

Impact Report 2025



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Introduction and Mission

The Canadian Undergraduate Biomedical Engineering Council (CUBEC) is the leading national organization dedicated to serving biomedical engineering students in Canada. Formerly known as the Canadian Undergraduate Biomedical Engineering Conference, CUBEC's transition to a Council reflects its expanded mandate beyond a single annual event and its commitment to year-round programming. Its mission is to promote awareness, education, and inclusion across the bio(medical) engineering community.



Biomedical engineering continues to evolve as a rapidly growing, interdisciplinary field, with expanding opportunities across research, industry, and innovation. In response to this growth, CUBEC operates as a national, student-led not-for-profit that strengthens the Canadian biomedical engineering ecosystem through long-term partnerships with academic institutions, industry leaders, and student organizations. Through sustained collaboration, CUBEC creates accessible pathways for undergraduate students to engage with real-world challenges, mentorship, and career development.

In 2025, these partnerships supported multi-city conferences, regional expansions, product fairs, career programming, and new initiatives, reinforcing CUBEC's role as a connective platform delivering lasting value to students and partners nationwide.

In addition to expanding access to opportunities, CUBEC prioritizes hands-on training that develops industry-translatable technical and professional skills aligned with the needs of Canada's biomedical sector.

CUBEC advances its mission through year-round national initiatives, including an editorial branch, student-led outreach, the CBME Leadership Summit, a podcast series, and a newly launched biomedical design competition, supporting students at multiple stages of their academic and professional journeys.



Key Achievements

Conference Growth and Expansion to Vancouver

In 2025, CUBEC expanded its conference operations to Vancouver, hosting one on UBC's campus, bringing the total to four (Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver) hosting cities. This move emphasizes CUBEC's commitment to maximizing conference accessibility.

The conferences welcomed over 700 attendees from across Canada, a strong growth from the previous years



Regional Team Restructuring

To further strengthen CUBEC's impact and operational effectiveness, the team transitioned its structure to a regional focus. This shift enabled closer engagement with local industry partners, universities and student groups, while allowing team members to better address region-specific needs and opportunities. By decentralizing efforts and empowering regional leadership, CUBEC improved communication, responsiveness, and consistency in programming, ultimately enhancing the quality and reach of its initiatives across Canada.

2nd Canadian Biomedical Engineering Leadership Summit (CBME LS)

CUBEC hosted its second leadership summit, bringing together biomedical engineering student leaders from across Canada to encourage discourse, learn from each others' challenges, and promote collaboration. This year's event hosted 13 student groups, with 11 universities represented!



True North Biomedical Competition (TNBC)

CUBEC successfully launched the True North Biomedical Competition (TNBC), Canada's first national biomedical engineering design competition. The competition was created in collaboration with the Western Biomedical Engineering Club to address a critical gap in hands-on, interdisciplinary design opportunities for biomedical engineering students across the country. TNBC provides a platform for students to tackle real-world biomedical challenges while developing technical, regulatory, and professional skills. In its inaugural year, TNBC will have 10 competing Universities from across Canada gather at Western University on March 14th, 2026 to crown a winner! This launch marked a significant milestone in advancing CUBEC's mission to unify and elevate the Canadian biomedical engineering student community through meaningful, high-impact initiatives.

Program Impact

CUBEC Conference '25

The 2025 CUBEC Conference welcomed **700+ attendees** and **60+ speakers** from **15+ universities**. The conference brought together delegations outside of conference host cities (such as **uOttawa, Carleton University, Western University, the University of Waterloo** and more), creating an accessible national platform that connects students from diverse academic and geographic backgrounds.

Expansion to Vancouver

In 2025, Vancouver served as both a CUBEC hosting city and a key expansion milestone, marked by the establishment of a strong regional leadership team and the development of meaningful connections with local academic institutions and industry partners.



Product Fairs and Pop-Up Events

In 2025, CUBEC hosted product fairs in Vancouver (UBC) and Montreal (District 3), connecting students directly with BME innovators and industry leaders. Participating organizations included Evasc, Aspect Biosystems, SnapCyte, Medtronic, Vitruvius Innovations, Orthopediatrics, and McGill BME.

CUBEC also co-hosted a Medtech Career Night with McMaster University's iBiomed Society, featuring an industry panel with professionals from Boston Scientific, Baylis Medtech, and VoxNeuro

Outreach

CUBEC leveraged its national platform to raise awareness among high school and CEGEP students about the field of biomedical engineering and its diverse academic and career pathways. These outreach initiatives were delivered in partnership with the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the ethos Lab, promoting biomedical engineering as a promising field of study and a meaningful career option while strengthening connections between secondary education, academia, and the broader BME community.



