

Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology

Developing the next generation of entrepreneurial engineers

To The Mayor and Members of Council
City of Vaughan,
2141 Major Mackenzie Rd.,
Vaughan ON, L6A 1T1

C 15
COMMUNICATION
CW (WORKING SESSION)
June 17/15
ITEM - 2



April 1, 2015

Re: Vaughan International Commercialization Centre (VICC)

I am writing this letter of support to encourage the City of Vaughan to seriously consider investing in the creation of a world-class International Commercialization Centre. At the newly established Lassonde School of Engineering, we operate the BEST initiative (Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology) to integrate academic entrepreneurship into the development of entrepreneurial engineers, to engage with disciplines across campus, and to foster new relationships with the community. The creation of VICC will go along way to enhance the nature of academia-industry interaction, and offer collaboration possibilities with global university/city partners.

BEST is designed to enrich entrepreneurial learning objectives through experiential learning and skills development, foster a more entrepreneurial approach and culture that will stimulate new venture creation and enhance the entrepreneurial reputation of Lassonde, York, and the region. VICC will play a complementary role in the implementation of our vision.

We are particularly enthusiastic about the creation of activities to support international experiences. It is quite appropriate that you are considering Israel as your first partner. This is a path only recently taken by us, through the announcement of a strategic partnership with Technion (Haifa). As a result of our partnership, 30 students (primarily, although not exclusively from Lassonde) are immersed in a three week "Start-Up Nation" experience, where they learn from founders and faculty as they build, in conjunction with Technion students, technology ventures to address important societal issues. We are hoping to reciprocate in the fall.

In addition, my research area is in technology commercialization, new venture creation and academic-industry partnerships. I hope that this initiative will lead to further collaboration and research opportunities for developing a truly world class initiative.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'A. Maxwell'.

Dr. Andrew Maxwell

Director Bergeron Entrepreneurs in Science and Technology

Andrew.Maxwell@lassonde.yorku.ca

416 433 9805