“Places around the world that invest in innovation, that cap and stoke the creativity of their people, that market their ideas most effectively will be home to the most rewarding jobs, to the strongest economies and the best quality of life.”

-Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, 2005

“... an openness on the part of people to new ways of thinking and doing that bring about improvements, whether to an individual business, an industry, government, the economy or society as a whole.”

-Ontario’s Innovation Agenda 2008
Ministry of Research and Innovation

Created in 2005 to:

- **Lead** the transformation of Ontario’s economy to one focused on innovation
- **Focus** the government’s commitment to innovation as the driver for economic growth across all sectors of the economy
- **Coordinate**, strategically, innovation programs that previously were scattered across 9 different ministries.

Mandate is to:

- **Develop** an integrated innovation strategy and guide its delivery
- **Invest** in both policies and programs to deliver on the innovation strategy
- **Foster** a culture of innovation and showcase Ontario’s innovative culture nationally and internationally.
Ontario’s Shifting Economic Paradigm

FROM

• Ontario’s 5 Point Economic Plan
  • Invest in skills and knowledge
  • Invest in infrastructure
  • Lower business costs
  • Form key partnerships to strengthen economic growth
  • Strengthen the environment for innovation

TO

• Open Ontario Plan
  • Focused on building the economy of the future where innovation is a key lens to view economic activity.
  • Specific elements include:
    • Clean water technology
    • Financial services
    • Post-secondary education
    • Developing a significant new chromite deposit in NW Ontario

Industrial Based Economy  Knowledge-Based Economy

MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
Strengthening Ontario’s Innovation Economy

Innovation performance is mixed

Figure 1: Higher Education Performed GERD (%)

Figure 2: Business Performed GERD (%)

Source: OECD, 2009

• Canada (and similarly Ontario) punches above its weight in the percentage of GERD performed by higher education (Figure 1).
• But punches well below its weight in the percentage of GERD performed by business (Figure 2).
ONTARIO’S INNOVATION SYSTEM – KEY ELEMENTS

Research

Government

World-class technologies, products, services

Business

Competitive Business Climate

Globally significant research

Access to Capital

Education system for knowledge-based economy

Highly productive industry

Focused government strategy

Strong Clusters and Networks

Promoting an Innovation Culture
ONTARIO’S INNOVATION SYSTEM

Ontario’s Innovation Agenda

• Based on the advice of the Ontario Research and Innovation Council (ORIC), a multi-disciplinary advisory group to the Premier.

• Informed by province-wide consultations with business, academic and non-profit leaders.

• A blueprint to guide Ontario’s transition to a knowledge-based economy.

• Holds a broad view that recognizes innovation as the key to social and economic prosperity.

• Helps Ontario to extract economic and social value from research, commercialization and knowledge transfer.
ONTARIO’S INNOVATION AGENDA - GOALS

• **Support excellence** through innovation investments - ensuring value and relevance to Ontario’s priorities

• **Target investments** in opportunities where Ontario can be a global leader
  - Advanced Health Technologies
  - Digital Media and ICT
  - Bio-economy and Clean Technologies
  - Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturing

• Leverage Ontario’s **skills and knowledge advantage** in research, entrepreneurship and business

• Promote an innovation-friendly **business climate**

• Ensure government is the **catalyst for innovation**
MRI PROGRAM
OVERVIEW

RESEARCH → DEVELOPMENT → MARKETS

College, Universities, Research Institutions, Teaching Hospitals

Discovery and Knowledge Transfer (Research)

Technology & Product Development

Business Acceleration

Market Development

Global Markets

• Ontario Research Fund:
  • Research Infrastructure Program
  • Research Excellence Program
• Research Talent Programs
• Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

• Industry Academic Collaboration Program (OCE)

• Business Acceleration Program (MaRS)
• Innovation Demonstration Fund (IDF)
• Green FIT

• Investment Accelerator Fund
• Ontario Venture Capital Fund
• Ontario Emerging Technologies Fund
• Ontario Commercialization Investment Fund
• Ontario Tax Exemption for Commercialization Program

MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
Innovation in a Regional Context

• Innovation is a dynamic process
• Focused on learning and knowledge sharing
• Social, political, and cultural environments guide and constrain activities
• Cooperation and competition are important
• Importance of both local and non-local knowledge and skills
Innovation in a Regional Context contd…

- Innovation tends to concentrate in a small number of places – ‘Spiky’

  - Sources of Knowledge
    - Research Institutions, Hospitals
    - Technology-intensive firms
    - Patents

  - Knowledge Flows
    - Agglomeration – reduction of transactions costs
    - Proximity – quality of information

  - Sector Diversity
Strengthening Ontario’s Innovation System

Ontario’s Network of Excellence

• To build globally competitive firms by offering a suite of programs focused on bringing new technologies and services to the global marketplace.

• To leverage the capacity of Ontario’s research institutions to support industry-driven commercialization activities.

• To build a world-class knowledge and technology transfer network for Ontario’s public research institutions.
Regional Delivery Framework

Mesh Network Model
• ONE will be based on a “mesh” network with multiple entry points rather than a hub and spoke model.

Centralized Coordination
• Coordination through:
  ◦ Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) for programs & services where firms want to collaborate with a public research institution
  ◦ MaRS for programs & services that directly support entrepreneurs and firms such as training, business mentorship, market intelligence, product development and access to equity capital.

Regional Delivery
• Through Regional Innovation Centres

Sector-based Expertise
• Sector-specific specialized services
Ontario Network of Excellence

Provincial support through ONE (MRI)

- Knowledge Exchange & Technology Transfer
- Proof-of-Principle
- Internships
- Collaborative Commercialization

Industry-Academic Collaboration Programs & Services (OCE)

- Business Development
- Entrepreneurs-in-Residence
- Market Intelligence
- Investment Accelerator Fund
- Links to capital sources

Business Acceleration Programs & Services (MaRS)

- Knowledge & Tech Transfer Networks
- Knowledge & Tech Transfer Networks
- Regional Innovation Centres
- Regional Innovation Centres
- Regional Innovation Centres

Results Management, Client Management, Collaboration Tools
For More Information…..

www.ontario.ca/innovation