Editorial and CUBEConversations

15+ editorial articles were published, describing the activities and outlook of BME student groups, industry leaders, and professors. In addition, we created a podcast on Spotify called 'CUBEConversations' where CUBEC team members are able to host in-depth conversations with guests of interest. CUBEC was also highlighted in the Canadian Healthcare Technology Magazine.



Overview of Partnerships

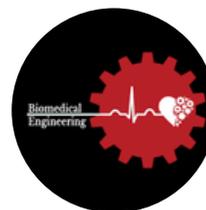
A big thank you to our sponsors and partners, who have supported us along the way, and have helped hundreds of students gain access to resources and feel confident in their academic journeys.

Medtronic, our Title Sponsor for CUBEC '24 and CUBEC '25 has been pivotal in helping us establish our role in the Canadian Healthcare technology ecosystem. With Medtronic's support, we've been able to scale our activities and be there for students nationally.

We also thank our other partners, such as Kardium, API, Baylis Medtech, AbCellera, Garmin and Montréal INVIVO.

We've also partnered with groups such as **District 3**, **UBC SBME**, and **iBiomed Society (McMaster University)** to host smaller scale events and promote Entrepreneurship in BME!

We'd like to highlight the following local student groups: **BUSS** at McGill, **BMESS** at the University of Calgary, **CUBE** at the University of Toronto and **BMEUSA** at the University of British Columbia for helping host our conference!



Challenges and Lessons Learned

As a not-for-profit organization now in its third year since incorporation, CUBEC continues to refine and optimize its operations to ensure long-term effectiveness and sustainability. Below are several key challenges encountered to date, along with corresponding lessons learned and areas for potential improvement.

- **Promoting cohesion and engagement within the CUBEC team.** CUBEC is composed of students from across Canada. While this national structure enables cross-country collaboration and relationship-building, a predominantly virtual environment can pose challenges to team cohesion and day-to-day engagement. Efforts to promote team moral will be implemented to help members connect to the mission and each other.
- **Turnover and recruitment in a student-led not-for-profit.** Given that CUBEC is led by students, turnover in executive roles is inherently high. Recruitment efforts should be broadened to attract strong candidates earlier in their academic pathways and to support smoother leadership transitions.
- **Sustaining engagement throughout the academic year.** CUBEC hosts a range of events across the year, which can lead to fluctuations in engagement on a month-to-month basis. Developing longer-term engagement strategies would help maintain consistent participation and interest.

- **Promoting cohesion among BME students across Canada.** CUBEC aims to be the go-to platform for Canadian biomedical engineering students. A key part of this goal is building and sustaining a national student community. This requires intentional efforts to encourage interaction and collaboration among BME students across cities and provinces.
- **Securing sustainable operational funding.** As a not-for-profit organization, securing the funds needed to operate while keeping services accessible is an ongoing challenge. CUBEC should prioritize establishing stable, long-term funding sources to support its operations and ensure organizational sustainability.



Looking Ahead

CUBEC is proud to be the leading organization promoting awareness, education, and inclusion of BME opportunities among Canadian students. As such, there are several ways we can bolster our program for next year to fulfill the unmet needs of students across the country.

- **Alumni Network Development:** Establish a strong and engaged alumni network to promote career opportunities, facilitate mentorship, encourage professional engagement, and strengthen cyclical involvement with CUBEC initiatives.
- **Biomedical Engineering Job Board:** Develop dedicated job board infrastructure focused on biomedical engineering–specific internship and early career roles, improving visibility and access to relevant opportunities for students across Canada.
- **Graduate-Level Engagement:** Begin expanding CUBEC’s scope to include graduate students by exploring programming, resources, and community-building initiatives tailored to advanced biomedical engineering studies. This initiative also includes providing additional information/support for undergraduate students interesting in graduate studies.

- **Industry Skill Development:** Create opportunities for students and early-career professionals to gain top-tier, industry-relevant skills through partnerships with professional training centers and industry organizations.



- **Expansion of the True North Biomedical Competition:** Continue to grow the competition’s national reach by increasing participation from universities across Canada, while providing a greater number of students with meaningful, hands-on biomedical engineering design experience through real-world, industry-relevant challenges.





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