



St. Lawrence River Institute of
Environmental Sciences

L'institut des sciences
environnementales du
fleuve Saint-Laurent

**Media Release
For immediate release**

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Scotiabank Announces \$5000 Donation to River Institute

Cornwall – Scotiabank today announced a \$5,000 donation to the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences. The funds will be used to purchase a Digital PCR Imagizer, a state of the art DNA analyzer used in a broad range of research from bacteria source tracking in drinking water to assessing genetic diversity in fish populations.

“The Imagizer is a critical component of a genetic analyzer with highly diversified capabilities,” reports the River Institute’s Executive director and Chief Research Scientist, Dr. Jeff Ridal. “In addition to bacteria source tracking and fish population research, it can be used for monitoring mosquito populations for the West Nile Virus.” The River Institute has been carrying out extensive field testing in support of the West Nile Virus monitoring program run by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

“The equipment will have positive educational implications, allowing us to introduce these high profile DNA techniques to both secondary and post-secondary students. It will also impact favorable on the City of Cornwall, other communities in Eastern Ontario, and across Canada.”

Connie Vardy, Branch Manager of Scotiabank Cornwall expressed enthusiasm over the donation. “The River Institute is gaining national and international recognition for its environmental research. At Scotiabank, we are pleased to support the important work that it does.”

In 2004, Scotiabank provided more than \$33 million in donations, sponsorships and other forms of assistance. In addition, Scotiabank employees individually and in groups, in Canada and abroad are working to make a difference for thousands more local organizations and causes.

The St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences, located in Cornwall, Ontario was established in 1994 as a unique community partnership involving government, education, the private sector, and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Its mandate is environmental research and education on Large River Systems with a focus on the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River ecosystem

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