



# Economic Report

Ministry of Small Business, Technology  
and Economic Development

## DECEMBER 2008

*The Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development is the primary provincial agency for creating a strong, prosperous and diverse economy as well as the ministry responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative.*

### Did You Know?

In the first half of 2007, Canada's exports to China outpaced any other G7 nation – recording a 43 per cent increase in export trade.



### British Columbia Leads In Clean Technology

Thanks to the support, of the Provincial Government's Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, Nexterra Energy Corp. has supplied the first of its kind, fired biomass gasification system to the Kruger Products Ltd. tissue mill in New Westminster. The alternative energy system will help the company cut operating costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [Read More>>>](#)



### B.C. Wood Used In China Earthquake Recovery

The Governments of Canada, British Columbia and China have signed a memorandum of understanding to assist China in its reconstruction efforts following last May's devastating Wenchuan earthquake. The MOU supports an \$8-million wood-frame rebuilding project. [Read More>>>](#)



### B.C. Construction Projects Set Record

Construction projects across B.C. have continued to rise. According to the latest Major Projects Inventory report, eight hundred and sixty-three major projects, worth an estimated \$174.7 billion were planned or underway in B.C. between July and September 2008. [Read More>>>](#) The September edition of the Major Projects Inventory is available online at [www.gov.bc.ca/tted](http://www.gov.bc.ca/tted).



### Ministers Meet With Newly Appointed Consul General Of China

Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and



### Clean Technology

Vancouver-based Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies Inc. has achieved the first U.S. commercialization of its process to provide clean, safe fertilizer from nutrients recovered from municipal wastewater. The technology for this system was developed at the University of British Columbia. [Read More>>>](#)

Economic Development and Honourable Joan McIntyre, Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations met with Consul General Liang Shugen, the newly appointed Consul General for the People's Republic of China in Vancouver to discuss the economic cooperation between B.C. and China.



### World-Leading Spinal Cord Centre Opens In Vancouver

On November 18, Honourable Ida Chong was joined by Stephanie Cadieux, director of marketing and development for the B.C. Paraplegic Association at the opening of the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre at Vancouver General Hospital. The \$45-million centre is the world's largest, most advanced and most comprehensive facility devoted to spinal cord injury research and patient care. [Read More>>>](#)

[www.gov.bc.ca/sted](http://www.gov.bc.ca/sted)



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2008TTED0048-001772  
Nov. 19, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

### **ICE FUND BACKS UNIQUE BIOMASS TECHNOLOGY**

VICTORIA – With support from the provincial government’s Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, Nexterra Energy Corp. is implementing an alternative energy system that will cut operating costs for a Lower Mainland industry and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22,000 tonnes per year, Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong said today.

“The ICE Fund investment is realizing a double dividend in this project by helping an important local employer in New Westminster sustain good industry jobs and reduce costs, while lowering carbon emissions significantly,” said Chong. “This success showcases British Columbia as a clean technology leader – exactly what we expect the ICE Fund to accomplish.”

Nexterra Energy Corp., a successful B.C. cleantech company, will supply the Kruger Products Ltd. tissue mill in New Westminster with a direct fired biomass gasification system – the first of its kind in the pulp and paper industry. The system converts locally sourced wood residue into clean-burning syngas to fire a boiler to produce heat for the company’s industrial process – dramatically reducing the need to burn natural gas.

Jim Dangerfield of FPInnovations said advancements to Nexterra’s gasification technology make the switch from fossil fuels to syngas an attractive option for many of North America’s pulp and paper mills and other industrial sites.

“Nexterra’s direct fired gasification system is a platform technology that can be used in many industrial applications,” Dangerfield said. “Replicating Nexterra’s technology at industrial sites in B.C. could result in an estimated 200,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emission reductions in British Columbia annually by 2020.”

“Kruger Products’ new gasification system at its New Westminster mill clearly demonstrates its commitment to the environment and the sustainability of the community in which it operates,” said Nexterra president and CEO Jonathan Rhone. “Kruger, FPInnovations, the B.C. ICE Fund, Ethanol BC, and the federal government have been tremendous partners in this project, and we look forward to completing the plant later next year.”

Last July, the Province of British Columbia announced a \$25-million investment in the first 15 successful ICE Fund applicants, including the Nexterra-Kruger project. The projects focused on bio-energy, solar, geothermal, biomass and other alternative energy approaches. The ICE Fund helps position British Columbia as a world leader in clean energy and fosters solutions to climate change.

