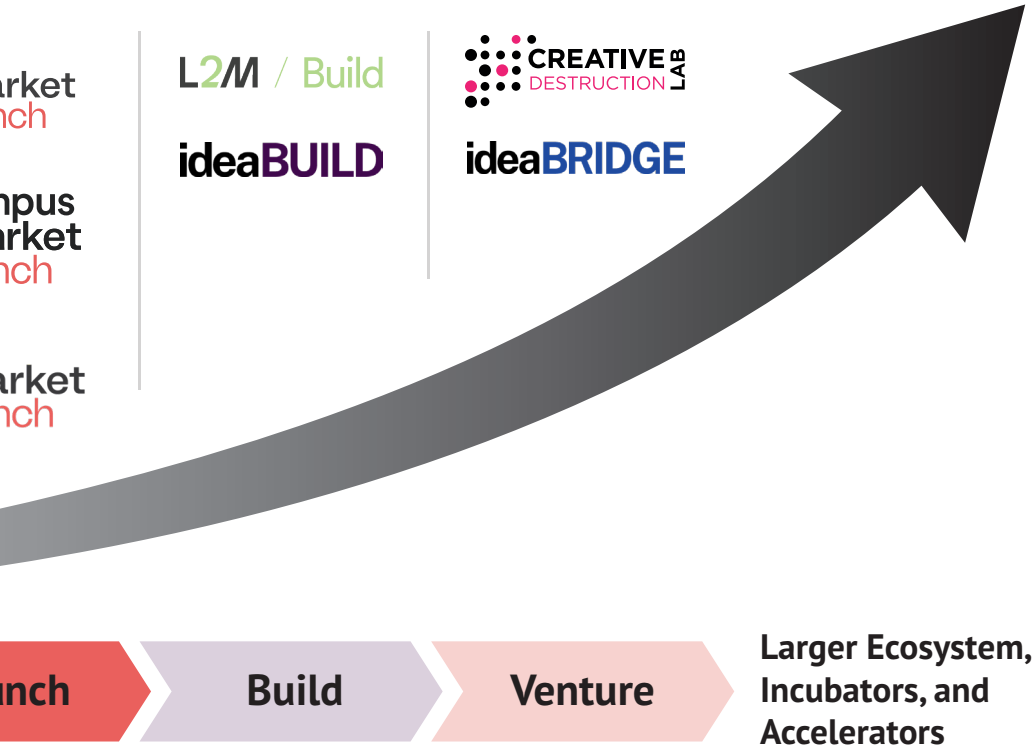
Discover

Validate

Launch

Campus2Market, bringing a physical product to life at the Emera IdeaHUB, or swinging for something truly massive through Creative Destruction Lab, there's a home for your vision here.

Wrapped around all of it is a network of research institutions, academic partners, and community champions who are invested in one thing: seeing you succeed in the innovation economy. You'll find open doors, real mentorship, and a support system that believes in your potential as much as you do. Because building something great doesn't happen alone, and at Dal Innovates, you never have to.





Dive into the sandbox of innovation and watch your ideas grow.

Dalhousie's five faculty-based innovation sandboxes are open to you, regardless of your faculty, background, or experience level.

Each sandbox is designed as a low-stakes, high impact space for you to explore entrepreneurship and innovation at your own pace. Whether your interests lie in agriculture, computer science, engineering, health, or science, you're welcome to experiment, collaborate, and develop your ideas across any of the five spaces, no faculty affiliation required.

That cross-disciplinary openness is intentional. Some of the most promising ideas emerge when students from different fields work side by side, bringing fresh perspectives to shared challenges.



Cultiv8 provides agricultural students with opportunities to become more resilient in their futures of work, with focus on food security & sovereignty, sustainability, hands-on experiential learning, and community integration.

Cultiv8 GROW is a model student vegetable production farm which provides low-risk experiences in agricultural entrepreneurship, sustainability, and community building. Cultiv8 CHEF is a food product development program for students which links food security, preservation, and entrepreneurship.

In 2025-26

25

Events

140

Participants Supported



The Pulse Innovation Hub is an interdisciplinary health innovation program focused on improving health outcomes through the development and implementation of innovative solutions. It supports students, researchers, and clinicians in identifying real-world health system challenges and translating ideas into impactful interventions. Through experiential learning, mentorship, and venture-building supports, participants move from early-stage concepts to validated solutions with potential for real-world application. The program brings together expertise across medicine, dentistry, and health to foster collaborative, team-based innovation.

