



## City Innovation Snapshot EDMONTON, Canada

### Overview

- **Mayor:** Don Iveson
- **Term:** 2017–2021
- **Innovation Lead:** Susan Coward; Troy Shewchuk; Daryl Croft; Niki Anderson
- **Population size:** 933 000 (2019)
- **Websites:** [urbanwellnessedmonton.com](http://urbanwellnessedmonton.com); [edmonton.ca/urbanwellness](http://edmonton.ca/urbanwellness)

### What is the organisational structure?

Edmonton's innovation work is sprinkled throughout the municipality. Although Edmonton does not have a formal innovation team, the city has innovation leads focusing on long-term rethinking of specific policy and business areas.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- Project Manager
- Data Scientist
- Strategic Communications / Marketing
- Designer
- Sociologist
- Community Engagement



### Spotlight | Edmonton Urban Wellness

The City of Edmonton has created a human-centred framework for using social innovation to improve urban wellness. Social innovation is about creating and testing solutions to difficult problems and bringing a diverse group of voices together. The City begins with ethnographic research to understand the issues of homelessness and poverty from the perspective of marginalised people. They then brainstorm with the community, fine-tune ideas and form prototype teams with community members and leaders to test concepts based on the feedback of people directly experiencing these challenges. Promising solutions are developed through new and enhanced partnerships.

### What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Edmonton has no **formal innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- Human-centred design
- Data analytics

### What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to 24% of cities surveyed, Edmonton approaches innovation capacity in **specific policy areas**.

The top two priority policy areas for the city's innovation work are:

Urban Wellness

Internal Service Delivery

### What innovation partnerships exist?

Edmonton has developed partnerships to **promote innovation capacity** with other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents/resident associations.

To **improve data use**, the city has also developed data partnerships with private philanthropy, not-for-profit agencies, academia and think tanks, to collect and analyse data, as well as with other cities.



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### What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Edmonton has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following sources:

- **Municipal budget** (city council approved funds / operating budget)
- **External (non-public) funding** (academic or think tank resources)

Edmonton's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **training staff and building capacity, generating ideas and brainstorming, investing in digital systems and physical infrastructure, paying for third-party services and supporting ecosystem-building activities.**



### How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ Improving internal government operations
- ✓ Servicing current obligations
- ✓ Improving resident outcomes

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are **dedicated funding, a focus on metrics, a dedicated innovation team and a nascent culture of innovation within the municipal administration** which is largely influenced by the growth of the innovation community around the city.



### How is data used?

Data plays a **significant role** in the decision making and innovation efforts of Edmonton. The city **uses data to align its budget process with its strategic priorities**. Challenges preventing the use of data to support innovation goals include a **lack of reliable data and limited compatibility of data across policy areas**.

Edmonton **maintains a comprehensive data inventory** to make data more accessible, **publishes open data online**, and **provides clear how-to guidance** to help residents assess and use city data.



### How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas with sufficient data or without sufficient data to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance

*NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.*