In September 2008, the provincial government announced the ICE Fund will invest a further \$25 million towards alternative energy projects in rural British Columbia communities. The ICE Fund will help B.C. cut greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020.

For more information on the Province’s Innovative Clean Energy (ICE) Fund, including details on community

eligibility and application requirements, please visit the website at [www.tted.gov.bc.ca/ICEFund/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.tted.gov.bc.ca/ICEFund/Pages/default.aspx).

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2008TTED0051-001826  
Dec. 1, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

### **MAJOR PROJECTS INVENTORY SETS NEW CONSTRUCTION RECORD**

VICTORIA – The latest Major Projects Inventory shows that construction projects across B.C. have increased for the 21st consecutive quarter, with 863 major capital projects, worth an estimated \$174.7 billion planned or underway, Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong announced today.

“B.C. has continued to demonstrate consistent growth in economic performance with a record number of large scale construction projects planned or underway throughout the province,” Chong said. “We recognize the challenges our capital markets are facing, but remain optimistic. With our increase in major projects alongside a triple-A credit rating, B.C. remains an attractive place for investment.”

According to the Major Projects Inventory, September 2008 edition:

- Eight hundred and sixty-three major capital projects, worth an estimated \$174.7 billion, were planned or underway in B.C. between July and September 2008.
- This is an increase of 30 per cent in estimated value from this time last year, when 843 major capital projects worth an estimated \$134.5 billion were planned or underway.
- This is also an increase from September 2005, when 650 projects worth an estimated \$82.1 billion were planned or underway.
- Construction started during the three months is valued at \$2.4 billion, with the largest project being Hotel Georgia redevelopment in Vancouver, valued at \$400 million.
- Construction was completed on 35 projects with an estimated capital cost of \$1.5 billion, including the \$153-million Grand Villa Casino Expansion in Burnaby and the \$150-million NewPort Village in Port Moody.
- The total capital cost of all major projects under construction in British Columbia is estimated at \$62.5 billion, up from \$60.6 billion in the second quarter of 2008.

Published quarterly by the Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development, the Major Projects Inventory lists all major projects that are proposed, planned or underway in British Columbia. The inventory includes projects with a capital cost of at least \$20 million within the Lower Mainland, and projects valued at \$15 million or more in the rest of B.C.

The September edition of the Major Projects Inventory is available online at [www.gov.bc.ca/tted](http://www.gov.bc.ca/tted).

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The online version of this release was updated Dec. 1, 2008 at approx. 4 p.m. to correct an error.

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Backgrounder(s) & FactSheet(s): [Backgrounder](#)

Canada



NEWS RELEASE  
COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release  
2008TTED0047-001730  
Nov. 14, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development  
Ministry of Forests and Range  
Natural Resources Canada

## CANADA, B.C., CHINA SIGN REBUILDING AGREEMENT

BEIJING – The governments of Canada, British Columbia and China today signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will support an \$8-million wood-frame rebuilding project to assist China in its reconstruction efforts following last May’s devastating Wenchuan earthquake.

“This project will help rebuild facilities and enable residents to move forward after the devastating Wenchuan earthquake,” said Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade and the Asia-Pacific Gateway and Regional Minister for British Columbia. “This initiative complements other Canadian humanitarian assistance efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake, including the Sichuan Earthquake Relief Fund.”

“As Canada’s Asia-Pacific Gateway, British Columbia is pleased to be at the forefront of co-operative international assistance to rebuild community infrastructure devastated by the earthquake,” said Ida Chong, B.C.’s minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific Initiative. “This agreement strengthens and highlights the tremendous spirit of co-operation we’ve seen from everyone involved in the reconstruction efforts.”

Participating in the signing event were Pat Bell, B.C.’s Minister of Forests and Range, on behalf of the government of British Columbia, and Robert Wright, Canada’s Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China, on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The Canada-British Columbia Wenchuan Earthquake Reconstruction Project, first announced in mid-June by Premier Gordon Campbell and Canada’s former natural resources minister, Gary Lunn, focuses on the construction of community facilities. The first three projects include a primary school, an elderly care centre, and a rehabilitation centre/school for the disabled, all located in the heart of the quake zone. British Columbia is contributing \$5 million and the Government of Canada, through Natural Resources Canada, is contributing another \$3 million to the project.

“I want to thank the many officials across the levels of Chinese Government who have helped us identify the first three reconstruction projects,” said Bell. “It is important to focus our efforts on where they are needed most, while demonstrating that North American wood-frame construction can meet the unique mix of building styles in China.”

