

4 February, 2021

Priorities and Finance Committee

**RE: Council Innovation Fund submission for Mount Royal University – AI Digital Twin for Trucks**

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support to Mount Royal University's application to the Council Innovation Fund. The project will advance innovation right here in Calgary for the trucking industry allowing them to improve efficiency, safety and create jobs in our local technology and transportation sector.

*Calgary in the New Economy* has set a vision for Calgary's economy as the home in Canada for the world's best entrepreneurs embracing advanced technologies to solve some of the world's greatest challenges in energy, food, health and transportation. This project is directly in line with Calgary's sweet spot – applying technology to digitally transform industry. The project will engage the local transportation industry, apply leading research in the area and deploy new technology including artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve industry outcomes.

It is projects like this that make the vision come alive. As Canada's second largest inland distribution centre and headquarters to national leaders in the transportation sector, Calgary is ideally suited to embrace new technology to transform an existing industry to fuel growth in the new economy, creating high paying jobs.

As stewards of *Calgary in the New Economy*, Calgary Economic Development supports this project and application to the Council Innovation Fund. This project would not only make our city a leader in this type of technology for goods movement but could also help perpetuate the digital transformation of other services throughout the community in the future.

Sincerely,



Court Ellingson  
Vice-President, Research and Strategy  
Calgary Economic Development