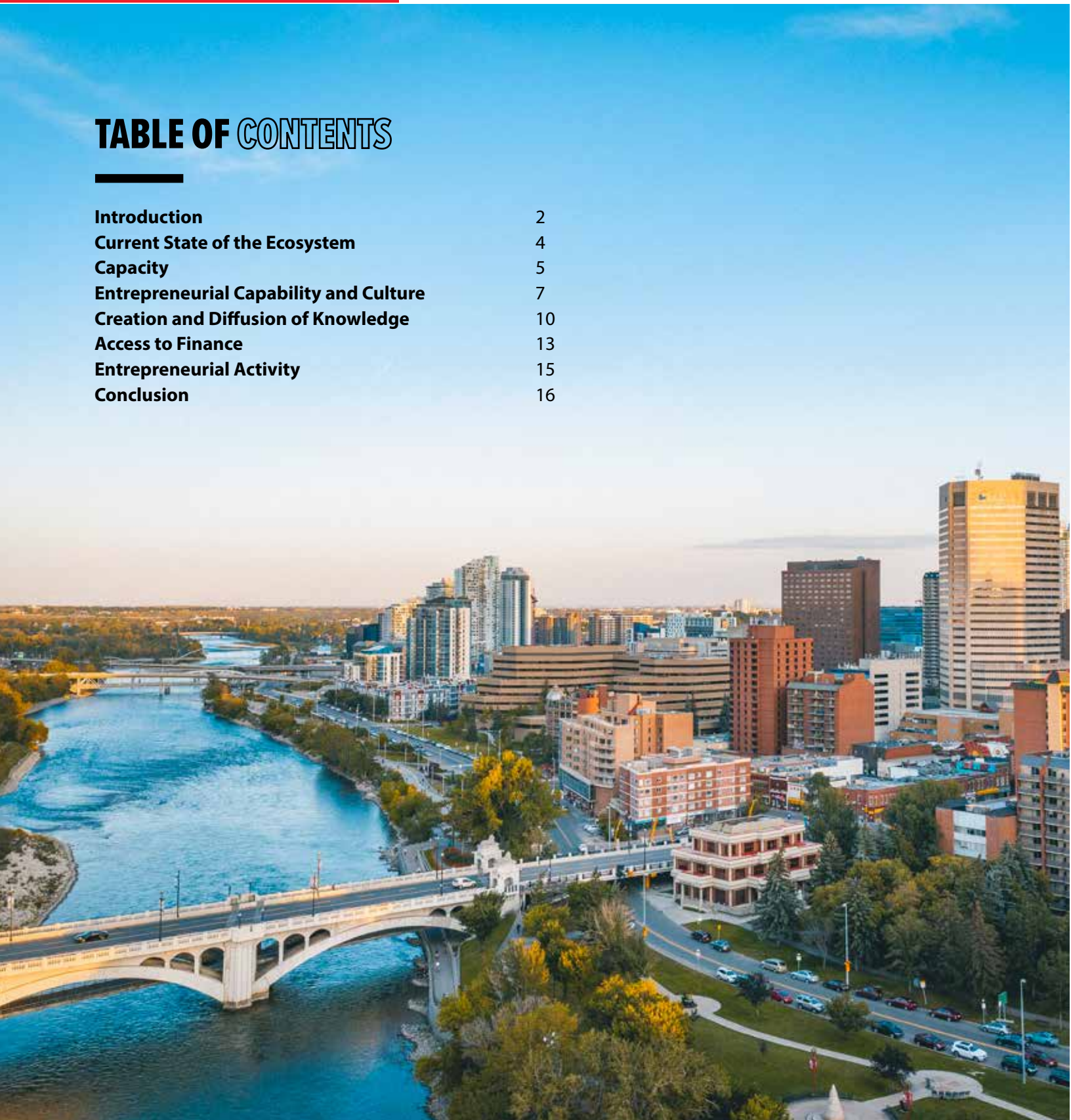


THE STATE OF CALGARY'S INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

calgary
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INTRODUCTION

As we embrace technology and innovative thinking to create solutions to some of the world's greatest challenges, Calgary's growing innovation ecosystem will play a critical role.