FII Consulting (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. (FII China) is working with Chinese government officials and local experts to design and construct new community facilities and will procure the Canadian wood required for this project. The Canada Wood Group, a consortium of industry associations, will provide technical support and training in wood-frame construction. The organizations will work together to ensure the wood-frame structures meet local needs.

The public facilities built through this project will be constructed from 100 per cent high-quality Canadian wood. Studies have demonstrated that wood-frame buildings are a highly suitable construction choice for earthquake-prone regions because of their adaptability and seismic stability when used in compliance with proven construction techniques. Wood construction products also have a smaller carbon footprint than other materials, such as steel and concrete.

Complementary to this project, long-term research partnerships will be established under the current Canada-China bilateral Science and Technology Agreement. Administered by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, these partnerships will focus on developing and applying earthquake-resistant construction technology to meet the needs of China's affected areas.

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1 backgrounder(s) attached.

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Canada



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## BACKGROUND

2008TTED0047-001730

Nov. 14, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

Ministry of Forests and Range

Natural Resources Canada

### **CANADA-B.C. WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

Through the Wenchuan Earthquake Reconstruction Project, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia are supporting the construction of community facilities to replace structures damaged or destroyed by the earthquake in Wenchuan County in May.

The \$8-million project was first announced in June 2008 and is supported by \$5 million in funding from British Columbia and \$3 million from the Government of Canada.

These buildings will be constructed from 100 per cent high-quality Canadian wood. Research has shown that wood-frame buildings are an especially well-suited construction design for earthquake-prone regions because of their adaptability and seismic stability when used in compliance with proven construction techniques.

The delivery of the project will be undertaken by FII Consulting (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. (FII China), in partnership with the Canada Wood Group (CWG), a consortium of industry associations. FII China will work with Chinese government officials and local design and construction experts to implement the project and ensure that the wood-frame structures meet local needs. In addition, FII China will procure Canadian wood required for this project. CWG will support the initiative by providing technical support and construction training in wood-frame construction.

Three projects have been approved to date:

#### **Xiang'E Primary School in Dujiangyan**

The Xiang'E Primary School in Dujiangyan in China's Sichuan Province was destroyed by the May 12 earthquake, which took the lives of many students and their rescuers. It has since captured the attention of the entire country and was personally selected by Mayor Han of Shanghai to be one of the first schools that Shanghai, as the appointed reconstruction partner province for Dujiangyan, will rebuild.

On July 1, 2008, the Shanghai government granted Tongji University, a leader in structural engineering, design and urban planning, approval to oversee the facility's reconstruction, with assistance from Canada and British Columbia.

The wood-frame Dujiangyan school complex will include a mixture of classrooms, dormitories and administrative/common area facilities. It will make use of green design concepts and have many energy-efficient features.

Construction is expected to be completed by the spring of 2009.

#### **Care Centre for the Elderly in Beichuan**

China's rural elderly rely heavily on their children for support when they can no longer care for themselves. The Ministry of Civil Affairs provides basic social assistance (food, clothing, housing, medical care) for those without children or other financial means.

The Leigu Town Elderly Care Centre in Beichuan County, which previously housed 75 people, was destroyed in the May 12 earthquake. The new facility will provide care for more than 200 people.

Design for the project is underway, with construction to be completed in 2009.

### **Rehabilitation Centre in Mianyang**

The Wenchuan earthquake had a dire impact on Mianyang Municipality (which includes Beichuan County), claiming the lives of more than 20,000 and injuring almost 180,000. More than 13,000 children and adults have been left disabled by the quake. To help these victims the Mianyang Government is planning the construction of a comprehensive facility that will include a recovery and rehabilitation centre for children and adults, a special needs school for disabled students and a vocational training centre for disabled adults. Canada will be involved in the construction of some of these facilities.

Design of this project will begin in 2008 with construction to be completed in 2009.

### **FII China**

FII Consulting (Shanghai) Co. Ltd. (FII China) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII), a company established by the government of British Columbia to promote the province's forest products, raise awareness of its environmentally sound forest practices and develop new products and market them internationally. FII, along with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), is a major funding agency for the Canada Wood Group. Headquartered in the Dream Home Canada Demonstration Centre in Shanghai and with a shared office in Beijing, FII China and CWG work jointly in China, delivering a comprehensive program focused on creating opportunities for Canadian forest products in wood-frame construction, landscaping, remanufacturing and value-added product sectors.

