



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Association of Canadian Community Colleges**

Serving Canada's colleges, institutes, cégeps, university colleges and polytechnics

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## **Colleges Applaud New Program that Supports Applied Research and Innovation**

**Ottawa, July 26, 2010** -- Today's announcement by the Honourable Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology, supports the key role of colleges, institutes and polytechnics in applied research.

The \$32.5 million investment through the Canada Foundation for Innovation, dedicated exclusively to colleges, institutes and polytechnics, recognizes the unique contribution of these institutions to private sector innovation.

"This funding demonstrates an understanding that colleges, institutes and polytechnics are integrated with the industrial and technological drivers of the economy," said James Knight, President and CEO of ACCC. "They help businesses start, develop and grow. They support the advanced skill requirements of the private sector, while offering applied research, product and process innovation, technology access and commercialization."

"This program will help attract world-class researchers to Canada's colleges and provide the research capacity that local businesses need to develop new technologies and innovations," said Minister Goodyear.

Mr. Knight attended this morning's announcement at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, where he congratulated Minister Goodyear for his efforts in developing this initiative.

"Gary Goodyear has been a tremendous advocate for our sector," said Knight. "He has piloted several major initiatives on our behalf: the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, additional funding for the College and Community Innovation Program, and the new Applied Research and Commercialization Initiative through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario."

Today's announcement will make a difference in rural, remote and metropolitan communities. The program will invest in research facilities and equipment on a competitive basis.

ACCC had encouraged the government to establish a capital funding mechanism dedicated to colleges to support their unique expertise in applied research and commercialization. The practical side of business processes and continuous improvement, the very root of productivity, is where these institutions excel.

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