



ALBERTA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND TOURISM

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Peigan*

May 20, 2020

AR 78252

Dr. Terry Rock
President and CEO
Platform Calgary
429 8 Avenue SE
Calgary Alberta T2G 0L6
terry.rock@platformcalgary.com

Dear Dr. Rock,

Premier Jason Kenney shared your letter highlighting the challenges that Alberta's technology and innovation community face in light of our current public health crisis and the collapse of oil prices. As the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism, I appreciate the opportunity to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

Our government appreciates the insights that the Alberta Innovation Corridor (AIC) has provided and values your leadership in meeting with start-ups and entrepreneurs to discuss desired technology and innovation ecosystem supports.

I recognize that the recovery and growth of the technology sector is key to Alberta's economic success. It will help drive economic diversification in the province, improving the productivity and resilience of established and new sectors. Digital technologies like big data, machine learning and artificial intelligence are government priorities due in part to their ability to enhance supply chains and also independently create value and provide high-quality jobs for Albertans.

I appreciate your desire for the GoA to act upon Innovation Capital Working Group (ICWG) recommendations. My staff are currently considering the ICWG findings in the context of the emerging Alberta Economic Relaunch Strategy, as well as federal and municipal priorities and initiatives. Balancing these perspectives effectively will be crucial in supporting a post-COVID economic recovery.

Over the coming weeks, I welcome the opportunity for my staff to work with the AIC to gather insights necessary to support the technology sector while supporting Alberta's overall economic recovery efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Fir', is positioned above the printed name.

Tanya Fir
Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism

cc: Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta

Honourable Travis Toews
President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance

Honourable Nate Glubish
Minister of Service Alberta