Pulse offers programming such as workshops, speaker series, and applied courses grounded in design thinking, entrepreneurship, and health systems impact. It also provides targeted supports, including micro-grants and mentorship, to accelerate solutions that meaningfully improve patient, community, and system-level health outcomes.

In 2025-26

7

Events

235

Participants Supported



SURGE's mandate is pushing the boundaries of science education through innovative hands-on approaches and to support students in Nova Scotia institutions as they develop the skills needed to participate in the labour force and innovate in their fields. SURGE's primary method of engagement is through weekly, club style programming, and shorter hackathon style weekend programming, in addition to outreach activities and more.

In 2025-26

115

Events

420

Participants Supported



The IDEA Sandbox is a hardware creation and development space, through the IDEA Makerspace. The presence of real-world machines and making tools allows students to understand the complexities that come with bringing ideas from the realm of conceptual to the physical. This helps to ground innovations in reality and can help to hone and refine ideas to the place where they are functional, viable, and desirable.

In 2025-26

18

Events

860

Participants Supported



ShiftKey Labs connects students, industry, and community through hands-on programs that turn ideas into real-world solutions. They create opportunities for computer science students to apply their skills beyond the classroom while building meaningful connections with local organizations. ShiftKey Labs' programs support innovation, entrepreneurship, and creative problem-solving across disciplines. By working with partners, they help tackle real challenges facing our community and region. At the same time, they're developing the next generation of talent for the tech sector. Together, this work contributes to a stronger, more inclusive innovation ecosystem.

In 2025-26

83
Events

2,033
Participants Supported





Alumni Spotlight **Advanced Climate Monitoring Inc.**

From Hip Waders to High-Tech: How Catherine Evans Is Helping Communities Get Ahead of Climate Change

Across North America, harmful algal blooms are threatening drinking water, ecosystems, and public health. These toxic mats of blue-green algae can appear suddenly, forcing beach closures, poisoning pets, and pushing communities into crisis mode. Catherine Evans (MSc.'23) and her team are building tools to help communities track hazards and take action.

Long before she was analyzing satellite imagery and climate data, Evans was waist-deep in a marsh behind her high school.

Growing up in Sackville, New Brunswick, Evans attended Tantramar Regional High School, where an extracurricular wetlands program immersed students in hands-on environmental science. “You’d put on your big hip wader boots and go out into the marsh to check muskrat traps, tag ducks, or do little invertebrate surveys,” she explains.

It wasn’t just science, it was community stewardship. “We shared what we were learning and showed other schools how our ecosystem was changing,” Evans says. Those early lessons continue to shape her work today.

A Growing Climate Problem Communities Can’t Ignore
Climate change is accelerating faster than many communities can respond.

Warming water temperatures, intense rainfall, and prolonged drought are creating ideal conditions for harmful algal blooms. Today, 70 per cent of large lakes experience these blooms, threatening drinking water, fisheries, recreation, and public health.

Many rural communities remain unaware of a bloom until there is visual confirmation, or their dog gets seriously ill after swimming. By then, responses are often reactive, costly, and ineffective.

Why Lab2Market Was a Turning Point

Evans applied to Lab2Market to transform her oceanography and satellite-imaging research into real-world impact. “I had only worked in academic research,” she says.

“Lab2Market taught me how to talk to people about their problems and how to commercialize my work.”

— Catherine Evans (MSc.'23)

During Lab2Market Validate, Evans conducted 66 interviews, refining her understanding of customer needs. She then completed Lab2Market Launch, where mentors helped refine her pricing and go-to-market strategy. “The Founder Council really pushed me,” Evans adds. “They helped me avoid undervaluing my work and understand how industry and government actually work.”

The Solution: Delivering Reliable Early Warnings

After completing Lab2Market, Evans co-founded Advanced Climate Monitoring Inc., and launched SWIM Alert, a state-of-the-art, predictive algal bloom monitoring tool. “Communities often have a lot of local knowledge,” she explains, “but it’s really expensive to monitor everything all the time.”

SWIM Alert combines high-resolution satellite imagery with water measurements, community sightings, and historic climate data to deliver early warnings, pinpoint nitrogen and phosphorus runoffs driving recurring blooms. This helps communities reduce risks, rather than just respond to crisis.

