



**EDMONTON RIN**  
Membership Benefits



## **About Edmonton Regional Innovation Network**

The Edmonton Regional Innovation Network (ERIN) is a coalition of Edmonton region organisations supporting innovation startups and enterprises. ERIN supports service provider programs aimed at assisting innovation companies improve market readiness to increase profitability and longevity.

ERIN, funded by Alberta Innovates' Regional Innovation Network, exists to help entrepreneurs start and grow innovative businesses. Together, we are creating a Regional Innovation Network (RIN) that is accessible, inclusive of diverse thoughts and ways of doing, and meets the needs of the innovation ecosystem.

## **Membership**

Membership is open to organisations that support the Edmonton innovation ecosystem. Membership categories are provided below, and more information about what it means to be an ERIN member can be found on our [website](#).



**Table 1: Membership Categories**

Categories	Description
Service Providers	For-profit and non-profit organisations that help Edmonton-based innovative entrepreneurs grow and scale their businesses.  Investors, Government, and Crown Corporations are also included in this category.
Post-Secondary Institutions	Accredited higher education bodies with a certificate, diploma, and/ or degree program.
Municipalities	A city or town with corporate status and local government in the Edmonton region.
Entrepreneurs (Companies)	A person who organises and operates a business or businesses that are a part of Edmonton’s innovation ecosystem.  ERIN recognises the companies these entrepreneurs form as members and not individual founders.



## Discover the Full Value of Membership

Being an ERIN member means more than just having access to the Community Initiatives grant and participating in monthly membership meetings. It means being a part of a network of people working to develop Edmonton's innovation ecosystem. It also means enjoying exclusive perks, rewards, and special services that add up so quickly that you wonder why you are not paying an annual membership fee.

### Benefits at a Glance

- ▶ **Funding and Support:** ERIN primarily functions as a funding body, offering financial support to qualified service providers that directly assist entrepreneurs rather than working with entrepreneurs one-on-one.
- ▶ **Community Building and Collaboration:** ERIN plays a significant role in community building. We host events to foster relationships and provide a platform for key stakeholders to collaborate and find solutions. Our work extends across Alberta, promoting collaboration with other regions.
- ▶ **Sector-Wide Innovation Support:** ERIN funds various programs and initiatives across all innovation and technology sectors, contributing to the diverse economic landscape.
- ▶ **Economic Enhancement:** ERIN contributes to economic well-being and competitiveness in the Edmonton region by funding initiatives within the innovation and technology communities, in line with Alberta Innovates' mandate.
- ▶ **Resource Navigation:** ERIN recognises that many resources available in the region are not always apparent. Our role as community collaborators allows us to have a mature understanding of the support system, which makes us well-positioned to help entrepreneurs access level-appropriate resources.
- ▶ **Neutral and Non-Partisan Stance:** ERIN maintains a neutral and non-partisan position, ensuring an unbiased approach to supporting the innovation ecosystem.



## Grant Funding Benefits

### Community Initiatives

The Community Initiatives grant covers reasonable costs for organising initiatives that benefit Edmonton’s innovation ecosystem. There are currently two funding streams: events and small-scale programs. The former allows for up to \$10,000.00 in grant funding, while the latter has a limit of \$35,000.00.

Learn more about the Community Initiatives grant on our [website](#).

**Table 2: Eligible Members - Community Initiatives**

Member Categories	Access
Service Providers (For-Profit and Non-Profit)	Yes
Post Secondary Institutions	Yes
Municipalities	No
Entrepreneurs (Companies)	Yes

### Programming

ERIN supports innovation entrepreneurs by providing long-term<sup>1</sup> funding to programs.

### Conditions

Eligibility is determined by ERIN’s RFP Framework, which weighs an applicant’s competency, the economic value of the program or initiative, relevance, and indicators of success, among other things.

ERIN’s call for proposals will provide guidance on the funding range; however, there are occasions when unsolicited proposals are considered, and the award amount is determined during the review process.

<sup>1</sup> Long-term is measured as one year and over.



**Table 2: Eligible Members - Community Initiatives**

<b>Member Categories</b>	<b>Access</b>
Service Providers	Yes
Post Secondary Institutions	Yes
Municipalities	No
Entrepreneurs	No

## **Community Development**

The Edmonton Regional Innovation Network (ERIN) invites member municipalities to collaborate with ERIN to support and empower local entrepreneurs. Partnerships can also result in the following advantages:

- ▶ **Community Investment Boost:** They will see a rise in investment within their local community, which can drive economic growth and sustainability.
- ▶ **Economic Diversification:** Municipalities can diversify their economies and foster a vibrant business environment by strategically investing in innovative businesses through service provider programs.
- ▶ **Access to Funded Programs:** Members can access ERIN-funded programs that support startup and business mentorship, contributing to improved market readiness and increased profitability for innovation companies.
- ▶ **Steering Committee Inclusion:** Municipal members can become ex-officio members of the Steering Committee, allowing them to be involved in the decision-making process and contribute to the direction of ERIN's initiatives.



