

ENVIRONNEMENT

Économie

SOCIÉTÉ

Santé

**National Round Table
on the Environment
and the Economy**



**Table ronde nationale
sur l'environnement
et l'économie**



CLEANING UP THE PAST - BUILDING THE FUTURE

TIME FOR ACTION!

ANGUS H. ROSS

Chair,

NRTEE Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy Task Force

Contaminated Properties Conference 2003

Halifax, Nova Scotia

October 21st, 2003



NRTEE MANDATE



The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) was created to “play the role of catalyst in identifying, explaining and promoting in all sectors of Canadian society and in all regions of Canada, principles and practices of sustainable development”



Specifically, the agency identifies issues that have both environmental and economic implications, explores these implications, and attempts to identify actions that will balance economic prosperity with environmental preservation



NRTEE MEMBERSHIP



The NRTEE is composed of a chair and up to 24 distinguished Canadians



These individuals are appointed by the Prime Minister as opinion leaders representing a variety of regions and sectors of Canadian society including business, labour, academia, environmental organisations and First Nations



Members of the NRTEE meet as a round table four times a year to review and discuss the ongoing work of the agency, set priorities and initiate new activities



THE BUDGET MANDATE



DECEMBER 10TH, 2001 BUDGET



“Mr. Speaker, across Canada, as in most countries, contaminated land lies unused and unproductive. Such sites, known as brownfields, may have the potential for rejuvenation, bringing both health and economic benefits to local communities.

Therefore, responding to the Government, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy has agreed to develop a National Brownfield Redevelopment Strategy in order to ensure that Canada is a global leader in remediation.”



BARRIERS



1. Finance



2. Liability



3. Awareness



ECONOMIC BENEFITS



Estimated \$4.6 to 7 billion annual public benefits



Increased tax base for municipal, provincial and Federal levels of government



Creation of employment opportunities



Creation of export opportunities



Improved competitiveness of cities



Multiplier effect at 3.6-3.8 is highest of any sector of the economy.



SOCIO/ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



Improved quality of life in neighbourhoods



Reduced pressures on urban sprawl



Removal of threats to human life and safety



Improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions



Restoration of environmental quality in the community



AREAS OF RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Applying strategic public investments to address upfront costs



2. Establishing an effective public policy regime for environmental liability and risk management



3. Building community awareness of and capacity for brownfield redevelopment



1. Financing and funding

a) Taxation



Amend the Income Tax Act to permit deduction of remediation expenses from other income. (F,P,T.) Currently must be capitalised.



Create a brownfield redevelopment current deduction and investment tax credit. (F.P.T)
These would be similar to existing Scientific Research and Experimental Development programmes.



1. Financing and funding

b) Orphan sites: release from indebtedness; control of property



Remove liens and tax arrears from qualifying brownfield sites (F.P.T.M.)



When a trustee in bankruptcy quitclaims a property it should vest in the federal or provincial crown. (F.P.T.)



1. Financing and funding

c) Providing security for lenders



Expanded role for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation to provide mortgage insurance for qualifying brownfield redevelopments. (F.)



1. Financing and funding

d) Loans and grants



Establishment of revolving loan fund programmes to provide low-interest loans for public and private parties. Establish qualifying criteria to target loans. (F.P.T.M.)



Establish qualifying criteria and provide a comprehensive grant funding programme for qualifying municipal and non-profit organization brownfield redevelopment projects. (F.P.T.M.)



2. Liability and risk assessment



Permit binding contractual allocation of liability upon the sale of a brownfield (subject to safeguards). (P,T.)



Termination of on and off-site regulatory liability (subject to specific re-openers and fraud) upon issuance of regulatory remediation approval (P.T.)



Amend Federal environmental protection legislation to provide for Federal acceptance of provincial/territorial approvals. (F.)



Provincial/territorial registration on title of right to regulatory liability termination or allocation (P.T.)



2. Liability and risk assessment



Termination of civil liability after the expiry of an appropriate limitation period. (P.T.)



Provincial/territorial registration on title of right to civil liability termination or allocation. (P.T.)



Create an insurance fund for post-liability termination claims. (F.P.T.)



2. Liability and risk assessment



Provinces/regions establish regimes to enable effective site-specific assessment of common contaminants. (P.T.)

Provinces establish systems for approval of SSRA

Federal government negotiate MOA's to accept provincially approved assessments for federal environmental purposes with covenants not to sue where provincial approval provided. (F.P.)

Municipalities streamline approval process. (M.)



2. Liability and risk assessment



Provinces and territories provide for regulatory approval and confirmation of acceptability of remediation efforts.



3. Building community awareness and capacity



All levels of government make better use of existing expertise through information networks and exchanges. (F.P.T.M)



Establishment of a National Brownfields Association to coordinate redevelopment efforts(F.P.T.M)



Funding for Technology Partnerships Canada to demonstrate new remediation technologies (F)



Development of temporary certificates of approval for new technology demonstrations. (F.P.T.)



3. Building community awareness and capacity



All levels of government cooperate to develop and implement an integrated communications strategy to raise awareness of the economic, social and environmental benefits of brownfield redevelopment . (F.P.T.M)



Short-term implementation (12 mos)



Ensure support for National Strategy by all levels of government



Establish Federal coordinating office



Ensure Government's "own house in order"



Establish performance measurement framework for strategy



Implement tax system changes



Short-term implementation (12 mos) – cont.



Remove liens and tax arrears against
qualifying properties



Provide mortgage guarantees



Provide revolving loans



Provide grants



Raise awareness of benefits



Medium-term implementation (5 yr horizon)



Allow binding contractual allocation of liability



Provide for termination of regulatory and civil liability



Create insurance fund



Apply SSRA and approvals regime



Provide for regulatory approval of remediation



Medium-term implementation (5 yr horizon) cont.



Facilitate technologies and remediation processes



Monitor implementation



Evaluate/adjust initiatives



Encourage new participants



Expand range of policy instruments



ATLANTIC IMPLEMENTATION (PROVINCIAL)



Review regulatory and civil liability provisions and begin discussions on implementation of Strategy recommendations.



Implement tax system changes and commence negotiations with Federal government for matching measures.



Remove liens and tax arrears against qualifying properties



Ensure Government's "own house in order"



Raise awareness of benefits



ATLANTIC IMPLEMENTATION (PROVINCIAL)



Provide financial support for local government/private redevelopment.



Ensure enabling legislation permitting municipalities to offer incentives.



Set up systems to measure benefits and impacts of brownfields redevelopment.



ATLANTIC IMPLEMENTATION (MUNICIPAL)



Provide financing and planning incentives; simplify approvals processes; establish local redevelopment priorities.



Establish local redevelopment priorities.



Redeploy municipally-held brownfields.