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New horned dinosaur species named after an Alberta palaeontologist

Drumheller... A new species of horned dinosaur, found between 1992 and 2002 in a fossil bed in the Alberta badlands, has been named *Centrosaurus brinkmani* (sen-troh-SORE-us BRINK-mun-eye) in honour of Dr. Donald Brinkman, Head of Research at the Royal Tyrrell Museum.

The dinosaur was named by Dr. Michael J. Ryan, Curator and Head of the Department of Vertebrate Palaeontology for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Ryan identified the new dinosaur while working for the Royal Tyrrell Museum. The naming of the dinosaur commemorates Brinkman's support of vertebrate palaeontology in Alberta and the student guidance he has provided.

Remains of the dinosaur were discovered in bone beds in southern Alberta, the largest of which is in Dinosaur Provincial Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. *Centrosaurus brinkmani* is one of the few new dinosaurs to be named from Alberta in recent decades, and the first new dinosaur to be named based on complete skeletal material from Dinosaur Provincial Park since the 1970s.

As described in the July volume of the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*, this new species is from the Late Cretaceous and belongs to the group of dinosaurs related to the well-known *Triceratops*. This new species lived about 76 million years ago, 10 million years earlier than the *Triceratops*.

Horned (Ceratopsian) dinosaurs can be distinguished from one another by the frills that ornament their skulls. Distinctive hooks and 'spikelets' on the frill of *Centrosaurus brinkmani* allowed scientists to identify this dinosaur as a new species.

Operated by Alberta Community Development, the Royal Tyrrell Museum integrates palaeontology into a wide variety of educational programs and has an annual visitation of 350,000, including about 25,000 students who participate in school programs. Located six kilometers northwest of Drumheller in Midland Provincial Park, the museum is open year-round and is the only Canadian institution devoted exclusively to palaeontology.

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Note to media: Drawings of *Centrosaurus brinkmani* are available on the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's web site at www.cmnh.org under the 'press room' link.

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