TWINNING AND ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT

BETWEEN: VILLE DE LAVAL (CITY OF LAVAL) in Quebec, represented by and acting through its Mayor, His Worship Gilles Vaillancourt; Designated hereafter as « Laval »

AND: The TOWN OF MARKHAM in Ontario, represented by and acting through its Mayor, his Worship W. Donald Cousens; Designated hereafter as "Markham"
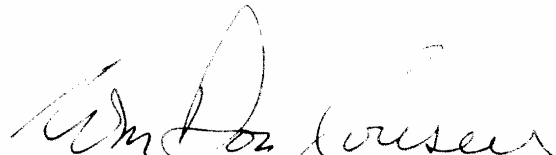
WHEREAS:

- Laval and Markham signed an economic co-operation agreement on April 30, 1996;
- The objectives leading to that agreement recognized the growing influence of closer interrelationships world-wide and that today, this reality is more dominant than ever;
- Laval and Markham are mutually willing to further their relationship by entering into a twinning agreement (hereafter "the Agreement");
- In addition to economic co-operation activities, the Agreement will provide for other activities of interest to the two cities.

Laval and Markham have agreed to further formalize their relationship and to take steps in view of better co-ordinating their efforts and to carry out any actions that are of mutual benefit to the cities and their citizens in accordance with, but not limited to the provisions hereafter:

1. Laval and Markham agree to the twinning of their cities.

2. As of the signature of the Agreement, the two cities will take steps leading to the development and ratification of an accompanying action plan (hereafter the "Plan") early in the first year of the Agreement to give effect to the provisions herein.

3. Concerning economic co-operation endeavours, the Plan will include the following specific activities:
   - Co-operation for the economic development of each city in pre-determined areas such as biopharmaceuticals, nanotechnologies, information technologies, and any other economic activity deemed relevant by mutual agreement of Laval and Markham;
   - Reciprocal activities to develop and encourage investment in each city;
   - Knowledge transfers in shared or related areas such as forums on IT development and innovation, based on the model used for the TechAction Town Hall held in Markham in November 2002;
   - Support services for representatives of each city and to companies interested in locating their business in the territory of the other city;
   - Incentives to exchange researchers and scientists;
   - Efforts to promote the Agreement among businesses in each city and to provide them with up-to-date information on developments resulting from the Plan;
   - Incentives, along with accompanying tools, to facilitate and implement technology or commercial exchanges between companies located in the two cities;
   - Organization of commercial missions between companies or research organizations in each city as well as joint missions elsewhere in Canada or abroad.

4. The Agreement also covers activities in other areas of interest to the two cities, such as culture, tourism, recreation and social development (youth, senior citizens, etc.), which will be defined in the initial Plan.

5. The Plan will extend over a term of three (3) years, being renewable thereafter by mutual agreement, according to results achieved.

6. To ensure the Agreement's success, the two cities will assign the responsibility for the Plan to their respective heads of Economic Development. At least twice a year, they will alternatively meet at their respective offices to:
   - Identify, at the outset, specific activities to be achieved over the term of the Plan, particularly during its first year;
   - Evaluate, at subsequent meetings, achievements, corrective measures and new actions;
   - Establish a network to exchange information.

7. Markham and Laval will also assign other heads of their respective organizations to formalize specific actions for activities provided for in the Agreement and not related to economic activities.

8. The mayors of each city will meet at least once a year to evaluate results and ratify the Plan for the following year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed on this 6ᵗʰ day of June 2003.

_____
Gilles Vaillancourt

_____
W. Donald Cousens