

Alberta Small Business Growth Roundtables

October 25/26, 2018 – Calgary

Business Roundtable: 9-12pm, October 25

Economic Development Roundtable: 1-4pm, October 25

Academic Roundtable: 9-12pm, October 26

Small Business is BIG Business in Alberta

With a population of 169,000 (99.7% of ALL enterprises), Alberta has the highest proportion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Canada. Beyond their numerical contribution, SMEs employ 91.3% of all private sector workers and play an essential role in innovation and value creation. SMEs are a fundamental element of the Alberta economic engine.

How Can We Support SME Growth?

The future prosperity of Alberta is intrinsically linked to the growth of SMEs. For years, economic developers, SME leaders/owners, and researchers have struggled with big questions, like:

1. What type of SME growth should Alberta champion?
2. *Building Capacity*: How can different stakeholders and policymakers support small business growth in Alberta?
3. *Strategy & Innovation*: What strategies can Alberta small business use to grow their business?
4. *Sales & Markets*: What sales and marketing actions drive the growth of Alberta small business?
5. *Talent Development*: How can Alberta small business acquire, develop and retain the talent to grow their business?

The **Small Business Growth Roundtable** is a series of meetings of like-minded leaders in Alberta passionate about supporting and operating Alberta SMEs. **The goal of the Roundtables will be not to answer these big questions. Rather, to challenge unpack and identify the questions that need to be answered.** We believe that finding the right questions to ask, is the first step to finding the right answers.

“If I had an hour to solve a problem I'd spend 59 minutes thinking about the problem and one-minute thinking about solutions.”

Albert Einstein

Who will be participating in the Roundtables?

The Alberta Small Business Growth Roundtables will be hosted in Calgary. The Roundtable invitees will be proven leaders in SME management, policy and academia. **The Roundtables will be intimate and hands-on working sessions.** All participants will roll-up their sleeves and contribute their expertise and energy to the Roundtables.

What will happen with the outcome of the Roundtables?

The Alberta Small Business Growth Roundtables will lead to the creation of a set of prioritized questions on SME growth that can be actioned. The province is fortunate to have collaborative individuals and organizations with the ambition to answer these questions and move the province forward. The [Growth Compass](#) will act as a conduit to facilitate the partnerships of individuals and organizations to transform these questions into answers through the development of evidence-based and actionable intelligence. Armed with these insights, leaders of economic development, business and research can confidently move forward with implementing coordinated programs and policies that will have a significant impact on Alberta SME growth.

Hear from our Keynote

[Dr. Stephen Roper](#) a professor at the Warwick Business School and the Director of the UK-based [Enterprise Research Centre](#) (ERC). Stephen will join the Roundtables as a facilitator and will share his insights on the drivers and barriers to SME growth. Stephen's research interests are in innovation, enterprise growth and development, regional development, and industrial policy evaluation.



What is the Growth Compass?

GROWTH COMPASS

The Growth Compass is a research initiative of Mount Royal University's *Innovation Lab*. Its mission is to deliver evidence-based insights and intelligence on scaling companies through innovative industry-academic partnerships. Growth Compass collaborates with experts in research and data analytics both inside and outside of academia with a single goal - to scale company growth.

For more information visit www.GrowthCompass.org

For More Information:

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