

# **Building the Eco-City: Today's Cities for Tomorrow's Generations**

## **2004 CEN Annual Conference on the Environment**

### **Detailed Conference Program**

(September 27, 2004 – DRAFT)

#### **Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**

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- 5:00 PM**                      **Registration Table Opens**
- 5:30 PM**                      **Wine and Cheese Reception** (Room ...)  
Snacks and Cash Bar
- 7:00 PM**                      **Welcome and Opening** (Room ...)  
Welcome from conference chair(s), introductory remarks about conference goals and themes, description of evening session, and introduction of evening speakers.  
Sessions Chairs: Pierre Lussier and Brigitte Gagne.
- 7:30 PM**                      **Keynote Presentations** (Room ...)  
Presentations by two speakers (approx. 40 minutes each), one Canadian speaker and one international speaker. The theme for this opening session will be broad, looking at the range of environmental challenges facing human settlements and exploring ways of moving towards sustainability. Speakers will address the central theme of the conference, asking how we can design and build ecologically-sustainable settlements, especially in the case of large cities. Given that such a large proportion of humanity now lives in urban areas (almost 80% of the Canadian population and almost 50% of the global population), achieving this goal is both crucial and challenging. In addition, given that one-third of the planet's urban dwellers live in slums, achieving sustainability will require tackling a variety of basic economic and social needs.  
Speakers:  
a. Dr. Juan Almeyda, Friends of the Earth (Honduras)  
b. Mr. Jerome Vallaincourt, Directeur General, Vivre en Ville (Quebec City)

## **Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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- 8:00 AM**                      **Registration Table Opens**
- 8:30 AM**                      **Welcome and Opening** (Room ...)  
Traditional Welcome – Eva Johnson  
Welcome and introductory remarks by conference chair(s), reiterating theme and purpose of the conference, providing overview of the day's agenda and logistical information, and introduction of the morning speakers.  
Session Chairs: Brigitte Gagne and Pierre Lussier
- 8:45 AM**                      **Keynote Presentations** (Room ...)  
Presentations by two speakers (approx. 30 minutes each), continuing on the theme addressed in the previous evening's session, with particular focus on finding solutions to the various challenges facing the environment in urban settings. Question period to follow presentations.  
Speakers:
- a. Dr. H. Peter Oberlander, Professor Emeritus, School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia and currently Senior Ministerial Advisor to Canada's preparations for the UN World Urban Forum 2006.
  - b. Mr. Greg Allen, President, Sustainable Edge Inc. (Toronto)
- 10:00 AM**                      **Coffee Break**
- 10:30 AM**                      **Concurrent Workshops 1, 2 and 3**  
Workshops on selected topics related to urban sustainability.
- 12:00 Noon**                      **Lunch Break**
- 1:15 PM**                      **Concurrent Workshops 4, 5 and 6**  
Workshops on selected topics related to urban sustainability.
- 2:30 PM**                      **Coffee Break**
- 3:00 PM**                      **Youth and Urban Sustainability: A Vision for the Future**  
Session Chair: Tomas Ernst  
Speakers:
- a. Ira Morriveau (youth Aboriginal representative from Manitoba) will speak on Aboriginal life in the city, life on reserves (he also touch on social justices issues here) and what government, academics and NGO's can do to improve the current situation (10 minutes);

- b. Christine Rieux (a Francophone youth representative from Alfred, Ontario) will reflect on the idea of urban sustainability and also talk about the rural/urban differences, and the impact urbanization (i.e., Sprawl) has on rural areas (10 minutes);
- c. Doug Ragan (Environmental Youth Alliance, Vancouver) will share his experiences from WUF in Barcelona, talk about his organizations' recent (government of Canada sponsored) research/discussion paper on creating child and youth friendly cities and then speak to the Road leading up to WUF 2006 in Vancouver (15 minutes); and
- d. Irene Veles Torres (CENSAT and Friends of the Earth Colombia) will speak about her work with youth in Bogotá, Colombia.

**4:30 PM**

**Wrap-Up and Closing**

Reporting from workshops and summary comments by conference chair(s).

Session Chair(s): Brigitte Gagne and Pierre Lussier

**Cultural event to follow...music, dance!!**

## **Concurrent Workshops**

### **Workshop 1: Planning for Sustainability**

These workshops will explore the process of planning for sustainability, covering topics such as how to integrate sustainability into urban planning and how to involve the community in planning for sustainability. Speakers include: Kelly Hawke Baxter (The Natural Step Canada) and Pierre Sainte-Marie (Master Plan, City of Montreal).

### **Workshop 2: The Promise of Green Design & Building**

This workshop will explore the concept of green design and building, including topics such as the use of “green” building materials and energy-efficient design. Speakers include: Julia Bourke (Professor, School of Architecture, McGill), Marieve Allair (Mountain Equipment Co-op), and Greg Allen (Sustainable Edge Inc., Toronto).

### **Workshop 3: International Perspectives on Urban Sustainability**

This workshop will explore efforts to develop sustainability in human settlements in different parts of the world. Speakers include: Evelyn María Castro Gómez (Salvadoran Center for Appropriate Technology, El Salvador), Dr. Marie Lessard (Université de Montreal), and Adekanla Majekodunmi (Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Nigeria).

### **Workshop 4: Thinking Critically about Sustainability**

The terms “sustainable development” and “sustainability” have been adopted by virtually everyone – including activists, governments, international organizations, and many of the world’s largest corporations – to such an extent that one wonders if they have become meaningless. This workshop will allow for a more in-depth examination of the concept of sustainability, with particular reference to the urban setting. Speakers include Kelly Hawke Baxter (Chair, The Natural Step Canada), Bob Jickling (Faculty of Education, Lakehead University), and H. Peter Oberlander (University of British Columbia).

### **Workshop 5: Greenspace, Agriculture & Food**

This workshop will examine efforts to create green space in urban areas, including creating space for gardening. Speakers include Stewart Chisolm (Evergreen Foundation, Toronto), Alex Hill (Alternatives, Montreal), and Rhonda Teitel-Payne (Urban Agriculture Coordinator, The Stop Community Food Centre).

### **Workshop 6: Sustainable Energy & Transportation**

This workshop will explore the concept of sustainable transportation, including alternatives to automobiles. Speakers include: Nicholas Mainville (One-Tonne Challenge Project, Youth Environmental Network), Sidney Ribaux (Coordinateur General, Equiterre), and Marion Town (BEST).