

## Good for what ails us

Last week, the University of Waterloo campus was the site of a welcome cash injection into our community.

Gary Goodyear, Cambridge MP and minister of state for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario, shared the stage with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Together they announced a \$30-million investment -- \$20 million from the feds and \$10 million from the foundation -- to be shared by a number of research institutions, including UW.

The money is part of a push by federal and provincial governments, philanthropists and private sector businesses to invest in research and development with the hope of catching the next wave of technological innovation whose swell could elevate many of us to the land of better employment.

Earlier this month John Milloy, MPP for Kitchener Centre and Minister of Research and Innovation, announced the province's \$26 million pledge to help create a "digital media" centre in the Lang Tannery building in downtown Kitchener. The federal government is giving \$5.4 million and the City of Kitchener dedicated \$500,000 toward the \$107-million project.

And in October, the provincial and federal governments each allotted \$10 million of public money to help fund an addition to the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo.

A common thread is woven through the string of these announcements.

Put simply, it's jobs.

In a region where 8,420 residents are collecting Employment Insurance and more than 8,000 people are receiving social assistance, jobs that pay living wages are more than welcome.

Despite the burden these huge investments bring -- in the form of provincial and federal deficits taxpayers will shoulder for years to come -- laying the foundations for our community's future prosperity is to be applauded.

And in these downtrodden economic times we shouldn't lose sight of the stated purpose of the recent funding announcement at UW.

Unemployment is one of the ills plaguing our region -- but it's not the only one.

It's probably not a stretch of the imagination to say people suffering from diabetes, their families and friends welcomed the \$30-million cash injection for its potential to help treat the effects of diabetes and possibly cure the disease.

While we desire as much employment as possible for the region's residents, we also hope the jobs created by the latest multi-million-dollar investment will one day no longer be needed. In short, we hope those toiling to cure diabetes will work themselves out of jobs and then be able to move on to face medical challenges that are sure to arise in the future.