

Message from the Chair

The coming year will extend our reach as an organization and catalyze new partnerships.

In my time as a member of the most preeminent organization in the real estate industry, I have been privileged to experience the full array of what ULI has to offer, through various levels of the organization, from young leader to national council to district chair. I have seen the power that resides within this organization to connect people and build communities. The way cities and communities are being built today requires a cross-disciplinary approach to city-building, which is reflected in ULI's core values and a lasting commitment to its members.

ULI – simply put – is its members. It relies on its members' dedication, shared expertise and leadership to create an impact. Nowhere is this more evident than at the local level, where knowledge, creativity and camaraderie are in abundance. Being a ULI member is an open-door opportunity to connect to both local and global concerns, shaping the catalytic future of our cities and urban regions.

The Alberta district council is home to some of the best and brightest businesses and professionals. I am proud that ULI Alberta has attracted a compliment of thought leaders of the highest caliber to our province and delivered some exceptional programming over the past year. This included our marquee events such as the Emerging Trends & Real Estate Outlook; our Fireside Chat event: Shaping an Innovative, Catalytic Landscape, which welcomed Dennis E. Lower, Cortex's President & CEO from St. Louis, MO and Mary Moran, CEO of Calgary Economic Development; and our Innovative Ideas Breakfast, which saw the Greater Austin's Economic Development Corporation's Chairman, Gary Farmer go toe to toe with Alberta Innovate's CEO, Laura Kilcrease.

The Canadian City Catalysts Council, a national forum and ULI Canada's primary, initiative council convened in Calgary last spring, to discuss best practices in transformational developments that are occurring across Canada. Member tours of the Edmonton International Airport Commercial Development district and Telus Sky provided behind-the-scenes insights of these projects and the Lunch & Learn series hosted by our effervescent Young Leader's group covered a range of topics from Autonomous Vehicles, Residential Conversions to City Charters and Community Wellbeing.

The Urban Plan program has been in full swing in Calgary during 2018 and we look forward to it being introduced in Edmonton this coming year. A collaboration between ULI and NAIOP saw Edmonton's Mayoral Fireside Chat event recently bring in the former mayor of Pittsburgh and ULI senior fellow, Tom Murphy to meet with the Mayor of Edmonton, Don Iveson for an energizing exchange.



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In 2019, we are geared up for the launch of our new strategic direction, aimed at building a framework that will function as a resource and catalyst for programming and initiatives over the next 2-5 years.

Over the coming years of my term I intend to work alongside staff, and membership on the following four key areas of focus: 1) expansion of ULI's network through thought leadership and outreach; 2) sustainable growth of our programs and member development; 3) engagement of and bridging of public and private sectors; 4) revitalization of our inner city areas to be vibrant and competitive. We are excited to find ways to strike up new partnerships and to hear from our members about future collaboration opportunities, though each of these key areas.

On behalf of the board, an immense thank you and farewell to our outgoing board members who have been instrumental in establishing ULI's roots in Alberta and provided an excellent footing for our District Council. I would like to recognize David Ford, Chris Ollenberger, John Fisher and Jason Hardy for their contributions over the past few years. Each have generously agreed to continue to support ULI Alberta in various capacities through the breadth of our programs and initiatives.

We look forward to furthering our engagement in the future and to another successful year in 2019, supported by our growing membership and the invaluable contributions provided by our sponsors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Craig, Kasian'.

Will Craig, Kasian
ULI Alberta District Council Chair