

## New: Post-Secondary Relations

<b>Initiative Title:</b>	Post Secondary Relations
<b>City Council Sponsor(s):</b>	Mayor D. Iveson/Councillor B. Esslinger/ Councillor A. Knack
<b>Supporting Department and Lead Staff:</b>	Office of the City Manager, Intergovernmental and External Affairs

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### BACKGROUND:

One of our greatest opportunities for continuing to evolve as a globally competitive city is to attract and retain students from around the world. It is important that we be the city of choice for students. Our city should support a student experience that welcomes and encourages individuals to make Edmonton their home, both during their studies and as they embark on their career of choice.

To achieve this, the City of Edmonton must strengthen its interactions with the post secondary institutions located in our city, and work with our business community and knowledge-intensive industries.

This initiative is intended to improve Edmonton's future through economic success and diversification, quality of life for our citizens, and our city's image and reputation.

### DESIRED OUTCOMES:

The scope of this initiative will evolve in the year ahead. With that in mind, the following initial goals have been identified:

- Goal: To further develop and foster positive relationships between the City of Edmonton and the post secondary institutions located here, including but not limited to: the University of Alberta, Grant MacEwan University, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), NorQuest College, Concordia University College of Alberta, and Kings University College.
- Goal: Using a holistic approach, first steps will include a review of what work is currently undertaken across the corporation with the post-secondary institutions. Through this process we will identify new opportunities for alignment and explore opportunities for shared work. It is expected that while this Council Initiative will have connections through the Office of the City Manager (Intergovernmental and External Affairs), work may also be led by other City departments. It is further expected that there may be connections between this Initiative, and other Council Initiatives, which will be explored over the coming months.

### ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC DIRECTION:

- The Way We Grow recognizes the importance of educational institutions and links them to the success of our city. The Downtown Plan does the same, advocating for and providing policy direction from Council to enable decisions and investments that support the expansion of the knowledge economy in our downtown.

- The Way We Prosper envisions Edmonton in 2023 as a city with a diverse knowledge-based economy and population with an environment for innovation. It is envisioned that this environment will be enhanced through our ongoing partnerships with the post secondary institutions in our city.

**START-UP BUDGET REQUIREMENTS:**

- A new budget allocation is not required at this time.
- A separate budget request may be necessary once priorities and specific projects are identified.

**TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT PLAN:**

- Given the nature of this initiative, work with Edmonton's post secondary institutions will be ongoing.
- Program plans will be developed and evaluated on an ongoing basis.