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media release

TVO PLUGS INTO ONTARIO'S HIGH TECH ECONOMY WITH VISIT TO WATERLOO MARCH 29 AND 30

- **TVO brings its flagship current affairs program, *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*, to Waterloo March 29 and 30, 2009 for a two-day interactive event examining Ontario's innovation economy**
- **TVO seeks participation from stakeholders and interested parties in Ontario's high-tech economy for a daylong workshop Sunday March 29. All members of the public can register to be part of the audience for the broadcast airing Monday March 30 at 8 pm. Registration for both AgendaCamp and the broadcast at www.tvo.org/agendacamp**

Toronto, March 5, 2009 – President Barack Obama fought to keep his Ontario-made Blackberry. And Stephen Hawking's appointment as Distinguished Research Chair at the world-renowned Perimeter Institute in Waterloo further attests to the high degree of innovation and talent that exists in Ontario's high-tech sector. But as Ontario moves towards a more knowledge-based economy what does the success of high-tech centres like Waterloo have to teach us, how is it faring in the current global recession, and what lies ahead for Ontario's innovation economy?

On Sunday March 29 and Monday March 30 TVO's *The Agenda with Steve Paikin: On the Road*, presented by Vale Inco, will be in Waterloo for the final stop in its highly successful, five-city "On the Road" tour exploring the changing nature of Ontario's regional economies. The focus in Waterloo will be Ontario's innovation economy.

"We've really been gratified by the reaction to these *On the Road* shows," says anchor and senior editor Steve Paikin. "We've learned so much at every stop and the high-tech story is one that resonates in many parts of Ontario with hubs not only in the Kitchener-Waterloo area but also in Ottawa and Brampton. And across the province, we've discovered in a few AgendaCamps that other communities are paying closer attention to the high-tech sector as a way to diversify their own economies."

TVO's visit to Waterloo will feature the AgendaCamp, a daylong workshop on Sunday March 29 at the William G. Davis Computer Research Centre on the campus of the University of Waterloo. A live broadcast of *The Agenda with Steve Paikin: On the Road* will follow the next day, Monday March 30 at 8 pm, from the Centre for International Governance Innovation.

"The smart conversations and passionate debates we're sparking across Ontario have been notable for both their depth, and their respectful tone," says Lisa de Wilde, TVO's Chief Executive Officer. "And as I'm certain we'll see in Waterloo, when you provide engaged citizens with a platform that encourages thoughtful consideration of differing points of view, people become truly excited about working together to build a stronger community."

The AgendaCamp, taking place the day before the broadcast, will be a key part of the visit to Waterloo. The innovative TVO-hosted community forum will bring together community leaders,

policymakers, members of the public, program guests, Steve Paikin and invited bloggers to problem-solve around the major economic challenges and opportunities for the region as innovation becomes a theme for the economy at large. A wider online audience will be able to follow and contribute to the AgendaCamp at www.tvo.org/agendacamp. The best content, including ideas, video clips, and questions from participants will be used on the broadcast of *The Agenda with Steve Paikin: On the Road* the following day.

To participate in the AgendaCamp on March 29, or for free tickets to be part of the audience for *The Agenda with Steve Paikin: On the Road* on March 30, go to www.tvo.org/agendacamp to register.

Previous stops for *The Agenda with Steve Paikin: On the Road* were Windsor in October focusing on Ontario's manufacturing economy, Sault Ste. Marie in November on the province's resource sector, Kingston in January on the agriculture economy, and Thunder Bay in February on Ontario's Aboriginal economy.

About TVO

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit tvo.org.

Where to find TVO

Cable channel 2 (channel may vary in some areas), Bell TV channel 265, Star Choice channel 353. For more information, visit tvo.org.

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