

Edmonton leaders gather to speak on fast-growing city's priorities

An unprecedented gathering of city leaders spoke about their 2015-16 priorities as Edmonton experiences unprecedented economic and population growth. Chaired by Mayor Don Iveson, this "City-Building Summit" featured presentations from city leaders on behalf of K-12 education, post-secondary education, business, health care and the City—underlining the need to work in partnership with the Alberta government.

"As the country's fastest-growing city, Edmonton faces growth pressures like no other. With new leadership at the provincial government, we—as key drivers of the country's economic engine—have an opportunity to outline our city's key priorities and underline to the province what is needed to build a prosperous and competitive, resilient and adaptive, healthy and inclusive, and overall uplifting city."
Don Iveson
Mayor of Edmonton

"Our collective success as a community is dependent on us coming together to discuss ideas and priorities. Edmonton's six diverse but complementary post-secondary institutions continue to work collaboratively with each other and all levels of government and industry to grow and transform Edmonton's learning, research, and innovation landscape. Together, we believe that these continued partnerships will propel Edmonton to the world stage as a Learning City."
Dr. Neil Fassina
Provost and Vice President Academic, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, on behalf of Edmonton post-secondary institutions

"What happened today was a remarkable gathering of key Edmonton sectors to learn about each other's priorities as well as to advocate for Edmonton's collective needs to maintain its growth as Northern Alberta's economic engine."
Brad Ferguson
President and CEO, Edmonton Economic Development, on behalf of TEC Edmonton, Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and Edmonton Economic Development

"My colleagues and I are really pleased to have a voice at this summit and help identify the areas that are critical for the Province to support in the upcoming budget. We know that to truly help Edmonton's promise and prosperity unfold, there has to be an investment in school buildings. We need to meet the diverse needs of all students. Education is a cornerstone of this united effort to move our city towards a bright future, but we can't do our work in isolation."
Sarah Hoffman
Board Chair, Edmonton Public Schools, on behalf of Edmonton K-12 school boards

"By investing in early childhood development, addressing chronic diseases and enabling aging-in-place initiatives founded on broad-based data, Edmonton could be a national leader in health care. We have some of the pieces in place, but this is a tipping point and a timely opportunity to solidify our position and get it right."
Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti
Physician and Professor, University of Alberta, on behalf of Deans of School of Medicine and School of Public Health

Priorities presented at today's session will be incorporated into a letter from Mayor Iveson to Alberta Premier Jim Prentice as part of the City of Edmonton's submission to the 2015-16 Alberta government budget consultations.

A video recording of the summit in full can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/embed/JoVkcDg4kko?rel=0>.

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