

Canada Leading World Wide Green Building Movement

Toronto, September 8, 2008

National report released today by the Canadian Urban Institute that sets out how Canada is at the forefront of a growing worldwide movement to transform the market place to sustainable practices.

Toronto – A national research report on sustainable building was released today suggesting that the market for sustainable building in Canada is finally reaching a critical mass.

The report was prepared as part of the Canadian Urban Institute's contribution to the *World Sustainable Building SB08* conference taking place from September 21-24, 2008 in Melbourne Australia.

In 2007, the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), in association with the Green Building Alliance (GBA) and Ryerson University hosted the Toronto Sustainable Building 07 (SB07) regional conference. As part of the World Sustainable Building (SB) Conference Series, held every three years, SB07 Toronto was the first of the 11 regional conferences, attended by approximately 300 professionals from all sectors of the economy.

This report builds on the findings of the two day event where nearly 90 speakers and commentators explored the latest advancements and experiences in sustainable building design and development. "The scope, breath and depth of the information contained in this report is, in my view, unprecedented. It provides in a single source an up to minute assessment of the rapid progress made in Canada in this increasingly important field," said Glen Murray, President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute.

Canada is at the forefront of a growing worldwide movement to transform the marketplace to sustainable practices. There are a variety of reasons for this including: perseverance to improve building codes, advanced education and training, development of supportive regulations, advanced research and development, and a commitment to respond to climate change and to build communities that are energy efficient, cost effective and ecologically sensitive.

The report concludes that decades of effort on the part of government policy makers and academia to establish new benchmarks for efficient buildings systems is paying off.

"The CUI believes strongly that conferences such as SB08 and regional events such as the SB series combined with insights provided in regional reports spark change, advance decision making and help create the cities where we can all thrive and prosper and feel better about our urban environment," said Glen Murray.

As Canada's leading applied urban policy institute dedicated to identifying, developing and delivering policy and planning solutions to enable urban regions to thrive and prosper, the Canadian Urban Institute is engaged in Canada's movement to advance market transformation for sustainable communities, technology and buildings. The Institute believes that the development of buildings and communities provides a tangible way to have a productive conversation about sustainability issues impacting urban regions across Canada. The report can be accessed at www.canurb.com under publications and at www.sb07toronto.org.

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