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Federal Minister of State for Science and Technology to visit Laurier Brantford

BRANTFORD – The Honourable Gary Goodyear, federal Minister of State for Science and Technology, will join Brant MP Phil McColeman and Brant MPP Dave Levac for a progress tour of Laurier Brantford's new Research and Academic Centre on Thursday, October 15, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The tour will start at the construction site, between 111 and 121 Darling Street, where Goodyear, McColeman and Levac will receive a briefing on the Research and Academic Centre and provide remarks of their own. The three will then take a tour of downtown Brantford, followed by a private roundtable discussion with representatives from the municipal, business, First Nations and post-secondary education sectors.

Construction began earlier this year on Laurier Brantford's state-of-the-art Research and Academic Centre thanks to a contribution of \$13 million each from the federal and provincial governments. The federal contribution is part of the Government of Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program. The provincial contribution is part of a commitment by the Government of Ontario in its 2009 budget to invest in post-secondary institutions across the province.

The first phase of the Research and Academic Centre is scheduled to open by fall 2010. The Centre is a key part of a development strategy that will significantly increase enrolment and research capability at Wilfrid Laurier University's Brantford campus. The project will culminate in a facility that will enable Laurier Brantford to grow to 4,000 students by 2012 from the present 2,362 students. It will provide research and teaching space for a number of programs, as well as library facilities and administrative areas.

The Research and Academic Centre will incorporate environmental and energy efficient design elements, and the university aims to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) silver certification for the facility. The building will also be a significant addition to the Heritage Block in downtown Brantford.