

## **Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec wins national City Renewal Award**

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**Toronto, Ontario** – The 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Québec City was an incredible incentive to renew the St. Lawrence River's shoreline, but the results were better than most people imagined and the waterfront project has earned the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec, the Canadian Urban Institute's (CUI) 2009 City Renewal Award to be presented June 5 at the Urban Leadership Awards (ULA) in Toronto.

"The Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec had the foresight to start planning 10 years in advance, acquiring land, consulting with the community and developing plans that led to the renewal and revitalization of such an important and historic landscape and an urban treasure," said CUI President and CEO Glen Murray.

"The first phase of this project is an impressive preservation and enhancement of the natural wonders of water, land and the built environment of pathways and recreation facilities," Murray said.

About 500 elite members of Canada's who's who of city building will gather in Toronto on June 5 at the Royal York Hotel to honour the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (<http://www.capitale.gouv.qc.ca>) and 17 other groups and individuals ([www.canurb.com/awards/ula/leadershipawards2009.php](http://www.canurb.com/awards/ula/leadershipawards2009.php)) across the country who are making Canadian cities exciting and dynamic places to live and work.

The renewal of the waterfront was a \$70 million investment that created access points along the St. Lawrence revitalizing a 2.5 km stretch of coastal landscape. Extensive bike paths and walkways anchored at one end by Quays, contain four themed gardens. The Promenade located alongside Sillery's shore on the St. Lawrence, features a series of environments and contains public art, soccer fields and multipurpose areas.

According to the project manager, Diane Simard, speaking on behalf of Commission's president Jacques Langlois, the greatest compliment is that the citizens from Québec City and abroad roundly support the project. She attributes that to the fact that the Commission did not try to do overreach for the budget it had.

"The original project extending to the old city would have cost about \$200 million. We only had \$70 million, so we just did the most sensible portion of it, and did it with quality in a sustainable development approach," Simard said. "Our message for other communities is: Don't try to do it superficially because when you do it right it will stand the test of time and will make your citizens proud. And when they see the value they will support the next leg of the project."

**The Urban Leadership Awards (ULA) Program** honours Canadian individuals, groups and organizations that have made significant contributions to improving the quality of life in Canada's cities and urban regions. The 2009 ULA's have been made possible by the generous support of a variety of corporate sponsors including Gold Sponsors Loblaw Properties Ltd., Scotiabank, TD Bank Financial Group, the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Environics, the City of Toronto, GE Canada and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). Community Builder Sponsors include Toronto Hydro, Local 27 of the Union of Carpenters and Allied Workers, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Great West Life, London Life and Canada Life Assurance Companies.

The judges for this year's awards included Canadians who have dedicated their lives to public service and who have detailed knowledge of the local stories and triumphs of Canadians in their home communities. Under the chairmanship of the Hon. David Crombie, the committee included; Al Duerr, former Mayor of Calgary; Newfoundland's Dr. Linda Inkpen; Dr. Antonia Maioni, Director of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada; John Kim Bell, founder of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation; Ms. Mitzi Hunter, a Vice President at Goodwill Industries; and, Dr. Nola Kate Seymoar, President and CEO, International Centre for Sustainable Cities, based in British Columbia.

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in urban areas across Canada and throughout the world.

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## Some facts about Commission de la capital nationale du Québec

- Created in 1995 by the National Assembly of Québec, Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (CCNQ) pursues a threefold mission of helping develop and beautify Québec City, promoting the capital through a diverse program of discovery and commemoration activities, and advising the Québec government on how to enhance the city's status.
- CCNQ helps develop and beautify the buildings and facilities that give a capital character by designing public squares, parks, gardens, walkways, monuments, and works of art and illuminating buildings and public squares to boost the city's profile and ensure it is always looking its best.
- Across Québec, CCNQ helps organize and promote various historical, cultural, and social activities and events that seek to promote Québec City and foster a sense of pride and belonging among Québécois for their capital.
- CCNQ is also tasked with advising the government on the location of government offices, staff, ministries, and agencies, along with the construction, conservation, planning, and development of government buildings.