



ALBERTA
CANCER
FOUNDATION

BREAKTHROUGH
FUND



Breakthrough Fund®

Expression of interest

BACKGROUND

The Alberta Cancer Foundation's Breakthrough Fund helps bring bold cancer innovations to life, right here in Alberta.

By connecting visionary donors and forward-thinking Alberta companies focused on cancer, we can close the gap between research and real-world impact — fast-tracking novel therapeutics, cutting-edge diagnostics, revolutionary medical devices and next-generation treatments.

Partnering with Toronto's SickKids Foundation, the Alberta Cancer Foundation has launched the Breakthrough Fund to advance venture philanthropy here in Alberta.

THE OPPORTUNITY: BRIDGING THE GAP TO GET ALBERTA'S BIG IDEAS TO MARKET

Alberta is home to a groundswell of researchers and clinicians with tremendous ideas that have the potential to change the way we deliver cancer care around the world. To truly transform patient outcomes, these ideas must move from research through to commercialization. However, many ideas often become stuck in what has been dubbed the "valley of death."

Funding for early-stage oncology companies is hard to come by. Granting agencies fund early development and venture capital funds come in later. And while granting agencies have begun to evaluate commercial potential, these agencies are often slow and the investments small. Thus, leaving a gap or lag in getting ideas to patients. With a combination of Alberta's entrepreneurial spirit and our desire to do things differently, the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Breakthrough Fund is poised to help close the gap.

FUNDING OFFERED

If your application is selected, the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Breakthrough Fund will make an investment* of \$100,000 to advance research with commercial potential that could change the way Albertans face cancer.

**If your company is currently raising capital, the Alberta Cancer Foundation requests to join the existing investor group, on a non-lead basis, under the same terms and at the same price per share as the lead investor (i.e., the first non-founder or non-employee investor). If you have not yet raised capital, we are also open to investing via a Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE). Our preferred SAFE terms include a standard 20% valuation discount.*

SELECTION PROCESS

Breakthrough Fund applicants will pitch to a panel of Breakthrough Fund donors at the vote events. Donors will then vote — in real time — to determine which applicant will receive the \$100,000 investment. Interested parties **must** be available to attend to be eligible.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Expression of interest submission deadline:

- **September 25, 2026**

Vote event prep:

- **1-hour window on October 13 & 14. Exact time will be determined in September.**

Vote event:

- **October 21, 2026 (Edmonton)**
- **October 27, 2026 (Calgary)**

Public announcement of funding recipient(s) and release of funding:

- **TBD**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Project must be based in Alberta.
- Company must be incorporated.
- Must agree to disclose lead investor's negotiated terms, structure and due diligence.
- Must be available in-person from 5-7pm on the date of the vote event in the city you're seeking funding.
- Acknowledgement of mandatory participation in virtual **vote event prep**, the **in-person vote event** and a future **public announcement**, as outlined under "Important dates".

In addition, you will be asked to provide progress updates and financial reporting to help keep current and prospective Breakthrough Fund donors apprised of your progress.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- Please do not submit an expression of interest if you do not meet all outlined eligibility requirements.
- Each expression of interest must include:
 - Name, affiliation(s), brief bio and head shot of the applicant

Please submit your completed expression of interest to filling out the [online form](#) no later than **11:59 pm MST** on **September 25, 2026**. Requests received after this deadline will not be considered during the current funding cycle.

Questions about the Breakthrough Fund and this expression of interest should be directed to lindsay.gilbert@albertacancer.ca