



***Successful Models for
Building a Sustainable Future
Bioeconomy***

***Panel Presentation to
AusBIO 2009 International Conference***

October 28, 2009



Innovation in the 21st Century

- All jurisdictions face new imperatives to boost competitiveness not only relative to their immediate neighbours but more importantly to other international regions and countries
- Roles of innovation and entrepreneurship are critical factors in models for economic growth and skills development
- Current global financial difficulties offer opportunity to refocus innovation policies in preparation for the next cycle of economic growth

Innovative economies need to focus on the following critical elements:

- actions that support a skilled workforce, higher education and lifelong learning;
- a flexible and integrated innovation system that links local research institutions to local technology development and commercialization;
- a business environment that encourages innovation and investment in innovative ventures; and
- a commitment by government to a culture of innovation.

The Role of Borders

Old school thinking:

- help us to package and manage our assets
- distinguish yet separate us from our neighbours
- shape our identity

New school thinking:

- limit the ability of innovation and ingenuity to succeed
- curtail jurisdictions in retaining their global competitiveness

The Dawning of a New Age

“science, technology and innovation proceed more rapidly and more cost-effectively when insights, costs and risks are shared.”

President Barack Obama

Address to Annual Meeting of the

National Academies of Science

April 28, 2009

A Framework for Innovation

- long term plan centered on economic development
- reflects unique assets, strengths and priorities
- focused activities with defined timelines and outcomes
- stimulates an environment that encourages and sustains world-class excellence

Manitoba's Innovation Framework

Six Point Action Plan

- skilled workforce development
- strategic investments in research
- translation of knowledge into practical applications
- connecting communities
- improving coordination among public, private and academic stakeholders
- fostering a commitment to innovation by all levels within government

Our Approach to Economic Growth

- leveraging our unique people and scientific expertise
- leveraging our unique infrastructure and community resources
- promoting awareness and knowledge of our innovative capacity internationally
- encouraging strategic partnerships / formal relationships

Lessons Learned

- focus on uniqueness – resources that cannot be easily replicated elsewhere
- build on internal strengths using a “grow from within strategy”
- be creative and innovative with government assistance in response to industry needs
- leverage people and infrastructure
- recognize the importance of collaboration and the value of local/national/international networks
- ensure government is an early and active participant in the innovation system

Food for Thought . . .

An economic model built around **collaboration rather than competition** allows us to share our expertise to solve mutual problems together.

The improvements in our wealth, wellness and well-being that result from this model will be global and not restricted to our individual jurisdictions.