

Biotechnology centre for Ontario

The Ontario government has announced that a \$70-million biotechnology centre will be built in the Toronto area starting later this year.

The centre will be a joint venture by the provincial government, the Canada Development Corporation (CDC) and John Labatt Limited.

The three investors said the new firm is expected to require \$100 million in funding in the first ten years of operation.

CDC (owned 49 per cent by the federal government) will initially invest \$25 million. The Ontario government will provide \$30 million for the centre, while Labatt, a London, Ontario brewery, will add another \$15 million.

Negotiations for the remaining \$30 million in investment are under way with various private sector investors and the federal government.

A Labatt spokesman said the biotechnology centre, which is scheduled to be completed in 1982, will likely become a public company within ten years, opening the door to investment.

Biotechnology, often called genetic engineering, involves the manipulation of genes and other micro-organisms to produce new industrial and commercial processes. It is expected to alter medicine, agriculture, food and energy production and pollution control within a few decades. Up to 100 scientists and technicians will be employed in the plant, making the company Canada's major entry in the fast-growing international biotechnology industry.

Canadian aid to Zimbabwe

Canada will provide a minimum of \$10 million a year over the next five years in aid to Zimbabwe.

Through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) the Canadian government will contribute \$10 million in 1981 towards reconstruction, rehabilitation and resettlement projects.

This amount includes:

- a \$3-million cash grant towards reconstruction;
- \$2.92 million of food aid in the form of rapeseed oil, to be used for rehabilitation of refugees;
- \$3 million for road building equipment;
- a \$500,000 industrial co-operation

grant for hydro-electric studies; and — \$525,000 to Canadian non-governmental organizations for refugee resettlement projects in Zimbabwe.

In addition, Canada contributed \$600,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 1980-81 for rehabilitation of refugees.

Under its Management for Change Program, CIDA also contributed \$250,000 to train senior civil servants at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Through its international non-governmental organization

program, CIDA is contributing \$100,000 to train indigenous journalists through the International Press Institute.

In 1980, CIDA contributed \$750,000 towards health and community development projects being carried out by non-governmental organizations, including the YMCA, United Church of Canada, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, Lutheran World Relief, the Inter-Church Fund for International Development and the Canadian Labour Congress.

Tricycle for disabled children designed

When Tara Reynolds was three, she asked her father, when she could have a bike like her big brother Timmy. A few months later, her father gave her one.

That would be unremarkable, except for the fact that Tara was born with spina bifida, and has no control over the lower part of her body.

Tara's tricycle was a work of inspiration on the part of Gary Reynolds, a Carleton University employee in Ottawa.

The tricycle cost about \$200, and involved hundreds of hours of work. Mr. Reynolds started with a regular tricycle, replaced the handlebars with a set of pedals, changed the seat for the type used to carry a child on the back of an adult's bicycle, and added a fourth wheel at the back for stability. There were other alterations, too — two gears, one for grass and one for pavement, rests for Tara's feet,

and a seat belt.

"It's better than a wheelchair, says Mr. Reynolds, because Tara has fun using it, and because it is not conspicuous. Unless you look closely, he says, she looks just like another kid on a tricycle."

Publicity surrounding the tricycle has brought in dozens of letters with requests for similar tricycles for other handicapped children. So far, Mr. Reynolds has made 19, each individually tailored to a particular child's size and needs.

When interest in the tricycle grew, Mr. Reynolds took out a patent on his design. Recently an Ottawa firm of consulting engineers did a study on the feasibility of manufacturing the tricycle. A Newfoundland company is currently looking at the idea.

(From Carleton University's This Week, February 12, 1981.)



Tara Reynolds (right) and her playmate Cindy Jolicoeur enjoy the tricycles specially designed for them by Tara's father Gary Reynolds.