

**SPEAKING NOTES FOR****Richard T. Lee****Parliamentary Secretary for Asia-Pacific**

(check against delivery)

Welcome, everyone, to this exciting event at TRIUMF, on the traditional territory of the Musqueam.

In a few minutes, we'll watch the \$62.9-million Advanced Rare Isotope Lab, ARIEL, be built from the ground up.

It'll take about 90 seconds – on video!

In real time, it's more like a year and a half.

But the construction starts today.

And 18 months from now we'll have a facility that will broaden TRIUMF's nuclear research capabilities.

It will double, even triple TRIUMF's scientific output – which is already impressive.

And it will help fill future shortages of medical isotopes that are so critical in treating heart and cancer patients.

With a project of this magnitude, there are a lot of people and institutions to thank for getting ARIEL to this point:

- Nigel Lockyer, director of TRIUMF, Canada's national laboratory for particle and nuclear physics...and a good friend, even though my stint at TRIUMF as a programmer analyst was before Nigel arrived.
- The University of Victoria, which leads a 13-university consortium in charge of designing and building the e-linac.
- UVic's head scientist for the e-linac, Dean Karlen.
- Rachael (Scarth, AVP research operations), many thanks for being here to represent UVic.
- Lia Merminga, head of TRIUMF's accelerator division and an adjunct professor at UVic, who is overseeing the building of the e-linac, at the heart of ARIEL.
- Remy Dawson, who is leading the engineering team.
- And Gary Ridout, who's in charge of the construction, with the help of Franco Mammarella.

Once this amazing facility is built, ARIEL will allow TRIUMF to undertake a vast range of research.

The technology may be used for such things as reducing pollution from coal-fired plants and producing fertilizers from chimney flue gases.

But the area that has captured the most attention is medical isotope research and production.

There's an amazing revolution in personalized medicine going on in Canada.

The medical isotopes and biomarkers developed here in B.C. will be crucial tools in that revolution.

They'll help doctors diagnose and treat disease in ways never before possible.

They'll reduce our reliance on nuclear reactors.

And they'll save thousands of dollars per patient in health care costs.

Expanding TRIUMF also means a stronger economy.

Technology is one of the 8 key sectors pinpointed in our BC Jobs Plan to bring new dollars into our economy from our most important trading partners.

ARIEL is expected to contribute \$70 million to the province's GDP over five years.

It will add \$7.5 million to provincial coffers.

And it will result in 160 spinoff jobs in the private sector, universities and other research agencies.

Not to mention 90 person-years of employment during construction.

It's all part of B.C.'s \$1.8 billion investment in research and innovation since 2001...including a total of \$48.4 million to TRIUMF for 6 projects during that time.

ARIEL is one of those projects, with \$30.7 million from the Province...another \$17.8 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation...and \$14 million from the federal government, TRIUMF and its partners.

I understand China is also getting ready to help build an additional component for ARIEL.

It's a great example of an Asia-Pacific investment that is helping advance science and technology in B.C., and Canada.

We make these investments because it's part of the human spirit to seek answers and solutions.

We do it because of the millions of lives saved by detecting and treating cancer and heart disease...and the possibility of saving even more lives.

And we do it because these investments help set the foundation for the kind of province we want: A province with a strong economy and good jobs...so people will be able to live and raise their families here – putting roofs over their heads and food on their tables.

I look forward to the discoveries we expect from ARIEL, once this cutting-edge lab and tunnel are on line.

But I also look forward to the discoveries we DON'T expect, which are part of the magic of science.

I know we have both kinds to look forward to...as talented scientists from B.C. and around the world take advantage of the new resources ARIEL will provide.

Thank you.