

# *Summary of Health City's Stakeholders and Bacon Event*

FEBRUARY 1, 2019

“It is imperative that we shift our economy to the sectors of the future.”

MAYOR DON IVESON, FEBRUARY 1, 2019

*Health City's February 1 half-day event for Edmonton area health innovation stakeholders had two main objectives. First, to hear from others in Canada and from innovative jurisdictions from around the world about successes that are emblematic of the new health economy and would resonate with Edmonton's health innovation community. Second, to begin work on a new approach to drive the health innovation economy in our community, through the launch of four working groups.*

# Positioning Health City and the new health economy

## Building economic resiliency

Opening the event was Edmonton's mayor and Health City's founder Don Iveson who highlighted that strengthening the resiliency of Edmonton's economy is his top priority. By shifting to the sectors of the future, Edmonton will be able to compete and win on a global level, and the critical lever for that shift is Health City. In his words "Health City will build on the existing strengths we have and take real and meaningful steps to grow the resilience of our economy and prosperity."

## Aligning for success

Health City Board Chair Jason Pincock spoke of Health City's work in aligning the health innovation ecosystem to speak with one voice and move in one direction for maximum impact. He gave examples from core areas specified in Health City's ten-year strategy where we are seeing success:

- access (Alberta Health Services' Innovation Partnerships team collaborates with private sector to codesign and co-develop new health data technologies and processes; Concordia University's and TEC Edmonton's new accelerator spaces welcome commercialization partners);
- data (Institute of Health Economics' new data portals are available to big and small companies);
- capital (licensed cannabis producers are investing in local health care companies for medical cannabis development).

## Capabilities, collaboration and change: creating Edmonton's health innovation economy

Developing the new health economy is the global challenge and the global opportunity, said Health City CEO Reg Joseph, and the door to success is open to any jurisdiction anywhere that can show results. Leading this development are those with capabilities in artificial intelligence, data and machine learning—areas where Edmonton shines. The predictive and preventive information generated by these new capabilities are changing the approach to health from one of reacting to illness to that of driving wellness—and that has endless innovation possibilities. As an economic development initiative, Health City is creating engines of growth for our health innovation ecosystem. Working with partners in the ecosystem, Health City's focus in key areas of talent, financing, marketplace and data will accelerate the development of viable solutions that aim to be transformative for Edmonton and the world.

# Session overview

## Session topics and background

Topics for the first three event sessions were: **talent** (including next generation innovators); **data** and other powerful innovation tools; and snapshots of **successes** from other innovation centres that could inform our community's efforts.

These topics reflected priorities identified from:

- The work conducted by the inaugural Health City Steering Committee and working groups over 2016-2017;
- Meetings between Health City's CEO and staff and dozens of people in the provincial community, including agencies, companies and government departments with mandates related to developing economic and social impact from health innovation;
- Interactions with companies and agencies working in the health innovation area from around the world;
- Registration survey for the February 1 event



“Look at health in a different perspective - looking at social indicators of health to drive outcomes – predictive and being proactive in wellness” @Reg\_Joseph CEO of @Yeghealthcity!

[@LanTanElevates](#)

Speakers were Luke Butterworth, Ravina Anand and Bryce Thomsen from Next36; Rob Henderson from BioTalent Canada; Amy Roy Gratton from the University of Alberta's Career Centre; Joanne Fedeyko from Connection Silicon Valley; Cory Jannsen from AltaML; Reid Whitlock from the Chronic Disease Innovation Centre; Randy Duguay from Health Gauge; Dornoosh Zonoobi from medo.ai; Badeai Jawhari from Deloitte, Hakim Yadi from the Northern Health Sciences Alliance in the UK; and Brian O'Connor from European Connected Health Alliance in Ireland.

