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### **Salmon Capital of the World announces tech competition with \$200,000 in prizes Campbell River launches four NexStream challenges and mentorship**

Calling all innovative entrepreneurs with ideas that solve real problems for people and businesses. The City of Campbell River Economic Development and Campbell River Angel Group (CRAG) are launching four individual challenges with awards ranging from \$45,000 to \$100,000.

- Marine Wildlife Monitor
- Portable Renewable Energy Pod
- Food Processing – Bladeless Oyster Shucker
- Wildcard

Individuals, academic institutions and businesses with ideas at all stages of development are encouraged to explore the challenge statements and submit an expression of interest by Oct. 31. Successful contestants will be considered for seed capital investment and CRAG advisory support and mentorship.

To support people interested in participating in this competition, an interactive information session will be held at noon Oct. 8 at the Campbell River North Island College. More information is available at: [nexstream.is](http://nexstream.is)

*“Each challenge provides an opportunity to win a substantial cash prize that will support further development of these tech solutions. And there’s more: the competition process includes mentorship, skill building and networking opportunities as well. The goal is to make sure that even those who don’t win a prize, get real value from the process,”* says Campbell River economic development officer Rose Klukas.

*“The Campbell River Angel Group is sponsoring this contest to raise awareness about Campbell River’s TECHATCHERY program. As a TECHATCHERY initiative, the NexStream challenge will motivate entrepreneurs and innovators to solve challenges facing industries and communities of Vancouver Island and beyond,”* says David Baar, Angel Investor and co-founder of CRAG. *“The Campbell River Angel Group is pleased to financially support the NexStream challenges along with corporate sponsors and our members’ significant experience in starting and growing successful high tech enterprises will provide mentorship and advisory support. It is our hope that contest respondents and winners will create innovative solutions to these local and global challenges resulting in viable businesses that we can continue to help grow.”*

*“This competition is another example of Campbell River’s leading edge economic development initiatives,”* says Mayor Andy Adams. *“Partnerships, high tech and the pursuit of real solutions to support regional businesses, that’s the future possibilities of TECHATCHERY and NexStream.”*

*“We are pleased to be a sponsor of NexStream’s portable energy pod challenge. There are many off-grid uses for portable sources of power, including logging and fishing camps, in-field video production and of course, off-grid residences. Currently, the vast majority of these are primarily, if not exclusively, fossil-fuel based – with diesel, propane or gasoline generators. We believe a strong case can be made for a portable energy pod based primarily, if not exclusively, on **renewable** energy sources,”* says Jeanette Jackson, chief executive officer of Foresight, which supports businesses developing clean technology solutions.

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## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Why Campbell River?***

Campbell River is positioning itself to be a technologically accessible community through investments in CRadantage, Vancouver Island's only municipal broadband network, the Modern Entrepreneur series, professional development and networking opportunities and NexStream challenges.

*"In my extensive experience developing entrepreneur programs around the world, NexStream challenges and mentorship are uniquely positioned to elevate Campbell River's place in an innovation economy. Their strong sector focus combined with government support and sponsorship from proven investors as well as corporate partners positions this program to be a true success,"* states Keith Ippel, Spring CEO & Cofounder.

With natural beauty in a mountain and marine setting, Campbell River offers an inviting blend of rural and urban opportunities with the amenities of a large city and the welcoming feel of a small town. A vibrant downtown, far lower housing prices than major urban centres, and a mild west coast climate that allows for year-round outdoor recreation and an unparalleled lifestyle, are attracting young families and professionals to the area.

Campbell River, the Salmon Capital of the World, is the natural setting where small business and large industries are supported to stay, grow and innovate.

### **About Campbell River Angel Group**

CRAG members are accredited investors with a stake in the Campbell River area, who have founded or managed successful private or public high technology companies. CRAG's vision is to build a technology incubator in Campbell River, and NexStream is designed to accelerate the development of the local tech sector.

### **About Spring**

As a certified B Corporation®, Spring is a global incubator and accelerator that empowers entrepreneurs and entrepreneur ecosystem organizations to build better businesses and change the world. Through its global advisory services, it has helped more than 70 different incubators, accelerators, foundations, and governments on 5 continents enhance their capacity to maximize impact both in their local communities and globally. With their impact programs, they have helped more than 700 entrepreneurs create 350 companies and raise more than \$22M in funding.

### **About Foresight Cleantech Accelerator Centre**

Foresight is Western Canada's Cleantech Innovation Center which supports the identification and validation of cleantech opportunities and the successful commercialization of solutions. We bring together industry, government, academia and technologists to innovate and enable a responsible, more sustainable tomorrow. Find out more at [www.foresightcac.com](http://www.foresightcac.com) and follow on Twitter @ForesightCAC.

### **About Futurpreneur Canada**

Futurpreneur Canada has been fueling the entrepreneurial passions of Canada's young enterprise for two decades as the only national, non-profit organization that provides financing, mentoring and support tools to aspiring business owners aged 18 to 39. Their internationally recognized mentoring program hand matches young entrepreneurs with a business expert from a network of more than 3,000 volunteer mentors.