

Wednesday, May 7th, 2008.

INSTANT HANSARD

>> Member from Peterborough.

>> Mr. Speaker, my question through you is to the Minister of research and innovation. The international consortium is a not-for-profit drug organization dedicated to 64 and vet of any therapies for neglected and emerging diseases and also committed to ensuring accessible to all those in need. They're currently developing therapies for a variety of diseases such as influential, hiv/aids, hepatitis, fever, yellow fever. To driver one drug to the market every five years that affordable, effective and accessible. On February 14 I was pleased to join the international headquarters located at trent university in my riding to announce \$2 million in funding from our government. Can you outline, Minister, the importance of this funding.

>> Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to share with the House that some three to five million people around the world suffer from influenza, severe illness and it's estimated that some 250,000 to 500,000 people around the world die from influenza. And there's an amazing coalition that's been built around the university in Peterborough at trent university, the international consortium for antiviral and I was pleased to provide an our ministry some \$2 million which match as contribution of the federal government of some \$2 million because of the tremendous nature, the global opportunity that presents it self for Ontario researchers to be at the leading edge of this global challenge. As I said, some half a million people in the world die every year from influenza and when we look at SARS and a.I.D.S, h.I.V, all of these type of viral illnesses, we need to be prepared for that.

>> Speaker of the House: Supplementary.

>> Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the international collaboration of scientists, they're they are accelerating the research. To think that it allows to complete and partner with other provinces and other countries of the world to achieve these successes. Mr. Speaker through you can the Minister outline what our government doing to strengthen and create international partnerships to icad?

>> Well, Mr. Speaker, Ontario is quickly being known as a place around the world where we have this spirit of collaboration. Not only with our own province but with international researchers around the world. I would say to the member just the other day, the announcement of the international cancer genome consortium and the fact that we are the word headquarters right here in this province's capital city. I want to particularly spend note about the announcement

in Peterborough. Trent university is a medium-sized university but it's punching well above its weight when it comes to internationally recognized research. I want to commend Dr. Michel cart yen and Dr. Carver for their globally significant research, their leaderships that allowing our province to play an amazing role in seizing this global opportunity. As I said, it's global challenge, Mr. Speaker and our ability as our province using research and innovation to address a global challenge --

N.B.: Transcripts are captured by a closed captioning system and may contain errors.