### **Canada Wood Group**

In China, the CWG has offices in Shanghai and Beijing and supports the Canada Wood College, which delivers vocational training on wood-frame construction techniques adapted to China's building codes and construction practices. The Canada Wood College will play an important role in providing on-site training and technology transfer as part of the project. The Canada Wood Group is supported by Natural Resources Canada and FII.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2008TTED0045-001709  
Nov. 10, 2008

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

### **B.C. TECHNOLOGY SCORES MARKET SUCCESS**

VICTORIA – Using technology developed at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver-based Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies Inc. has achieved the first commercialization in the United States of a process using municipal wastewater to make environmentally safe fertilizer, Technology, Trade and Economic Development Minister Ida Chong said today.

“B.C. is emerging as a force in clean technology,” said Chong. “British Columbia science, technology, and entrepreneurial enterprise, backed by global investment and the provincial government, have combined to score a significant success in the international clean tech marketplace.”

A municipal wastewater treatment plant in Portland, Oregon, will become the first facility in the U.S. to use the new technology to recover nutrients from wastewater and recycle them into a commercial grade fertilizer product called Crystal Green.

Ostara’s process, based on technology licensed from UBC, will be used at the Durham Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility in Tigard, Oregon, already recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as one of the top wastewater treatment facilities in the United States. The Durham facility serves more than 500,000 customers in urban Washington County, west of Portland.

“The Clean Water Services facility in Durham is the first in the U.S. to incorporate the Ostara technology,” said Philip Abrary, president and CEO of Ostara. “Several other commercial facilities are in planning and design stages after successful field trials by municipalities, ethanol bio-fuels plants and food processing plants in the U.S. and Canada. As many as 400 municipalities and industrial plants in North America and 500 in Europe are potential customers for the Ostara process.”

Part of the project financing came from VantagePoint Venture Partners, a fund manager for the \$90-million BC Renaissance Capital Fund, launched by the provincial government in 2008 to attract venture capital. With US \$4.5 billion in committed capital, including US \$1 billion dedicated to clean tech, VantagePoint Venture Partners is one of the largest investors in the industry. The company led a US \$10.5-million equity financing to enable Ostara to increase the pace of deployment at additional wastewater treatment plants.

“Ostara’s unique technology takes waste from one industry and transforms it into a high-value product for another industry. These are the innovations that will define successful enterprises of the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said Stephan Dolezalek, managing director and clean tech practice head, VantagePoint Venture Partners.

VantagePoint Venture Partners is a leader in investing in game-change technologies and in building partnerships with entrepreneurs in the clean tech, health-care and information technology sectors. Located in San Bruno, California, the firm has a large, expert investment team, a broad network of strategic partners and advisors, and investments in more than 70 companies.

Venture capital investments, such as the financing for Ostara, can help B.C. companies create jobs in the province and market innovative technologies worldwide. Between 2006 and 2008, Ostara raised \$3 million from investors through the Venture Capital Programs established by the Province of British Columbia.

More information on BCRCF and venture capital programs is available on the Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development's website at [www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ecdev).

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Backgrounder(s) & FactSheet(s): [Backgrounder](#) [Factsheet](#)



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2008OTP0274-001748  
Nov. 18, 2008

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

### **PREMIER OPENS WORLD-LEADING SPINAL CORD INJURY CENTRE**

VANCOUVER – The world’s largest, most advanced and most comprehensive facility devoted to spinal cord injury research and patient care was opened today by Premier Gordon Campbell, Rick Hansen and members of the health care and spinal cord research community.

“The Blusson Spinal Cord Centre goes beyond any other facility in the world in bringing spinal cord patients together with outstanding researchers and health-care professionals,” said Premier Campbell. “This fully accessible building will be the most fertile ground anywhere on the planet for the discovery of breakthroughs to help people fully adapt to their injuries. Through this facility, we are providing the tools to improve the lives of thousands of British Columbians and people around the world – and bring us closer to finding a cure for spinal cord injuries.”

The six-storey, \$45-million centre is home to ICORD, which stands for International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries and is a partnership of the University of British Columbia, the Rick Hansen Foundation, the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, and the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. ICORD has more than 300 researchers working to develop strategies that will help people adapt to and recover from spinal cord injuries.

“Most of what we know about spinal cord injuries has been discovered over the past decade, and the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre will accelerate the pace of those discoveries,” said Ida Chong, Minister of Technology, Trade and Economic Development, who is responsible for research and innovation. “Government’s \$12.9-million investment in the centre builds on the \$17.25 million we’ve already invested in the past six years to benefit people with spinal cord injuries, and is one of many reasons B.C. is known for world-leading research and innovation.”

