

➤ **“Canada’s Most Innovative Companies”** is the topic of a special report in *Canadian Business* [89(3):33-46 March, 2016. [www.canadianbusiness.com](http://www.canadianbusiness.com)]. The report begins with the question “What Does It Mean to be Innovative?” The authors suggest, “Sometimes it is an earth-shaking breakthrough. But mostly it’s a constant quest to improve one iteration at a time.” Thirteen Canadian leaders in innovative thinking from a variety of industry sectors are profiled.

➤ **John Lorinc and Mark Brown** provide their perspectives on where the growth is happening in the Canadian employment market in their article “Canada’s Top 25 Jobs” [*Canadian Business* 89(5):20-24. May, 2016]. Importantly, the report focuses on jobs that are predicted to craft a career with long-term potential, solid wages, and robust earnings growth, based upon the latest data from Statistics Canada and Employment and Social Development Canada. Interesting insets by Rosemary Counter provide strategies on how to get hired and opportunities associated with relocating yourself. Another inset by Alexandra Bosana provides suggestions on how to get more creative about building your professional online profile.

➤ **In a special report** in *Canadian Business* [89(6):20-34 June, 2016] Mai Nguyen profiles “100 of Canada’s Top Female Entrepreneurs.” Leading the ranking as Canada’s Top Female Entrepreneur is Tonia Jahshan of Steeped Tea. A related feature “Launch, Learn, Repeat” [pp. 37-40] by Joanna Pachner in the same issue of *Canadian Business* profiles Michelle Romanow who has started a wide-range of businesses and is also Canada’s youngest Dragon on Dragons’ Den.

➤ **The summer 2016** issue of *Canadian Business* [89:7/8:25-72] provides the magazine’s annual guide to the Canadian stock market. Much more than just a ranking; the report also provides a plethora of important information on risks and opportunities over the next year.

➤ **Two Twin Otter** planes from Calgary-based Kenn Borek Air [[www.borekair.com](http://www.borekair.com)] recently returned from an emergency medical evacuation at the South Pole. Leaving on June 14 following an “extensive risk analysis” to determine the feasibility of the mission, pilot Wally Dobchuk, with co-pilot Sebastien Trudel and aircraft maintenance engineer Mike McCrae, flew into the South Pole to retrieve two patients. The Calgary-based company, which has travelled from the North Pole to the South Pole and everywhere in between has operated aircraft in Antarctica for more than 30 years.

# Biz-tech Report



by **Terrance Malkinson**

They do not normally schedule flights for this time of year because of darkness and the extreme cold, which hovers at around -60° C.

➤ **Artificial intelligence (AI)** is fueling the efforts of two Vancouver-based entrepreneurs to give industrial drones the ability to explore distant mining sites, search for missing people in remote locations and even deliver pizza.” We are building collision avoidance for industrial drones” said Alexander Harmsen, CEO and co-founder of Iris Automation [[www.irisautomation.ca](http://www.irisautomation.ca)]. Harmsen graduated from UBC last spring, and after a brief stint with NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, he started Iris Automation with fellow graduate James Howard.

An article posted by Stefan Labbé on CBC News July 9, 2016 [“Vancouver entrepreneurs deploy artificial intelligence to help drones avoid mid-air collisions”] describes this race to find the ‘holy grail’ of drone technology. Once a drone goes beyond line of sight there is no pilot to look out the window and see what’s coming. Currently, Transport Canada only allows drone flights within line of sight. “We see this huge need for industrial drones for mining exploration, pipeline inspection, agricultural surveying, forestry, or even package delivery.” Iris Automation’s solution is an AI computer that blends real-time images and 3D maps to track incoming objects.” That’s when it hijacks the auto pilot on board and moves the drone out of the way” said Harmsen. Analysts predict the drone market to soar to well over \$127 billion as unmanned aerial vehicle technology quickly develops into a “game changer.” Harm-

sen thinks his technology has an advantage.” We’re making it very affordable, very light-weight, very energy efficient, so that really any of these industrial drones can have these modules on board.

➤ **The summer, 2016** issue of *Money Sense*: Canada’s Personal Finance Magazine [18(5)] focuses on retirement. Articles include “Do You Know How to Retire?” “5 Steps to the Plan that will be Right for You,” “Why You’ll Love Working in Retirement,” “Smarter Ways to Tap OAS and CPP Benefits,” and “Canada’s Best Places to Live.” These articles all include information not just for those near retirement but importantly for those early in their career. The benefits of compounding return-on-investment for those who start early are enormous and are well worth the minor sacrifice necessary early in your career.

➤ **The Tsuut’ina First Nation** has announced plans for a large commercial development along a 10 km stretch of Calgary’s future southwest ring road. [Robson Fletcher CBC News. Posted: Jul 11, 2016. [www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca)]. “Tsuut’ina will be home to one of the largest, if not the largest, First Nations development partnerships in Canada,” Chief Roy Whitney said. The project will be privately financed with the initial investments alone totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. Construction will begin within two to three years.

Working with Canderel, a Montreal-based development firm, the First Nation on Calgary’s southwest city-limit plans to include: an entertainment, hospitality and retail development, a major innovation and research campus, an integrated health and wellness area, a regional retail and commercial center, “integrated with the administrative and community services of the Tsuut’ina Nation.” The Chief said the development is part of a long-term vision to create educational and employment opportunities on the First Nation and will allow generations of Tsuut’ina people to work and flourish, right here at home. ■

## About the Author

**Terrance Malkinson** is a communications specialist, business analyst and futurist. His career path includes technical supervisor and medical researcher at the University of Calgary, business proposal manager for the General Electric Company, and research administrator with the School of Health and Public Safety at SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary. He is currently an international correspondent for IEEE-USA *Today’s Engineer*, contributing editor for *IEEE Canadian Review*, and a member of the editorial advisory board of IEEE *The Institute*. He was Vice-Chair of the IEEE-USA Communications Committee (2004-2010), and editor-in-chief of IEEE-USA *Today’s Engineer Digest* (2004-2008). He was an elected Governor of the IEEE Engineering Management Society as well as past editor of *IEEE Engineering Management*. He is the author of more than 540 earned publications, and an accomplished triathlete. [malkinst@telus.net](mailto:malkinst@telus.net)