

INNOVATE CALGARY

Catalyzing the innovation ecosystem for social and economic impact

The Organization

Innovate Calgary has been the innovation transfer and business incubator centre for the University of Calgary for over 30 years, fostering entrepreneurship and bringing new technological discoveries to the world.

The Need

Pressing challenges are often too big for any single entity to solve, and there is a need to go beyond traditional technology transfer to act as a guide for students, faculty, and researchers to foster entrepreneurship and bring new technological discoveries to the world while creating economic and social impact.

The Solution

The Social Innovation Hub brings together social entrepreneurs, innovators, and partners to redefine innovation, provide community-led programming, coaching, mentorship, and access to key resources such as capital, space, and networks, in order to launch and scale social innovation and impact.

In Their Own Words

“There’s all these misconceptions, some stemming from just the name, not-for-profit, that they can’t actually bring any revenue in the door, which is obviously not true.”

Key lesson(s) or best practice(s) shared

- The approach to social finance should be one of learning and openness, building relationships with partners and ventures instead of just transactional interactions.
- Successful social purpose organizations in this space have a mindset of questioning the status quo and a culture of innovation, often with personal connections to the problems they are working on.

AT A GLANCE

Type of organization

Corporation

Social finance approach

Technical assistance and non repayable capital

Sustainable development goal(s)



Investment readiness stage

Social financial awareness

Organizational ability

Network development