Looking Ahead

Evans and her co-founder, Dr. Chris Whidden, have secured \$120,000 in non-dilutive funding and signed two customers. With a \$5-billion North American environmental monitoring market, the company is scaling SWIM Alert and exploring forestry monitoring to help communities manage invasive pests that damage millions of hectares of forest each year and intensify wildfire risk.



Which program is right for you?

Discover

“I’m curious about entrepreneurship – I don’t have an idea yet.”

AI2Market Discover

Explore AI & entrepreneurship concepts. No idea or technical skills needed.

8 weeks · Virtual · Fall

Campus2Market Discover

Explore entrepreneurship & innovation skills. No idea required.

7 weeks or 3-day intensive.
In-person · Fall & Winter

Lab2Market Discover

Explore commercializing your research. No idea required.

10 weeks · Virtual · Fall & Winter

Validate

“I have an idea – I want to test if it’s worth pursuing.”

AI2Market Validate

Talk to potential customers to test your AI-based business idea.

8 weeks · Virtual · Fall/Winter
\$500 stipend

Campus2Market Validate

Talk to customers and test your idea’s potential.

8 weeks · In-person/Virtual
Fall/Winter · \$500 stipend

Lab2Market Validate

Test market potential for your research-based idea.

16 weeks full-time · Virtual
Fall & Winter · \$10,000 stipend

Launch

“My idea has potential – I’m ready to build my business.”

AI2Market Launch

Build a lean, market-ready AI-first product and company.

16 weeks · Hybrid · Summer
\$10,000 stipend

Campus2Market Launch

Launch your market-ready venture in the real world.

16 weeks · Hybrid · Summer
\$10,000 stipend

Lab2Market Launch

Launch your research-based venture in the real world.

16 weeks · Hybrid · Summer
\$10,000 stipend



Start your innovation journey today:
www.dalinnovates.ca

Campus2Market

New Name, Same Commitment to Student Entrepreneurship

In January, Dal Innovates rebranded Collide as Campus2Market to better reflect its mission: helping students and recent graduates turn campus ideas into real-world impact.

Aligning with the national Lab2Market and AI2Market programs, Campus2Market continues to deliver high-impact training through the Discover, Validate, and Launch streams.

Students gain mentorship, expert guidance, and practical skills that support both entrepreneurship and innovation-driven careers. Campus2Market supports learners at all academic levels across Atlantic Canada, building confidence, capability, and lasting connections.

During the 2025-26 academic year, Dalhousie partnered with NSCC to expand program delivery across Nova Scotia.

Dal Innovates' Expanded Partnership Network:



Campus2Market is funded by ACOA and the Government of Nova Scotia.



Dal Innovates is a hub for student-led research, innovation and entrepreneurship across Atlantic Canada.

Its 2-Market suite offers programs for every level of a student's entrepreneurial journey whether you're commercializing research in Lab2Market, harnessing the power of AI for innovation in AI2Market, or starting a business of any kind in Campus2Market.

**AI
2Market**

AI-powered
entrepreneurship

**Campus
2Market**

Entrepreneurship for
everyone

**Lab
2Market**

Make science your
business

This year's achievements include, AI2Market offering its first pilot program to students and faculty, Campus2Market adding 8 new partners from across Atlantic Canada, and Lab2Market continues to grow, with more than 50 universities, colleges and institutions, making it Canada's largest platform in research commercialization training.

“ *Dal Innovates' Campus2Market Launch program gave us a network of advisors that helped guide our development and our go-to-market strategy as we turned our vision into a reality. We're now positioned to launch our service with craft breweries across North America, using our custom built AI that saves breweries time and increases production capacity.* **”**



— **Andrew Swift and Rob Marot**, MEng graduates,
Dalhousie University Cofounders of NovaBrew Inc.

“At AI2Market Validate and workshops offered by ShiftKey Labs, I learned to brainstorm innovative ideas, rapidly prototype, and bring those ideas to life. I’m now taking my very first steps into my entrepreneurial venture.”



