

## Speaking Notes

Hon. George VanderBurg  
Minister of Government Services and  
Acting Minister of Innovation and Science

NAIT Funding Announcement

August 23, 2006

**Time: 2-3 minutes**

(Check Against Delivery)

Good morning. Thank you for that kind introduction, Dr. Shaw. It is a pleasure to be here today.

As the Acting Minister of Alberta Innovation and Science, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that our province supports innovation – at every stage, from research, through to the application of technology in the marketplace.

Technology is vital, as it helps Alberta's manufacturing sector to compete in world markets.

And, collaboration is also vital to innovation. Great things are accomplished when different forces come together and create synergy.

I'd like to recognize the contribution made by my colleague, former minister of Innovation and Science, Victor Doerksen.

He, and the team at Innovation and Science, particularly Lee Kruszewski [kru-ZOO-ski] were instrumental in building some of the partnerships that have made this Centre a reality.

The initial investment from the Government of Alberta and Western Economic Diversification, along with the donation of business software from Microsoft, helped to get the Centre up and running.

Today, I'm pleased to be part of this celebration that marks a new phase of this development.

With this additional funding of \$1 million from the Government of Alberta and \$6.5 million from the federal government and Shell, this Centre is well on the way to achieving great results for Alberta entrepreneurs.

Using the Centre, manufacturers can eliminate the risks of adopting new technology.

They can create prototypes and train their staff in a controlled environment, rather than risk glitches in their manufacturing plant.

With the shortage of skilled workers in Alberta, systems like this allow manufacturers to optimize their existing workforce. This Centre also gives program graduates with new opportunities.

And, we've heard about the benefits of this today from Armie and Lauren.

I'd like to close by thanking our partners and congratulating everyone involved in this Centre.

The Government of Alberta is proud to be a part of this important initiative. Innovation is alive and well in Alberta.

Thank you.

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