

Canada's Minister of State for Science and Technology visits Leuven

Gary T. Goodyear, Canada's Minister of State for Science and Technology, was in Leuven on 7 March to meet with university leaders and tour IMEC, a university partner in cutting-edge nanotechnology research. Goodyear is a current member of the Canadian House of Commons and has served in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet since 2008. His trip signals enhanced collaboration between Canada and European partners. This was Goodyear's first trip to Leuven.



Gary T. Goodyear | © KU Leuven - Rob Stevens

Goodyear and his delegation are in Belgium to attend the 'EU Science: Global Challenges, Global Collaboration' conference hosted by the European Parliament. Goodyear also made time to pay a visit to KU Leuven.

He spoke particularly highly of the university's technology transfer office, Leuven Research & Development (LRD): "I'm quite impressed with the number of patents and spin-off companies coming out of the university. In Canada, we're very good at *creating* knowledge but we could do better at translating that into a social and economic benefit."

"Visits like this are always mutually beneficial – it's a perfect opportunity to find ways to do things better and to foster collaboration both between universities and the private sector, and between governments. We're at a changing time in terms of the economic situation around the world and collaboration is what is needed to be successful in the new economy," says Goodyear.

In two weeks' time, university leaders will accompany a Flemish diplomatic delegation to a summit on science and technology in Montreal, where Memorandums of Understanding will be signed between KU Leuven and Université de Montréal, and the region of Quebec and Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), respectively.



From left to right: Fabienne De Kimpe, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Canada; Vice Rector Bart de Moor; H.E. Denis Robert, Ambassador of Canada to Belgium and Luxembourg; The Honourable Gary Goodyear, PC, MP, Canadian Minister of State for Science and Technology; Rector Mark Waer; Ms. Lisa Setlakwe, Director General, Policy Branch Science and Innovation, Sector Industry, Canada; Mr. Rudi Cuyvers, Head of Spin-offs and Innovation, KU Leuven Research and Development; Ms. Stephanie Thomas, Press Secretary, Office of the Minister of Science and Technology; Bart Hendrickx, Head of Academic Diplomacy, KU Leuven. | Photo (c) KU Leuven - Rob Stevens.



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