

MEDIA ADVISORY

Canadian Institute of Planners and Ontario Professional Planners Institute Conference - BUILDING A BETTER WORLD Niagara Falls, Ontario – Sheraton on the Falls Hotel 5875 Falls Avenue September 30th to October 3rd 2009

Come and hear from the best of the best on the environment, economy, culture, and society. This is an opportunity for more than 1,000 conference delegates from across Canada to debate and to challenge planners and the planning profession to build a better world. Attendees will hear from expert panelists on the issues planners need to confront and will actively participate as colleagues showcase their innovations and experiences in workshops, plenary panel discussions and concurrent sessions.

Speakers include:

Nobel Peace Prize nominee, **Sheila Watt-Cloutier** treats the issues of our day—the environment, the economy, foreign policy, global health, and sustainability—not as separate concerns, but as a deeply interconnected whole. Every decision, whether environmental, political or economic, has a profound effect on those far from the corridors of power; to understand this connection is vital to building a better world.

Chris Ronayne, President of University Circle Inc. in Cleveland, Ohio, will share his insights on building the modern city and the 21st century economy. He heads up a community development corporation responsible for the growth of the University Circle as a world-class centre of innovation in health care, education, arts, and culture. He has also served as Cleveland's Planning Director, led numerous successful revitalization projects, including the Flats, Battery Park, and Steelyard Commons, and served as chief architect of the City's Waterfront District Plan.

As Environmental Commissioner, **Gordon Miller** gives independent advice to the Province and Ontario public through annual reports focused on topics such as the aggregate mining industry and regulation of the Great Lakes. In 2009, his annual report to Ontarians will focus on the state of land use planning. Miller will give an overview of his report, hot off the presses.

A young and dynamic speaker, **Chris Turner** has travelled the globe in search of hope for a sustainable future and chronicled his findings in his best-selling book *The Geography of Hope: A Tour of the World We Need*. His year-long travels with his family criss-crossing the globe in search of people living sustainably resulted in a global survey of the state of the art in sustainable living.

Another highlight of the conference is an awards ceremony on the Friday night that will feature this year's Canadian Institute of Planners' Awards for Planning Excellence and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute's Excellence in Planning Award winners. The awards recognize: excellence in all aspects of the profession; a strong awareness of the planning profession among related professions, all levels of government, potential private and public sector clients, and the general public; and professional planners providing excellence to the community.

Detailed conference information is posted at: www.niagarafalls2009.ca

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) is the national voice of Canada's planning profession. Since 1919, CIP has been dedicated to the advancement of responsible planning throughout Canada. In its capacity as the national professional institute and certification body for the planning profession, CIP addresses the issues of professional standards and public policy, both domestically and globally, related to planning and planning related issues. More information is available at www.cip-icu.ca.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Its more than 3,000 members work in government, private practice, universities, and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. For further information, go to: www.ontarioplanners.on.ca

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