



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

SHAPING THE CITIES OF TOMORROW

The challenge

The Alberta School of Business is building a new model — one that connects disciplines, sectors and people. Across Canada and around the world, cities face urgent challenges and the University of Alberta's Cities Institute is a bold response to these issues: a first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary research hub designed to generate real-world solutions and empower the next generation of city-builders.

Future-proofing our cities and communities is an evolving and increasingly complex process. Wide-ranging factors from urbanization and land use to climate change and economic growth are challenging traditional approaches to the development of our communities.

To remove this barrier, we believe that an integrated, visionary approach uniting business with multiple city-building leaders will pioneer new and novel ways to push beyond the status quo. This approach will enhance our capacity to generate more efficient solutions, with a proportional reduction in both human and capital costs compared to the conventional siloed approach.

The current system isn't built to solve the challenges cities face. But we can build something better.

The opportunity

The Cities Institute will produce new knowledge, practical data, education and usable research that will transform how we grow our cities and communities, positively impacting our businesses, neighborhoods, people and the environment. It will serve as a leading think tank and a magnetic convenor for users, working in coordination to deliver future-proof solutions and a new pipeline of leaders.

It will be the first of its kind in Canada to harness multiple faculties at a Top 5 Canadian University around the cause of thriving livable cities.

It will also be the first in Canada to produce graduates with a Masters in Real Estate Development Plus (MRED+), a visionary interdisciplinary curriculum that prepares leaders for a vibrant future.

The way we shape cities is outdated. The Alberta School of Business is building a new model — one that connects disciplines, sectors and people, and is steeped in the language of data.

Vikas Mehrotra, Alberta School of Business Dean



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Why It Matters

By 2050, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. The decisions we make today will shape how we live, work, move and thrive tomorrow. Alberta — and the University of Alberta — have the talent, the drive and the vision to lead the way.

The Cities Institute will ensure that our cities are not just places to live, but places to flourish.

Here's how we're building momentum:

The time has never been more critical to push beyond the status quo and harness all that we can bring to bear upon a rapidly evolving landscape that will be the place where Alberta's future is realized.

1. Generating practical research

The Cities Institute will tackle urgent urban challenges like housing, infrastructure, sustainability and equity — providing usable insights for planners, policymakers and industries.

2. Developing future leaders

Through Canada's first Master of Real Estate Development Plus (MRED+) program, students will gain hands-on experience and interdisciplinary skills to lead city-building efforts across sectors.

3. Increasing accurate policy and solutions through data analytics

From polling and data analytics to workshops and symposia, the Institute will shape conversations and guide decision-making in government and industry alike.

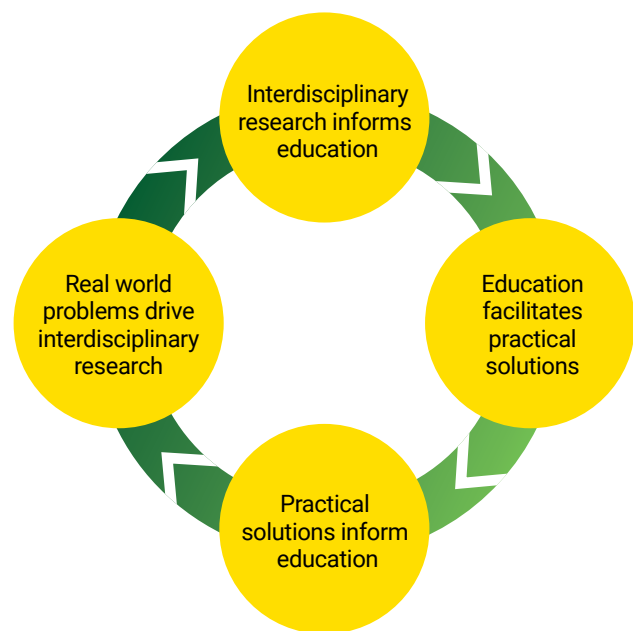
4. Fostering industry collaboration

By bringing multisectoral stakeholders into the fold, the Cities Institute will be a convener and connector — working with industry, community organizations and public institutions to co-create real solutions.

A gift that changes everything

A \$5 million visionary gift from the Gupta Family, in honour of Radhe and Krishna Gupta, is the first step in catalyzing bold research, teaching and public engagement through the newly established Radhe Krishna Gupta Executive Chair in Cities and Communities. Further opportunities for support will ensure we can:

- Grow our economic competitiveness
- Respond to our need for innovation and resilience
- Increase our quality of life
- Foster environmental sustainability
- Promote social equity and inclusion



**Would you like to learn more?
We welcome your partnership.**

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