

REMARKS FOR

HARINDER TAKHAR

**ONTARIO MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

TO THE

**2ND ANNUAL HEALTHCARE AND LIFESCIENCES
CONNECTIVITY EVENT**

MaRS DISCOVERY DISTRICT

NOVEMBER 29, 2006

Check against delivery

Thank you, Ulrich.

Good evening, everyone.

I'm delighted to be here
tonight —

And to have this
opportunity to meet so
many of Ontario's most
dynamic business
leaders and talented
graduate students.

We're in an age of
intense global
competition.

Business rivalry on the
world stage is fierce for
the best resources,
capital and talent.

class (worldwide science
and technology sector,
skilled human capital –

Even though competition is high, business leaders turn to Ontario to give them the advantages they need to succeed.

It's because Ontario has many assets – a world class, diversified science and technology sector, skilled human capital –

And a multicultural
workforce that has a
worldwide reach.

These qualities spark
innovation, and separate
Ontario from the rest of
the pack in a crowded
global landscape.

As government officials,
business professionals
and future business
leaders, we must work
together to make the
advantages that Ontario
has to offer even more
attractive.

We must develop strong

partnerships between

players in the healthcare,

science and technology,

and business fields to

ensure innovation drives

Ontario's economic

output forward for years

to come.

We are taking a step

forward here tonight.

We come from vast
landscapes.

This evening we have
the opportunity to share
our ideas about the
future of Ontario.

Ideas have the ability to
transform the way people
live –

Dr. Fredrick Banting and Charles Best, who was a 22 year old student at the time, discovered insulin.

Their selfless act of selling the rights to their serum to U of T for one dollar ensured that insulin could be affordably manufactured for years to come.

And who knows – some of you could spark ideas tonight that pave the way for new frontiers in our nation.

But visions take more than ambition to get off the ground.

It's a goal of our government to ensure that groundbreaking ideas and products get to the marketplace.

That's why we've introduced the four-year, \$24 million Innovation Demonstration Fund, which helps companies develop promising new technologies.

Like so many of our renowned Canadian innovators, people who harness great ideas are also driven by entrepreneurial spirit.

That's why my ministry is geared towards stimulating entrepreneurial drive and making it easier to set up shop in Ontario.

It's our goal to enhance the business output of the approximate 350,000 small and medium-sized enterprises province wide.

We want to showcase the importance of business training to Ontario students.

Just last week we
opened the doors for
applications to one of our
programs that helps
students launch their
own business, the 2007
Summer Company
program.

Tonight I urge you to
meet new people, share
ideas and build
relationships.

You are the innovators
behind Ontario's
success.

You have followed your
ambitions and worked
extremely hard to get
where you are.

It's my hope that your
dreams will start
becoming a reality this
evening.

Thank you.

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