### Conditions

Member municipalities interested in collaborating with the Edmonton Regional Innovation Network (RIN) should meet the following criteria:

- ▶ **Strategic Value Contribution:** The ability to offer strategic value to the Edmonton RIN’s objectives and initiatives.
- ▶ **Alignment of Core Competencies and Goals:** Have core competencies and organisational goals that are in harmony with those of the Edmonton RIN.
- ▶ **Joint Funding Capabilities:** Be capable of participating in a co-funding arrangement to support the partnership.
- ▶ **Program Compatibility:** Show that their programs and initiatives are consistent with Edmonton RIN’s strategic focus on nurturing innovation entrepreneurs in the region.

**Table 3: Eligible Members - Community Development**

Member Categories	Access
Service Providers (For-Profit and Non-Profit)	No
Post Secondary Institutions	No
Municipalities	Yes
Entrepreneurs (Companies)	No



## **Business Support**

### **Dentons Startup Support**

ERIN loves to grow and scale innovative businesses, so much so that we fund several programs the entrepreneur community can access for free to start and grow their businesses. We have also embraced partnerships with other ecosystem players, like Dentons, to provide ERIN members with discounted startup support. The Dentons Startup Program is available to ERIN members in the entrepreneur member category who meet the conditions of eligibility listed below.

### **About the Dentons Startup Program**

The Dentons Startup Program is a fixed-fee package of legal services that provides founders with an easy, complete solution from one of Canada's leading venture technology law firms to get their Canadian business up and running quickly! They provide boutique service within the framework of the world's largest law firm, providing founders with legal services that will scale with their business. Services offered include:

- ▶ Get incorporated or organised.
- ▶ Prepare for a future financing.
- ▶ Draft and negotiate an initial shareholder agreement or founder share vesting agreement.
- ▶ Develop template employment and consulting agreements and mutual NDA's.
- ▶ Draft privacy policy and terms of service for the company's website.

The key contacts at Denton are provided below and can be reached for more information.





## Conditions of Eligibility to the Dentons Startup Program

ERIN members must:

- ▶ Be a tech-enabled, innovation-based startup company.
- ▶ Typically have, or will soon have, access to a founder and/or “friends and family” financing and targeting rapid growth and future investment from venture capital firms and angel, private equity, and other investors active in the venture industry.
- ▶ Align with Dentons’ core values and maintain the confidence of the responsible Dentons lawyer.
- ▶ NOT be an owner-operator business or a business looking to incorporate or conduct business in the US or abroad.

**Table 4: Eligible Members - Dentons Startup Support**

Member Categories	Access
Service Providers (For-Profit and Non-Profit)	No
Post Secondary Institutions	No
Municipalities	No
Entrepreneurs (Companies)	Yes

## Key Contacts

<p><b>Tom Sides</b>            Partner, Edmonton            D +1 780 423 7168            tom.sides@dentons.com</p>	<p><b>Wes Fairbanks</b>            Partner, Edmonton            D +1 780 423 7333            wes.fairbanks@dentons.com</p>
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## Marketing

Members can access one marketing-related support reimbursement of 5% of the total cost, not exceeding \$20,000 annually. However, members are limited to two marketing-related support reimbursements for the lifetime of their membership.

Members will have to pay for the applicable service out of pocket and then complete the reimbursement form – for consideration by the Membership Sub-Committee.

## Conditions

Members must:

- ▶ Have completed one [ERIN-funded startup program](#) or a member service provider program from organisations like Business Link, Black Business Ventures Association, and E-Hub.
- ▶ Be generating an income of \$0.00 to \$100,000 per year.

