



## AICCS Renewal: Dr. Peter Hackett

### > January 16, 2008 – Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Carbohydrate Science Renewal Announcement - University of Alberta

Good morning everyone.

This truly is a great time to be in Alberta. And it's a great time to be in research and innovation in Alberta. You know, we are so rich and so privileged in Alberta that, from time-to-time we need to take a breath and recognize just how lucky we are; how fortunate we are; how much opportunity and responsibility that good fortune brings us.

Alberta has no deficit. Alberta has no debt. Alberta has some thirty billion dollars of savings. Alberta has a rich culture founded on a pioneering spirit and a willingness to embrace change – a willingness to get it done.

Alberta has a growing population - with young, highly motivated people flooding into the province:

- More engineers per capita in Fort McMurray than in any city in Canada
- More engineers per capita in Alberta than in any Province in Canada
- More engineers in the Oil Patch in Calgary than in the auto patch in Southern Ontario

And it's not just engineers that are so important – with all due respect to President Samarasekera!

And Alberta has fabulous research universities:

- Universities that are on the move
- Universities with high standards and big visions
- Universities from which you can change the world
- Great universities like the University of Alberta with a rich tradition – a hundred years of contributing to education, research and citizenship

Alberta has rapidly growing, dynamic high technology companies like QSV Biologics, YottaYotta and CastleRock Research led by skilful – entrepreneurs - you might say crazy entrepreneurs – crazy entrepreneurs and smart businessmen like Graham MaCaloney, Wayne Karpoff and Gautum Rao. Companies that prove that you can change the world with knowledge and that you can do it right here in Alberta.

In short, Alberta is rich.

In short, Alberta will stay rich.

Maybe we don't all realise that yet. Maybe we are too modest to say it. But the big secret is: Alberta will stay rich, just like California, just like Boston, just like Bangalore. We will have to work at it, but we will stay rich.

The big question for Albertans is what does it mean to live a rich life? The big question is how will we live rich? How will we act now that we are rich?

And I have no doubt that we will get the right answer to that question. We must use those riches to build a stronger future. And there are signs of that hanging in the air:

- Last May I was on campus with the Premier and Minister Horner to announce the Alberta Nanotechnology Strategy, a \$130 million investment over the next five years
- In October, Minister Horner and I announced the launch of the Ingenuity Accelerator program, a \$100 million investment over the next 10 years
- In November, the Premier, Lorne Taylor and I announced the launch of the Alberta Water Research Institute with \$30 million over the next six years
- Yesterday, I was very fortunate to attend the historic opening of Enterprise Square – we all remember the historic occasion when another President crossed the Delaware – let me assure you that the crossing of the North Saskatchewan by this President was no less significant!
- And today, we are gathered together to announce that Alberta Ingenuity will invest a further \$12.5 million over the next five years in the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Carbohydrate Science

The Ingenuity Centre for Carbohydrate Science is a partnership between the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta and it is a model for how these two great institutions can make big things happen by working together.

The Centre works at the frontier of molecular science, at the frontier of chemical synthesis, at the frontier of molecular biology, at the frontier of molecular recognition and the language of how cells communicate with one another, at the frontier of vaccine development and at the frontier of nanotechnology.

This is truly an interdisciplinary centre.

The centre has a fabulous team of young researchers and it is attracting more. The centre is spinning off technologies to address some of the world's most difficult health problems – like Tuberculosis, Alzheimer's and opportunistic infections like Candida Albicans – and this through partnerships with Alberta-based companies like TheraCarb led by a crazy Alberta entrepreneur, Mary Earle.

The centre has fabulous leadership from the Chair of its Board, Mr. Yves Fouron, and board members like Dr. Yvan Guindon and Dr. Stewart Roth. And all this grows stronger every day.

But the hallmark of the centre is the exceptional leadership of its Scientific Director: Professor David Bundle of this university. David exemplifies what we want our scientific leaders to be, he is a creative genius, he sets high standards, he is a builder and he works amazingly hard for his science, and for his community.

There is nothing that we have asked David to do that he has not done. That's the good news David. The bad news is - we will just keep asking you to do harder and harder things. And I think that you already know what that means. It's a ratchet effect, learned in the Middle Ages and I think that you know how that feels.

The centre has been reviewed by a ferocious panel of international experts chaired by Jeremy Carver, (CEO of the International Consortium on Anti-Virals), then by Ingenuity's top-level science advisors the Science and Engineering Advisory Council, SEAC. SEAC takes no prisoners - your President is an alumna of that panel – the President of Harvey Mudd University is also a recent alumnus of that panel - that's how good SEAC is - and then by Ingenuity's Board of Trustees. The questions got harder and more pointed at each stage. Just how good is this? Is it making a difference?

The centre passed each stage with flying-colours. We at Alberta Ingenuity are convinced that the AICCS and its researchers are jewels-in-the-crown of Alberta's Life Sciences strategy. We are convinced that under David's leadership, great science, great innovation and great commercialization will happen. Our announcement of this five year \$12.5 million investment signifies the high expectations that we have of you and the great trust we place in you. Congratulations to you David, and to you Dean Taylor and Dean Murphree at the University of Calgary and your teams.

We are convinced that you will make Alberta richer. Today's announcement is about branding Alberta as an innovation destination - a place where the world's leading innovators want to be - a place where they can pursue their dreams, contribute to Alberta's growth and make the world a richer place. Alberta still needs pioneers – people with ingenuity – practical knowledge – people with the right stuff – Alberta needs innovators.

Congratulations too, to the University of Alberta and to the University of Calgary.

And in the words of Minister Rona Ambrose at yesterday's Enterprise Square announcement: "Let's get at it".. It was the highlight of my year, talking to fabulous young people, proud parents and their passionate teachers.