

Building Sustainable Ecosystems

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The Innovation Place Approach

- A research/technology park system located in Saskatoon and Regina Saskatchewan
- Commenced Operations in 1980
- Grew to three Cities (now 2), 180 clients, 5000 people, 27 Buildings, 1.6 Million sq. feet
- Profitable for much of its duration
- Globally known

Key approaches

- Build upon the strengths of Saskatchewan
- Eliminate obstacles preventing development and attraction of industry
 - Develop specialized facilities, services and amenities to attract or support the ongoing development of research related organizations
 - Fund tenant related improvements to allow customization of space
 - Have flexible leasing structures and a variety of space types
 - Develop relationships among clients and their sectors to facilitate growth

Key approaches

- Non-programmatic style of problem solving
- Look for linkages and opportunities within and across sectors
- Develop platform facilities or components thereof to allow cross sectoral marketing
- Be an early adopter/provider of key elements that might be attractive to industry.
 - E.g. First multitenant research quality greenhouse/lab complex in Canada (1989)
 - E.g. first multi user, multi purpose, multi vendor, multi building, multi city, high speed internet access in Canada (1992)
 - Only multi tenant commercial office lab complex in Saskatchewan to accommodate BSL 1, 2, and 3, plus supplied key components of lab user needs centrally.

Outcomes

- A key centre for agriculture related research
- A globally known brand
- Just over \$1B of annual economic impact
- Year over year growth of approximately 60,000 sq. feet and 200 people (to 2012).
- Leaders in sustainable facilities
 - First LEED Gold Building
 - Numerous BOMA Best buildings