The Blusson Spinal Cord Centre is fully accessible, with no need to display the wheelchair disability sign, and integrates research with care. The centre is home to the Brenda and David McLean Integrated Spine Clinic, which provides one-stop outpatient care for people with spinal cord injuries or diseases of the spine. Rick Hansen Foundation programs including the Spinal Cord Injuries Solutions Network and the Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion and Ambassador programs are also located in the centre.

“The realization of this dream will have an extraordinary impact on the community of people living with spinal cord injury across this country today, and those who will be injured in the future,” said Rick Hansen, president and CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation. “The community of experts, who make up this entire building, will work together to find solutions that improve lives today and move us closer to a cure. I’d particularly like to thank Dr. Stewart and Marilyn Blusson for their contribution, and all the partners who believe in the power of collaboration and partnership to make a difference in the lives of others.”

The Province’s contribution comes from the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund. Other funding was provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the University of B.C. and Vancouver Coastal Health. The Blussons, for

whom the facility is named, contributed \$8.75 million through the Rick Hansen Foundation.

“Most patients with spinal cord injuries in British Columbia enter the health-care system at VGH, so it is vital that researchers and caregivers have an environment where they can work together to optimize recovery,” said Ida Goodreau, Vancouver Coastal Health’s president and CEO. “This wonderful new centre will influence the care of our patients even before they land on the helipad, and will allow them to return to their communities having experienced a more dramatic recovery than otherwise possible.”

“Interdisciplinary collaboration is one of the exciting features the new Blusson Spinal Cord Centre offers to attract and retain outstanding researchers from around the world,” said UBC president Stephen Toope. “UBC is proud to be a partner in spinal cord injury research. This new world-class centre also provides a unique opportunity to train the next generation of spinal cord researchers.”

The Province has previously contributed \$17.25 million to spinal cord injury research and quality of life – \$2.25 million to the B.C. Leadership Chair in Spinal Cord Research at the Rick Hansen Institute at UBC and \$15 million to the Rick Hansen Foundation in support of its ongoing work to help improve the lives of people with spinal cord injuries.

“The Blusson Spinal Cord Centre project was the catalyst that enabled ICORD to rapidly evolve and expand to be the world’s largest and most comprehensive spinal research centre,” said Dr. John Steeves, founding director of ICORD and holder of the John and Penny Ryan B.C. Leadership Chair in Spinal Cord Research. “Within the past five years, this increased capacity has generated increased knowledge and patents, which have been translated into improved clinical practices and products.”

Almost \$345 million has been approved by the Province under the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund since 2001, supporting research at public post-secondary institutions, teaching hospitals and affiliated non-profit agencies. This funding has leveraged \$379 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and another \$283 million from other non-provincial government sources, for a total investment in British Columbia’s research infrastructure of over \$1 billion.

“The Blusson Spinal Cord Centre is an impressive example of the type of partnership that is essential to ensure Canada’s ongoing leadership in research and innovation,” said Dr. Eliot Phillipson, president and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation. “The CFI is very proud to be a partner in this venture.”

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1 backgrounder(s) attached. 1 factsheet(s) attached.

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## BACKGROUND

2008OTP0274-001748

Nov. 18, 2008

Office of the Premier

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

### **BLUSSON SPINAL CORD CENTRE PARTNERS**

#### **Province of British Columbia (\$12.9-million contribution)**

Since 2001, the Province has invested \$1.7 billion in research and innovation. The \$12.9-million provincial contribution to the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre was provided through the B.C. Knowledge Development Fund, which has invested nearly \$345 million in research equipment and facilities for public post-secondary institutions, teaching hospitals and affiliated non-profit agencies during the past seven years. The Province previously contributed \$17.25 million to spinal cord injury research and quality of life – \$2.25 million to the B.C. Leadership Chair in Spinal Cord Research, and \$15 million to the Rick Hansen Foundation.

#### **Canada Foundation for Innovation (\$12.9-million contribution)**

The Canada Foundation for Innovation is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. The foundation's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that benefits Canadians. Since its creation in 1997, the foundation has committed almost \$4.4 billion to support more than 5,700 projects at 130 research institutions in 64 municipalities across Canada.

