

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
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February 15, 2017

Dear Premier Wynne,

We are writing to you today to congratulate you on the recent news that the MaRS Discovery District has successfully secured \$290M in private sector financing for its Phase II expansion tower. We know you must be pleased that this foundational investment allows MaRS to repay the vast majority of the bridge financing provided by the Government of Ontario to help one of the world's leading urban commercialization centres complete its successful and long-awaited expansion.

We also see this news as vitally important for two distinct reasons. First, it underscores the ongoing commitment of your government to answering the essential question of how Ontario can best succeed in the 21st-century knowledge economy. From the University of Toronto and its affiliated research and teaching hospitals, to the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, to the Ontario Brain Institute and Ontario Genomics, the province has spent more than a decade investing in a wide range of anchor institutions and the result has been a commendable global reputation for R&D excellence.

Second, it highlights the importance of MaRS to Ontario's innovation ecosystem and reinforces the decision that Johnson & Johnson Innovation and Janssen Canada took to bring JLABS – Johnson & Johnson's unique in-house innovation accelerator – not just to Ontario, but to MaRS itself. We are extremely proud of the unique collaboration between the public and private sectors that helped lead to this investment and very pleased that under your leadership, the Government of Ontario has shown such interest and engagement in the project from its inception.

On behalf of JLABS @ Toronto and Janssen Canada, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you and your cabinet colleagues on our shared goal of accelerating Ontario's most promising life sciences and health technology innovations.

Yours sincerely,

Melinda Richter
Head of Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLABS

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CC: The Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Economic Development and Growth
The Honourable Reza Moridi, Minister of Research, Innovation and Science
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