



## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **techNL Industry Awards celebrate the people and companies driving Newfoundland and Labrador's growing tech sector**

**St. John's, NL – April 17, 2026** – Newfoundland and Labrador's tech community came together this evening at JAG Soundhouse for the 2026 techNL Industry Awards, celebrating the people and companies driving growth, innovation, and impact across the province. As Newfoundland and Labrador's tech sector continues to scale, the Industry Awards highlight the progress being made—and the people behind it—while strengthening the relationships that will help drive continued growth.

The 2026 awards ceremony—now in its fifth year—celebrates a remarkable 2025 for Newfoundland and Labrador's tech ecosystem. In 2025 alone, local tech companies raised more than \$295.5 million in private and public investment, accounting for nearly 80% of all investment deals across Atlantic Canada.

This momentum reflects a broader trajectory of success, anchored by milestones like the 2021 Nasdaq Verafin exit—the largest in Canadian tech history—which also established the company as Canada's first AI unicorn. Building on that foundation, Newfoundland and Labrador is now on track to produce two additional unicorns, Spellbook and CoLab AI—further signalling the strength and maturity of the province's tech sector.

Previously a part of the Innovation Week schedule, the industry awards moved to a standalone event this year, continuing to build momentum as a dedicated opportunity to bring the tech ecosystem together to celebrate its successes.

With over 200 attendees and 23 eligible nominees across five award categories, this year's event reflects both the strength of the sector and the growing interest in recognizing its achievements as the NL tech sector turns heads globally for its momentum and successes.

Newfoundland and Labrador's tech sector is a growing driver of the province's economy, generating more than \$1.87 billion in GDP in 2024, employing nearly 10,000 people, and attracting increasing global attention. The sector has set a goal of reaching \$2.5 billion in GDP contribution by 2030.



## 2026 techNL Industry Award Winners

- **Champion of Youth:** Genoa Design International
- **Community Builder:** PolyUnity Tech
- **Diversity in Tech Advocate:** Solace Power
- **Startup of the Year:** atlantiq AI
- **Nasdaq Verafin Tech Company of the Year:** CoLab AI

Winners were selected by an independent panel of judges and recognized for their achievements in business growth, innovation, leadership, and contributions to Newfoundland and Labrador's tech sector.

The 2026 Industry Awards are made possible by the vision and support of many corporate partners, including Platinum Sponsor Seafair. techNL and the tech sector continue to be supported by valued government partners, including the Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Department of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development.

Emceed by Corey Lynch, Director of Sales Communications and Product Liaison at Nasdaq Verafin, with live music from the Dana Parsons Trio, the evening combined celebration with connection – bringing together founders, tech workers, partners, and supporters from across the ecosystem.

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## Quotes

“It has been an incredible journey. There has never been a better time to build a company, and we are incredibly proud to be doing it here in Newfoundland and Labrador. We are doing it with a great team and I'm grateful some of them are here tonight to accept this award, including Jeremy Andrews, Co-Founder & CTO. There are very smart people in our province. Per capita we are punching way above our weight. But we need to keep going. Keep inspiring the next students to keep going, keep building, so we can all do more of this.”

– Adam Keating, CEO & Co-Founder, CoLab AI, Winner of Tech Company of the Year - 2026

“Newfoundland and Labrador's tech sector is being recognized, celebrated, and supported well beyond our borders. The Industry Awards bring our community together to recognize the vision, resilience, and innovation driving that momentum. While 2025 was another remarkable year, what's ahead is even more promising and exciting.”

– Florian Villaumé, CEO, techNL



“In an industry where companies can be built from anywhere, our members are choosing to build right here in Newfoundland and Labrador. This place shapes how we lead, how we think, and how we solve problems. The resilience, creativity, and sense of community here show up in the success we’re celebrating tonight.”  
— *Johanna Brown, Board Chair, techNL*

"On the edge of the Atlantic, there’s something special happening in Newfoundland and Labrador and our tech sector. We have always been a province of ingenuity, curiosity and builders, and our vibrant tech sector is showing that to the world by reimagining traditional sectors and forging ahead in new ones. The achievements celebrated tonight reflect the strength of our local entrepreneurs, the impact of strategic investment, and the power of collaboration. The Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, is proud to support companies scaling from this region to compete globally."  
— *The Honourable Joanne Thompson, Minister of Fisheries and Member of Parliament for St. John’s East, on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C., Member of Parliament for Central Nova, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency*

“Newfoundland and Labrador’s tech sector is driving innovation and contributing meaningfully to economic growth here at home. The companies and individuals recognized tonight are creating jobs, building globally competitive businesses, and helping shape a more diversified and resilient economy. Our government is proud to support the continued growth of this sector, in partnership with organizations like techNL that help strengthen the ecosystem across the province. It is a sector that reflects the talent, ambition, and ingenuity of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.”  
— *The Honourable Lin Paddock, Minister of Jobs, Growth and Rural Development, on behalf of the Honourable Tony Wakeham, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador*

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## About techNL

techNL is a not-for-profit membership association that accelerates the growth of the tech sector in Newfoundland and Labrador. In collaboration with its network of members and partners, techNL provides business growth services, visibility, a collective voice, and a community to tech and tech-enabled companies in Newfoundland and Labrador with a vision to become the most sought-after Canadian tech ecosystem, globally recognized for its collaborative community, diversity, quality of life, and success.