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January 17, 2007

Mr. Angus Ross  
CBN Panel Chair  
2070 Hadwen Road, Unit 201A  
Mississauga, Ontario  
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Dear Mr. Ross:

Thank you for your e-mail and the attachment regarding the importance of redevelopment of brownfield properties in Ontario. I would like to acknowledge the input you and your organization have provided to the province's Brownfield Stakeholder Working Group.

In your attachment, you note the issue of financing the clean up and redevelopment of contaminated brownfield properties as an impediment to redevelopment. As you are aware, the government offers municipalities the option of participating in the Brownfields Financial Tax Incentive Program (BFTIP), which matches municipal property tax assistance with provincial education property tax assistance for eligible brownfield properties. Further, recent legislative amendments to the BFTIP legislation have been made to streamline and clarify program requirements.

Moreover, we are committed to removing provincial liens on brownfield properties. As you may know, on January 1, 2007, Bill 130, the *Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006* (the act) came into effect. This act increases the range of tools available to municipalities to stimulate brownfield redevelopment. The changes allow for the removal of provincial Crown liens when a municipality assumes ownership of a property after a failed tax sale.

The Ministry of Finance is also exploring policy changes that would provide municipalities with the capacity to advertise brownfield properties as "free and clear" of provincial Crown liens during the tax sale process under certain conditions, making the properties more attractive to prospective developers.

We are also working closely with the federal government to co-ordinate the removal of outstanding federal liens on such properties. The removal of outstanding liens on brownfield properties will encourage the redevelopment of these properties, build upon BFTIP, and support our commitment to building strong and healthy communities.

The Ministry of Finance, along with partner ministries, is committed to a coordinated provincial action on brownfield development. I have copied my colleague the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, whose ministry has responsibility for brownfields.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,



Greg Sorbara  
Minister

c: The Honourable John Gerretsen