

Calgary Startup Resource Guide

A Comprehensive Directory for Newcomer Entrepreneurs

Compiled from Mina Damian's Entrepreneurship Playbook on The Newcomers Podcast

Business Formation & Legal

Incorporation

OWNR

- Fast online incorporation in all provinces
- Register federal corp in 10 minutes for ~\$300
- Includes minute books, share certificates, and registered office address

www.ownr.co

Business Link

- Free Alberta business service centre
- One-on-one guidance for business planning, permits, regulations
- Book appointments for incorporation help, business name searches

businesslink.ca

Legal Services

GoodLawyer

- Fixed-fee legal services marketplace
- Startup packages from \$999
- Connect with vetted lawyers for incorporation, contracts, IP

www.goodlawyer.ca

Fasken

- Full-service firm with startup practice
- Strong in tech, energy, and cross-border transactions

www.fasken.com

Osler

- Top-tier firm with emerging companies group
- Expertise in venture financing, M&A, and IPOs

www.osler.com

Funding & Grants

Alberta Innovates

- Non-dilutive funding from \$50K-500K for tech validation, scale-up, and commercialization
- Apply through their portal with executive summary (2 pages), project workplan with milestones, budget breakdown
- Timeline: 6-8 weeks from submission to decision

albertainnovates.ca/programs

Migr8 VC

- Newcomer-focused micro-fund supporting immigrant entrepreneurs in Canada
- Pre-seed investments \$25K-100K
- Strong mentorship component with focus on helping founders navigate Canadian market

migr8.vc

Spring Activator

- National impact accelerator
- Offers programs for cleantech, health innovation, and social ventures
- Investment readiness training + up to \$50K in grants

spring.is

Local Investing YYC

- Community-driven angel network focused on Calgary startups
- Members pool capital for \$25K-100K investments
- Monthly pitch events, due diligence support, and mentorship

localinvesting.ca

The51 Accelerator Fund

- Financial feminist fund investing in women and gender-diverse founders
- \$150K-250K initial investments
- Based in Calgary with national reach. Offers Venture Lab accelerator program

www.the51.com

Village Wellth

- Acquisition marketplace for Canadian SMBs
- Connects buyers/sellers for businesses \$1M-10M revenue
- They handle valuation, due diligence, and transition planning

www.villagewellth.com

Calgary Ecosystem

Platform Calgary

- Innovation hub with programs from idea to Series A
- Junction (pre-accelerator), Launch (accelerator), Traction (scale-up support)

www.platformcalgary.com

Startup Court

- Focused on Black and immigrant founders
- Supports founders with venture building, mentorship, operational & back-office support, and funding pathways

<https://startupcourt.com/>

Innovate Calgary Social Innovation Hub

- Supporting social enterprises and impact ventures
- Access to funding, mentorship, and workspace
- Programs for Indigenous entrepreneurs and social impact measurement

innovatecalgary.com/program/social-innovation

Fintech Cadence

- Calgary-based fintech accelerator
- 12-week program for financial services startups
- Access to banking partners, regulatory guidance, and pilot opportunities

fintechcadence.com

Calgary Chamber of Commerce

- Largest business network in Calgary
- Membership starts at \$565/year
- Access to policy advocacy, member directory, and networking events

www.calgarychamber.com

Calgary Black Chamber

- Supporting Black-owned businesses in Calgary
- Membership includes business directory listing, networking events, and procurement opportunities
- Great for diverse supplier certification

www.calgaryblackchambers.ca

Be Local YYC

- Shop local movement supporting 500+ Calgary businesses
- Great for B2C startups wanting local market penetration

www.belocalyyc.ca

Exmerce

- Barter exchange network
- Trade products/services for credits instead of cash
- Preserves working capital for startups. 10% transaction fee on trades

exmerce.com

Development Tools & Resources

Lovable.dev

- AI-powered full-stack app builder
- Go from idea to deployed app without coding
- Great for MVP validation before hiring developers. Free tier available

lovable.dev/?via=mina (Mina's affiliate link)

Y Combinator Resources

- Pitch Deck Template: ycombinator.com/library/2u-how-to-build-your-seed-round-pitch-deck
- Startup School (free): startupschool.org
- SAFE Agreement: ycombinator.com/documents

Bonus Calgary Resources

InterGen Connect

- Matches startups with experienced executives
- Great for finding advisors or fractional executives

intergen.org

Calgary Economic Development

- Trade accelerator program, export readiness, FDI support
- Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund has deployed \$100M+

www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com

CDL Rockies

- 9-month program for science-based ventures
- No equity taken
- Access to mentors worth \$1B+ collectively

createdestructionlab.com/locations/rockies

ATB Entrepreneur Centre

- Free resources, \$10K BoostR grants, expert office hours
- Good first stop for banking relationships

atb.com/business/support/entrepreneur-centre

Bow Valley RGO Centre

- Entrepreneurship programs and workshops

- Good for skills development and early-stage support
bowvalleycollege.ca/schools/rgo-centre-entrepreneurial-thinking

Connect with Mina

Grants-ease.ai

- AI-powered grant writing tool
grants-ease.ai

Business Path

- Mina's consultancy
businesspath.ca

LinkedIn

- 3,000+ connections
linkedin.com/in/mina-demian-

Listen to the full series at thenewcomerspod.com