

Speaking Points

Honourable Greg Weadick
Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

Innovation Breakfast

Shaw Conference Centre
Riverside Room
9797 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB

Tuesday, November 8, 2011

3-5 minutes

Introduction

- Thank you, Randy [*Randy Yatscoff, Executive VP Business Development, TEC Edmonton*], and good morning, everyone.
- It's good to see so many familiar faces from Alberta's life sciences and business community here this morning.
- It's my great pleasure to bring greetings to all of you from Premier Redford and the Government of Alberta.

Premier's Commitment to Innovation

- This is a great time to be in the innovation business in Alberta...
...because Premier Redford's commitment to the role of innovation in our future is undeniable.
- It's compelling.
- And it's contagious.
- She has declared...point blank...that Alberta equals opportunity...
...and she has declared that our government must do everything it can to promote this simple fact.
- With that kind of leadership...

...and that kind of commitment to our future prosperity...

...is it any wonder that I figure I have about the best job in Alberta?

- I feel so fortunate to be part of the team helping to realize this opportunity for Alberta...

...that I just love going to work in the morning.

- Now...more than ever...the biopharmaceutical sector is a key driver of innovation and economic diversification in Alberta.
- That's why our government is committed to continuing to build an environment where new research ideas and new technology companies are striving and succeeding...

...from a supportive tax regime...

...to promoting venture capital...

...to company support programs...

...such as our innovation vouchers delivered by Alberta Innovates – Technology Futures.

- That's also why we're building innovative partnerships to support you...

...partnerships like the Western Canadian Innovation Agreement...

...which has come out of our collaboration with Johnson and Johnson, and the Centre for Drug Research and Development...

... to move innovative drugs down the commercialization pathway.

- And partnerships like our collaboration with Pfizer and Alberta Innovates – Health Solutions...

...that will accelerate the commercialization of early-stage, innovative health care solutions...

...like pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

- But don't let me give you the impression that we in government are solely responsible for these successes.
- Government's role...as Premier Redford has clearly stated...is to create the right environment for business to prosper...and then to get out of your way.
- Partnerships like these are a simply signal that Alberta...through your efforts...is being recognized on the global stage.
- The bottom line is that Albertans will benefit from advances in health care that will be developed and tested right here in the province...

...and our economy will grow in the process.

- As it does, we will continue to work with your industry to find other ways to stoke the fire.

Conclusion

- Certainly, our hosts this morning...and my fellow speakers...are committed to that goal.
- I want to thank each of you for bringing all of us together this morning.
- Gatherings like this are essential...they're a catalyst for ideas...and opportunities.
- So let's make the most of it.
- Let's use this morning's Q&A session to start some conversations...
...or maybe even to continue discussions that sparked ideas for you in the past...
...while we're all here in one room.
- Let's roll up our sleeves and see where we can go from here to realize Alberta's full biotech potential.
- Thank you.

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