

Science World to Expand on its *Tech-Up* Program Thanks to Government Funding Through CanCode and New Partnerships with Mastercard and Amazon Canada



Kids as young as five will learn how to build robotic bees through Tech-Up
Photos can be found at this [link](#)

Vancouver, BC, April 7, 2022 - Today, Science World announced that its [Tech-Up](#) program has received funding from the Government of Canada's CanCode program and sponsors, Mastercard and Amazon Canada. *Tech-Up* delivers province-wide online programs for students and teachers that include coding, computational thinking and digital skills, fostering the workforce of the future by building and enhancing skills in science, technology, engineering, arts & design and math (STEAM).

Through Science World's suite of online and facility-based education programs, *Tech-Up* will bring digital skills training to remote and rural communities, underserved schools, girls and young women, students with disabilities, and Indigenous communities across B.C. Since launching in 2018, *Tech-Up* has reached over 3,000 teachers and 55,000 students with free coding and computational-thinking workshops, supported by pre- and post-classroom resources. Through this new round of funding supported by CanCode and sponsors including Mastercard and Amazon Canada, the program will reach tens of thousands more students and teachers across B.C.

Example programs by *Tech-Up* include:

- **Bee Bot Bop coding** students will understand the fundamentals of coding and how robots work by programming a virtual bee robot and getting it to complete a series of challenges.
- **Say it with Scratch coding** will introduce students to the basics of scratch coding as they work to create an interactive greeting card.
- **Micro:bit coding** will introduce students to coding with random generators and arrays within Micro:bit Classroom.

Tech-Up also offers coding and digital skills, barrier-free hands-on professional development experiences for educators. All training has supported teachers to meaningfully incorporate

coding and digital learning outcomes aligned with the provincial curriculum into their own classrooms.

Tech-Up has been operating through Science World since 2018 and facilitated training and programs virtually through the pandemic. Now, the program will expand to offer a mix of in-school and in-building programming, both supplemented by virtual learning. New topics and programs will also be explored to cover a broader array of learning topics including AI, data analytics, machine learning and more.

To learn more about *Tech-Up* visit <https://www.scienceworld.ca/tech-up/>

Quotes

“As an organization focused on science literacy, we’re thrilled to see the Government of Canada and notable community-building companies step up to provide their support for this important initiative,” said Tracy Redies, President and CEO of Science World. “65 percent of kids entering school today will work in jobs that do not yet exist so it’s in all of our best interest to nurture the talent pipeline of the future. We need skilled people entering the workforce so Canada can compete and contribute on a global scale. A part of this is ensuring that members of all communities in B.C. have access to this education.”

“I am pleased to see the federal government award funds from the 3rd phase of CanCode funding to Science World” says Hon Hedy Fry M, Vancouver Centre. “These funds have helped thousands of teachers and young kids get the skills and training in the digital world necessary for success. I am especially pleased to see Science World build on their success in encouraging girls, Indigenous and marginalized youth to see a future in STEM. As the world becomes more globally competitive these funds will help Canadian youth to become winners.”

“Canada’s digital economy is growing at an unprecedented rate and the demand for talent with STEM skills will only continue to increase,” said Sasha Krstic, President, Mastercard in Canada. “In an economy increasingly driven by innovation, this partnership is one of the many ways Mastercard is investing in initiatives to build a strong talent pipeline in Canada. Helping the next generation embrace STEM learning will not only prepare them for the workforce of the future but will have a positive impact on Canadian innovation as well.”

“Amazon is excited to support Science World’s *Tech-Up* program, which is closely aligned with the goal of our Amazon Future Engineer Canada program to provide equitable access to computer science education to underserved and underrepresented youth,” said Susan Ibach of Amazon in the Community. “Amazon is committed to helping more children and young adults, and initiatives like *Tech-Up* motivate them to stay interested in STEM over the long term – through high school, postsecondary studies, and beyond.”

About Science World

Science World is a BC-based charitable organization that engages the people of British Columbia in STEAM literacy. Their mission is to ignite wonder and empower dreams through science and nature. Their vision is that within a generation, Canada will be a country of thriving, sustainable communities rooted in science, innovation and a deep connection to nature.

About Mastercard (NYSE: MA)

Mastercard is a global technology company in the payments industry. Our mission is to connect and power an inclusive, digital economy that benefits everyone, everywhere by making transactions safe, simple, smart and accessible. Using secure data and networks, partnerships and passion, our innovations



and solutions help individuals, financial institutions, governments and businesses realize their greatest potential. Our decency quotient, or DQ, drives our culture and everything we do inside and outside of our company. With connections across more than 210 countries and territories, we are building a sustainable world that unlocks priceless possibilities for all.

About Amazon

Amazon is guided by four principles: customer obsession rather than competitor focus, passion for invention, commitment to operational excellence, and long-term thinking. Amazon strives to be Earth's Most Customer-Centric Company, Earth's Best Employer, and Earth's Safest Place to Work. Customer reviews, 1-Click shopping, personalized recommendations, Prime, Fulfillment by Amazon, AWS, Kindle Direct Publishing, Kindle, Career Choice, Fire tablets, Fire TV, Amazon Echo, Alexa, Just Walk Out technology, Amazon Studios, and The Climate Pledge are some of the things pioneered by Amazon. For more information, visit amazon.com/about and follow @[AmazonNews](https://twitter.com/AmazonNews).

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