



TORONTO REGION RESEARCH ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

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Toronto Region Research Alliance Launched

\$8 million commitment by government, industry and research and innovation organizations to make Toronto region an international research centre

The Toronto Region Research Alliance (TRRA), an alliance of private, public and non-profit leaders intent on transforming the Toronto region into a world-leading centre for research and research-intensive industry, was launched today with the announcement of over \$8 million in funding commitments from provincial, federal and regional governments, and regional research and innovation organizations and corporations.

As part of the launch, TRRA released a groundbreaking report, entitled *Engaging Innovation*, based on 18 months of research and consultation with Toronto region business, government and research leaders. Among the report's conclusions is that the Toronto region -- embracing Hamilton, Guelph, the Waterloo region and the Greater Toronto Area -- has been unable to attract and develop research investment, despite compelling factors which point to its potential for success.

"When you compile all of the data, the picture that emerges is very strong and yet, for a variety of reasons, we haven't attracted the investment you would expect," said Dr. John Evans, chair of the MaRS Discovery District, and co-chair of TRRA along with Mr. Gordon M. Nixon, president and chief executive officer of RBC Financial Group.

Engaging Innovation lays the foundation for TRRA's comprehensive plan to place the Toronto region prominently on the international R&D map. TRRA's goal is to bring together diverse stakeholders to build public and private research capacity in the region, which, in turn, will accelerate the commercialization of research and attract increased R&D investment to the area.

"The challenge for TRRA is to align all of the resources and talent in the region to achieve objectives beyond the reach of individual institutions," Evans added.

To support the TRRA, Premier Dalton McGuinty today announced the Government of Ontario's \$3.3 million commitment to fund TRRA over three years.

Earlier this year the federal government announced \$2.25 million, also over three years, to support the TRRA. According to the Hon. John Godfrey, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities for the Government of Canada, "We're very supportive of the Toronto Region Research Alliance and the plan developed by all of the Toronto region stakeholders. Supporting the growth of an innovative economy in the Toronto region is a key priority. Taking pride in your community and promoting a vision for a

trra.ca Engaging Innovation.

better quality of life complements the Government of Canada's New Deal for Cities and Communities."

"Today marks the beginning of a bold campaign to move the Toronto region to the forefront of international research and development," Nixon added. "Other regions have done more to mobilize aggressively to attract global R&D leaders, and it's time for the Toronto region to do the same. The investments made by our federal and provincial governments, as well as the money TRRA has raised from its regional partners, demonstrates there is strong commitment and consensus to remedy this situation."

In addition to Premier McGuinty and Minister Godfrey, the TRRA launch was attended by senior representatives from industry, research institutions and all levels of government.

TRRA has raised the balance of its funding in annual contributions from local industry, research organizations, hospitals, universities, colleges and municipalities.

"We couldn't be more pleased by the support TRRA has received to date," Nixon concluded. "Both the provincial and the federal governments have been with us right from the beginning and we will continue to work closely with them and our members to achieve our very ambitious plans. Today is a celebration of all of our partners and volunteers who have worked so hard to make this day a reality."

- 30 -

ABOUT TRRA

The Toronto Region Research Alliance is an innovative organization of regional leaders engaged in transforming the Toronto region into a world-leading centre for research and research-intensive industry. The Alliance serves the broader Toronto region, embracing Hamilton, Guelph, the Waterloo region and the Greater Toronto Area. This area is the core of Ontario's Innovation Corridor stretching from Ottawa to Windsor. TRRA's board of directors is composed of president and chief executive officers from the region's business, research and municipal organizations. For more information about TRRA, please visit www.trra.ca

Media contact:

Brad Cicero
Manning Selvage & Lee
416-847-1305