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**National investment key factor in successful R&D regions worldwide —
Canada may be left behind, says new report**

**Alliance of business, academic and municipal leaders calls on the federal
government to rollout its plan for research, innovation and future
competitiveness**

Successful R&D regions around the world are benefiting from a steady and growing infusion of strategic public investment and Canada risks being left behind, says a new study analyzing the development of some of the world's leading R&D hotspots.

The study confirms that the broader Toronto region is a globally competitive R&D venue which is positioned to be amongst the top regions for innovation in the world. With a population of almost seven million, the region is home to world-leading high-tech industry clusters and a remarkable concentration of research excellence ranked second only to Boston in the number of science and engineering articles published.

However, the report shows that the stakes are rising in the extremely competitive global R&D marketplace and national governments worldwide are responding by dramatically increasing their investment in regional R&D clusters.

The report contrasts this global trend towards transformational research investments with the relatively low R&D expenditures in Canada and the uncertain future of federal research programs such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Genome Canada and CANARIE - our national high-bandwidth network for research.

"The global economy is increasingly driven by knowledge and innovation and there is a limited window of opportunity for competitive R&D venues like the Toronto region to establish themselves in the top tier" says Ross McGregor, President and CEO, Toronto Region Research Alliance (TRRA). "We're hopeful that the federal government will act quickly to rollout its national plan for research, innovation and future competitiveness, or we could be left behind. We are already receiving warning signs that Canada is slipping."

TRRA is working with other innovation-intensive regions to call on the Government of Canada to announce the results of its Science and Technology review and take steps to implement the most urgent elements of its innovation strategy without delay. As the examples in the report highlight, Canada needs a robust national plan in which the federal government provides reliable, predictable and growing funding. This federal funding must be augmented by provincial, municipal and private sector participation which will be crucial to maintaining Canada's position in the international innovation community.

The study also identifies three different models of regional R&D systems – *dirigiste*, *embedded* and *regional mobilization*. It recommends that Canada should adopt the

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regional mobilization model which allows local organizations and regional leaders to invest in strategically important clusters in their regions by drawing down national resources.

Titled, *At a Crossroads: Strengthening the Toronto Region's Research and Innovation Economy*, the study was commissioned by TRRA and prepared by a leading team of researchers with the Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies. It examines the development of six leading R&D centres from around the world: Austin, Texas; Boston, Mass.; Raleigh, N.C.; San Diego, Calif.; Singapore, and Stockholm. It also spotlights three emerging high-tech centres: Albany, N.Y.; Bangalore, and Shanghai. To download a copy of the report, please visit www.trra.ca.

ABOUT TRRA

Launched in October 2005, the Toronto Region Research Alliance (TRRA) is an innovative network of regional leaders engaged in transforming the Toronto region into a world-leading centre for research and research-intensive industry. TRRA serves the broader Toronto region, embracing Hamilton, Guelph, the Waterloo Region and the Greater Toronto Area. The board of directors is composed of presidents, chief executive officers and senior leaders from the region's business, research and municipal organizations. TRRA is a results-oriented, non-profit organization supported by a wide range of regional stakeholders and the governments of Ontario and Canada. For more information about TRRA, please visit www.trra.ca.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Rebecca Finlay
TRRA Communications
416 673-6673