In 2021, Calgary Economic Development tested the economic strategy, *Calgary in the New Economy*, against key global trends and competitive jurisdictions worldwide. The intention was to refine the strategy and set a path forward toward a more diverse and resilient economy that is inclusive and accessible for all.

The strategy is now focused on five drivers of economic growth and advancement: talent, innovation, livability, business environment and brand. It supports City Council's Strategic Direction 2023-2026 to prioritize economic, social and climate resilience in planning for our future and sets out an ambitious vision for the city:

'Calgary as the place where bright minds and big ideas come together with an unmatched spirit to help solve global challenges.'

To deliver on the economic strategy, Calgary Economic Development engaged RSM Canada to conduct research on a path to accelerate the advancement of the innovation ecosystem in Calgary. That research is the basis of a three-part report released by Calgary Economic Development in 2022.

Brief 1: The State of Calgary's Innovation Ecosystem (June)

Brief 2: Global Innovation Ecosystems Review (August)

Brief 3: Lessons for Calgary's Innovation Ecosystem (September)

This report, Brief 1, assessed the current state of ecosystem assets and interviewed key innovation players in Calgary. The research from RSM Canada builds on a 2019 assessment by Startup Genome, which placed Calgary in the 'Activation' phase of innovation ecosystems.

One important finding was that building an innovation ecosystem requires the support and collaboration of many key players. Informed by this research, the innovation focus of the economic strategy will incorporate priorities around corporate investments into research & development (R&D), real-world application of R&D from Post-Secondary Institutions (PSIs), and attraction and development of innovative and creative talent.



Calgary's innovation ecosystem has evolved at a rapid pace in recent years with a number of notable milestones in 2022:

- The University of Calgary ranked first in startup creation among Canada's research universities with 20 per cent of startups created by research universities nationally.¹
- Leading global companies including IBM, EY, Unity Gaming, Mphasis and Infosys announced major new investments or opened new innovation centres in Calgary.
- Calgary ranked among the Top 20 North American cities for affordable talent and Top 30 emerging tech startup ecosystems globally by the Global Startup Ecosystems Report.
- Canadian Natural Resources, Imperial Oil, and Suncor created the Oil Sands Pathway to Net Zero to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from operations by 2050. It complements the Energy Transition Centre, a partnership between the University of Calgary and Avatar Innovations, supported by the Government of Canada.
- Calgary attracted record venture capital for the second year in a row as the city added two more local unicorns, Benevity and Neo Financial, to a growing list of technology companies valued at more than \$1 billion.
- The Platform Innovation Centre opened.

The University of Calgary ranked



**1ST IN START UP
CREATION**
among Canada's
research universities¹

Calgary was among the



TOP 20

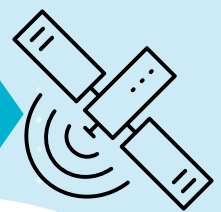
**North American cities for
hiring affordable talent**

¹ University of Calgary retrieved from ucalgary.ca/startsomething
² Canadian Venture Capital Association

CURRENT STATE OF THE ECOSYSTEM

RSM's review of the current state of Calgary's innovation ecosystem is categorized under five elements to an effective ecosystem. These elements were created to cover the common building blocks of an ecosystem. Below is a summary of each element.

- CAPACITY** Refers to the entrepreneurial, innovation, research and development capacity of a jurisdiction.
- ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPABILITY AND CULTURE** Refers to the entrepreneurial culture of jurisdiction including the skill set of entrepreneurs and the talent available to grow companies.
- CREATION AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE** Refers to the inter-connectedness of the innovation ecosystem and the diffusion of knowledge through collaboration.
- ACCESS TO FINANCE** Refers to the funding environment of the jurisdiction's innovation ecosystem and the ability for entrepreneurs to access funding.
- ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY** Includes innovation ecosystem density and activities within the jurisdiction.



