



RESEARCH2REALITY

Shining a light on research & innovation.

Fostering Canada's Innovation Ecosystem

An Interview with **Bilal Khan**
Founding CEO, OneEleven Innovation Hub

Canada's positioning itself for growth in the new economy. And I think a lot about what the rules of the old economy were, and how things have fundamentally shifted as we move into the 21st century, and how Canada transitioned itself from essentially a commodities and resource-based economy to a knowledge and ideas economy.

You know, a lot of the times when you think about public policies, a lot of really lofty ideas and interesting thoughts around where we need to go and how we need to get there, but yet it's not really predicated in action. What I became passionate about was around taking public policy and this idea of, how do we transition to the new economy, and predicate that in the physical. How do we specifically build an institution or an organization? A set of networks and relationships that actually help our economy evolve?

How do we grow the innovation economy?

I believe innovation economies are rooted specifically in innovation ecosystems. If you don't build those ecosystems effectively with the right ingredients, the right people, the right stakeholders, then none of it works. Research and basic sciences is the infrastructure to commercialization, without which there's no chance and there's no opportunity for us to be able to build commercial opportunities or businesses on top of that science.

When an entrepreneur comes up with an ambitious idea, and they find a scaleable business model, and they start building that out, that's really where net new jobs get created. it's where wealth gets created for the region, and

TODAY'S RESEARCH. TOMORROW'S REALITY.