#### **Rick Hansen Foundation (\$8.75-million contribution)**

Established in 1988, the Rick Hansen Foundation is a registered charitable organization that works to create more accessible and inclusive communities for people with spinal cord injury, and supports the search for a cure. The foundation achieves its goals by connecting the people and resources that make innovation possible. To date, the Rick Hansen Foundation has had an impact of over \$200 million in the field of spinal cord injury in Canada. Dr. Stewart and Marilyn Blusson have supported the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre through a generous donation to the Rick Hansen Foundation.

#### **University of British Columbia (\$8.15-million contribution)**

The University of British Columbia is one of Canada's largest public research and teaching institutions and consistently ranks among the top 40 institutes in the world. It offers a range of innovative undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in the arts, sciences, medicine, law, commerce and other faculties. UBC has particular strengths in biotechnology, and ranks in the top 10 universities in North America and number one in Canada for commercializing research, and for its patent activity in the life sciences.

#### **UBC's College for Interdisciplinary Studies**

The College for Interdisciplinary Studies is a leader in collaborative, interdisciplinary research and learning in sustainability, social policy, and human health. The college includes ICORD, 15 other research units and centres, and 12 graduate programs, all addressing complex societal issues through innovative research.

#### **ICORD (International Collaboration On Repair Discoveries)**

ICORD is an interdisciplinary research centre for the development of effective strategies to promote functional recovery after spinal cord injury. ICORD brings together over 300 spinal cord injury researchers from the sciences,

medicine, surgery, rehabilitation, engineering, education and community-based humanities research. ICORD is working to facilitate the discovery and implementation of relevant solutions to improve functional recovery, mobility, community integration and quality of life for people with spinal cord injury.

### **Vancouver Coastal Health & Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (\$2.33-million contribution)**

Vancouver Coastal Health provides a full range of health-care services, ranging from hospital treatment to community-based residential, home health, mental health and public health services, to residents of Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Richmond and in the coastal mountain communities. In academic partnership with UBC, its research institute brings innovation and discovery to patient care. ICORD is a principal research program of the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. Vancouver Coastal Health operates the second floor clinical space of the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, serving patients with spinal cord injuries and spine diseases from across the province.

### **VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation**

VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation is a registered charity that raises funds for the latest, most sophisticated medical equipment, world-class research and improvements to patient care for Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, the G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre and the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. The foundation is currently fundraising for the second floor of the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, which houses the new Brenda and David McLean Integrated Spine Clinic. The clinic will merge spine and spinal cord programs and services previously located in different buildings and hospital sites, creating one integrated centre to treat patients with diseases of the spine and spinal cord injuries.

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## FACTSHEET

2008OTP0274-001748

Nov. 18, 2008

Office of the Premier

Ministry of Technology, Trade and Economic Development

### **BLUSSON SPINAL CORD CENTRE**

The six-storey, 11,000-square-metre Blusson Spinal Cord Centre is one of the world's most accessible buildings, with a ramp at five per cent slope serving the building's three public floors; elevators equipped with specialized buttons to allow everyone to control them; all outlets and light switches placed three feet above the floor; and all work/lab benches fully adjustable.

#### **Floor-by-floor highlights**

##### **Ground**

- A space that can be adapted with accessible fittings for home and work environments to provide rehab and training for researchers and those with spinal cord injuries.
- Seating analysis and wheelchair testing area for research into wheelchair design and adjustment.

##### **Floor 2 – Clinical**

- The Brenda and David McLean Integrated Spine and Spinal Cord Clinic, bringing together many specialized clinical services, including pain management, sexual health, skin and wound care, urodynamics and surgery.
- Integrated clinical research.

##### **Floor 3 – Rehabilitation Research**

- Gym with assessment and specialized areas, including a recessed floor with force plates to measure changes in walking ability.
- Lokomat robotic system that helps rehabilitate stepping patterns, a task normally requiring two or more physiotherapists.
- Human neurophysiology – a research and diagnostic technique that records electrical activity from single lower limb neurons.
- Brain interface (Neil Squire Society) – adapting common technology to help people with severe physical disability use thoughts to control their environment.
- Human performance lab for cardiovascular and respiratory health.
- ICORD administration.

##### **Floors 4 and 5 – Preclinical Discovery Science**

- Research labs including tissue culture, data analysis, biomechanics, electron microscopy, image processing and human histology (the study of the microscopic anatomy of cells and tissues).

##### **Floor 6 – Offices**

- Clinicians.
- The Rick Hansen Foundation's SCI Solutions Network and the Rick Hansen Wheels In Motion and Ambassador programs.

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