CAPACITY

The most fundamental level of innovation is oftentimes at the research and ideation stage of a potentially disruptive idea. Capacity looks at how an innovation ecosystem can effectively create and leverage knowledge, whether it be through prototyping, post-secondary research and commercialization, corporate and public research and development.

This section also looks at Calgary's startup capacity.

Calgary has the building blocks for capacity to accelerate the growth of the ecosystem. Key assets such as Platform Calgary, Innovate Calgary, and SAIT's Applied Research and Innovation Services have been identified as integral to the ecosystem.

The University of Calgary (UCalgary) is the youngest top-five research university in Canada³. In 2021, it generated \$504 million in sponsored research, supported 113 inventions and was the leading startup creator among Canadian research institutions⁴.

Innovate Calgary was founded more than 30 years ago to be the technology transfer and business incubation centre for UCalgary. Its focus is reducing the gap between invention and commercialization. Since its inception, Innovate Calgary has submitted more than 2,200 disclosures of which 901 patents have been secured along with 549 revenue bearing agreement⁵.

It has also been a major factor in the creation of 92 UCalgary based startups including Epimeron, Trusted Positioning, LivingWorks, and Parvus Therapeutics, which signed a \$1 billion collaboration and licensing deal with Genetech to develop and commercialize revolutionary drugs for autoimmune diseases⁶.

Since its inception, Innovate Calgary has submitted over



2,200

disclosures of which 901 patents have been secured⁴

3 Scimago Institutions Rankings. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.scimagoir.com/>: <https://www.scimagoir.com/rankings.php?country=CAN&ranking=Research>

4 University of Calgary retrieved from ucalgary.ca/startsomething

5 Innovate Calgary. (n.d.). About Us. Retrieved from <https://innovatecalgary.com/>: <https://innovatecalgary.com/about-us>

6 Amanda Stephenson, Calgary Herald 21 May 2019 <https://calgaryherald.com/business/local-business/calgary-medical-research-company-signs-1b-deal-to-develop-new-drugs-for-autoimmune-diseases>



Innovate Calgary and the Life Science Innovation Hub, initiated in 2019, offer students internship programs with resident companies, support market research and product validation and other assistance to develop companies. The current portfolio for Innovate Calgary includes 40 companies in various industries⁷. In addition, a professor at UCalgary recently launched From Lab to Fulfillment (FL2F) to support women in commercializing their research.

The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) has established the Applied Research and Innovation Services (ARIS) team dedicated to supporting firms and organizations from invention to commercialization. The ARIS team provides services for prototyping and company development from research labs to expert consultation. As an institution dedicated to technology, ARIS is crucial at furthering technology advancement in Calgary and showed its potential with the establishment of 90 prototypes last year⁸.

Calgary's engineering strengths are revealed in the private sector development services in Calgary including Tangent Engineering, Tundra Process Solutions Acceleration Centre for Entrepreneurs, Exergy Solutions and ACAMP each providing hardware design and prototyping, testing and low-volume production support.

While Calgary's PSIs and private sector support research commercialization and prototyping, Calgary also has a number of not-for-profit and post-secondary support systems to support the creation of startups.

Most notably, Platform Calgary hosts Startup Calgary offering Startup Essentials, a series of introductory workshops to provide new founders with the tools they need to start. Similarly, Mount Royal University (MRU)'s Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship offers the Slate Innovation Lab and the JMH LaunchPad Pitch Competition. The Slate Innovation Lab, launched in 2013, offers a collaboration space, personalized mentorship and innovation programming to support local startups.

