

# Media release



## FROM THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION

**DATE: Tuesday, February 19, 2008**

### **JENNINGS WELCOMES NEW VICTORIA - ONTARIO TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS**

Victoria's reputation as a global centre for life sciences and nanotechnology research will be further strengthened by new collaborative agreements with the Canadian province of Ontario, the Minister for Innovation, Gavin Jennings, said today.

While visiting Victoria today, the Ontario Minister of Research and Innovation, John Wilkinson, met with Mr Jennings after witnessing the signing of a collaborative research agreement between Monash University and McMaster University in Ontario on electron microscope technology.

The \$24 million Monash Centre for Electron Microscopy is supported by the Victorian Government's Science, Technology and Innovation Infrastructure Grants program.

Mr Jennings said the agreement would allow Victoria and Ontario to collaborate together on making the best use of multimillion-dollar state-of-the-art research tools.

Mr Jennings also made note of the recently signed collaborative research agreement between the Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative (VNI) and the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (ONF) to partner in the research and treatment of acquired brain and spinal cord injury.

"This is a unique partnership that brings together two of the world's leading funding agencies in this important field of research," Mr Jennings said.

"Ontario's capital city, Toronto, is recognised as Canada's leading biotechnology location, which makes the state an excellent partner for Victoria, where Melbourne is Australia's leading biotechnology centre.

"These collaborations with Ontario are the latest in a series of international partnerships for

Victoria with states and major research bodies across North America and Asia.

“Victoria looks forward to building on these two significant agreements in partnership with Ontario in the near future.”

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