

Local, social impact-driven business accelerator gains momentum as second cohort begins

Edmonton, Alberta September 6, 2022 - Today, the TELUS [Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator](#) (TELUS CSW) powered by [AlchemistX](#), in partnership with the [Edmonton Police Foundation](#) (EPF) and funded by [Alberta Innovates](#) and [Innovate Edmonton](#) and other partners, launch their second cohort of 20 socially driven tech start-ups. Accepted companies from Alberta and around the world will begin the 12-week intensive program with the common goal of leveraging innovative solutions in artificial intelligence and machine learning to deliver positive social impact and prepare them for scale-up investment opportunities in Alberta and beyond.

The TELUS CSW Accelerator powered by AlchemistX is part of the [Alberta Innovates Scaleup and Growth Accelerator Program](#) supported by a consortium led by Alberta Innovates. The consortium includes the Alberta Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Innovation, Innovate Edmonton, and PrairiesCan.

Building on the successes from the first cohort in Spring 2022, the TELUS CSW will provide access to local networks, organizations, mentors and hosts in conjunction with world class accelerator programming, provided by AlchemistX. The 20 start-up leaders will visit Edmonton from September 19 to 30, 2022. During the program, they will participate in facilitated innovation partnerships and community engagement sessions where they will find ways to apply their solutions in real context - giving them invaluable feedback to support development and deployment of their solutions. These companies will be pitching to folks who are leading the way in developing and distributing innovative social impact strategies locally.

“We’re excited to welcome our second cohort to Edmonton and show them the vast potential for entrepreneurship in Alberta. They will be able to partner with community-minded organizations, allowing for game changing solutions that help with ensuring safety and wellness in our community and gaining insight that will help improve their business model and set them up to scale rapidly,” said Ashif Mawji, Chair of the TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator and the EPF.

The TELUS CSW received applications from around the world for the coveted 20 spots. A curated assessment panel shortlisted and interviewed top applicants, resulting in a dynamic second cohort, with 25 per cent of the companies being from Alberta/Canada and themes ranging across community challenges such as: mental and emotional wellness, crowd security, worker safety, in-kind donation distribution management, worker safety, financial wellness, education and more. The program culminates in a Demo Day to be held in November 2022 where each company will pitch to a panel of local and international investors and partner organizations. Through these pitches, companies gain investment leads and qualify to receive investment from the [ScaleGood Fund, as Areto Labs Inc.](#) did in Spring 2022.

Quotes

“Communities are more important than ever in a post pandemic world and make changes, one step at a time,” says Laura Kilcrease, CEO of Alberta Innovates. “The next offering by the TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator is proof that social innovation and small businesses can come together to improve societal impact in our communities. We are pleased to play a role in helping innovators make our neighbourhoods safer, more resilient and prosperous.”

“Having the TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator in Edmonton is game changing to positioning our city as an inclusive global innovation capital. Participating founders gain access to leading-edge programming and collaborations with Edmonton-based organizations, creating solutions to global challenges, improving lives of Edmontonians, and people around the world.” - Catherine Warren, CEO, Innovate Edmonton

“We are excited to see the second cohort of innovative entrepreneurs begin their journey with the TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator. This program demonstrates the continued investment in economic growth for Alberta and the opportunity for budding entrepreneurs to scale, create real impact and support their communities’ well-being.” - Blair Miller, Vice-president Social Impact Ventures, TELUS.

“Innovation is changing the world in every sector and that’s why we’ve invested in business accelerators. Alberta’s accelerator programs support and nurture promising start-ups to bring their products to market rapidly, attract investment and create jobs. The TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator powered by AlchemistX offers a unique mentorship and growth opportunity for community-minded local and global innovators. We want our tech sector to see 20,000 new jobs and \$5 billion more in annual revenue by 2030 and this program will help us reach that goal. I look forward to hearing more about the ideas and creative solutions being pursued by this second cohort.”

Minister Tanya Fir, Jobs, Economy and Innovation and Associate Minister of Red Tape Reduction.

“Our government is supporting innovators and entrepreneurs who are developing new technologies, applications, and solutions that contribute to strong, healthy and vibrant communities,” said the Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister for PrairiesCan. “Through our partnership with Alberta Innovates and support for the TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator, we’re proud to continue our work strengthening Alberta’s technology ecosystem for Canadians and people around the world who stand to benefit from Alberta’s leadership and ingenuity.”