7 Innovate Calgary. (n.d.). Portfolio Companies. Retrieved from <https://innovatecalgary.com/>: <https://innovatecalgary.com/our-portfolio/portfolio-companies/>

8 SAIT. (n.d.). Applied Research and Innovation Services. Retrieved from <https://www.sait.ca/>: <https://www.sait.ca/research-and-innovation>



ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPABILITY AND CULTURE

To have an advanced innovation ecosystem that is sustainable, entrepreneurs (potential and established) must have the skill sets (capability), but also have the entrepreneurial ambition it takes to succeed in the global economy. The community must also develop a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, supporting the development and growth of entrepreneurs. This section looks at Calgary's innovation ecosystem's capabilities in terms of skills, entrepreneurial culture and inherent ambition, along with representation of entrepreneurs from underserved populations.

Calgary has the skill set and certain unique advantages to accelerate its innovation ecosystem, but requires a clear focus on the inclusion of underrepresented groups in the innovation ecosystem.

Calgary's innovation ecosystem is developing in an entrepreneurial community. Widely known as Canada's energy capital, Calgary has the highest number of company headquarters per capita in Canada⁹. The ecosystem built up around Calgary's energy economy is globally connected and diverse. It includes professional services, transportation and warehousing, creative industries and post-secondary institutions known for excellence in business, engineering, entrepreneurial thinking with global leading specialties in areas such as global positioning systems and sensor technologies.

The result is that Calgary has more engineers per capita than any other city in Canada and 604,225 people or 48.8 per cent of the population (2016) with a post-secondary diploma or degree¹⁰.

Calgary moved up six places to rank 28th overall in CBRE's North American Tech Talent Ranking 2022, edging out larger centres such as Pittsburgh and Orlando¹¹. CBRE Scoring Tech Talent reports 46,700 tech workers in Calgary, accounting for 7.1 per cent of all workers and an increase of 3,466 tech workers from the previous year. In January 2022, Alberta launched the Accelerated Tech Pathway program to fast track permanent residence for skilled tech professionals settling in Alberta.

9 Calgary Economic Development. (2021). Calgary in the New Economy: Progress Report. Calgary: Calgary Economic Development.

10 Government of Alberta. (2021, March 25). Calgary - Educational Attainment. Retrieved from <https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/>: <https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/region/calgary/educational-attainment/#/>

11 Source: CBRE Research, CBRE Econometric Advisors, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Statistics Canada, Oxford Economics, The National Center of Education Statistics, National Science Foundation, Axiometrics, 2021.

Calgary's post-secondary student population increased by approximately 1.5 per cent in 2021. As the student population increases, post-secondaries are developing entrepreneurial programming to reach students from all departments and disciplines.

With support from the Hunter Family Foundation, UCalgary launched the Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking in 2017 to create a place where students and entrepreneurs get firsthand access to workshops, hackathons, challenges, and training programs¹². The Hunter Hub also takes a coordinating role connecting supports across UCalgary, including W21C and the Life Sciences Innovation Hub, both focused on health and life sciences research and innovation.

SAIT, MRU and Bow Valley College offer entrepreneurial programming and entrepreneurs in residence to foster a culture of entrepreneurship across their institutions.

Apart from Calgary's post-secondary institutions, there are numerous community tech training programs for entrepreneurs to access and leverage. Here are a few examples of programs offered in Calgary:

- AltaML launched the Advanced AI/ML lab with support of \$3.5 million from Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (OCIF). This lab is anticipated to provide approximately 240 internships with hands-on experience and real-world application of AI/ML in solving real world problems.
- InceptionU goes beyond education in coding to incorporate critical thinking, design thinking and systems thinking to build future fit participants ready for the changing needs of the future.
- EDGEUP provides training in data analytics, full stack development, and IT project management to professionals displaced from the structural changes in Alberta's oil and gas sector.
- Lighthouse Labs is Canada's leading full stack developer bootcamp organization empowering students, launching careers, and fueling the growth of Canada's tech industry.
- Momentum delivers technology training for a career in IT to new Canadians and underserved communities in Calgary.

