



Project positions Edmonton corridor as hub of innovation

Edmonton (October 2, 2018) – Edmonton Economic Development Corporation and Epic Realty Partners have signed a deal to launch a market concept and engagement process in support of a new Innovation Hub in downtown Edmonton. The location for the proposed Innovation Hub and market concept is 103 Street Centre, the former Enbridge building at 10130-103 Street NW.

Inspired by leading innovation and technology centres around the world, the proposed Edmonton Innovation Hub will be a catalyst for increasing awareness of Edmonton's innovation and technology strengths. The Innovation Hub will be a key entry point and home for technology-enabled startup and scaleup companies and will build upon the current programming and initiatives focused on creating internationally competitive, high-growth, tech-enabled companies.

Centred in a growing cluster of technology companies downtown, the vision for the Hub is to bring together entrepreneurs, mentors, investors, talent and business experts in an environment designed to inspire and support the creation and growth of tech startups.

"We are solving some of the world's most important problems right here in Edmonton. The Innovation Hub would increase visibility to the incredible work happening at Startup Edmonton and TEC Edmonton with a proposed new street front location," says Cheryll Watson, Vice-President of Innovate Edmonton at the EEDC.

Building on Edmonton's established strengths in artificial intelligence, health, and big data, the concept for the Hub is as the front door to Edmonton's innovation ecosystem, which would provide the full spectrum of services necessary to create high-growth, tech-enabled companies. The Hub will provide community and resources for companies at every stage of their evolution from startups to established global organizations. "By growing Edmonton's innovation economy, we will create local jobs and more tech focused career opportunities, so our kids don't have to leave Edmonton to build their futures in technology," says Watson.

In addition to turn-key space for new international tech companies looking to make Edmonton home, the Hub concept is intended to feature a mix of street-front multi-purpose event space, short-term flexible offices, drop-in workspace and commercial partners. The remainder of the building will contain office areas managed by Epic whose tenants would be members of the Hub and have access to programming and community events.

"Like-minded companies want to be together," Watson says. "We see this trend already with BioWare joining Intuit in the EPCOR tower, and many more of our city's fastest growing technology companies locating in our growing innovation district downtown."

The 103 Street location is in the heart of downtown Edmonton along the city's innovation corridor, which stretches from NAIT through the downtown core to the University of Alberta. With naturally forming technology clusters, the addition of the innovation hub can increase support for entrepreneurship, culture and community and build upon our city's emerging reputation as a tech centre.

Throughout the next three months, EEDC will continue its stakeholder engagement with an increased focus on connecting with entrepreneurs, startups, and the broader innovation community to collectively create a more complete vision and operating model for the proposed Innovation Hub.

For more information on the Innovation Hub concept, or to participate in the engagement process please visit www.edmontoninnovationhub.com.

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About Edmonton Economic Development Corporation

Edmonton Economic Development Corporation is a wholly-owned entity of the City of Edmonton, governed by an independent Board of Directors, and tasked with cultivating the energy, innovation and investment needed to build a prosperous and resilient Edmonton economy.

For more information, visit www.eedc.ca.