**Table 5: Marketing**

Member Categories	Access
Service Providers (For-Profit and Non-Profit)	No
Post Secondary Institutions	No
Municipalities	No
Entrepreneurs (Companies)	Yes



## Programs and Events Discount

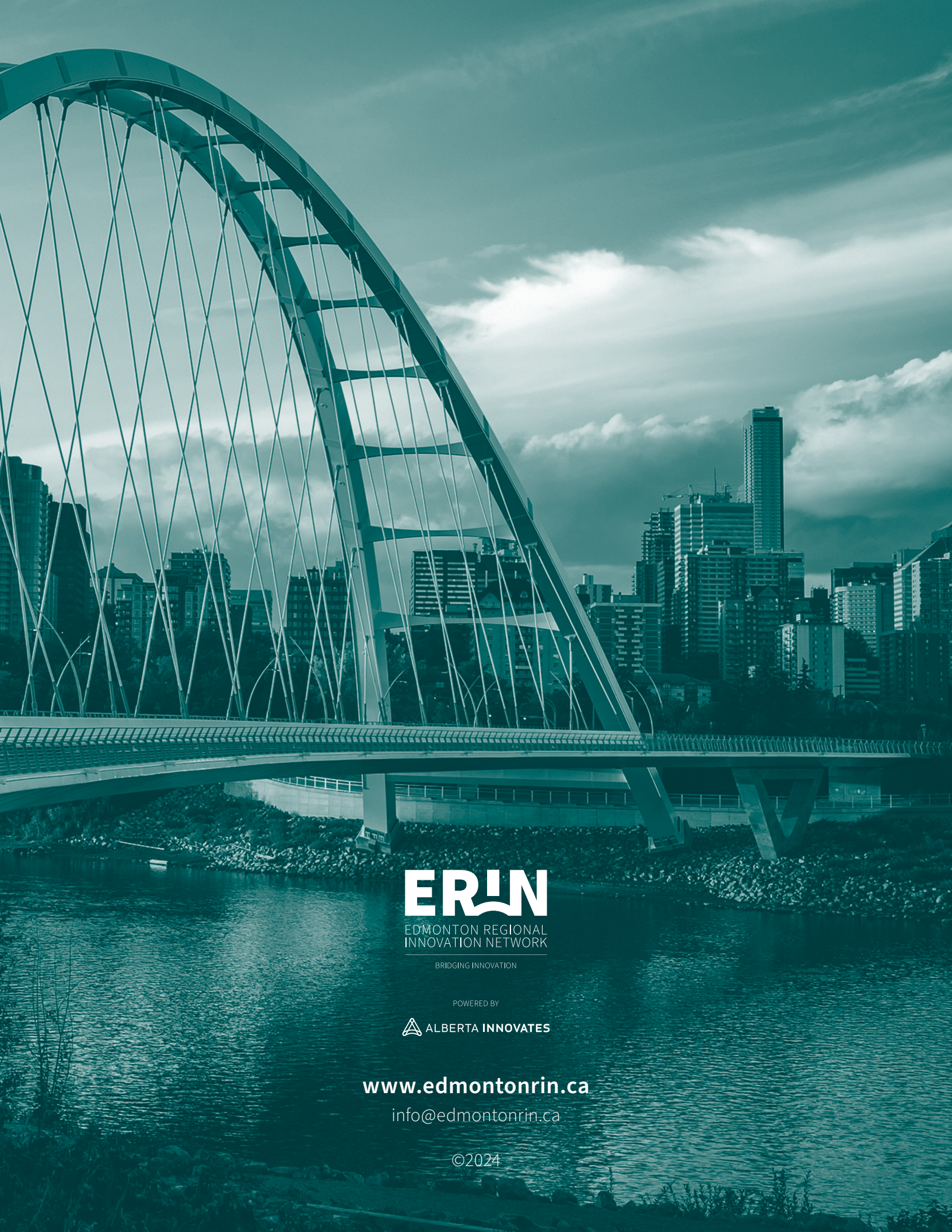
A concerted effort is made to improve the accessibility of ERIN-funded events and programs. However, should there be a registration fee for any event or program funded by ERIN, then members qualify for a 10% discount of that fee with a cap of 50 members for any one event.

**Table 7: Eligible Members - Programs and Events**

Member Categories	Access
Service Providers (For-Profit and Non-Profit)	Yes
Post Secondary Institutions	Yes
Municipalities	Yes
Entrepreneurs (Companies)	Yes

## Disclaimer

- ▶ The benefits provided are subject to funding availability.
- ▶ The Membership Sub-Committee reserves the right to decline an application for the use of a benefit. In such cases, the member will be advised why the decision was made.
- ▶ The Membership Sub-Committee may request additional information to help them to arrive at a decision.
- ▶ While we intend to honour the benefits listed above, extenuating circumstances may result in a member being unable to access a listed perk. Such circumstances will be communicated to the member in writing.
- ▶ All costs are quoted in Canadian dollars.
- ▶ Membership benefits are subject to change as more information and opportunities become available.



**ERIN**

EDMONTON REGIONAL  
INNOVATION NETWORK

BRIDGING INNOVATION

POWERED BY

 ALBERTA INNOVATES

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