

Ministry of
the Environment

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Mr. Angus Ross
Panel Chair
Canadian Brownfields Network (CBN)
2070 Hadwen Road, Unit 201 A
Mississauga ON L5K 2C9

Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for your e-mail of September 22, 2006 with regard to brownfield initiatives in Ontario.

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is committed to motivating the redevelopment of brownfields sites in Ontario, and has made significant progress in brownfields remediation. The *Brownfields Statute Law Amendment Act, 2001* removed barriers to getting sites cleaned up and redeveloped. It provides clear rules for assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites; limited protection for property owners from ongoing regulatory liability at a brownfield site after it was cleaned up, and mechanisms to ensure quality clean-up of contaminated sites. Ontario is currently the only jurisdiction in Canada providing such protection.

The final piece of this brownfields legislation came into effect October 1, 2005. Property owners are now required to file a Record of Site Condition before a property's use is changed from an industrial or commercial use to a more sensitive use, such as residential. A Record of Site Condition demonstrates that a property meets regulated site-assessment and clean-up standards that are appropriate for the new use.

As with all new programs, we are monitoring the success and performance of the brownfields program, which has been in full effect as a mandatory program for less than one year. You may be interested to learn that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing established a Brownfields Stakeholder Group through which we are undertaking consultation on policy, technical and legislative issues related to land use planning, environmental protection and financing. My ministry is also reviewing technical elements of the brownfields remediation process to ensure they are clear and can be implemented readily.

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Mr. Angus Ross
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Revitalizing brownfield sites offers tremendous social and economic benefits by helping to curb urban sprawl, making better use of existing infrastructure and protecting the environment. I want to assure you of my support on initiatives that help this government achieve its goal of putting these underused lands back into productive use in Ontario. I look forward to working with you and the 16 other organizations undersigned in your joint submission to the Premier in support of sustainable development in Ontario.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurel Broten". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Laurel C. Broten
Minister of the Environment