In 2022, Calgary ranked

28th 

overall in CBRE's North American Tech Talent Ranking¹¹

In 2021, Calgary's post-secondary student population increased by

1.5 PER CENT 

12 University of Calgary. (n.d.). The Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking. Retrieved from <https://www.ucalgary.ca/>: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/hunter-hub>



Rainforest Alberta was created six years ago with the mandate to 'connect the innovation ecosystem by strengthening the movement behind the Alberta tech industry around a framework of shared values of collaboration, community and trust through storytelling'¹³. It has grown to include thousands of Albertans promoting collaboration and communication across the community. More than 4,000 people attended the 50 installments of the Lunch Without Lunch knowledge sharing series. The A100 was also established to better support members expanding their network, connect with the entrepreneurial community and share experiences to diversify Alberta's economy¹⁴.

Rainforest Alberta and the A100 have supported entrepreneurs in building networks, angel investors to learn more about investing in Alberta's tech sector and spurred successful founders to reinvest in our community. For example, Harvest Builders and Thin Air Labs were founded by successful founders to accelerate learning and the innovation process with other founders, while facilitating access to financial, marketing, product development and HR expertise to help startups grow.

Harvest Builders counts Neo Financial, a firm providing financial services to Canadians as a success story. Within three years of its founding, Neo partnered with Hudson's Bay, secured \$50 million CAD in Series A financing, \$64 million in series B, and \$185 million in series C to get at more than \$1 billion¹⁵. Thin Air Labs, meanwhile, has supported 20 ventures in their first two years directly impacting their clients' ability to improve health outcomes and reduce environmental impact.

13 Extracted from <http://www.rainforestab.ca/about1.html>

14 Extracted from <https://thea100.org/>

15 Extracted from <https://techcrunch.com/2022/05/05/canadas-neo-financial-closes-on-145m-series-c-surpasses-1-million-in-customers/>

CREATION AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE

The role of knowledge creation is extremely important to innovation ecosystems. However, knowledge creation needs to be effectively diffused to spur research and innovation that will have a meaningful impact to the economy of the jurisdiction.

This section speaks to the interconnectedness of innovation assets, and how information is effectively shared.

Calgary has seen multiple partnerships in the innovation ecosystem in the past year to accelerate innovation, develop talent, and help firms scale up. Calgary needs to leverage corporate champions and innovation assets to link ideation to industry.

The Calgary Innovation Coalition (CIC) is a collective of more than 45 organizations working to accelerate the growth of Calgary's tech and innovation ecosystem. Formed in 2016 with 17 members, its members deliver courses, cohort based programs, mentoring and prototyping support to Calgary's tech entrepreneurs.

The members also share resources to improve service delivery and ensure entrepreneurs receive support for their research, advocate for the ecosystem and deliver programs to address gaps in the ecosystem. Last year, with support from Alberta Innovates, the CIC launched the Coalition Support to Calgary Entrepreneurs program encouraging members to collaborate in delivering new programs to accelerate the growth of entrepreneurs. Funded programs include:

- Alberta IoT continued the Entrepreneur Fast Track Program to help entrepreneurs connect and engage with industrial IoT firms. The program will facilitate market pull, helping entrepreneurs scale, generate revenue, enter new markets and increase collaboration.
- W21C with Platform Calgary and VMSA enhanced the mentoring ability of the SPARK program and delivered workshops for SPARK program participants and support digital health innovators.
- Chic Geek, with support from Alberta Enterprise Corporation created the Diversity Motherboard to work with industry partners to document, share and elevate existing diversity and inclusion best practices in technology companies.
- Bow Valley College, along with Rainforest Alberta, VMSA and Futurpreneur, expanded Founder Friday to help skill local entrepreneurs and mentors and get more people to volunteer as mentors in the startup community.
- Startup TnT, with Platform Calgary and Innovate Edmonton, hosted the Great Alberta Pitch Marathon, a startup 'Show and Tell' that showcases Alberta startups from all sectors and stages with a supportive audience.
- Mount Royal University initiated the Growth Catalyst program including curriculum, access to industry experts and mentoring to help firms scaleup and grow.

