



# Tech Titans

MARCH 2021

It's 2021, and the world seems to be breaking into pieces. The trade war launched by the US back in 2018 has accelerated. The EU is looking increasingly fragmented, protectionism is on the rise, and immigration is being curtailed worldwide.

But while governments turn inward, technological change keeps on transforming Canadian society. Wearable tech is everywhere from eyeglasses to mittens to smartsilk underwear, and the subdermal chip implants that Canadians are adopting in record numbers are driving smartphone sales into the gutter.

Four tech giants (Google, Amazon, Facebook, and AliBaba—known collectively as the Tech Titans) dominate the economic landscape—and increasingly the political one as well. And a new Canadian political party, the LiberTechians, founded by a billionaire social media entrepreneur, is promising strong borders, “data liberation,” low taxes, and the elimination of governmental red tape so that this technological innovation can flourish.

More than 60% of Canadians are working in the gig economy, or as contractors or consultants, and for a lot of people the lines between work and leisure are getting very fuzzy. But tech makes daily life so much easier. Subdermal chips act as IDs, keys, smartphones, and more—and AI allows companies to mine all this data for new ways to make our lives more convenient and more efficient.

MARCH 2026

It's 2026, and a lot has changed in the last five years.

Climate disasters have hit Canada hard: An ice-storm hurricane that hit Quebec on Christmas Eve 2021 lasted for nearly a week and wiped out the province's entire power grid. Millions of households were without electricity for months, in part because the power company's disaster response plan was based on faulty usage data. But then Muskrat Energy stepped into the breach. This group of startup companies working on distributed energy innovations began offering communities the opportunity to purchase DIY systems. A year after the storm, three-quarters of Quebec communities were powered by these private-sector energy systems, and “Muskrat” rose to number 8 on the list of the year's most popular baby names.

The verdict was clear: private tech had succeeded where the public sector failed, and the LiberTechians rode the wave of public approval to sweeping victory in 2022's snap election.

Low social cohesion (priority is individual advantage) /  
Willingness to embrace transformative technological and organizational change



The new leadership rolled out a major wave of deregulation that spurred a wild-west bonanza of startups, often financed by crowdfunding and other non-traditional lenders. Innovations make for even greater consumer convenience at a low cost: new ways of using implantable chips, realistic androids, smart appliances and vehicles, streamlined supply chains, 3D printing and onsite manufacture. The government is getting on the bandwagon too. As lower taxes reduce revenues, government is turning to startup services for everything from internal revenue enforcement to wildfire management to dermal implant-based health records.

The most successful startups are bought out by the Tech Titans, which roll the innovations into their large platform offerings. With so many platforms and few common standards, interoperability is an ongoing challenge, but AI is able to smooth over at least some of these difficulties.

More than 4 out of 5 Canadians are now contract workers, freelancers, gig workers, or consultants, changing jobs and even careers based on the demands of the market. Employer pensions have essentially vanished. It's a great deal for highly skilled workers, who are constantly being recruited by startups and the Tech Titans. People without in-demand skills, though, are finding it hard to keep up—and many are being replaced altogether by AI and robotic technologies.

This means it's more important than ever to keep your skills sharp. University enrollment is down (especially with so many fewer international students), so a lot of schools are shifting their focus to lifelong learning and online education. Since job requirements are constantly in flux, traditional designations and multi-year certification programs are becoming less relevant in the marketplace. What really matters is flexibility and the ability to adapt quickly to new technologies and new environments.

### MARCH 2030

Access to capital has never been easier and technological innovation continues at a breakneck pace. Canada's transportation and power grid is now overwhelmingly distributed and renewable, and the nation's carbon emissions are moving downward. Globally, however, it looks as if overall warming is likely to be in the neighborhood of 2.5 degrees, and the tech titans have begun to develop special "refuge pods" that neighborhoods and small communities can use to protect themselves from the most severe climate impacts.

Since the LiberTechian government loosened restrictions on tendering in advance of the 2027 election, outsourcing of government services to the private tech industry has accelerated. As the Prime Minister said in a GoogleNews interview: "It only makes sense: private industry is where the data is, and it's more efficient for these companies

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to take the lead.” As government continues to shrink, plans are underway for an overhaul that will dramatically cut the personal and corporate income tax.

Not everyone is happy with the state of things. Most notably in 2027, tens of thousands of people displaced from traditional employment by AI and robotics launched nationwide protests. However, AI-enabled data mining was able to anticipate the protests and keep them from getting out of hand.

Health Canada has now OKd sub-dermal implants for infants and newborns, and the three major tech platforms are offering these chips to all babies born in Canadian hospitals and birthing centers. These youngest Canadians will be ready from the earliest ages to take part in Canada’s boom and bust tech and data economy.

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