
News Release

**GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND ONTARIO ANNOUNCE KNOWLEDGE
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UNDERWAY:
GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION AT ALGOMA UNIVERSITY**

SAULT STE. MARIE Ontario, September 11, 2009 — MPP David Oraziotti and Dr. Celia Ross, president of Algoma University, today celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony of the Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre at Algoma University that received federal and provincial funding totalling \$16 million through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and Ontario's 2009 Budget.

The Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre will bring together teaching, research and commercial activities in a dynamic atmosphere to foster innovation and growth. Along with teaching and faculty research labs, established enterprises like the internationally-recognised Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre will anchor the facility. Another tenant will be the newly-launched Algoma Games for Health, a design studio bringing computer games technology to the delivery of health care and rehabilitation services. Algoma Games for Health will provide research and development expertise to for-profit and non-profit organizations.

In total, the governments of Canada and Ontario are investing \$1.5 billion in 49 projects at Ontario's colleges and universities, through the joint federal-provincial Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) and the 2009 Ontario Budget.

“Through the renewal of college and university facilities, our researchers will have the tools they need to be global leaders in their fields and pursue world-class excellence,” said Member of Parliament for Kenora, Greg Rickford. “The Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre will be a catalyst for attracting, retaining, and fostering innovation, development and commercialization in the Algoma region. By contributing to the global knowledge economy, this investment strengthens Canada's position as a world leader in science and technology to the benefit of all Canadians.”



The Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a two-year, \$2 billion economic stimulus measure to support infrastructure enhancement at Canadian post-secondary institutions, is part of the \$12 billion in new infrastructure investment allocated under Canada's Economic Action Plan. The program is providing real economic stimulus and employment by creating local jobs for engineers, architects, trades people and technicians. It is also helping to generate the advanced technological infrastructure needed to keep Canada's research and educational facilities at the forefront of scientific advancement.

"This new Biosciences Centre will further enhance the research capacity of Algoma University while strengthening our community's ability to attract and retain talented workers," said David Oraziotti, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie. "Our government's investment in postsecondary education will provide local students with a state-of-the-art learning environment and stimulate Sault Ste. Marie's economy by creating 160 new jobs."

The Government of Ontario, in its 2009 Budget *Confronting the Challenge: Building Ontario's Economic Future*, is committed to investing in infrastructure, and has designated \$780 million to colleges and universities to modernize facilities and boost long-term research and skills training capacity over the next two years.

"The Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre will be a significant addition to the scientific research and development capacity of Sault Ste. Marie," said Dr. Celia Ross, president of Algoma University. "Research into critical issues – such as stopping the spread of invasive species and improving the efficiency of the health care system – will generate new ideas and solutions and help improve all our lives. Algoma Games for Health will bring cutting-edge computer game technologies to bear on health and rehabilitation challenges. Algoma students will benefit from this expertise on campus, enhancing their education and providing them new opportunities."

For more information about the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, including program criteria, application instructions and a list of the approved projects to date, please visit www.ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure.

For information about how the Government of Ontario is helping to build and revitalize infrastructure across the province, please visit www.mei.gov.on.ca/english/infrastructure.

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