**The most recent study forecast
Alberta industries will spend**

\$20 BILLION

on digitalization by 2024¹⁶

Calgary has been working towards connecting our innovation assets across the city, recognizing multiple clusters in the University Research Park (URP), and the Platform Innovation Centre and downtown Innovation District; leveraging the expertise of both the University of Calgary and Calgary's business community. The University Research Park, driven by UCalgary, will create a new innovation and research cluster for students, faculties, startups, and companies to facilitate development of talent, innovation and knowledge transfer.

Platform Innovation Centre is the focal point for a downtown Innovation District including PSIs, creative industries institutes, the main library and a growing cluster of tech companies and professional services. The Centre is a single point of access for resources, programming and networking for Calgary's tech entrepreneurs.

In 2021, Alberta Innovates partnered with the Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (OCIF), Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) and Innovate Edmonton to launch the Alberta Scale Up and Growth Accelerator program. This program facilitated the arrival and creation of:

- Plug and Play Alberta: Offers programming to entrepreneurs in sustainability and health as well as an agonistic stream.
- THRIVE Canada Accelerator: Supports early-stage startups whose technologies drive towards a more efficient, sustainable and secure agricultural future.
- Alberta Catalyzer: A pre-accelerator program delivered by Innovate Edmonton and Platform Calgary targeting early-stage entrepreneurs and preparing them for later stage accelerator programs.
- Alberta Accelerator by 500: Offering dedicated mentoring and coaching to entrepreneurs from all industries.
- TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator by Alchemist: Focused on the growth of ventures in community safety and wellness powered by artificial intelligence and machine learning. A venture capital fund has been created in association with the accelerator.

Additional knowledge diffusion accelerators and mentorship programs increasing the capacity of Calgary's tech entrepreneurs include:

- The Alberta Innovates Revenue Accelerator by GrowthX: Focused on helping technology entrepreneurs win customers and grow their revenue.
- Creative Destruction Lab Rockies: Support science-based companies in the streams of energy and agriculture as well as an industry agnostic stream.
- The51: Support women entrepreneurs and building a financial feminist movement.
- InterGen: Leverages local business experience connecting scale-ups with business talent so they can rebuild, revitalize and reimagine Calgary's economy.
- BioHubX: Provides mentorship, resources and space to health ventures to grow the life science ecosystem in Calgary and Alberta.

Calgary Economic Development partnered with The International Data Corp. (IDC Canada) to better understand the spending to digitally transform Calgary's industries. The most recent study forecast Alberta industries will spend \$20 billion on digitalization by 2024¹⁶. Calgary's industry leaders in energy, agriculture and transportation have formed partnerships and initiatives to support this digital transition and build local solutions for industrial challenges:

- Corporate Innovator Roundtables were hosted by Platform Calgary with 16 corporates and the 'YYC Trailblazers in AI/ML' sub-committee also hosted engagement sessions with leading firms like Suncor, Nutrien, COSIA, etc.
- COSIA partnered with ForesightCAC and Platform Calgary for a pilot program with four cleantech/energy startups to accelerate their preparedness for enterprise sales through validation of enterprise demand and product-market fit.
- CRIN is a pan-Canadian network of industries, entrepreneurs, investors, academia and governments that identifies industry challenges and creates market pull to accelerate commercialization and wide spread clean technology adoption.
- Avatar Innovations fills a critical gap in the energy innovation ecosystem by working with large oil and gas firms to champion solutions from within by engaging their staff. It creates a safe "third space" for energy companies and academia to collaborate and unlock new business opportunities.

The City of Calgary is also supporting new initiatives through its Open Calgary Initiative. Through this program, the City provides open access and free data sets to the public, which can be utilized to run pilots and tests and reduce the time, effort and money in getting access to data sets.

