

# Investment Opportunity – Pharmaceuticals Research & Development (R&D)

The Edmonton Metropolitan Region is home to a large concentration of chemical companies, world-class expertise, accessible health datasets from 4.5 million people and a university that is ranked 3rd globally in AI research. We're well positioned to be an emerging hub for pharmaceutical R&D.

**NORTH AMERICAN NEARSHORING  
OF R&D AND PRODUCTION**

**R&D TAX CREDITS**

**\$1.26B**

*Canada Strategic  
Innovation Fund*

**\$1.18  
TRILLION  
GLOBAL MARKET**

**25%  
DISCOUNT**

*on Canadian currency  
compared to USD*

**WORLD-CLASS  
RESEARCHERS AND  
UNIVERSITIES**

**UNIQUE COMMERCIALIZATION  
FRAMEWORK MAINTAINING  
COMPANY IP**

**RANKED GLOBAL  
TOP 3 AI RESEARCH**

## OPPORTUNITY

The pharmaceutical industry is valued at over \$1 trillion worldwide. Global spending in healthcare, pharmaceuticals and new treatments are projected to increase by 5.5% in 2021 creating near-term investment potential.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led a surge of investment in pharmaceutical R&D in the hunt for successful vaccines and treatments for the novel coronavirus.

Most pharmaceutical R&D has traditionally taken place in the US, representing \$115 billion annually. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions have caused a decrease in productivity rates by as much as 75%. This presents an opportunity to establish an R&D hub in a stable political and economic climate.

### 1 TALENT & EXPERTISE

- Post-secondary institutions in the Edmonton region produce the niche professionals required to conduct pharmaceutical R&D.
- The University of Alberta's faculty of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences and faculty of medicine and dentistry are ranked in the top 90 worldwide.
- Immigration-friendly government policies make it easy to attract and retain international talent.
  - Alberta Advantage Immigration Strategy
  - Global Skills Strategy
- Quality of life in the Edmonton region ranks high globally, making it easy to attract and retain talent.

### 2 INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION & INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

- US multinational Gilead has a \$50 million expansion of their Edmonton facility currently underway.
- Canada's stable political and economic environment make it a good choice when considering decentralizing R&D to multiple jurisdictions.

### 3 GOVERNMENT SUPPORT & INCENTIVES

- Companies benefit from the Government of Canada investment tax credit ranging from 15% to 35% for scientific research and experimental development opportunities.
- The \$1.26 billion Government of Canada Strategic Innovation Fund generates incentives for large (+\$10 million) R&D and commercialization projects across all industries.
- Government of Alberta Innovation Employment Grant will support businesses that invest in R&D with a grant worth up to 20% of qualifying expenditures.

### 4 COST

- Canadian currency offers a significant cost advantage when compared to the US - with the ability to retain proximity to US headquarters.

### PARTNER NETWORK

- Alberta Innovates – Health Research Funding program
  - Provides funding for research focused on R&D in the life sciences sector
- Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation (API)
  - Helps innovators commercialize ideas, accelerating the drug development process
  - IP framework allows for collaboration while protecting company IP
  - \$31 million in investment since its launch in 2018

### REGIONAL ASSETS

- Alberta Health Services (AHS) is Canada's largest single healthcare system – a significant asset when conducting clinical trials and R&D.
- The Alberta RWE (Real World Evidence) Consortium facilitates basic to highly complex RWE studies and is a key data generator for R&D.

### RESEARCH EXPERTISE

- The University of Alberta is home to many medical and interdisciplinary research centres:
  - Alberta Diabetes Institute
  - Drug Development and Innovation Centre - skills in emerging fields of R&D including nano-formulations, dosage investigations, and proof of concept studies
  - La Ka Shing Institute for Virology and Li Ka Shing Institute for Applied Virology
  - Bionic Limbs for Improved Natural Control (BLINC) Lab
  - Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii) - part of Pan-Canadian AI Strategy
  - TEC Edmonton - ranked in the global top 5 university accelerators)
  - Glyconet

Contact Edmonton Global's Brent Jensen to receive a detailed business case and competitiveness scan for pharmaceuticals research and development investment opportunities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region.

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