



ALBERTA

MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

On behalf of Premier Stelmach and the Government of Alberta, welcome to the Edmonton Aging Symposium and what is certain to be a very interesting two days of discussion and debate.

The notion of aging is one we celebrate in our youth, one which may be a nagging afterthought in our middle years, perhaps becoming a concern as we mature later in life.

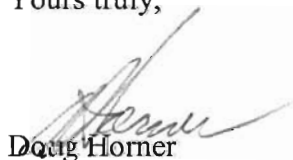
Growing older brings its own set of mental and physical health challenges, which need to be met with appropriate levels of care and expertise. We are fortunate to have a foundation for success in training professionals in these areas, and also in attracting those driven to investigate the “why” and “how” of age-related issues.

With the infrastructure and funding opportunities available in our province, international attention is focused on Alberta’s post-secondary institutions, which place a high priority on research and development. Both senior researchers and those up-and-coming in their field are noticing the priority government has placed on innovations which will improve Albertan’s quality of life and uphold our economic well-being. To ensure continued success, Premier Stelmach has asked me to build on initiatives to increase access, affordability, and quality in post-secondary education and provide a solid foundation upon which knowledge-based industries can thrive.

In Alberta, we are uniquely positioned to strengthen our province by developing a long-term strategy to support and accelerate innovation at all stages, from research and development through to the commercial application of new discoveries and products. Applying the results of world-class research in areas of health, nanotechnology, and other fields will allow our province to provide the best opportunities for our citizens to mature, whatever their age.

Your discussions this weekend will be valuable, and will have a role in shaping the work to come. I wish you every success in your activities throughout the symposium.

Yours truly,



Doug Horner
Minister