16 International Data Corporation. (n.d.). International Data Corporation. Retrieved from <https://www.idc.com/>: <https://www.idc.com/about>

ACCESS TO FINANCE

A well-functioning innovation ecosystem requires a sufficient portfolio of available funding for its entrepreneurs and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Angel investors play a key role in enabling growing small firms to overcome early-stage funding gaps. Governments and associated agencies can also serve to overcome this funding gap through non-dilutive funding.

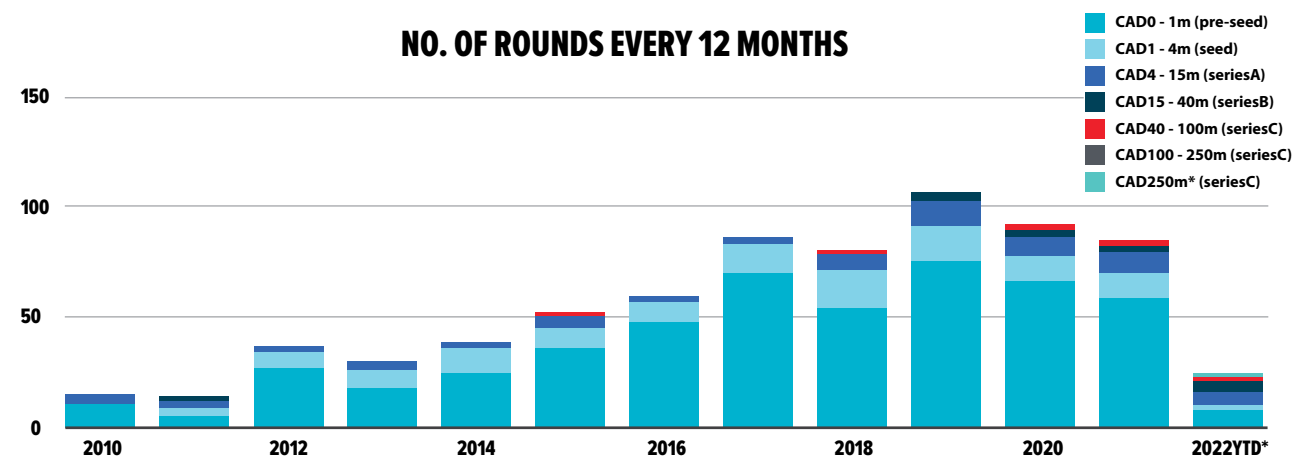
As companies progress through their startup journey, venture capital can provide funding as they start to grow. The innovation ecosystem also needs access to funding at later stages – where private equity typically plays a role. This section highlights funding sources available and any unique initiatives from the ecosystem.

Calgary has seen the recent rise of funds , in particular, as shown through an increase in the amount of funding available through new sources as well as reinvestment through past successful entrepreneurs.

Calgary has identified approximately 25 funding assets of which 16 are equity investment (venture, private capital) assets and seven provide loan and cash advances. The 16 equity investment assets include three assets to provide assistance in scaling or growing to other markets indicating funding accessible is targeting early stage investments. According to the [Venture Capital Association of Alberta](#), venture capital firms active in Calgary and Alberta include Accelerate fund, ATB Private Equity, Builders VC, BDC Venture Capital, Evok Innovations, Panache Ventures, Yaletown, Interger, The 51, UCeed Investments, Bluesky Equities and Thin Air Labs.

Data extracted from Dealroom shows Calgary is beginning to see a shift to more later stage investments; however, the majority of the investments remain pre-seed, seed, or series A. This shift suggests a promising future for Calgary’s innovation ecosystem.

FUNDING ROUNDS BY YEAR IN CALGARY¹⁷



17 Dealroom. (May 26 2022). Number of Funding Rounds. Retrieved from https://ecosystem.startalberta.ca/transactions.rounds/ff/rounds/anyof_SERIES%20A_SEED_SERIES%20B_SERIES%20C_SERIES%20D_SERIES%20E_ANGEL_EARLY%20VC/slug_locations/all_of_alberta_1~_calgary?chartDataKey=count&showStats=true&sort=-amount&statsType=rounds



Entrepreneurs and SMEs in Alberta are able to access provincial and federal funding to support early-stage growth. Alberta Enterprise Corporation is a \$100-million fund and operates the Accelerate Fund III, which invests in Alberta-based companies.

