

Canada-Chicago Mentoring Program (C2MP), A Canada Technology Accelerator Pilot in 2020

February 6, 2020, Chicago, Illinois

- Are you a Canadian innovator and entrepreneur in life sciences/healthcare?
- Do you have a product or technology you would like to showcase?
- Are you seeking mentoring and guidance to advance your innovation?

If you answered “Yes!” to any of these questions, then we encourage you to submit your application to our 2020 mentoring program in Chicago – No registration fee.

The Trade Commissioner Service has entered into a partnership with Point B (formerly Chicago Innovation Mentors) at MATTER (www.matter.health), the life sciences/healthcare nexus in downtown Chicago to provide strategic guidance to Canadian start-ups. Point B is a translational and acceleration program that collaborates with universities, research institutions, and corporations to help advance life sciences, healthcare, and digital health ventures through team-based mentorship.

The Canada-Chicago Mentoring Program (C2MP) catalyzes the local Chicago life sciences/healthcare ecosystem to accelerate technology commercialization opportunities by matching experienced and supportive mentoring teams with early stage innovators.

Why participate?

- Receive coaching and mentoring for a period of 6 months from a team of life sciences/healthcare and other business professionals
- Improve your understanding of market access issues in the US
- Define or refine your strategy
- Build your network of key contacts in the Chicago market to develop new business relationships and identify market opportunities
- Immerse yourself in a culture of collaboration, open innovation and entrepreneurial inspiration
- Receive dedicated services from the Trade Commissioner Service

Program for the selected companies

Part 1: Orientation for the program (January 2020)

- Participate in a webinar with the Consulate and Point B at Matter to go over the details of the mentoring program



Part 2: Day of Acceleration in Chicago (February 6, 2020)

- Participate in a full day program organized by the Trade Commissioner Service at Matter
- Pitch and showcase your technology to an audience of 120+ mentors and stakeholders

Part 3: Six Month Mentoring Program (February 6– August 2020)
– Total number of monthly meetings: 6 (in addition to the Day of Acceleration). Note: The last meeting will be held in July or August 2020 and will include a debrief with the Trade Commissioner Service in Chicago and Point B

- Be matched with a team of 3 to 5 mentors (you will be assigned a lead mentor to work closely with you and the rest of the team)
- Engage your team of mentors for guidance and advice. Be proactive to gain valuable feedback on your growth challenges, market access strategy, business model, investor pitch
- Get access for free to MATTER, Chicago's top tier healthcare incubator, its workspace, its network and all of its educational programming (www.matter.health)

Program Expectations

- Plan to **travel to market AT LEAST FOUR TIMES for face to face meetings with your mentor team (February 6 + 3 other dates** including a date to be confirmed in July or August 2020 for the 6th meeting which will include a debrief with the Trade Commissioner Service in Chicago and Point B at Matter).
- Part of the mentoring can be done virtually (emails, conference calls, videoconferences)
- Able to commit at least one senior team member (C-level or Founder) to take part in the virtual program and attend a minimum of four in-market mentoring sessions (in addition to the Day of Acceleration).

Eligibility criteria

C2MP companies are selected using a competitive application process. Ideal candidates have:

- Created a technology/product with high potential for growth
- Initial traction in the market place (in Canada or the US or another geography)
- A management team
- A need for local professionals to evaluate their business models/strategy
- **Resources to visit the market a minimum of four times to meet with their mentoring teams.**

How to apply?

If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact Laura Dalby (laura.dalby@international.gc.ca) or Chantal Glass (chantal.glass@international.gc.ca) to receive the application form. Space is limited to **SIX** Canadian companies; all applicants will be qualified by a vetting committee.

Deadline: Completed forms must be received at the Consulate by **October 31, 2019**, to be considered.