



CBN e-newsletter
April 25, 2005

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Upcoming Activities

2005, Jun. 3-6

FCM 68th Annual Conference and
Municipal Expo (St. John's)

2005, Jun. 22-23

2005 Reurbanization Conference
(Kitchener)

2005, Oct. 13-14

6th Canadian Brownfields Conference
and 2nd annual CBN member's
general meeting (Ottawa)

Contact Info.

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Do you have an announcement, event or
opportunity that CBN members should know
about? Submit it to

info

(@canadianbrownfieldsnetwork.ca)

Feedback/Comments on any topic should be
posted on the CBN Brownfields Forum
(email for user id & password)

REVITALIZING CANADIAN COMMUNITIES

Canadian Brownfields Network (CBN) e-newsletter

Welcome to the CBN e-newsletter.

**VISION: Advocate brownfields redevelopment as an essential component of
sustainable communities and urban revitalization in Canada.**

CBN Panel and Membership

- **New CBN Advisory Panel Member:** Dave Harper, Practice Leader, Brownfields, Jacques Whitford.
- **New CBN Corporate Members:** IBI Group and the City of Calgary have joined CBN as corporate members. [Find out about corporate membership.](#)

Announcements

- **Ontario Municipal Brownfields Redevelopment Toolbox:** The toolbox has been developed as a guide and resource for Ontario municipalities to assist them with urban renewal, redevelopment and revitalization. [Visit the Toolbox.](#)
- **Canadian Brownfields 2005 - Investing in Capital - Making It Happen:** Mark your calendars for Canadian Brownfields 2005, to be held in Ottawa at the famed Fairmont Chateau Laurier on October 13-14, 2005. We also welcome a new major sponsor this year, the Cement Association of Canada.

Taking advantage of the conference's first official visit to the nation's capital, Canadian Brownfields 2005 offers top speakers from the U.K. and the U.S. to give you first hand perspectives on how forthright national policy can be leveraged to transform the marketplace. Senior representatives from both the London-based British Urban Regeneration Agency (BURA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will bring specific advice and insight from two very different approaches to brownfields redevelopment. We will also build on our successful formula of cross-country legislative reviews from Victoria, B.C. to Halifax, N.S., illustrated by local case studies. The pace of innovation in technological clean-up methods will also have its own slot in the program, as will the latest in finance, venture capital and risk management techniques. We are still sifting through presentation ideas from members of the network, so if you have a topic that you want to pursue, contact Steven Rowe at devrowe@sympatico.ca. We'll acknowledge your input right away. A preliminary program will be available at www.CanadianBrownfieldsNetwork.ca and www.canurb.com shortly.

A CBN national conference wouldn't be complete without the Brownfields Marketplace and this year's presentation of the CUI Brownie Awards, sponsored once again by CMHC. As well, there will be the second annual meeting of the CBN with an update on the positive feedback from the past year's activities, including a major report with recommendations on the removal of liens as a barrier to brownfields redevelopment, the result of a joint event co-sponsored by the National Roundtable on the Environment and the Economy. Meet with members of the CBN Advisory Panel, and chair Angus Ross.

- **2005 CUI Brownie Awards - Same Great Acknowledgement, Better Process:** Every year, the CUI Brownie Awards get better and better. Last year saw new benchmarks for excellence set in terms of the number of submissions, as well as the geographic reach of both submissions and awards. Last year's overall winner, TOHU or the Cirque du Soleil from Montreal, Quebec, has continued to win acclaim and is fast becoming a regional draw as people come to be entertained and to explore the facilities. Visit www.canurb.com then click on CUI Brownies for details of last year's winners.

In response to feedback from the Awards Committee and people in the field we have made a number of improvements to the process. When you click on the

webpage, you will be asked only to respond to an "intent to nominate" form. The deadline listed on the page is there simply to help us gauge the level of interest on a geographic basis and the scope of projects to be nominated. The deadline for submission of the actual application is much later in the year - see the website for details - and guides you through a step-by-step description of the information required. We hope that asking for more detailed information later in the process will help you while helping us. So get your colleagues talking and put on your thinking caps. The CUI Brownie Awards are Canada's only nationally recognized award dedicated to the brownfields industry. Your expertise and innovation deserves to be recognized. As with last year, we will announce finalists and only reveal the winners at the conference. We heard from members of the network that this was a welcome innovation, and we look forward to this year's crop of projects and programs.

