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# *News Release*

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## **LAURIER CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW BRANTFORD RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC CENTRE**

**Brantford, Ontario, December 9, 2011** — Phil McColeman, Member of Parliament for Brant, along with the Honourable Dave Levac, MPP for Brant and Wilfrid Laurier University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Max Blouw, were in Brantford today to officially open the east wing of Laurier Brantford's Research and Academic Centre. The project will provide important learning opportunities for students in the Brantford area including Aboriginal students, and will support local economic development.

The project received a Government of Canada investment of \$13 million through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP) and a matching contribution from the Ontario government through the 2009 Budget.

In Ontario, the Knowledge Infrastructure Program represents a total investment of \$2.3 billion to improve infrastructure at postsecondary institutions. The federal government is investing \$799 million in 56 KIP projects, while the Province of Ontario is providing \$981 million toward 49 of those projects. Other partners are contributing an additional \$569 million. Also, the province is providing \$75 million for another eight projects.

"Our government has invested in innovation and knowledge infrastructure right here in Brantford to set a foundation for economic prosperity in this community," said Brant MP Phil McColeman. "This project is allowing Laurier Brant to strengthen its capacity, attract more students and build on its reputation as a leading model for satellite campuses right across the country."

"Ontario's investment in Laurier Brantford is improving access to postsecondary education for Brantford and area students, bringing important research opportunities to the city and creating 108 jobs in the region," said Levac. "This is a tremendous step forward for the future of our community."

"The Laurier Brantford campus is playing a key role in the revitalization of downtown Brantford," said Blouw. "This major expansion of Laurier Brantford reflects an important investment in the social, cultural and economic prosperity of the city and the surrounding communities."

Laurier's new Brantford facilities will house an additional 35,000 square feet of advanced teaching and research facilities, administration and other student facilities, in addition to the 30,000 square foot west wing of the building, which was officially opened in January. Besides providing important learning and research opportunities for Brantford and area communities, it will bring new educational opportunities for Aboriginal and first generation students and pathways for college students to transition to university. The facility is highly efficient, with up to 33 per cent more energy efficiency than standard construction and 30 per cent less indoor water use.

As part of Canada's Economic Action Plan, the Government of Canada introduced the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a \$2-billion economic stimulus measure to maintain and improve research and training facilities at Canadian universities, colleges and CEGEPs. The program is providing economic stimulus, creating jobs, and generating the advanced technological infrastructure needed to keep Canadian institutions at the forefront of scientific advancement and ensure economic growth in the future.

The Government of Ontario is investing more than \$1 billion in infrastructure at colleges and universities to modernize facilities and boost long-term research and skills training capacity. Support for KIP projects are part of the Ontario government's plan to help every student succeed and build a knowledge-based economy for the future.

For more information on the Knowledge Infrastructure Program, visit the [Knowledge Infrastructure Program website](#). For information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit the [Canada's Economic Action Plan](#) website.

For information about how the Government of Ontario is helping to build and revitalize infrastructure across the province, please visit: [www.infrastructureapp.mei.gov.on.ca/en](http://www.infrastructureapp.mei.gov.on.ca/en). Learn more about [Putting Students First: Ontario's Plan for Postsecondary Education](#), a plan to ensure all qualified Ontario students have access to the high-quality, affordable training and education they need to succeed in the modern world.

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