“AlchemistX is proud to work alongside such talented and committed founders, stakeholders and community partners to deliver the TELUS Community Safety & Wellness Accelerator. We see the best of the entrepreneurial spirit in this upcoming cohort, and can’t wait to see the progress they make,” said Ian Bergman, Partner, Alchemist Accelerator.

Cohort 2 Participants

Be Global Safety <https://beglobalsafety.com/>

Cyber Legends <https://cyberlegends.com>

Difinity Solutions <https://www.difinity.ca/>

Digital Wellness Institute <https://digitalwellnessinstitute.com>

EIMHE <https://eimhe.me>

EyeKnow AI <http://www.eyeknow.ai/>

Flyhound <https://www.flyhound.com>

Forward Vision Games <https://www.forwardvisiongames.com/>

Gabriel Protects <https://www.gabrielprotects.com/>

Give Shop <https://www.giveshop.app>

inqli Inc. <https://www.inqli.com/>

Islamic Family & Social Services Association <https://www.ifssa.ca/>

Kid Drop Inc. <https://www.kid-drop.com/home>

knead Technologies <https://www.kneadtech.com>

Safe Citizens <https://www.safe-citizens.com>

Sympatic <https://www.sympatic.com/>

Technologies North Digital Services <https://technologynorth.net>

TurnSignl Inc. <https://turnsignl.com>

VR Pathways Inc. <https://www.vrpathways.com>

Zafty Intelligence <http://zafty.io/>

About TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator

The TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator (TELUS CSW) is sponsored by the Edmonton Police Foundation in conjunction with various partners, including ATB Financial, TELUS, Motorola, U of A, AMII, Edmonton Police Service and others. Using a combination of data, artificial intelligence and machine learning, entrepreneurship, mentorship, domain expertise, funding, structured accelerator programming and other key ingredients to help create successful social impact ventures, its mission is to help solve our community's challenges and create a sustainable model to help bring those solutions to the world. Being one of the first in the world with this unique combination will allow the TELUS CSW to demonstrate the social impact power of Albertans. The TELUS CSW is funded through the Alberta Innovates Scaleup and Growth Accelerators Program.

Learn more about [TELUS CSW Accelerator](#)

Learn more about the [ScaleGood Fund](#)

Learn more about [Cohort 1 Participants + Successes](#)

About Alberta Innovates

Alberta Innovates is the province's largest and Canada's first provincial research and innovation agency. For a century we have worked closely with researchers, companies and entrepreneurs – trailblazers who built industries and strengthened communities. Today we are pivoting to the next frontier of opportunity in Alberta and worldwide by driving emerging technologies across sectors. We are a provincial corporation delivering seed funding, business advice, applied

research and technical services, and avenues for partnership and collaboration. [Learn how Alberta Innovates.](#)

About Innovate Edmonton

Headquartered in Alberta's capital city, Innovate Edmonton leverages, unites, and promotes home-grown innovation as a gateway to solving the world's most pressing problems. We harness the power of the public and private sectors, ground-breaking academic research, and purpose-driven investment to build a shared prosperity and open international markets. From sustainable climate solutions to public health and digital education, Edmonton is a leading global centre for inspiration, ingenuity, and inclusion. Learn more about [Innovate Edmonton](#) and [Startup Edmonton](#), a division of Innovate Edmonton.

About Edmonton Police Foundation

In support of the Edmonton Police Service, the Edmonton Police Foundation advances excellence and transforms community policing by raising funds and investing in those in support of attaining excellence.

About AlchemistX

AlchemistX is the Corporate and Government Services division of Alchemist Accelerator, a venture-backed accelerator focused on accelerating the development of seed-stage ventures that monetize from enterprises. CB Insights rated Alchemist the top accelerator based on median funding rates of its grads (YC was #2). The accelerator's primary screening criteria is on teams, with primacy placed on having distinctive technical co-founders. The organization provides founders a structured path to traction, fundraising, mentorship, and community over the course of a time-bound program. Backers include many of the top corporate and VC funds in the Valley — including Khosla Ventures, DFJ, Cisco, GE, Next47 (Siemens), and Salesforce, among others. Notable Alchemist alumni include LaunchDarkly, Rigetti Quantum Computing, mPharma, Matternet, and Mightyhive.

About PrairiesCan:

[PrairiesCan](#) is the federal department that supports economic growth in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Its programs and services help businesses, not-for-profits and communities grow stronger. Its mandate is to support economic growth and diversification in the Prairie provinces and advance the interests of the region in national economic policy, programs and projects. Learn more at www.prairiescan.gc.ca

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