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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Empowering Communities Through Tech: Alberta Sets Global Standard for Social Impact Acceleration

Edmonton, Alberta – November 30, 2023 – The [TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator \(CSW\)](#), powered by [AlchemistX](#), is setting the standard for acceleration at the intersection of technology and social impact. The accelerator is a partnership with the [Edmonton Police Foundation \(EPF\)](#) as part of Alberta Innovates' Scaleup and Growth Accelerator Program (ScaleupGAP), supported by a consortium led by [Alberta Innovates](#), including [Edmonton Unlimited](#), [Alberta Ministry of Jobs, Economy and Trade](#), and [PrairiesCan](#). The TELUS CSW Accelerator program brings global and local talent together, centering Alberta at the forefront of technological innovation.

This program is a unique partnership with the Edmonton Police Foundation (EPF), offering the participating startups firsthand insight into the needs of communities and their first responders in critical situations. The EPF facilitates close connections with community groups and businesses that inform product development and partner for pilot projects.

The TELUS CSW Accelerator's effective approach to fostering community safety and wellness using technology solutions through collaborative community partnerships with the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii), the University of Alberta, TELUS, ATB Financial, and Motorola. These partners provide invaluable resources, such as expert speakers, programming, working space, networking events, and direct startup support.

The program serves both Alberta companies looking to expand and global companies looking for a base in Alberta or North America more generally. As of February 2023, 38 companies have graduated from the TELUS CSW Accelerator, nine of which are women-led and 13 identifying as a racialized/visible minority.

Twenty-one startups from seven countries have positively impacted the Edmonton community and beyond, including Argentina, Australia, Israel, New Zealand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. As of February 2023, 10 Albertan companies have graduated from the program, and an additional 16 Alberta companies will graduate shortly.

The TELUS CSW Accelerator provides entry to the Alberta ecosystem and support through connection to engaged funders, community partners, and an extensive investor network. All program participants are reviewed by the ScaleGood Fund, a Social Impact Venture Capital Fund launched to invest between \$25,000 and \$200,000 in Pre-Seed and Seed-Stage companies with measurable and demonstrable social impact. The ScaleGood Fund has invested in companies from every cohort so far.

The TELUS CSW Accelerator is demonstrating how strong community and government partnerships can amplify opportunities for impact. Graduating startups prove that a business can be profitable and create social impact, making the world a better place through technology and putting Alberta at the forefront of global innovation.

Quick Stats as of Feb 2023:

38 Companies have graduated

10 Albertan

7 Canadian

11 US

10 International

24% women founders (9 companies)

34% founders of ethnic minority (13 companies)

How to Get Involved:

Meet the most recent cohort, and join us for [Cohort 4 Demo Day](#) on December 6, 2023, from 4-6 PM at Edmonton Unlimited.

Go to <https://cswaccelerator.com/how-to-apply/> to apply to the TELUS CSW Cohort 5. The application deadline is December 22, 2023.

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Quotes:

“There is so much value and importance in developing a community mindset around social innovation. Social enterprise is an impactful platform that demonstrates the power of collaboration for the betterment of the community. The impact of investment into these types of companies has a double bottom line – to the community and to the investors.” – Laura Kilcrease, CEO, Alberta Innovates

“Alberta is using its talents and strengths to make the world a better place. We’re being recognized by all levels of government, and the investment and interest demonstrates how keen all collaborators are on impacting the world through the combinations of this program.” – Ashif Mawji, Managing Director, ScaleGood Fund LP & Chair of the Edmonton Police Foundation

“We have valued being a part of the TELUS CSW Accelerator and collaborating with its partners. Alberta Innovates is forward-thinking and consistently leans into building a best-in-class ecosystem model. They show a continuous desire to be a true partner in this journey, bringing people together to work against a well-articulated strategy that is smart and in the interest of Albertans.” – Ian Bergman, Partner & Head of AlchemistX, Alchemist Accelerator

Testimonials:

“The experience helped us turn a grand vision into a solution that has scalability and marketable value. The collaborations [the coaches, other startups, and introductions] elevate the experience because it puts us on the global stage. It felt like global quality at a local level. With the level of excellence of international ecosystems – if you can measure up in that space - it’s like leveling up.” – Alina Turner, CEO & Co-Founder, Helpseeker

<https://helpseeker.org/>

“The top-notch coaching and discussions provided by AlchemistX and the cohesive collaboration between all of the players created a full cycle of support. I was encouraged to dream bigger and received opportunities that only being a cohort participant could provide, for example, being invited by Alberta Innovates to attend South by Southwest.” – Julieta Miranda, CEO & Founder, Kid-Drop

<https://www.kid-drop.com/>

“The specific focus on safety and wellness is great. Many accelerators are broad – the focused lens is helpful because different people with shared values can come together.” – Cheney Xia, CEO & Founder, GotCare

<https://gotcare.ca/>

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Collaborators:

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](#)

About AlchemistX:

AlchemistX is the corporate innovation and government services division of Alchemist Accelerator. We partner with industry leaders and forward-thinking governments to engage with and support the world's best entrepreneurs and innovation concepts. AlchemistX's customized acceleration, market-entry, intrapreneurship, and venture incubation programs are built on the methods, knowledge, and network that have supported successful Alchemist founders for over a decade.

[Learn more about AlchemistX](#)

About Alberta Innovates

Alberta Innovates manages nearly 1,300 projects in a portfolio valued at \$1.33 billion. We work with innovators in all sectors of the economy and all corners of the province to drive entrepreneurship, applied research, and industry development. With our impact-based funding programs and services, we are transforming energy systems for a net-zero world, promoting the responsible use of land and water, leveraging provincial strengths in agriculture, and contributing to improved health and well-being by harnessing digital tech and data. We are also advancing emerging technologies and strengthening entrepreneurship for a strong and diversified economy. We operate in 11 locations with more than one million sq. ft. of industrial testing and lab facilities, and 600 acres of farmland. We employ nearly 600 highly skilled scientists, business and technical professionals. From funding to commercialization, we are Alberta's innovation engine!

[See what entrepreneurs say](#) about our coaching and support.

Learn how [Alberta Innovates](#).

About Edmonton Unlimited

Headquartered in Alberta's capital city, Edmonton Unlimited 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 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 [Edmonton Unlimited](#).

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.

Learn more about [EPF](#).