

For immediate release

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The Health and Technology District teams up with FIRSTSTEP on Future of Healthcare Project

Findings show Innovation Hubs like the District are critical catalysts to support the uptake and implementation of innovations and expedite improved health outcomes

Surrey, BC – The **Health and Technology District** has partnered with **FIRSTSTEP** on an innovative “**Future of Healthcare**” DeepDive project to gain valuable insights and fresh perspectives on what forces will shape the shift in healthcare within the next three to five years.

Preliminary findings from their in-depth DeepDive session suggest that a shift is underway, from centralized healthcare toward more sustainable community-based care delivery. This shift has the potential to be profoundly disruptive, but it’s difficult for health organizations to prepare without clarity around a critical question: what are the forces that will shape this disruptive shift, and how are they most likely to unfold over the next few years?

“**Future of Healthcare**” DeepDive preliminary findings on the forces that will shape the future of healthcare:

- 1) **Innovation is moving exponentially:** The pace of innovation in health will accelerate as a result of growth in investment, corporate health innovations, and ongoing government support, creating confusion and great difficulty in health care system to make sense of it.
- 2) **Healthcare culture is provider-centric and resistant to change:** The health system is inherently slow and risk averse, as well as provider centric in its design so there is natural resistance and inertia around adoption of innovative technologies and practices.
- 3) **Shift to community-centric care:** Healthcare systems will increasingly shift delivery into the community, working with private sectors to build new health spaces and become more person centered.
- 4) **Practice Innovation Hubs will impact the future of healthcare:** Innovative Clusters and Hubs, like the Health and Technology District, are the critical catalysts to support the uptake and implementation of innovations in health system.
 - They will expedite improved health outcomes through early adoption of technologies and evidence based wellness and betterment programs and services, creating a preventative, proactive and precision medicine based approach to health care delivery in Canada.
 - Building these Hubs next to acute care centres will enable new technologies and new community centered healthcare delivery models to be purposely designed in spaces that are more cost effective, consumer driven and patient/customer focussed.

“The goal of the Health and Technology District is to transform the way high quality health care is delivered to Canadians, whether it’s connecting researchers to entrepreneurs, bringing innovative technologies to patients in clinical trials or even building and delivering what the future of healthcare could look like,” says Rowena Rizzotti, Vice President of Healthcare and Innovation at the Health and Technology District.

“We’ve partnered with FIRSTSTEP to help us better understand how the forces of disruption that are shaping healthcare may unfold so we can try and alleviate the challenges and delve into new ways of



delivering much needed healthcare. We feel part of the solution is for the Health and Technology District to create the space and infrastructure, separate and distinct from the current environment, to accelerate innovative healthcare practices and encourage evaluation and adoption.”

FIRSTSTEP DeepDive sessions include a series of immersive experiences that connect large multinational enterprise leaders with edge-thinkers that have genuinely unique views focussed on disruptive new products and services.

Working together, enterprise leaders and edge-innovators get a unique opportunity to stress-test their foundational assumptions and to formalize their thesis on how the key forces are most likely to unfold, and trigger the big ideas that will disrupt the status-quo. Every startup has a unique perspective on how the forces of disruption are unfolding, and that’s what sparked their big idea. Start-ups benefit from deep exposure into enterprise thinking and enterprise leaders benefit from a fresh perspective that helps stress-test the organization’s existing strategy and sparks new opportunities for innovation, growth and investment.

“FIRSTSTEP hosts these DeepDive sessions to help both startups and established health organizations, like the Health and Technology District, crystalize their foundational thinking about how the forces with the greatest potential to impact their success, are most likely to unfold,” says Brendan Byrne, Principal and Co-Founder of FIRSTSTEP.

“We work with promising startups and health innovators to create innovative new community-based care solutions. In this Future of Healthcare project, we’ve identified the challenges as well as potential next phase of evolution for the District, which is to create innovative practice hubs that accelerate adoption and amplify the impact of healthcare innovations.”

About FIRSTSTEP:

FIRSTSTEP works with innovation and venture teams in leading health organizations looking for fresh perspectives to spark new opportunities for innovation and growth. They help organizations see the forces of disruption through the lens and unique insights of start-ups and edge-innovators. With an emphasis on edge-thinking, they get organizations to immerse in edge-thinking, and distill the learnings into actionable insights that help reduce disruption risk and spark new opportunities for innovation and investment. www.firststep.ca

About the Health and Technology District:

The Health and Technology District is one of BC’s most rapidly growing and dynamic new health tech sectors located in Surrey’s emerging innovation ecosystem. The District includes a series of high-tech buildings, developed by Canadian-based Lark Group, located and under expansion immediately adjacent to Surrey Memorial Hospital. It is a unique collaborative cluster of multinational and start-up companies, international partners, clinical and research facilities, scientists, innovators and entrepreneurs, working in partnership to accelerate the implementation of technologies and solutions towards health care impacts and improvements. www.HealthandTechnologyDistrict.com