– Yuhan Fu, MCS at Dalhousie University

In 2025-26

466

Participants
Supported

148

Ventures
Supported

83

Jobs Reported
by Hub Ventures

\$2.4M

Capital
Raised

Since 2020

1,665

Participants
Supported

447

Ventures
Supported

194

Jobs Reported
by Hub Ventures

\$21.4M

Capital
Raised





Spotlight Story **AI2Market Launches in Atlantic Canada**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming how companies operate and redefining what it takes to build one. “Today’s students need more than technical expertise; they need entrepreneurial skills to turn AI into real-world impact,” says Jeff Larsen, Assistant Vice-President, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Commercialization and Partnerships at Dalhousie University.

That’s the idea behind AI2Market, a new program from Dal Innovates, developed in partnership with Shiftkey Labs, Dalhousie’s Faculty of Computer Science and Lab2Market. Designed to be free of cost for post-secondary students, AI2Market blends entrepreneurship with hands-on experience using generative AI to support a range of high-potential ventures, from medical image analysis to data security.

“Students in AI2Market aren’t just preparing for an AI-driven economy,” says Larsen. “They’re shaping the future of AI innovation, locally and globally.” Launched in August 2025, the inaugural AI2Market Discover cohort drew 85 applicants, with 65 students selected from 12 post secondary institutions across Atlantic Canada. Participants successfully developed AI literacy, along with a clear pathway to turn their ideas into scalable, market-ready ventures, whether from engineering, science, business, or the arts.

After successfully piloting AI2Market’s Discover and Validate streams, the Government of Canada announced in March it would be investing \$8.5

million to support the growth of Atlantic Canada's artificial intelligence ecosystem, including AI2Market. This generous support validates how targeted entrepreneurship education and AI skills training can unlock local talent potential.

From Idea to Innovation

For students like Vansh Sood, a fourth-year computer science student at Dalhousie, AI2Market is a launchpad.

"As a soon-to-be graduate, I'm excited to see AI2Market offered to students in Atlantic Canada," says Sood, a student ambassador for ShiftKey Labs and co-founder of Bean, an AI-powered solution that simplifies cooking and meal preparation. "It gives students the chance to explore ideas, whether they're AI-based or using AI to move faster."

What Makes an AI-Driven Enterprise?

Experiences like Sood's reflect a broader shift in how companies are being built. At the core of AI2Market are students with new ideas for AI-Driven Enterprises (AIDEs). These aren't companies that simply use AI tools; these are ventures being built around AI from day one.

Larsen co-wrote an article with Paul Cheek, Senior Advisor at the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship, highlighting how:

“A new wave of startups is proving that small, AI-trained teams can quickly deliver outsized impact by embedding AI across every layer of the business.”

As Larsen explains, being "AI-driven" is a shift in how new ventures are created, "It's more than adding a chatbot to your website, it's about building with AI from the start, integrating AI into everything – from product development to go-to-market strategy to daily operations."

About AI2Market

AI2Market addresses Canada's gap between AI research strength and industry adoption. It pairs the core building blocks of entrepreneurship with modern skills in AI utilization and agile development, equipping students to build globally competitive AI-driven enterprises. The program is built on the nationally recognized Lab2Market model and unfolds in three stages—Discover, Validate, and Launch—supporting founders at any stage of their entrepreneurial journey.

Emera ideaHUB

The Emera ideaHUB helps founders build hard-tech companies for a healthier world. The three flagship programs enable founders to validate and de-risk their ideas from the concept stage to a manufacturing-ready product. They offer immersive learning experiences that drive accountability and professional growth, leading to better decision-making.