## Resulting themes

Several overarching themes emerged from the sessions:

- Developing the foundation for a strong, interconnected health innovation economy is imperative:
  - Coming together as one voice is fundamental in any ecosystem development
  - Talent development/retention is critical and urgent
  - Individual agendas must be set aside for the collective effort
  - The power to make change results from many voices working together
  - Creating a healthy and results-driven ecosystem requires “care and feeding”: frequent and focused community interactions/meetings/convenings and network development
  - Creating such strength is best done through forging and maintaining personal relationships
- Changing systems and approaches begins with what can be done now:
  - Seizing opportunities to capitalize on the amount of technological change occurring in the health sector to drive the health economy;
  - Using the power of data-derived information to drive smart decision-making in health.
  - Addressing change as incremental and additive rather than from a systems approach
  - Need to start with small, problem-based projects, demonstrate success, and showcase results to decision-makers, so that they have evidence to influence change in their milieu
- Global connections have a vital impact on local ecosystems:
  - Ecosystem development is a priority the world over
  - The tools powering innovation require aggregates of information in the same way that successful, competitive ecosystems require people working together as one system.
  - Collaboration and competition are hand-in-hand
  - Viewing YEG’s assets and strengths from this global perspective means we need to accelerate efforts to build a strong and supportive ecosystem to be/stay competitive



"HR is not a pain point, it's a business strategy," Rob Henderson, CEO of BioTalent Canada at #yeghealthcity on the importance of talent cultivation/retention to #Healthinnovation.

**@adrienne\_YEG**

Cory Janssen at Health City breakfast highlighting the problem of academic silos in moving forward AI opportunities. We need to specify important problems before data and this is an inter faculty process @Yeghealthcity @UAlberta

**@TechFli**

Robust health data can improve health outcomes, but some of the biggest barriers to gathering/using data are trust/privacy concerns... Which is wacky, considering we STILL FAX PERSONAL HEALTH INFO! #AxeTheFax #yeghealthcity

**@adrienne\_YEG**

Dr. @hakim\_yadi joining us by Skype to present how @The\_NHSA leverages partnerships to create "a northern powerhouse of health research." #yeghealthcity

**@YEG health city**



DYK: Alberta has almost 1200 advanced degree holders working in #lifesciences industry? Half of them are PhDs. That's a serious pool of talent generating some great technologies! @Yeghealthcity

@KLGerritsGlobal

## Moving forward

*The final "Roll Up Your Sleeves" session launched a new action-focused approach to the ongoing development of the Edmonton area health innovation ecosystem.*

### Working groups

Four working groups were announced, each representing a priority area of focus and purpose:



**1. Powering Smart Decisions** working group develops approaches and partnerships that leverage our capability to make data-driven decisions in health.



**3. Financing for Impact** working group explores and tests different funding models to attract the right investors and finance the new health economy.



**2. Talent Works** working group identifies and develops approaches to help recruit, train and retain post-secondary graduates within our competitive health innovation community.



**4. Target to Market** looks at all the steps involved in taking a technology to market and engineers bold approaches for more effective coordination and decision-making that improves competitiveness.

## Informing working group projects

To lay the ground for working group actions, event stakeholders gave input on two questions:

- What can we do in the next 90-120 days?
- What other organizations need to be involved?

Responses were received from 31 stakeholders and this information along with the results of the event registration survey will be used by the working groups to inform their decisions about viable projects to undertake in the short-term (September) and long-term (18 to 24 months). Input confirmed the need to connect to global platforms; develop and support talent; adopt a problem-based/needs-driven approach; and foster collaborations for success.

*“We need to address data access for private sector.”*

*“We need a survey of understanding how data is being used across all sectors of our ecosystem: bring all the parts together.”*

*“We need to determine skill gaps in young talent and let them know, tell them the reality of the situation early, what they can work on now so that in four years, they can be useful to where the industry is headed.”*

*“Talk to young talent and include them in these processes.”*

*“Develop co-investing models.”*

*“Help define problems within health system and community.”*

*“Identify new emerging markets to champion and grown and figure out how to build towards them.”*

## Working group expectations

Terms of reference for the working groups will provide high-level and specific objectives; expected deliverables, time and resource commitment required of working group members; specific roles of working group members; and project review, validation and uptake processes. These will be developed over February and March with the first working groups meetings anticipated for the beginning of April, 2019.