



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

May 31, 2005

Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for your letter, dated April 26, 2005, and the accompanying report *Greening Canada's Brownfields: A National Framework for Encouraging Redevelopment of Qualifying Brownfields through Removal of Crown Liens and Tax Arrears*.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of brownfield redevelopment in contributing to urban sustainability. As you observe, the remediation of these currently unproductive lands can produce a wealth of economic, environmental, and social benefits. For these reasons, Budget 2005, which allocated an additional \$300 million to the Green Municipal Funds program, specifically earmarked \$150 million for brownfield redevelopment. This funding builds on the allocation of \$4 billion made in the 2004 budget toward cleaning up contaminated sites.

The Government of Canada will carefully consider the recommendations that you have provided relating to the removal of Crown liens and tax arrears.

Mr. Angus Ross
Chair, Advisory Panel, Canadian Brownfields Network
c/o National Round Table on the Environment and
the Economy
344 Slater Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7Y3

I have forwarded a copy of this correspondence to the Honourable Ralph E. Goodale, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable John Godfrey, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities, for their consideration.

I would like to express my appreciation for the leadership you have demonstrated in the national effort to enhance urban sustainability through brownfield redevelopment. Please be assured that the Government of Canada remains firmly committed to taking the steps necessary to ensure a sustainable future for all Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".