



News Release

For Immediate Release

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT KEY TO LAND-USE PLANNING REFORMS

June 1, 2004: TORONTO -- The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), co-founder of the Canadian Brownfields Network (CBN), today hosted a session at which the Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, announced reforms to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and land-use planning systems in the province. One proposed change in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) will be to “revitalize communities by promoting the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields”

“We were particularly pleased that the Minister emphasized a strong role for brownfields redevelopment in the reform agenda,” said David Crombie, president and CEO of CUI. “Shifting the focus of investment towards reurbanization in cities and towns across Ontario will require all sectors to work together towards common goals.”

“It was great to hear provincial and municipal support for reforms that will encourage intensification of existing built-up areas prior to expansion into greenfield areas,” said Todd Latham, a director of CBN. “We welcome any new policies or incentives that governments offer to rehabilitate brownfields in Ontario communities.”

The CUI breakfast session was attended by more than 200 practitioners from the public, private and not for profit sectors. In addition to the reform announcement, it featured an energetic panel discussion with Minister Gerretsen, Ann Mulvale, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Chris Winter, Executive Director of the Conservation Council of Ontario and Julie DiLorenzo of Diamante Development Corp.

Coming this October 21 in Toronto, ***Brownfields 2004*** is the 5th annual conference on brownfields and is organized by the CUI. This year’s event, which will be held at the Liberty Grand on the CN Exhibition grounds, is a partnership with the CBN. An important feature of this annual event is presentation of the CUI Brownie Awards, which recognize excellence and innovation in brownfields redevelopment.

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