In addition, the Government of Canada created the \$450 million Venture Capital Catalyst Initiative to fund the growth of Canada's technology and innovation ecosystems. Approximately \$7.2 million will be dedicated to the Strategic Innovation Fund to advance research and innovation in life sciences, automotive, aerospace, and agriculture sector companies, and approximately \$5 million going to the Net Zero Accelerator¹⁸.

Unique among Canadian cities, the City of Calgary established established the Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (OCIF) in 2018 to financially help firms and organizations well positioned to boost the city's economy. OCIF seeks projects that align with strategic initiatives and key industries that demonstrate economic benefits including job creation, advancing innovation and technology and generating social benefits.

OCIF has invested in talent development programs, accelerator programs and companies. In 2021, Accelerate Fund III was supported by OCIF to place smaller investments in more high growth technology firms. At the end of 2021, OCIF had committed \$59 million to 20 projects estimated to support 483 companies and generate 1,920 jobs over the next 3 to 5 years.¹⁹

Approximately 
\$7.2 MILLION
will be dedicated to the Strategic Innovation Fund to advance research and innovation in life sciences, automotive, aerospace and agriculture sector companies¹⁸

¹⁸ Government of Canada retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2022/05/minister-ng-launches-request-for-proposals-for-renewed-venture-capital-catalyst-initiative.html>

¹⁹ OCIF Annual Report 2021 retrieved from <https://www.opportunitycalgary.com/assets/Reports/OCIF-Annual-Highlights-2021.pdf>

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACTIVITY

This section highlights the startup density and activity of Calgary's innovation ecosystem.

Calgary has seen increased activity in the startup environment through the rapid growth in number of startups, core technology companies and the emergence of several unicorns in the past few years.

Calgary has an up and coming entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. Startup density (the percentage of firms two years or younger) has been improving each year. In 2018, Calgary set a target of achieving 2,300 tech startups (< 5 employees) and 1,000 core tech companies (> 5 employees) by 2031. As can be seen in the chart below, Calgary is rapidly increasing the number of startups as well as larger core technology firms.

GROWTH IN CALGARY'S TECH SECTOR²⁰

	2021	2020	2019
Total number of tech companies	912	721	686
1-4 employee companies	385	269	251
5+ employee companies	527	452	435

To achieve the long-term goal, Calgary will strive to create 110 new startups each year while growing 36 startups each year to become core tech companies. In the past 3.5 years, Calgary has had five companies valued at \$1 billion or greater (unicorns): Shareworks by Morgan Stanley (formerly Solium Capital), Enervus (formerly RS Energy Group), Parvus Therapeutics, Benevity and Neo Financial.

²⁰ This data was collected by Zinc Ventures, A100, and Platform Calgary and is a Zinc Ventures prototype as it commonly referred to as the Butterfly Collective.



CONCLUSION

We know that building an innovation ecosystem requires the support and collaboration of many key players. Calgary has the capacity, capability, culture, growing entrepreneurial activity and access to finance to continue the rapid growth of our technology sector. We are building corporate and post-secondary partnerships to match research and commercialization with real world problems. We have added, and continue to add, training capacity for people to launch or pivot their careers in tech. In the last year, our startup community gained access to five global accelerators opening offices and offering programs in Alberta. We invest in connecting our support agencies to adjust and adapt programming to best serve the entrepreneur.

We are well on our way, having experienced a 30 per cent increase in the number of technology companies and announced five unicorns in the past 3 years. Calgary is well known as a global centre in energy. We are much more. With leading corporations and startups across industries, from cleantech, agtech, fintech and transportation to the life sciences and creative industries, we are building a diverse and dynamic technology hub.

calgary
be part of the energy™

calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com