An Idea for Your Consideration

An Alberta Innovation Ecosystem Action Roadmap

Dr. Stephen Covey urged individuals, groups and organizations to *begin with the end in mind.* In responding to Perry's request to work with a few bright people to develop a 90-minute, innovation focused webinar, it quickly became obvious that innovation is a complex topic. Process. People. Players.

Some would say innovation is a technology-focused social endeavor. Rather than jumping into a conversation about one of many *trees* we could discuss, your facilitator sees value in talking about the innovation *forest* in Alberta – an idea we have framed as the **Alberta Innovation Ecosystem**.

An effective Alberta Innovation Ecosystem is essential for Albertans and Alberta's public, private and non-profit organizations to survive and thrive. We wonder *How do we measurably improve its effectiveness?* With these and other questions in mind, we have developed the concept of an **Action Roadmap** as a starting point in a conversation focused on understanding and collaboratively improving the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem.

Good questions are critical to great conversation and great conversation builds strong relationships, which are a key to shared action. Our Action Roadmap could be framed by answering the following questions:

(a) The Innovation Process

How do we define the process of innovation (e.g., from pure & applied science, to concept & scaling, to adoption & commercialization, etc.)?

What work has been done in describing the process of innovation?

(b) People & Players

Who's in charge of Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

Who are the players in the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

Who are the stakeholders in the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

Who are the end-intended beneficiaries of Alberta innovation ecosystem?

What sectors are involved in the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem (e.g., transportation, health, energy, agriculture, information technology, etc.)?

How do dollars flow through the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

How do we promote a <u>culture</u> of innovation across Alberta?

What <u>work has been done</u> to identify the players in the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

What <u>work has been done</u> to understand and promote a culture of innovation within the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem.

(c) Learning from Others Outside of Alberta

What are the <u>geopolitical influences</u> on the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem (e.g., trade, labour, security, global supply chains, conflicts, etc.)?

What can we learn from <u>elsewhere</u> to inform our thinking on the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem (e.g., other national or subnational jurisdictions, models, best practices)?

What <u>work has been done</u> to learn from others outside of the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem (e.g., other national or subnational jurisdictions, models, best practices)?

(d) Effectiveness

How do we <u>measure</u> the effectiveness of the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

How is the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem <u>doing</u> in the eyes of its end-intended beneficiaries?

How <u>effective</u> is the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem today?

What <u>work has been done</u> to evaluate the effectiveness of the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem

(e) Improvement

What are our <u>ideas</u> to improve the effectiveness of the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

What <u>action</u> could we take to improve the effectiveness of the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

What <u>conditions</u> need to be in place so we can reinvent the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem?

What time, talent or treasure would <u>you</u> be willing to <u>invest</u> in improving the effectiveness of the Alberta innovation ecosystem?

Only with a <u>shared view</u> into the Alberta Innovation Ecosystem can we commit to the business of improving, which we can do so collaboratively.

3. Participant Engagement (45 minutes):

Either in breakout groups of three or as a plenary group, participants will share their ideas on the following questions:

> *Are these the <u>right questions</u> to ask? Are there <u>other</u> questions to ask?*

> *How can these questions or other questions be <u>improved</u>?*

4. Next Steps (15 minutes):

For 15 minutes, either in breakout groups of three or as a plenary group, participants will share their ideas on the following question:

> *<u>Where</u> do we go from here?*