



**Canadian Urban Institute honours Moses Znaimer
Fourth Annual Urban Leadership Awards celebrate champions of the public realm!**

Toronto, Monday, June 11, 2007

For Immediate Release

More than 500 celebrants will gather on Thursday, June 14, 2007 to honour 18 of Canada's brightest urban visionaries, activists and local heroes at the 4th annual Urban Leadership Awards Luncheon in the Canadian Room at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel at 11:30 a.m. Media innovator Moses Znaimer will receive the Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award.

Each year, the CUI presents the awards to organizations and individuals who through their leadership, activism, tenacity and vision change lives and transform communities. "These are the champions of Canada's civic public realm," said David Crombie, President and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute, "their activism inspires us to build better cities."

Urban Leadership Award Recipients

The Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award for 2007 is awarded to Moses Znaimer.

For the individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the public realm over many years and in more than one field, thereby gaining reputation and acclaim for their vision, passion and impact.

City Renewal – Derek Ballantyne; Cityscape Development Corporation.

Activities that renew revitalize and restore our cities through advocacy that shapes policy on major urban issues, thereby promoting attitudinal change, encouraging public participation and transforming our urban landscape for future generations.

City Soul – Andy Barrie; Matthew Blackett; Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto.

Pursuits that inspire, inform, enrich and engage our collective spirits whether through the arts, entertainment, heritage programs, sport and recreation, cultural exchange, or other initiatives.

City Livability – Kitchener City Council (2003-2006); MintoUrban Communities Inc.

Actions that make our cities more livable from finding new ways and means to improve our healthcare, education and the environment to enhancing public places and spaces and instilling confidence about our personal safety and security.

City Initiatives – The Mentoring Partnership Program of the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council; Scotiabank Nuit Blanche.

Innovative initiatives that should make a significant impact on the public realm.

City Youth – Danielle Francis; Adam Garnet Jones

Outstanding contributions to any aspect of the public realm by individuals under the age of 30.



Local Heroes

Individuals who have had a profound and lasting impact on the quality of life in their community or neighbourhood.

Award Recipients: Hockey legend and Future Aces visionary **Herbert Carnegie**; Brantford developer and community leader **Steve Charest**; former Markham Mayor **Donald Cousens**; Toronto Poet Laureate, **Pier Giorgio DiCicco**; St. Christopher House CEO, **Susan Pigott**; community advisor, mentor and facilitator, **P.C. Ojo Tewogbade**.

Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award

This award was created by the Canadian Urban Institute in honour of the late Jane Jacobs, a distinguished Canadian whose vision and leadership influenced the development of cities around the world. Known for her dedicated and thoughtful activism, contributions to urban theory, numerous publications, plus her energetic devotion and determination, Jane encouraged us to look for the best in ourselves and to never give up. In her final book, *Dark Age Ahead*, Jane highlighted the importance of cherishing, nurturing and utilizing our own cultural characteristics in the pursuit of practical solutions.

Profile of Moses Znaimer, 2007 recipient of the Jane Jacobs Lifetime Achievement Award

For many Torontonians, Moses Znaimer's name is synonymous with Citytv, the unique television conglomerate he co-founded in 1972. He is often described as a media innovator who changed the way we view our cities as well as television. A champion of the rich cultural mix that is Toronto, Mr. Znaimer is renowned for reflecting the city's variety and vitality, both on air and off.

For more than three decades, this maverick has come to symbolize progress, growth and a new vision of Toronto. In his TV work, Moses Znaimer introduced a novel approach to bringing programming to the people. The CHUMCity building reinvented the TV studio as an open, street front, perpetual performance space that demystifies the television process in a way that helps democratize the medium.

Moses Znaimer has left his mark on the city in ways beyond his broadcast innovations. His adaptive reuse of the heritage building at Queen and John, for instance, spawned a transformation of that part of the city. Refitting it to house the Citytv studio, the building has become a landmark. Today, the CHUMCity Building remains the finest example of industrial Gothic architecture in Toronto and is designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

A man of endless inspiration and creativity, Mr. Znaimer is tireless in his quest to inform, enrich and engage our collective spirits. He transformed an existing medium to tell the everyday stories of the urbanization and ethno-cultural diversification of our major urban centres.



Backgrounder on 2007 Urban Leadership Awards Program

Defining the Public Realm

“The quality of urban life in Toronto has been rooted deeply in the quality and strength of its public realm. Education, healthcare, social services, public transit, arts and culture, energy resources, public safety and security, justice, libraries, environmental stewardship, roads, streets and public places have been the connecting tissues linking our individual private worlds and fusing one generation to another. The public realm has been the glue that holds the City together and the bedrock upon which it built its prosperity, its communities and its social peace.”

David Crombie, *The Urban Century*, Spring 2005

2007 ULA Jury Panel

Winners were selected by a jury comprised of CUI CEO David Crombie; urban affairs columnist Christopher Hume; Goodwill Industries VP Mitzie Hunter; lawyers Bohdan Onyschuk and Jane Pepino; social activist and physician Dr. Joseph Wong; and Leslie Woo, Director, Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

The CUI gratefully acknowledges the following participants who have helped make this event possible:

Leadership Gold Sponsor: Scotiabank

Local Heroes Award Sponsor: Loblaw Properties Limited

Leadership Award Sponsors: Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal; TD Bank Financial Group; Bell Canada; TEDCO.

Community Builders: Carpenters Union, Central Ontario Regional Council; MintoUrban Communities Inc., Ontario Power Generation; Toronto Hydro Corporation; George Brown College.