



For immediate release

June 15, 2017

Health and Technology District's Strategic Partnership with TrueNorth Aims to Attract U.S Companies

Partnership helps organizations set up Canadian subsidiaries in light of potential changes to U.S. immigration policy

Surrey, BC – **The Health and Technology District** has strategically partnered with **TrueNorth**, a Vancouver-based company that provides organizations with a turnkey backup plan for foreign visa holders working for an American company.

With potential changes to the U.S. immigration policies affecting how U.S. companies work with top foreign talent, many companies see Canada as an attractive location to set up operations. **TrueNorth** and the **Health and Technology District**, are working together to make it easier for U.S. companies to create subsidiaries in Canada and move their employees north. **TrueNorth** provides teams and organizations a way to ensure business continuity and a secure work environment in the event of disruptive immigration policies.

"In light of the immigration uncertainties in the U.S., many American companies are looking at alternative locations to set up their operations. Our partnership with TrueNorth will help us reach out to these companies to promote the Health and Technology District and BC's Lower Mainland as an attractive and viable option, especially given BC's focus on the Cascadia Innovation Corridor," says Rowena Rizzotti, Vice President of Healthcare and Innovation at the Health and Technology District.

"We created TrueNorth to provide resources and guidance to help companies establish their business in Canada for employees impacted by new U.S. and Canadian immigration rules," says Michael Tippett, co-founder of TrueNorth Ventures. "What is not widely known is that almost half of the companies based in Silicon Valley are founded by immigrants, and a large portion of their workforce are made up of foreign workers. With the upcoming changes to the immigration policies in the U.S., this will have huge implications for businesses based in the U.S."

The Health and Technology District is one of Canada's most rapidly growing and dynamic new health tech sectors located in Surrey's emerging innovation ecosystem. The District offers competitive advantages for companies looking to relocate or set up a Canadian subsidiary.

- The District includes a series of high-tech buildings located and under expansion, immediately adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital.
- Once all eight buildings are completed, the District will consist of over 1 million square feet of high tech office space.
- The District offers health and technology companies an abundance of healthcare environments where patients and clinicians are co-located, working in partnership with numerous large, multinational and startup companies, clinical and research facilities to accelerate the implementation of technologies and solutions towards health care impacts and improvements.



- The District offers software companies a collaborative environment to grow their solutions and services in the healthcare market
- The District is close to rapid transit, easily connecting to the rest of the Lower Mainland.

These associations are in addition to the District's recent international partnership with [Israel's Center for Digital Innovation](#), to foster collaborations on health related technologies, creating an international network between partners to support health-tech innovations in Israel and across North America. More over, the Health and Technology District has become a member of [Life Science Washington](#), an independent, non-profit trade association serving the life sciences industry in the state of Washington.

About the Health and Technology District:

The Health and Technology District in Surrey, British Columbia, is a series of high-tech buildings located immediately adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital, creating a unique ecosystem for clinicians and health-care providers to work alongside innovators, entrepreneurs and tech companies. Developed by Canadian based company, The Lark Group, the District is receiving international interest, leading to a series of investments by local start up as well as global leading organizations, seen as an unparalleled landscape for research, development and innovation. www.HealthandTechnologyDistrict.com

About TrueNorth:

Almost half of the startups based in Silicon Valley were founded by immigrants. Many of these businesses will be impacted by new immigration policies. TrueNorth is responding to this need and has emerged as a leading advocate for US firms who are looking for ways to ensure business continuity in the face of an uncertain environment. TrueNorth provides companies with the resources and guidance needed to set up a workplace in Canada for employees impacted by these new rules. TrueNorth works with firms to set up a Canadian subsidiary for their operations. Once this is established, companies can transfer many of their employees to Canada using existing Canadian immigration practices. www.thetrueNorth.me

-30-

Media contact: Yvonne Chiang, 604-880-5090, yvonne@chiangpr.ca