

WHERE MAKERS MAKE THEIR MARK

WHAT MAKES KELOWNA'S MANUFACTURING SECTOR SO ADVANCED?

For starters, our diverse manufacturing sector harnesses the depth and breadth of more than 600 firms in the Central Okanagan who specialize in wood products, composite materials, engineering, agri-food, health and more.

The sheer diversity of manufacturers makes it easy for existing and new businesses to find high-quality local partners to help with specific challenges. Canada's digital technology sector is also on hand to support the industry, helping discover



new ways to make production faster, more sustainable, and in some cases, more intelligent, as AI for self-regulating systems is explored.

But what we manufacture best in the Central Okanagan is partnerships. With cross-sector collaborations and a high-degree of cooperation, it's easy to find the right people and companies to achieve your goals.

With world-class research and innovation in everything from aerospace to waterslides, local companies are developing the technologies and materials of the future, which in turn is attracting forward-thinking entrepreneurs and businesses.



\$16.3B

CONTRIBUTED TO BC'S
GDP BY MANUFACTURING
INDUSTRY

178K+

MANUFACTURING
JOBS IN BC

BC RANKS #3 IN CANADA
IN MANUFACTURING
EMPLOYMENT

648+

MANUFACTURING FIRMS,
EMPLOYING 6000+
PEOPLE IN THE CENTRAL
OKANAGAN

SUCCESS IN THE CENTRAL OKANAGAN



Named the third fastest growing company in Canada by *The Globe and Mail* (2020), Vitalis manufactures the most sophisticated industrial supercritical CO₂ extraction systems in the world. Say what? Okay, a brief explanation.

Widely used in the botanical, food, and pharmaceutical industries, CO₂ extraction is a process that uses pressurized carbon dioxide to pull phytochemicals, waxes and oils from plants. For example, it removes the caffeine from coffee beans. In the world of cannabis, it allows companies to create product

lines derived from a broad spectrum oil.

Today, producers come to Vitalis from all over the world and all types of industries—cannabis, hemp, pharmaceutical, F&B, and essential oils—to turn their organic materials into pure extracts. As an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), Vitalis' systems are manufactured and tested at their Kelowna facility, giving them control over the quality and reliability of the products that make them so well-known.



Beautiful wooden acoustic panels amplify the sound of hard work, innovation and creativity, and when done well, it's a level of craftsmanship filled with precision and care. It's something Vladimir and Natasha Bolshakov know all about.

As first generation immigrants from Ukraine, they took what was once a children's furniture shop and crafted Kelowna-based Geometrik into North America's premier acoustic wood paneling company.

An engineer by trade, Vladimir started receiving orders for wooden acoustical panels because of the quality of the sound absorption as well as its exquisite beauty. The shift in business also brought exponential growth—they've twice moved to larger manufacturing facilities to keep up with demand. Impressively, their work is on display along Canada's West Coast and the United States, including Gonzaga University, San Francisco General Hospital, and the UBC Sauder School of Business.



With over 3,600% sales growth of its compostable phone cases, the company wanted to consolidate operations in one place. They chose Kelowna.

After seeing plastic debris in the water around Hawaii, Saskatoon environmental consultant Jeremy Lang felt compelled to do something about it. So, in 2011 he helped invent Flaxstic, a tough but compostable material made from flax straw. Then he started making phone cases.

Now, Pela has diversified its line. With smart watch straps, Airpod cases, sunglasses and lenses that are landfill biodegradable. Add a personal care brand and more products to come, Pela is a brand that makes products with a graceful end of life. It's the best kind of ending: no more plastic waste.



Read the full stories of how these, and more companies are making things better at [OK-GO.CA](https://ok-go.ca)

INDUSTRY PLAYERS

Pela
pelacase.com

Waterplay
waterplay.com

Northside Industries
northsideind.ca

Vitalis
vitaliset.com

SunRype Products
sunrype.ca

Geometrik
geometrik.com

ASDAC.B.C. Machining
asdac.net

Nature's Formulae
naturesformulae.com

HexagonPurus
hexagonpurus.com

WeMaManufacturing
westmfg.net

ARE YOU READY FOR A CHANGE OF SCENE?



QUESTIONS?
[OK-GO.CA](https://ok-go.ca)