Clean Tech



Circular Economy



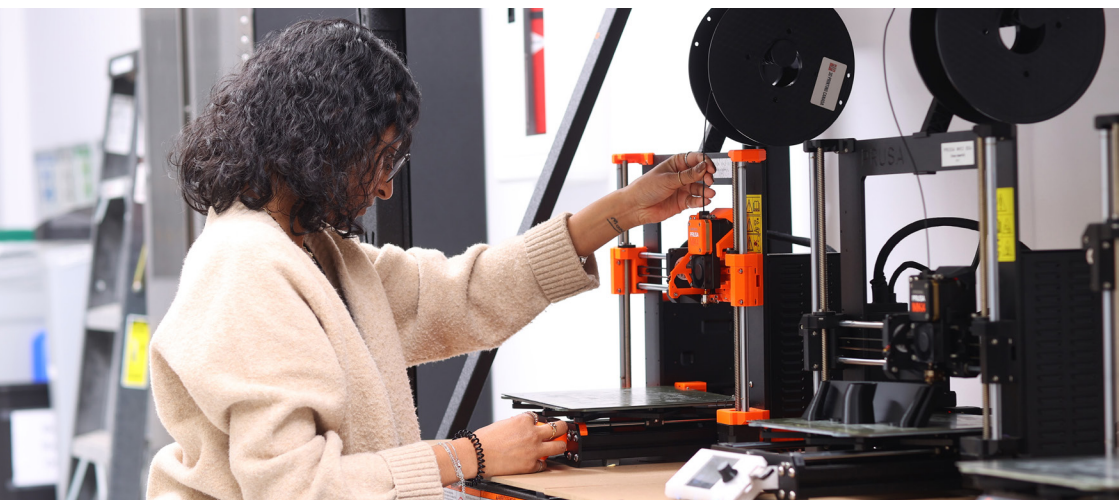
Ocean Tech



Education & Job Training Tech



Med Tech



2025-26

66

Ventures
Supported

139

Jobs Reported
by Hub Ventures

\$32.6M

Financing
Secured

ideaDESIGN

A 4-day Design Sprint to learn the basics of design thinking, rapid prototyping and entrepreneurship.

ideaBUILD

A 10-month rigorous program to take your physical product idea from design to operational prototype.

ideaBRIDGE

A 2-year competitive Residency with tailored support to prepare for manufacturing and scale.

The Emera ideaHUB's programs have catalyzed dozens of ventures solving the world's most pressing challenges while driving innovation and contributing to the economic development of Atlantic Canada.

Since 2018

235

Ventures
Supported

927

Jobs Reported
by Hub Ventures

\$160.3M

Financing Secured by
Current and Recent
Venture Alumni



Alumni Spotlight **VisAble**

A Toolbox of Possibilities

Rudransh Goyal (B.Eng.'27) loves figuring out how new technologies can improve things. In grade 10, his team from City Montessori School in Lucknow, India, faced off against college students and won the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) car robotics competition. Then, in his second year of engineering, while working at the CNIB Foundation, he learned that it takes two years to train a guide dog, at a cost of about \$50,000.

“People who are blind and visually impaired are waiting up to a year for a guide dog to become available, and I wanted to find a solution,” says Goyal.

While robotic guide dogs may one day help the visually impaired, Goyal came up with the idea of incorporating AI into a pair of sunglasses that could offer people independence today.

These innovative AI sunglasses, called VisAble, would be able to identify a range of elements, like traffic signals, to provide users with enhanced route planning capabilities. “Our VisAble sunglasses would be engineered with tiny cameras and use AI to report back to the wearer things in their environment,” Goyal explains.

Excited by their idea, Goyal jumped into Dalhousie’s entrepreneurship ecosystem with both feet. They participated in the ideaHUB’s DESIGN and Dal Innovates’ Campus2Market programs.

“The HUB and Dal Innovates guided us through design sprints and customer discovery efforts, which helped us validate our idea in the marketplace. We also gained access to the HUB’s incredible engineering resources and made connections with successful entrepreneurs whose insights guided the development of our VisAble sunglasses.”

— Rudransh Goyal (B.Eng. '27)

Goyal continues to embrace emerging technologies, applying his growing skill set in hardware, software, and process design. He participated in – and won – a design hackathon hosted at the Emera ideaHUB, where the first-place prize was an internship at Detect Inc., a company dedicated to modernizing power line structure inspections through drone imagery and artificial intelligence.

The hackathon’s problem statement was: “How can Detect benefit from changes in drone laws that will allow more automated flights?” Now, Goyal brings his innovative, solution-driven mindset to work each day. He adds, “I am proud to have the opportunity to work with the Detect team on integrating artificial intelligence algorithms so drones can cover more area in less time.”

The Emera ideaHUB is more than just a space—it’s a fully stocked toolbox of possibilities, empowering students to engineer a future where ideas take shape and solutions come to life.



Build Something Massive

Dalhousie University proudly hosts CDL-Atlantic, a key component within the prestigious global network of the Creative Destruction Lab (CDL). CDL is a global, nonprofit organization dedicated to delivering an objectives-based program for massively scalable, seed-stage, science- and technology-based startups.

