Health City
Edmonton, Canada

What is Health City?

A different kind of economic development. We are an economic development initiative created to catalyze the health innovation ecosystem in Edmonton and surrounding region.

We work with the health innovation ecosystem to show that Edmonton is the place where health innovation and health industry thrives. We are creating a vibrant health industry in our region with health and social outcomes for our citizens.

Our focus is on transforming innovations from our health ecosystem into solutions that have commercial application and global relevance; adopting them for impact in Edmonton and scaling them for export to global markets.

Why and how was Health City created?

Health City was announced by Mayor Don Iveson in 2016. He understood that Edmonton's strengths in health research, health delivery and innovation could be an economic driver for Edmonton and the province.

Health City was developed with intense input from high-level ecosystem stakeholders, including industry. They identified challenges and priorities to advance health innovation in our region. They committed to be active and unified in their approach and guidance of Health City.

Health City was created to be disruptive, different, unique, nimble – a broker and catalyst for the ecosystem.

Why Edmonton?

We can disrupt health and we can do it here. The health industry is ripe for disruption globally. There is a huge opportunity for innovators who are focused on solving the challenges and pressures of chronic disease on the health system. The next wave of health improvement will centre around non-health data and its relationship to health. Global health innovators are now considering the entire health value chain, including social determinants of health and health outside the acute-care system, when designing novel solutions.

Our data is different and goes beyond health. Our jurisdiction has unique health data in both the acute and non-acute delivery systems. We also have immediate access to other data, including Edmonton's world-class municipal open-data portal and social services data. This variety of data can be combined and used by industry to develop robust solutions spanning the entire health value chain.

Edmonton has world-class "tools" to support the new health economy. These include artificial intelligence and machine learning, augmented and virtual reality and emerging capabilities in blockchain and Iot.

AND, Edmonton is a medical research powerhouse, home to world-class medical facilities and post-secondary systems, not to mention a host of health industries and well-established companies.

What does Health City do?

We create engines of growth to enable innovators – especially companies – to co-develop, validate, adopt and showcase the capabilities in our region.

We engage with health innovators that are addressing key local health challenges like obesity and diabetes, seniors' frailty, opioid addiction and youth mental health. We "host the table" to pair these initiatives with novel capabilities from industry – including smaller local companies, large multinationals and non-traditional health companies – to co-develop solutions to these challenges.

We serve as an honest broker and identify what all parties can bring to the table – this includes relationships, expertise, global reach, global & local investment, innovation or policy influence. We de-risk the environment and accelerate our innovators' solutions.

These health challenges have global relevance which means solutions built here can be exported globally. Our SMEs can also partner with larger multinationals to co-market their products and services internationally.

We are building a platform to analyze multiple data sets to generate evidence.

We're working to create a platform that uses advanced tools like artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyze multiple sources of data. We can use this data to generate evidence for the marketability of health innovations and to predict future innovation & investments that would impact the health of citizens in our region and beyond.

We strive to serve as an example of how to transform health to meet the evolving needs of our populace and build a stronger economy.

Where does Health City fit in the ecosystem?

We represent a hub of expertise in health and health industry that supports the broader innovation ecosystem in our region.

The engines of growth we are building rely on the programs and services in our ecosystem.

Our engines of growth scale our SMEs to global markets, which requires our SMEs to have strong product offerings and management teams. Services and programs in our ecosystem strengthen our SMEs enabling them to be global contenders. Health City accelerates them.

We are an independent, non-profit organization, funded by the City of Edmonton, operating under a separate board and CEO. This allows us to be a neutral, non-partisan facilitator for the ecosystem.

What are some projects and successes so far?

- **DynaLIFE Health Accelerator** - clinically validates the relevance of health diagnostics, builds standard operating procedures and generates data evidence.

- **Smart Cities Challenge proposal** - support that secured Edmonton's position in the final round.

- **Launch of Taproot's Health Innovation Roundup** – sponsorship of an independent voice for health innovation in Edmonton.

- **Hitachi Vantara collaboration** to enable data analytics on disparate data sets.

- **We are attracting talent and capital** - local and international companies and teams are hearing about Health City's approach and want to engage with Edmonton's health ecosystem.

- **Talent capacity and capability development** – we are working in partnership with local and national talent organizations to fuel the new health economy.