



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

### **Financial Assistance to Companies Welcoming Student Researchers**

**Québec, December 10, 2008** – Technoparc Montréal has signed an agreement with the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies (FQRNT) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to foster research partnerships between universities in Quebec and high-tech companies located in the Campus Saint-Laurent of Technoparc Montréal.

This three-year agreement falls under the BMP Innovation Scholarship Program. It will allow companies to welcome Master's and PhD student researchers, at low cost, to work on corporate R&D projects in conjunction with the students' thesis requirements.

Seven scholarships of excellence totalling \$248,000 have been set aside for Technoparc Montréal (five for Master's students and two for PhD students). The value of a Master's scholarship is \$14,000 per year, to which is added a minimum corporate contribution of \$7,000. The annual value of a PhD scholarship is \$18,000, to which is added a minimum corporate contribution of \$9,000. Contributions from participating companies are paid to the universities, which in turn ensure proper distribution to selected student researchers.

“I salute this initiative allowing graduate students in the fields of natural sciences, mathematics and engineering to perfect their training in a business setting, and I invite employers to take advantage of this highly qualified source of manpower to increase their competitiveness,” declared Mr. Mario Monette, President and CEO of Technoparc Montréal.

**Technoparc Montréal** excels in urban planning and the design and construction of high-level infrastructures to welcome research centres and companies involved in cutting-edge technology to the Island of Montréal. Its Campus de Saint-Laurent specializes in aerospace, life science and information technologies. [www.technoparc.com](http://www.technoparc.com)

Created in 2001, the **Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies** is a public agency operating under the aegis of the Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade. The mission of the FQRNT is to promote and contribute financially to research and to the training of researchers, and to disseminate knowledge in the fields of natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. [www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca)

**NSERC** is a federal organization mandated to make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians. NSERC supports the advanced studies of more than 26,500 university students and postdoctoral trainees. NSERC promotes discovery through financial assistance to more than 11,800 university professors each year, and encourages innovation by prompting more than 1,400 Canadian companies to invest and participate in university research projects. [www.crsng.gc.ca](http://www.crsng.gc.ca)

**Source:**

Caroline Dufresne  
Communications Officer  
Fonds Nature et Technologies  
Tel.: 418 643-3342  
[caroline.dufresne@fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:caroline.dufresne@fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca)

**Information:**

**Fonds Nature et Technologies**

Annik Brosseau  
Manager, Development of  
Partnership for Innovation  
Programs  
Tel: 418 643-3463  
[annik.brosseau@fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:annik.brosseau@fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca)

**NSERC**

Hans Posthuma  
Senior Writer  
Tel : 613 944-6243  
[hans.posthuma@nserc.ca](mailto:hans.posthuma@nserc.ca)

**Technoparc Montréal**

Nancy Carignan  
Manager, Public Affairs and  
Communications  
Tel: 514 956-2545  
[ncarignan@technoparc.com](mailto:ncarignan@technoparc.com)