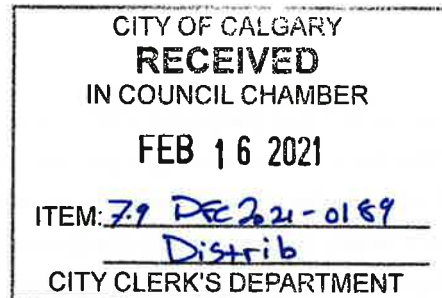




Institute for Community Prosperity
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW, Calgary, AB, Canada T3E 6K6
Tel: 403 440-7055
www.mtroyal.ca/communityprosperity

February 12, 2021

Calgary City Council
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100, Station "M"
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5



Re: Support for Calgary Economic Development (CED) Council Innovation Fund Proposal

Your Worship and Esteemed Councilors,

As Director at the Institute for Community Prosperity at Mount Royal University, I am writing in strong support of Calgary Economic Development's (CED's) CIF proposal for LearningCityYYC to undertake pilot study for the *Calgary Competency Model*.

The Institute for Community Prosperity connects students to transformative learning opportunities in their community. We run co-curricular leadership programs, prizes and challenges, community-partnered applied research projects, and community-focused non-credit learning in social innovation and related subject fields. "Community prosperity" refers to the cultural, economic, social and ecological conditions necessary for human potential to flourish. We have established the new CityXLab, led by Dr. David Finch, to convene dialogue and coordinate community-partnered applied research looking into the relationship between a city's experiences and its capacity to attract, retain, and develop human capital. Under the leadership of Dr. David Finch, CityxLab brings together aspects of the "experience economy" - arts and culture, sport and recreation, hospitality and tourism, and learning, also working to profile and strengthen collective efforts to measure community prosperity and indicators of well-being, sustainability, quality of life and civic vitality.

The Institute, through the CityXLab, is pleased to extend and deepen our partnership with Calgary Economic Development through LearningCityYYC. The Institute has supported research into future learning systems over the past two years and their potential impact on Calgary. A comprehensive report released last June, which we co-sponsored, identified the central role that enabling competencies, ranging from *analytical* competencies, *interpersonal* competencies, *foundational* literacies, and *professional* competencies play in developing an individual's capacity to adapt to a changing world. This proposal to Council seeks to operationalize enabling competencies in a community competency model. This competency model is designed to bridge educators, employers, and jobseekers by defining common competencies and a shared language.



We believe a community competency model is of particular importance for communities with systemic barriers to the labour force. In addition to barriers like language, child care, elder care and transportation and mobility, there are barriers within our ecosystem of learning and education itself. Reliance on a 20th century model of domain-specific competencies, delivered through professionally-accredited programs solely in formal institutions, is wholly inadequate to develop the kind of adaptive talent that Calgary requires. Calgary is facing wave after wave of unprecedented changes, requiring an adaptive, enabled labour force and much stronger bridges between learning and employment than we currently have. The city is, increasingly, the classroom. If we are not all deeply invested in the future of our learning ecosystem will fail to thrive in the 21st century.

We are honoured and excited to work with CED on this timely and important initiative. As such, I highly recommend this project for your consideration and look forward to deepening our understanding of how we collectively build and retain local talent in Calgary. This is an investment in our city's future at a critical moment.

With best regards,



James Stauch
Director, Institute for Community Prosperity

- cc. Jason Ribeiro, Director of Strategy, Calgary Economic Development and Ph.D. Candidate, Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary
Dexter Lam - Manager, Talent, Research&Strategy, Calgary Economic Development
Dr. David Finch – CityXLab Lead and Senior Fellow, Institute for Community Prosperity and Associate Professor, Bissett School of Business, Mount Royal University