The program actively supports early-stage ventures in building and scaling their businesses through mentorship and investment guidance from experienced entrepreneurs and investors. As one of 16 sites globally, CDL-Atlantic significantly contributes to the innovation ecosystem by offering two specialized venture cohorts each program year: one focused on the strategic area of Oceans, and a tech-agnostic Prime stream. CDL-Atlantic is also one of six locations in the network collaborating on the CDL Defence stream.

2025-26

56

Ventures Supported

\$157.4M

Funding Secured

\$830.8M

Equity Value Creation

Since 2017

341

Ventures Supported

\$888M

Funding Secured

\$3.06B

Equity Value Creation

In the 2025–26, 28 MBA students participated in CDL across three Atlantic universities – 16 from UNB, 6 from MUN, and 6 from DAL. Both UNB and MUN are engaged with CDL through their MBA programs, reflecting a growing regional commitment to entrepreneurship education.

“The advice we received at CDL—from structuring our first raise to reimagining our onboarding and growth strategy—was foundational. We didn’t just get guidance—we got pushed. Pushed to think bigger, aim higher, and stay accountable to the milestones that really matter. That mentorship changed everything. Reflecting on our journey since graduating in May 2023, and seeing those growth numbers come to life, was both surreal and a proud moment. But it wasn’t just about how far the company has come; it was just as much about the growth Jeff Barsalou and I have experienced as founders.

So to those of you at CDL—the mentors, supporters, investors—thank you. You didn’t just help us raise money. You helped us raise our expectations, standards, and vision to get QuickFacts where we are today, and we are forever grateful.”

— **Christy Barsalou**, QuickFacts President & CEO
CDL-Atlantic Prime Alumni 2023



CDL-Atlantic had the privilege of hosting the inaugural CDL Defence session in November 2025. This newly launched Global stream, is a collaboration between 6 CDL sites, designed to accelerate the development and deployment of dual-use technologies that strengthen Canada’s national security and strategic readiness.

Recent federal investments - such as funding for the NATO Defence Innovation Accelerator (DIANA), shipbuilding projects, and new training facilities - are cementing Halifax’s role as a national hub for defence innovation and naval power, making CDL-Atlantic a natural fit with the new Defence Stream.



Alumni Spotlight **Alaagi Inc.**

Engineering BioPlastics; Alaagi's Campus2Market Journey

Most of us cringe at using single-use plastics. Yet the moment we walk into a grocery store, we're surrounded by shelves of meat, fish, and ready-to-eat foods sealed tightly in plastic.

That cringey-feeling inspired Saint Mary's student Sheheryar Khan, (BSc. & Dip. Eng '25) to explore new approaches to sustainable packaging. He set out to design a bioplastic that could degrade naturally while still meeting the packaging needs of food processors.

"I started experimenting in my small Halifax kitchen, annoying my brother as I boiled seaweed mixtures late into the night," said Khan, founder of Alaagi Inc. "I didn't have a team, a lab, or a roadmap, just a belief that the world needed sustainable packaging."

The timing could not be more relevant. Canada has committed to reaching zero plastic waste by 2030, pushing food producers to find new ways to reduce single-use plastics and comply with sustainability regulations.

The Challenge

Single-use plastics dominate meat and seafood packaging because they're durable, food-safe, and cheap, but they also generate significant waste. In Canada,

plastic packaging makes up about half of the 3.3 million tonnes of plastic sent to landfills each year.

“Plastics are a major problem, but the current solutions with bioplastics are not very scalable,” Khan says.

Unlike many bioplastics alternatives that rely on resource intensive land-based crops like corn or sugarcane, Alaagi’s solution uses seaweed. “Seaweed grows everywhere in the ocean,” Khan explains. “In some cases, governments will actually pay to have invasive species removed.”

Why Campus2Market Launch

Khan’s early development took place in a university lab with support from volunteer Enactus teammates. Campus2Market Launch helped him shift from technical experimentation to business validation.

“You can make anything nice in a lab, but if every component is expensive, then nobody will buy it,” he says. “Launch really helped me focus on scalability.” The Campus2Market Founder Council advisory, made up of experienced entrepreneurs, sharpened Alaagi’s market focus.

“Founder Councils were one of the best parts of Launch, they understood the idea quickly and helped us see where to push, where to grow.”

