



## **Ontario Smart Growth Network Formed by Chris Winter, Executive Director, Conservation Council of Ontario**

Ontario organizations and local groups are joining forces in a new network to challenge urban sprawl, foster healthy communities, and support community involvement in planning.

Each participating group will bring its own focus and expertise to the network -- including research and policy development, legal aid and planning support, local activism, and community development. Our interests and reasons for participating cover environmental, social and economic concerns. We recognize the tremendous and long-term impact that urban development decisions will have on these issues for generations to come. We understand that by working together to stop sprawl, promote public transit and other transportation alternatives, and design compact, walkable, mixed-use communities, we can achieve a healthier future for Ontario.

Our network is called the "Ontario Smart Growth Network". It is part of a broader North American smart growth movement involving national, provincial and state-wide organizations as well as local community organizations. It reflects an understanding that, in order to put an end to sprawl, we also need to provide a viable and healthier alternative.

The Network is designed to facilitate communication and cooperation between organizations working on smart growth issues. It will support individual areas of expertise as well as support partnership projects between member organizations.

This effort is the result of over a year of discussion between organizations and funders about smart growth and the priorities for urban issues. The organizations involved in starting to set up the Network and writing the Founding Agreement include the Conservation Council of Ontario, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Evergreen, TEA and others. All non-government organizations advocating smart growth.

The Founding Agreement for the Ontario Smart Growth Network is available from the Conservation Council of Ontario at [cco@web.ca](mailto:cco@web.ca). We invite all non-government organizations who support the Founding Agreement to:

(1) Sign on to the Founding Agreement by sending your endorsement to Chris Winter, Conservation Council of Ontario, at [cco@web.ca](mailto:cco@web.ca) Chris is coordinating the sign-ons. He can also be reached at (416) 533-1635.

(2) Identify the resources and services that you can bring to the Network and identify your priority issues.