



Canada's Voice for  
Brownfields Redevelopment

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## March 2012 Newsletter

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### Welcome

Hello Everyone,

Greetings from the Communications Committee!

We have big news this month - CBN will be presenting its first stand-alone brownfields workshop in Toronto June 11-12, 2012. This will be combined with our Annual General Meeting. Seating will be limited, and registration details will be coming out in the next two weeks. Please be sure to mark your calendars now!

As always, we have updates from our Government Relations Committee, Finance & Insurance Committee, Communications Committee and Technical Advisory Committee to keep you updated on current activities.

As you can see, the Canadian Brownfields Network continues to work on behalf of our members to advance site remediation and redevelopment across the country. We ask that you encourage your colleagues, clients and business associates to become members of the CBN as well.

Thank you,  
**Jamie Ross** - Chairperson, CBN Communications Committee

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### CBN Announces its 2012 Workshop

The CBN is pleased to announce its first stand-alone brownfields workshop. The workshop will feature an update on Ontario Ministry of the Environment priorities, a presentation on modified generic risk assessment (MGRA), one on soil management (which also includes a panel discussion), along with sessions/panels on offsite liability, liability transfer and interim use. In addition, our Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, June 11 at 1 p.m. Details are:

- **What:** CBN Brownfields Workshop 2012: Land Use, Regulations and Liability Transfer
- **When:** June 11-12, 2012
- **Where:** Ontario Investment and Trade Centre, 250 Yonge St., 35<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, ON

This workshop promises a wealth of up-to-the-minute information on evolving trends, and is designed to answer the questions **What's new? Where are we going?** and **How do we get there?** Mark your calendar now and plan to attend. Further information and on-line registration will be coming to you in the next two weeks.

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### CBN Government Relations Committee Update

The CBN recently participated in a Real Estate/Housing Roundtable for the Province of Ontario that was organized by the [Ontario Real Estate Association](#). Nine different groups were in attendance and shared their areas of concern and their current initiatives. This was an opportunity to determine the areas of common interest and there are many common themes among the groups that intersect with the CBN. This group will reconvene regularly to share ideas and strategies. There is agreement among the participants that a strategy to improve the public image of the real estate/development industry as a whole would be best achieved through a collaborative approach and this will be explored further.

**Bonnie Prior** - Chairperson, CBN Government Relations Committee

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### CBN Finance & Insurance Committee Update

Dealing with the Department of Finance through a Freedom of Information request has proven to be an exercise in surrealism. The department identified 399 pages that related to background information on why the Department feels that treating remediation expenses as expenses rather than capital expenditures is not a beneficial idea. Of the pages, 69 were partially or fully released - providing no information at all, while the remaining 330 were withheld for a number of reasons. A subsequent follow-up letter requesting a review of the decision on 11 specific pages resulted in three more being released - again containing little of use. On the one hand, various Ministers want the public to become more involved in policy issues while on the other hand the bureaucracy throws blankets over any attempts to shed light on the reasons for policy decisions and block potential improvements. The reasoning baffles the mind. Nevertheless, we will continue to try to get the background information.

Letters were sent to all provinces and territories requesting information on their handling of land transfer tax assessments to see if there was consistency of treatment, particularly with respect to the inclusion of remediation costs and insurance policies within the assessment value (as has been done in Ontario). We are awaiting the responses.

The issues of offsite liability and the transfer of liability on the sale of property will be addressed at the upcoming CBN workshop.

**Angus Ross** - Chairperson, CBN Finance & Insurance Committee

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### CBN Technical Advisory Committee

The CBN Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) membership has been expanded to fourteen members with the addition in the latter part of 2011 of four new members replacing two original members who stepped down. The additional new TAC members are all Ontario based and will provide additional support and focus on CBN priority issues related to "dig and dump" practices for excess soils in Ontario.

In support of these priority issues, committee continues to strengthen working relationships and developed broader networks with other brownfield and excess soil movement stakeholder groups including [ONEIA](#), [RCCAO](#), and new [BLOOM](#) organization. TAC also continues to further establish linkages with other progressive brownfield related parties in the United States ([NBA](#), [API](#)), the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom primarily as part of ongoing jurisdictional review of current and developing practices dealing with site remediation and the sustainable management of excess soils.

TAC has established committee proceedings in the new CBN virtual boardroom to facilitate capture and access to relevant technical documentation. Populating and organizing technical documentation in the TAC virtual boardroom will continue in 2012.

TAC members continue to follow on brownfield technical related areas and redevelopment barrier issues where committee expertise provides and can receive valuable inputs. These interface areas include the following:

- CBN presentations at recent International Sites and Spills Expo and Ontario Bar Association seminar on handling of excess soil practices
- CBN input to recent Kitchener Waterloo Regional soil management study project and recommendations prepared by BLOOM
- Continued technical engagement and input through [PIRI](#) connections to draft Nova Scotia Contaminated Sites Regulations
- Continued engagement with Saskatchewan Environment in developing contaminated site guidance documents and protocols
- Ongoing support to [Federation Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\) brownfield provincial roadmaps](#) as a link to future technical guidance protocols
- Continued Ontario Brownfield Stakeholder Group (BSG) liaise and direct engagement with Ontario MOE personnel on excess soils issues with particular emphasis on recent MOE Soil Management Best Management Practices document and how MOE implementation proceeds
- Ongoing input to Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) remediation technology project evaluations
- Continued participation in the Canada - Netherlands Soil Vapour Intrusion workshop and follow up proposed pilot SVI project in support of risk assessment and regulatory protocol improvements

The Committee continues to focus on sustainable technical work processes and identification of regulatory barriers to brownfield development. As a technical committee, it is recognized that pure innovative remediation technologies will not be developed or commercialized until the regulatory process barriers are addressed to facilitate proper adoption of innovative approaches, brownfield site remediation and redevelopment technologies.

**Alan J. Durand** - Chairperson, CBN Technical Advisory Committee

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### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee continues to work hard ensuring you are informed of current CBN initiatives; we have sent out newsletters quarterly, and have worked on partnership events to provide you with relevant information. Some recent events have included:

- **Federation of Canadian Municipalities:** Sustainable Approaches to Brownfield Remediation and Development
- **ONEIA:** Breakfast with Ontario Environment Minister Jim Bradley
- **SEIMA:** Remediating Contamination Workshop: Policy, Process and Practice in Saskatchewan

We recently worked with SEIMA in Saskatchewan at their Contaminated Sites Workshops in Saskatoon and Regina in early March. There was a great turnout at both events. The CBN was represented by George Boire who delivered our message to the audiences. We appreciate George adding this to his schedule and look forward to continuing our work in Saskatchewan to benefit CBN members who live and/or work there. We look forward to working with SEIMA in the future.

Using these events as a membership promotion tool has been helpful but doesn't reach the mass industry audience the online promotions do. We are also conscious of the importance of social media marketing; to this end, have you responded to our social media survey? If not, please visit [Survey Monkey](#) to complete it - it will only take a few minutes. We are always looking for new ideas for future events, membership drives or initiatives, so please feel free to contact me directly with these or any other ideas. [jross@hazmatmag.com](mailto:jross@hazmatmag.com)

**Jamie Ross** - Chair, Communications Committee

**Membership Renewal Reminder**

CBN 2012-2013 renewals have been sent out. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so today. We need your support to continue providing the events and information you need to stay current on all things brownfields. Thank you for keeping CBN strong!

**CBN Executive Members**

