

# develop

GAME DESIGN | CODING | ART | SOUND | BUSINESS



## HIRE & HIGHER

Christine Burgess-Quémard on Ubisoft's plan to recruit a new breed of game developer



INSIDE ▶ BLITZ GAMES • DRM & SECURITY • MODELLING SOFTWARE • TOOLS NEWS & MORE



Wanna be a big kid?  
[www.BlitzGames.com](http://www.BlitzGames.com)

# 10 OF THE BEST GAMES COMPANIES IN

# CANADA






# DAVIS

**GAMES LAW FIRM** Davis has offices dotted all over Canada and provides a range of services for clients involved in all aspects of the business from development and publishing through to distribution.

Davis was the first national law firm in Canada (and one of the first globally) to create a dedicated video game law department, comprised of a group of lawyers from across the firm with expertise in taxation, employment, immigration, commercial law, litigation and other areas of expertise required by video game companies. It's also one of the few Vancouver law firms with its own dedicated immigration lawyers – no doubt useful when the city is full of studios populated not just by Canadian staff but also developers from the world over.

"The Canadian games scene, and in particular the Vancouver industry, has grown rapidly in the last several years.

The games being developed and published here are outstanding, and the games community in Vancouver is vibrant, fun, and first class," says Alison Cumming, the firm's practice group manager.

"The rapid growth of the games scene in Canada has attracted talent from around the world. Gaming companies are relying more and more on foreign workers to fill existing labour shortages in the high tech sector. While this poses some challenges from an immigration standpoint, this pooling of international expertise also makes the industry in Canada, and in Vancouver in particular, dynamic."

And with key clients across the industry in Canada, the team also has a good view on the fact that the country is such a prime source of talent.

"The growth and strength of the Canadian games scene arguably boils down to the industry's ability to attract

and retain top talent. Increasingly, companies are thinking strategically about attracting and retaining international expertise by capitalising on Canadian immigration rules and regulations. While Canada competes with countries like the United States for high tech workers, our immigration system offers foreign talent far more benefits than can our neighbours to the south," explains Cumming.

"Companies will want to communicate to potential hires that there are numerous options for obtaining work authorisation in Canada, that the spouses of highly skilled foreign workers in Canada are eligible to receive their own work permits, and that companies can nominate foreign employees to have their applications for Canadian permanent residence fast-tracked. Such strategising is a key area where immigration lawyers can add practical value."

## < FACTFILE >

**Founded:** March 25, 1892

**Location(s):** Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Whitehorse, Yellowknife, Montréal, Toronto, Tokyo

**Number of Staff:** 540

**Key Personnel:** Chris Bennett (video game and intellectual property law), Craig Natsuhara (immigration law), Mike Coburn (tax and business law), Tudor Carsten (litigation), Sarah Dale-Harris (technology and intellectual property law), Pablo Guzman (litigation and security), Suzanne Kennedy (employment law)

**Contact email:** Chris Bennett – [cbennett@davis.ca](mailto:cbennett@davis.ca)

**DAVIS**  
LLP

LEGAL ADVISORS  
SINCE 1892



## **WE GOT GAME.** and our thumbs prove it

we're not just innovative - we're cutting edge. DAVIS was the first Canadian law firm to create a dedicated video game law practice and video game law blog. we look at the world differently. and yes, we love star wars and star trek. we even play video games - that's right - we're just like you; just, well, lawyers.

we offer a full range of legal services for clients involved in all aspects of video game development, publishing and distribution. DAVIS provides full-service capabilities including technology, intellectual property and immigration law expertise.

**we get it.**

chris bennett - [cbennett@davis.ca](mailto:cbennett@davis.ca)  
technology / intellectual property

craig natsuhara - [cnatsuhara@davis.ca](mailto:cnatsuhara@davis.ca)  
immigration

**NATIONALLY ESTABLISHED.**  
**INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED.**

[www.davis.ca](http://www.davis.ca)

VANCOUVER • CALGARY • EDMONTON • YELLOWKNIFE  
MONTREAL • TORONTO • WHITEHORSE • TOKYO