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NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY

Statement by:

The Honourable Claudette Tardif

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

THE SENATE

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY

[*Translation*]

Hon. Claudette Tardif: Honourable senators, on February 7, representatives of the University of Alberta and the Government of Alberta were at the National Institute for Nanotechnology to announce the recruitment of a leading chemist, Dr. Richard McCreery.

[*English*]

Dr. McCreery will hold a cross-appointment as a Principal Researcher for the National Research Council in the National Institute for Nanotechnology, as an Alberta Ingenuity Scholar in Molecular Electronics and as a Professor in Chemistry in the Faculty of Science at the University of Alberta. He will be instrumental in integrating research into the learning environment to enhance the experience of both undergraduate and graduate students.

Mr. Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology for Alberta, noted that the unique partnership between the National Research Council, the Government of Alberta and the University of Alberta that makes up the Institute for Nanotechnology is an example of partnerships that result in synergies that are critical to finding innovative solutions to big problems. He further stated that the commercialization of technology is the key to the global economy.

[*Translation*]

These kinds of partnerships are vital if we want to continue to attract prominent, experienced experts from around the world who will help develop and stimulate research in the fields of nanotechnology and biotechnology.

Honourable senators, this is a concrete example of how important it is to invest in research and innovation in our universities. Canada must continue to invest, as it has done over the past few years, in post-secondary education as well as research and innovation. Our country's prosperity depends on it.