



## Tecterra: Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Integrated Resource Management Announcement: Dr. Peter Hackett

> July 16, 2009

> Location: University of Calgary

Thank you Zaineb (Sayed) and good afternoon everyone.

Thank you so much, to all of you who have come together to be here for this announcement. Special thanks to those who came from across the country, especially to our colleagues Jean and Danielle from the NCE program in Ottawa. Welcome to Alberta.

I too made a special effort to get here. It's the middle of our family vacation and on Monday I was camping with my grandchildren in Dinosaur Provincial Park. Now, I happened to tell the Minister and his EA, Tim Schultz, about this over supper just before we left and they gave me some advice - Minister's do that you know. Go to bed early, Tim said – the sun comes up and bakes the place – there is a reason they call it the badlands – go to bed early, you will be up a six o'clock. And despite the heat, keep you tent closed at all times, Tim said, or the rattlers and scorpions and black widow spiders will get in and there will be hell to pay. By the time they were through with me I thought that I would be lucky to survive the trip.

Well, the reports of my demise have been somewhat exaggerated. It is possible to sleep in till eleven o'clock and the rattlers were only seen casing the kiddies' playground. I'm back.

And what could bring a guy back to work from his vacation, on his sixty-first birthday no less.

Will that is clear, it is to celebrate the arrival of a new Alberta Ingenuity Centre, Tecterra, the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Integrated Resource Management, a powerful integration of an Ingenuity Centre and a federal Centre for Research and Commercialization. This is a shining example of what is possible when building partnerships with academia, government and private industry.

The new baby joins a family of Alberta Ingenuity Centres, a family with four siblings in Oil Sands Innovation, In-Situ Energy, Carbohydrate Science and Machine Learning. The family will grow to nine over the coming months, with four more Ingenuity Centres on deck waiting to be announced.

If Tecterra, is a new baby, then I have to say that it's been a long time coming. The gestation period was over two years, elephants do it quicker, 22 months, and during that time there were various paternity issues. Mum and Dad got frustrated – Mum especially. In our defence, let me just say this. Things were moving along swimmingly when my wife decided that we should do a few home renovations. You know how it is when you bring the renovators in. Let me just say that we will be grateful if we have a home to move back into. Don't go there.

So it's been interesting times and an interesting year. But this announcement provides a powerful endorsement by the Province of the Centres' mission - to build partnerships and to facilitate and accelerate the development of research to viable commercial products and services - and of the Ingenuity Centres concept as an important tool in the toolbox of Alberta's innovation system – a critical piece of the plan as the province re-focuses its innovation priorities.

Here's an example of how this works. Meet Dr. Geoff Hay. He's been recognized for his outstanding research through an Alberta Ingenuity New Faculty Award. Geoff is also going to be part of this new Centre, and he and his student researcher Christopher Kyle have been working on Home Energy Assessment Technologies, better known as HEAT – an application geared to tracking heat loss in buildings using open source tools like Google Earth.

Picture zooming in on your house using Google Earth, on the coldest day of the winter to see how much heat is spilling out of the windows you've been thinking about replacing. This project is being built in partnership with Enmax and the City of Calgary.

But the Centre is much, much more than that simple example. It's a powerful pan-Alberta collaboration involving the Universities of Alberta and Lethbridge and hosted here at the University of Calgary. It's connected into the dynamic Geomatics technology cluster, here in the city of Calgary, and it will be working throughout the most remote parts of our province to create products that can be used throughout the world, making Alberta a global leader in the area of resource management.

And the Centre is much more than that. It's a powerful federal-provincial partnership, as significant in its way as the National Institute for Nanotechnology and as enabling as the powerful alliance we have built between the federal NCE PrionNet and the Alberta Prion Research Institute. These three endeavours make Canada a global player through powerful national initiatives, national initiatives with their heart beating right here in Alberta – three national initiatives with powerful connections into vibrant and confident regional innovation systems.

You know there just might be a general model for fed-prov collaboration here. We should do some more business together.

There are many special people that I should thank before I close. Let me just single out two of them. First this Centre, has a strong lineage, great genes, it's built upon the global excellence in Geomatics that Elizabeth Cannon spent the first half of her career creating here at the University of Calgary. Elizabeth, this one's for you. There will be others. But in a very special way, this one is for you.

Secondly, Naser El-Sheimy, the Centre's Scientific Director, you have a big task ahead of you, big shoes to fill, but we have checked you out and we are sure that you can do it. There will be many people to help you, if it takes a village to raise a child it takes an innovation system to raise a powerful Alberta Ingenuity Centre. You have much ahead of you but you have come a long way. Naser is an object lesson for the renovators – researchers find a way. They are used to uncertainty, they thrive at the frontiers. Naser we wish you well.

As ideas flow from researchers to companies and from companies to researchers, we will go beyond traditional R&D and create hubs of collaboration needed to attract talent and investment, and create practical solutions to industry challenges.

Minister Horner, I will close with what I said to you at our last announcement. Stick around, you ain't seen nothing yet.