- **City of Edmonton Brownfield Redevelopment Grant Pilot Program:** The City of Edmonton has made reducing land contamination an environmental and strategic priority. With the Brownfield Redevelopment Grant Pilot Program, the City hopes to encourage the redevelopment and clean up of contaminated sites in Edmonton through an incentive based program. The program provides an incentive to landowners by removing a portion of the financial burden for site remediation. The property owner will receive a grant equivalent to the increase in the municipal portions of property taxes over a specified number of years, not exceeding the actual costs of remediation or \$100,000. Five sites will be selected this year as part of this pilot project. [More information.](#)
- **Liens and Tax Arrears Workshop (Ottawa, 2005, Mar 09):** The final report from this workshop, *Greening Canada's Brownfields: A National Framework for Encouraging Redevelopment of Qualifying Brownfields through Removal of Crown Liens and Tax Arrears*, is now available. This framework has been prepared to assist the Government of Canada and provincial and municipal governments interested in redeveloping brownfields. It outlines an opportunity for governments in Canada to encourage redevelopment of many of the country's estimated 30,000 or more urban brownfield sites through a coordinated, practical and nationally consistent approach to removing Crown liens and tax arrears on qualifying properties.

The report will be going to the appropriate ministers in the Federal and Provincial governments. The CBN will be following up on activity related to the report and will be monitoring progress in its implementation. Updated information will be available on the CBN website.

The report is available in English and French on the Canadian Brownfields Network website on the [Research & Publications](#) page.

- **CMHC Pilot Project - Risk Sharing for Brownfield Sites:** CMHC is currently in consultation mode regarding risk sharing for brownfield sites. CMHC is investigating potential sites on a pilot basis, ideally one with a privately owned site and another on a publicly owned site. Of the sites to be considered, it is critical that the site is fairly advanced in its development process meaning that the developer has a strategy/concept in terms of housing type for the site. CMHC also indicated that they are looking for a project of meaningful size, potentially a minimum of 20 housing units and would like to see some affordable housing units as per CMHC's current underwriting flexibilities. In addition, the developer should know the extent of the contamination even though full remediation is not possible. The requirement to implement a risk management plan associated with site would be desirable as well. CMHC is currently consulting with builders, financial institutions, interested groups, and key federal and provincial departments. CMHC indicated that they would like to have a risk sharing agreement in place by year-end.
- **Green Municipal Fund's Financing Concept for Brownfields Redevelopment:** FCM is in the process of combining the Green Municipal Enabling Fund and the Green Municipal Investment Fund into one fund that will be called the Green Municipal Fund (GMF). The February 2005 federal budget provides for an additional \$300 million to be added to the existing \$250 million GMF capital. This additional GMF funding is one of the items in the budget

allocation bill now before Parliament.

Of the additional \$300 million included in the federal budget, FCM is required to use \$150 million to finance brownfield remediation and redevelopment.

On April 6, 2005, the Canadian Brownfields Network (CBN) delivered a workshop, Development of the Green Municipal Fund's Financing Concept for Brownfields Redevelopment (Ontario Pilot Project), on behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to engage experts from key industry sectors in a discussion regarding the proposed financing concept for brownfields redevelopment.

- **Agreement Signed on the New Deal for Cities and Communities:** The Prime Minister and Minister Godfrey have announced the gas tax funding agreement between Canada, British Columbia and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. This is a significant milestone for the New Deal for Cities and Communities that will provide BC's municipalities with \$635 M in gas tax funds over the next five years, and \$254 M per year indefinitely thereafter. [Press release and backgrounder](#).

Progress of the CBN:

- Formation of a CBN Advisory Panel comprised of a distinguished group of experts from across Canada;
- Strategic alliances with industry to create market credibility;
- Delivery of high profile conferences and workshops;
- Development of a brownfields toolbox for Ontario municipalities; and
- Membership base of more than 200 practitioners and stakeholders.