



Rick Bartolucci, M.P.P./DÉPUTÉ Sudbury

news release

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BARTOLUCCI ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN MINING RESEARCH AT LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY

GREATER SUDBURY – The McGuinty government is investing \$8 million to support mine productivity and safety research at Laurentian University, Sudbury MPP Rick Bartolucci announced today.

Specifically, the funding, which flows through the government's Ontario Research Fund (ORF), will go toward research that will lead to safer, more productive mining, under the *Productivity Enhancement and Risk Management for Underground Construction and Mining* (PERM) initiative led by Laurentian University Researcher and PERM Principal Investigator, Dr. Peter Kaiser.

“Through today's investment, the McGuinty government continues to demonstrate its commitment to make Sudbury an international centre for mining innovation,” said Bartolucci, who is also Ontario's Minister of Northern Development and Mines. “On a broader scale, this initiative is reflective of our government's work to create high-value jobs and a strong economy in northern Ontario. This is an historic day for Sudbury and the North.”

Kaiser says today's provincial contribution is crucial, in light of the need to mine faster, deeper and safer. “It is encouraging to see the provincial government investing in an industry so important to Ontario and Canada,” he said. “The projects under PERM will focus on reducing both worker and investor risks in many facets of mining. The research will also help increase productivity and the value of mining operations. We will advance the state of knowledge to achieve these goals in an environmentally sound, safe and cost-effective manner.”

This provincial investment represents the largest single research grant ever received in the history of Laurentian. “By investing so generously in this research program, the Ontario government once again demonstrates its confidence in Laurentian's leadership in mining-related research,” said Judith Woodsworth, president of Laurentian University. “This contribution will enable us to work with industry in order to promote innovation and prosperity in the region, and strengthen our reputation around the world.”

Along with the McGuinty Government, a number of private and public-sector organizations have also made significant investments to PERM. Their contributions will be announced and acknowledged by Laurentian University in the near future.

The Ontario Research Fund promotes scientific excellence across the province by supporting research that can be developed into innovative goods and services that will boost Ontario's economy and lead the province into a new era of innovation.

Today's funding is part of a \$115,409,851 first-round ORF investment for 26 projects at 12 Ontario universities, institutes and hospitals announced yesterday by Minister of Research and Innovation and Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty. Through the ORF the McGuinty Government is investing a total of \$550 million over five years.

For more information about the next round of ORF funding, please visit www.ontario.ca/innovation.

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