— Sheheryar Khan, (BSc. & Dip. Eng ‘25)

Becoming an Innovator in Sustainable Bioplastics

In addition to tying for first place at the Dal Innovates’ Demo Day, Alaagi has secured letters of intent from Sobeys, High Liner Foods, Scotia Plastics, and Silver OC Foods, along with four purchase orders and \$165,000 in non-dilutive funding. The startup was also part of the winning team at the Enactus World Cup and named one of the Top 100 Global Startups by the Nestlé & UNESCO Youth Impact program.

Reflecting on the momentum, Khan says, “This past year has been transformational in ways I could never have imagined when we first started.” Now operating out of its lab at Saint Mary’s University, Alaagi is refining its bioplastic formulations, testing durability, scaling production, and advancing food-safety certification. Khan’s journey highlights how Campus2Market can help students launch ventures with real-world impact.



Community Connections

Bringing students, faculty, researchers & industry together to strengthen our ecosystem.

In 2025-26, Dal Innovates took part in 63 events supporting entrepreneurship and innovation education across Canada, directly connecting with over 8,000 attendees at events across the Atlantic Canadian ecosystem.

63

Ecosystem Events Supported

+8,000

Attendees across events

“At the Black Business Initiative we wanted a program that combined practical business skills with personalized coaching and real-world guidance. Partnering with Dal Innovates’ Campus2Market program has been one of our best decisions. The program equipped participants with the tools to move their ideas forward. We are grateful for the partnership and would recommend Campus2Market to any organization committed to supporting entrepreneurs.”

— Jocelyn Stevens

Manager of Entrepreneurship at
Black Business Initiative (BBI)



Events Included:



July 4, 2025

Ulnooweg's Pathways to
Post Secondary Camp



September 22-26, 2025

Second Annual Dal
Innovation Week



November 14, 2025

Shad Canada's
Futures Days



February 21, 2026

Pitch Black
Competition
with DBBSA



March 28, 2026

Enactus Dalhousie
Impact Gala



April 8-9, 2025

Lab2Market Roadshow to
UPEI and UNB



September 2, 2025

Dalhousie University
Welcome Fair



October 22, 2025

National Lab2Market
Summit in Montreal



January 23, 2026

Blue Collaborathon
with Deloitte Greenhouse



March 20, 2026

Her Impact Case
Competition with WIBA



Dal Innovation Week 2025

Building on its inaugural year, Dal Innovation Week returned in 2025 as one of Atlantic Canada's largest celebrations of student-driven innovation, growing to over 1,900 participants, 13 events, and 30+ organizations from across the region.

What began in 2024 as a bold experiment in community-building has become a cornerstone of Dalhousie's innovation calendar, uniting students, faculty, industry leaders, and community partners in a week-long showcase of ideas in action.

Campus-Wide Collaboration

Dal Innovation Week 2025 reflected the full depth of Dalhousie's innovation and entrepreneurship network. Contributors included the Office of the Vice-President of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Sandboxes, the Emera IdeaHUB, Creative Destruction Lab Atlantic, and a broad range of faculty, community, and industry partners, from Volta and COVE to the Black Business Initiative, QueerTech, Tribe Network, and beyond.



Signature Events Included

Dal Demo Day

The week's flagship event brought together 28 startups, including 9 prototype demos, before an audience of 150+ attendees. Teams from Lab2Market and Campus2Market competed for a share of the prize pool, and the Emera IdeaHUB showed their physical product development, offering a front-row seat to the next generation of Atlantic Canadian ventures.

Entrepreneurs' Evening

Sponsored by Morrison Park Advisors in partnership with Creative Destruction Lab, this gathering brought together 125+ of the region's top entrepreneurial leaders alongside 20+ of Dal's own student entrepreneurs for an evening of connection and conversation.

Open Street Innovation

More than 900 attendees turned out for this vibrant outdoor showcase of campus and community talent, one of the week's most visible and energizing moments.



13

Events

30+

Atlantic Canadian Partners

1,900+

Attendees



Thank You to Our Supporters

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“When talented students have access to the right support, networks, and resources, they can turn strong ideas into real economic and social impact. ACOA is proud to support Dalhousie’s AI2Market, Campus2Market and Lab2Market Launch programs, creating conditions for innovation and strengthening the pipeline of early-stage startups led by diverse founders emerging from post-secondary research.”

— **Shannon Miedema,**

Member of Parliament for Halifax, on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.



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