



Benny Farm Receives a UDI Award of Excellence

Montréal, April 25, 2005 – During the Montréal Real Estate Forum held on April 19, Canada Lands Company (CLC) received an award for excellence from the Urban Development Institute of Québec (UDI) for its Benny Farm redevelopment project. This prestigious award recognizes the innovative approach, the thoroughness of the community consultation process, and integration with the environment manifested at Benny Farm.

“CLC is particularly proud of this award from the Québec real estate industry,” said Jim Lynes, Acting President & CEO of CLC. “In real estate development, close collaboration with the local community is a key feature of quality projects,” said Mr. Lynes, who hopes that the success of Benny Farm will serve as an example and will contribute to the evolution of business approaches across the country.

In July 2002, following a decade of controversy and public debate surrounding the future of the Benny Farm site, located in the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce neighbourhood, CLC launched a process designed to engage the local community in the redevelopment of a residential complex originally designed to house veterans. In the fall of 2002, citizens and stakeholders were invited on several occasions to share their opinions and input in formulating the redevelopment plan through various means, including individual interviews, Task Force, public presentations, development concepts, local consultations, Web site, and comment forms.

This participatory process resulted in an innovative redevelopment that meets affordable housing and community service needs, preserves site characteristics and blends seamlessly with the area. In February 2004, the Office de consultation publique de Montréal concluded that the local community supported the project and the City of Montréal approved the zoning amendment authorizing the redevelopment. The redevelopment is now well underway and new residents have begun to move in.

Canada Lands Company is a federal Crown corporation mandated to optimize the financial and community value obtained from surplus properties no longer required by the Government of Canada. The company is self-financing, pays applicable taxes at all levels of government, and implements innovative property solutions to enhance the quality of life in communities where it operates. Since its inception, the company has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to the government as dividends, cash acquisitions and payment for properties.

As the voice of Québec’s real estate industry, UDI promotes economic development in the real estate sector, defends the interests of its members, ensures effective public policy, and establishes and maintains good communications with government and the community at large.

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