

streamlining processes, and simplifying agreements with The City. In 2022 the core project team will work on the governance structure and future state design recommendations from 2021.

Calgary Economic Development's Trade Accelerator Program (TAP) is excited to have its first cohort for Indigenous-led businesses in partnership with TAP Edmonton, Saskatchewan, and Winnipeg. They're also expanding into the Banff/Canmore region for their first cohort there. With six cohorts scheduled for 2022, the TAP Calgary alumni list over 300 companies. The TAP team will be hosting six Export Meetups which are networking events for TAP alumni, trade experts, and community partners, and wrap up the year with the second annual Calgary Trade Export Awards to be held in December.

The Government of Alberta has also signalled its commitment, with Bill 13 the *Financial Innovation Act*, to reducing regulatory barriers for entrepreneurs to test products in emerging fields of cryptocurrencies and online banking, termed a 'regulatory sandbox'. The sandbox would allow companies to temporarily break or ignore select financial rules and regulations under close government supervision to test new programs. The sandbox model has been allowed in jurisdictions like the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Australia and Arizona. If passed, Bill 13 would make Alberta the first Canadian province to have this structure.

CONCLUSION

2021 was undoubtedly a challenging year globally, nationally, and for Calgary, from an economic, social, and environmental perspective. And yet, this year's Annual Progress Report on Calgary in the New Economy showcases the unmatched spirit of Calgarians, and the refusal to give into what could have been, forging ahead, tackling each challenge as it came. 2021 continued to demonstrate the compassion, resilience, and determination of Calgarians. Conversations with leaders across several sectors, with members of the community, pressure-testing the economic strategy, all reinforced that Calgary in the New Economy remains the right path for Calgary as we strive to be the place for bright minds and big ideas to come together with an unmatched spirit to help solve global challenges. There's an energy and excitement in the city, a buzz to do something big; it's feeling alive and vibrant.

There is great momentum to build on from 2021 that's already being realized in 2022 as showcased throughout this report, with more exciting opportunities to come. 2022 is shaping up to be another record-breaking year for Calgary in many ways.