



Speaking Notes for  
**Dr. Eliot Phillipson**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

**Event to Highlight the  
Government of Canada's  
Recent Funding Commitment to the  
Canadian Research Enterprise**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
9 – 10 a.m.**

**Canada Science and Technology Museum**  
*Canada in Space* Exhibit Hall  
1867 St Laurent Blvd, Ottawa ON

*Check against delivery*

Thank you, Mr. Faubert. Minister Goodyear, Mr. Galipeau, Mrs. Morris, Ms. Amyot, ladies and gentlemen.

Je suis heureux de me joindre au ministre Goodyear afin de souligner la contribution fournie à la FCI par suite du dernier budget fédéral.

The current downturn in Canada's economy and the challenges faced by its manufacturing and natural resource industries serve to highlight the growing importance of the nation's knowledge-based sector to its future prosperity. In this sector, the most important "natural resource" is a highly educated and skilled workforce, and the unit of international currency is not the dollar, but the idea.

If Canada is to compete successfully in this modern-day economy, it must continue to produce an increasing number of university and college graduates who have the knowledge and skills to advance innovation — whether through the generation of new knowledge and technologies, the translation of knowledge into products and services, or the commercialization of new products in the global marketplace. The country must also

continue to invest in research, which is fundamental to all innovation and technological progress.

These realities are recognized by Canada's Science and Technology Strategy — *"Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage"* — which provides the framework for Canada's future economic and social prosperity through investments in the nation's universities and colleges, research hospitals, and research institutes. Included in this framework is the importance of investments in state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure through the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

The current economic downturn also provides an opportunity for the Government to stimulate the economy in both the short and long terms through investments in deferred capital spending at universities and colleges. These investments will complement those of CFI, which focus on state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

Beyond their immediate economic impact, investments in research infrastructure also generate long-term benefits by facilitating the creation of permanent jobs in the knowledge sector and the development of new technologies, products, and

services. Infrastructure investments also ensure that Canadian institutions will be able to attract and retain the best and brightest minds, despite intense international competition; and that they will be in a position to train the next generation of highly qualified personnel who will be vital to the knowledge-based economy.

Thus, by funding state-of-the-art research infrastructure, the Canada Foundation for Innovation plays a critical role in the Government's S&T Strategy by promoting the Knowledge Advantage. Our investments in turn assist recipient institutions in making their most important investment, which is not in equipment or facilities, but rather in the researchers who generate new ideas and who represent the People Advantage for the nation's science and technology enterprise.

In fulfilling its mandate, the CFI will continue to collaborate with the other federal research funding agencies and with Canada's research institutions and their partners—the provincial governments, and the private and non-profit sectors—all of whom share a vision of Canada as a nation of research excellence and innovation.

In summary, the very substantial allocation of \$750 million to CFI in Budget 2009 represents a significant investment in Canada's future prosperity and will help to ensure the nation's competitiveness in the knowledge economy of tomorrow by investing in research and innovation today.

Thank you. Merci.