

The Inc. Expansion

Bigger space for even bigger ideas

BY KERRI SAVAGE

The community spoke and we listened. Innovate Calgary's coworking space The Inc., located in the Alastair Ross Technology Centre, is expanding and will have room for more clients and bigger ideas coupled with our full roster of support programs.

The Inc. is an incubator program offering one-on-one mentoring and coworking space, providing support and guidance for innovation-driven startups. A monthly membership not only offers clients coworking space, but the flexibility and coaching they need to move their business forward.

"The Inc. has been extremely successful. The number of companies operating out of the space is at capacity," says David Chavez, VP, entrepreneur and enterprise development at Innovate Calgary. "We currently serve over 20 companies in The Inc., many of which consist of more than three members. We see an opportunity to grow as coworking and entrepreneurship become increasingly popular – and necessary – to the Alberta economy. To support this need, The Inc. will offer more space to incubate more startups in the Calgary region."

The Inc. will broaden its space offering to members by including open desks and private office space that can be rented on a pay-as-you-go model, breakout rooms as well as enhanced wireless Internet provided by Cybera, and business centre amenities.

The new space will accommodate a range of early-stage startups and provide a critical mass of innovative thinkers and valuable connections within a larger community of mentors and other small enterprises.

"Being around other business owners is valuable because it opens networking and channel opportunities," explains Adrian Camara, CEO of ContractClub, a digital signature and contract management platform for small business. "We also sell B2B contract management software, so being in a building with both junior and mature businesses is an excellent sales opportunity for us."

There are three tiers of membership that will unlock access to the following services: business assessments, promotion and media, mail and reception service, one-to-one consulting, fundraising support, special business topics, networking with peers and industry, and a branded workspace. Membership also offers select Innovate Calgary programs such as the Innovator's Toolkit, Discover, Validate, Go-To-Market and CEO Roundtable.

"The Inc. has been the perfect flexible workspace community where I can both mingle with fellow entrepreneurs and get precisely targeted advice from professionals," says Gordon Hamilton, founder of MathPickle, a free online resource of original mathematical puzzles, games and problems for K-12 teachers. "The primary asset of The Inc. is that it gives me access to a community of professionals who think sharply about business."

Participants of the RBC Social Enterprise Accelerator and the TELUS Technology Accelerator will also call The Inc.'s coworking space home.

The expanded space will be available this summer. To learn more about The Inc. and programs for technology startups, visit the Entrepreneurs & Enterprises section of innovatecalgary.com. 