

Canadian Brownfields Network



Five Years On....

**NRTEE
National
Brownfield
Strategy**

www.CanadianBrownfieldsNetwork.ca

Presentation Overview

- Background
- Research Scope
- Key Findings
- Summary and Next Steps

Background

- National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) released A National Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy for Canada in 2003
- A number of changes have occurred in the past 5 years related to the recommendations in the Strategy
- Public and private sectors have made a number of advancements with regards to brownfield redevelopment

Research Scope

Purpose

- Obtain a “snapshot” of actions taken by the public and private sectors to address the NRTEE recommendations

OCETA Conducted

- Review of brownfield redevelopment initiatives and programs across Canada
- Interviews with key stakeholders to identify actions

Supported by

- NRTEE and the Canadian Brownfields Network

Research

- Reviewed jurisdictions across Canada (public and private sector)
- Gathered information from government websites, third party reports, and interviews with experts
- Identified and compiled actions that have been taken related to each of NRTEE's recommendations

| Recommendations | Actions Taken |
|--|---|
| <p>1.4 Provide revolving loans for qualifying brownfield sites</p> | <p><u>Public Sector</u> Federal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Federal government provided \$150 million to the GMF for a revolving fund for brownfields. (2005) http://sustainablecommunities.fcm.ca/GMF/GMF_History.asp <p><u>Private Sector</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Royal Bank of Canada and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have begun to offer lending and project finance products for brownfields. |

Key Findings

- Role of the NRTEE report in motivating change
- Definition of brownfields
- Development of a national strategy
- Barriers
- Important success factors

Key Findings: Role of the NRTEE Strategy

- NRTEE Brownfield Strategy Report has been well-received by the public and private sector
- It is used as a key guidance document regarding what is needed to remove the barriers to Brownfield redevelopment
- Report acted as a catalyst and played a major role in motivating change

Key Findings: Definition of Brownfields

- NRTEE definition of “brownfields” has become the industry standard however, this definition has often been modified to meet the particular needs of various regions or sectors
- Private sector tends to focus on urban brownfields with high redevelopment potential
- Provincial and municipal governments tend to focus on urban and rural sites – to encourage redevelopment in all communities
- Modifying the definition makes it difficult to develop an inventory of Canadian brownfield sites

Key Findings: National Approach

- There does not appear to be any current efforts to develop a National Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy or create a Federal Coordinating Office
- The private sector has made attempts to fill this gap (e.g. Canadian Brownfields Network and the National Brownfields Association)

Key Findings: Barriers

- Reprioritization regarding the importance of the barriers identified by the NRTEE
 - Three most important barriers are: regulatory risk, regulatory delays and access to capital
 - Lack of insurance is the lowest priority
 - Lack of awareness is not considered to be a major barrier but is still a barrier in many parts of Canada
 - Civil Liability is not a major barrier

Key Findings: Barriers (continued)

- New barriers have been identified as an impediment to redevelopment in Canada
 - Value-creation
 - Inter-governmental relations
 - Labour market shortages
 - Capacity building
- Barriers to brownfield redevelopment are often inter-related and by removing one barrier, there can be a positive impact on other barriers

Key Findings: Success Factors

- All levels of government should work together to coordinate approaches
- Brownfields should be an important component of government policy objectives in the areas of climate change and sustainable communities (directly linked to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and act as a catalyst in creating revitalized sustainable communities)
- Effective communication and cooperation between the public and private sectors has played a major role in the development of successful brownfield strategies

Summary and Next Steps

- Significant actions have been taken (public and private sector)
- Preliminary Study provided a “snapshot” of the Canadian Brownfield Industry
- Comprehensive Study to better understand and characterize the current barriers and possible solutions to motivate brownfield redevelopment

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