



**ONTARIO R&E SUMMIT 2007**  
The Promise of Technology...

# **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

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**June 4, 2007, MaRS Collaboration Centre**

- ON BEHALF OF ORANO AND OUR PARTNERS, WELCOME TO THE 2007 ONTARIO RESEARCH AND EDUCATION SUMMIT.
- I'M GLAD TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE THIS MORNING.
- IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT THIS IS OUR FOURTH ANNUAL SUMMIT.
- OUR THEME IS "THE PROMISE OF TECHNOLOGY. WE WILL BE LOOKING AT NEW AND EXCITING TECHNOLOGIES THAT ARE HELPING DRIVE INNOVATION HERE IN ONTARIO AND AROUND THE WORLD.
- I'M REMINDED THOUGH THAT WE ALWAYS NEED TO ASK "WHAT IS THE PROMISE OF TECHNOLOGY" AND IS IT LIVING UP TO THE PROMISE.

- OUR FOUNDING CHAIR, DR. ROSS PAUL, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR, AND A MULTI-TALENTED RENAISSANCE MAN ONCE WROTE A MUSICAL PIECE FOR A SPRING THAW EVENT ON THE THEME OF TECHNOLOGY IS THE ANSWER, BUT WHAT IS THE QUESTION?
- THIS IS A NICE WAY OF SAYING THAT “ITS NOT ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY”, IT IS ABOUT WHAT THE TECHNOLOGY HELPS US DO TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE AND IMPROVE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, THAT IS MOST IMPORTANT.
- SOME OF OUR GUESTS HAVE TRAVELLED FROM ACROSS CANADA AND SOME HAVE JOINED US FROM THE U.S. AND WE ARE VERY HONOURED TO HAVE THEM WITH US.

- WE HAVE A STRONG PROGRAM LINED UP FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS WHICH I AM SURE YOU WILL FIND STIMULATING AND VERY INFORMATIVE.
- THE RESEARCH WORLD IS UNDERGOING PROFOUND AND DRAMATIC CHANGES. WE CAN SEE THAT RESEARCH IS INCREASINGLY COLLABORATIVE, CROSS DISCIPLINARY, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE.
- IT IS NOT ALWAYS EVIDENT THOUGH THAT NEW INFRASTRUCTURES ARE EMERGING TO TIE RESEARCHERS TOGETHER IN VIRTUAL COMMUNITIES CROSSING INSTITUTIONS AND GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES BRINGING THEM TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE , THE INFORMATION AND DATA, AND THE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TOOLS THAT ALLOW THEM TO DO THEIR WORK.

- WE WILL HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS EMERGING INFRASTRUCTURE LATER TODAY ---- GRIDS, CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE, INTELLIGENT INFRASTRUCTURE, NETWORK-ENABLED PLATFORMS.
- NO MATTER HOW WE CHARACTERIZE THE NEW RESEARCH PARADIGM, IT IS BRINGING ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE ---- AND WE NEED TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE CHANGE AS LEADERS, NOT FOLLOWERS.
- I INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR RECEPTION AND AWARDS EVENT LATER THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU CAN MEET SOME OF THE LEADERS.
- YOU WILL LEARN THAT IT IS NOT JUST AFFECTING PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY AND OTHER BIG SCIENCE PROJECTS, BUT ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND THE CREATIVE ARTS.

- THE EDUCATION AND LEARNING WORLD IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE. YOUNG FOLKS TODAY ARE THE ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, ANY TECHNOLOGY GENERATION. THEY HAVE CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, IPODS AND OTHER DEVICES THAT I CAN'T IDENTIFY.
- ALL THIS STUFF SITS BESIDE THEM IN THEIR RESIDENCE, IN THE LOUNGES, AND EVEN IN MANY CLASSROOMS.
- THEY MULTI-TASK, CHATTING OVER THE LAPTOP AND THE CELL PHONE AT THE SAME TIME AS DOING ASSIGNMENTS AND ACCESSING INTERESTING PLACES ON THE INTERNET. E-MAIL IS OLD TECHNOLOGY FOR THEM.
- HOW DO WE ENGAGE THEM IN LEARNING IN OUR TRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. IT IS A CHALLENGE. WE WILL HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS TOMORROW.

- I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT WE NEED NOT ONLY TO CHANGE OUR TEACHING APPROACHES AND METHODOLOGIES, BUT TO RE-THINK THE NATURE AND ROLE OF OUR INSTITUTIONS.
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO HAVE VIRTUAL INSTITUTIONS AND CLASSES ON SECOND LIFE?
- OUR PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO MAKE US THINK ABOUT CURRENT TRENDS AND FUTURES IN RESEARCH AND LEARNING, LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THE CHALLENGES, AND HEAR FROM SOME OUR INNOVATORS.
- ABOVE ALL, THE SUMMIT IS A WONDERFUL NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY.

- I WANT TO THANK ALL OF OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE --- CANARIE, OUR PLATINUM SPONSOR ...
- OUR SILVER SPONSORS BELL CANADA, SHARCNET, JUNIPER NETWORKS AND THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, OUR SILVER SPONSORS ...
- OUR BRONZE SPONSORS, POLYCOM, SHAW BUSINESS SOLUTIONS AND TELEGLOBE ...
- AND OUR CHAMPION SPONSORS: THE ONTARIO CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE, COGENT COMMUNICATIONS, COLLEGES ONTARIO, THE COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES, CONTACT NORTH/CONTACT NORD, THE KNOWLEDGE MEDIA DESIGN INSTITUTE, AND THE TORONTO REGIONAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE.
- THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US.