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Rural-Urban Interdependency Highlighted in Report from National Workshop

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) and the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) released a report highlighting the results of a national workshop on the interdependencies of rural and urban communities. Entitled “Developing the Regional Imagination: A National Workshop on Rural-Urban Interaction,” the session included representatives of every Canadian province involved in rural and urban policy, research and innovative practices.

The Honourable David Crombie, former president and CEO of CUI stated that “any notion that urban centres are somehow removed from adjacent rural areas is simply ignoring the obvious. People drive across rural-urban boundaries, in both directions, on a daily basis. Water supplies, air quality issues, recreational amenities, food sources, all have vital rural-urban interdependencies that our current governance boundaries fail to accommodate. We need to learn to think regionally, and develop a shared regional imagination that enables joint solutions rather than fostering false dichotomies.”

Dr. Rob Greenwood, Past-President of CRRF, noted that “researchers, policy makers and all those interested in workable rural-urban solutions, were now banding together to delineate the multitude of ways in which rural and urban areas are interdependent. CRRF has launched a national research project mapping forms of interaction and exploring innovations in governance necessary to move beyond self-defeating rural-urban zero-sum games. Innovative municipalities, businesses and non-governmental organizations were developing new forms of regional governance, and CUI and CRRF are dedicated to advancing understanding and practical lessons and approaches.”

The report from the workshop, which was held on July 13, 2007 at the Kortright Centre for Conservation in Toronto, is available at http://www.canurb.com/events/event_list.php?status=14&highlight=1&event_type=1

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