
MEDIA RELEASE

February 10, 2009

“If we can build a successful city for children we will have a successful city for all people.”

Enrique Peñalosa, former mayor of Bogotá, Colombia

There are good reasons to give priority to the needs of children and youth in land-use and transportation planning. The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) issued today a Call to Action which proposes that Ontario municipalities endorse a set of 21 child and youth friendly land-use and transportation guidelines.

OPPI members are committed to creating and fostering healthy communities throughout Ontario. They recognize how land-use and transportation planning decisions shape us in ways we are only just beginning to appreciate, including potential contributions to obesity, heart disease, mental health, social isolation, nutrition, and poor air quality.

The Call to Action is based upon the *Child and Youth Friendly Land-Use and Transportation Guidelines*, a document prepared by the Centre for Sustainable Transportation at the University of Winnipeg. OPPI's support of these guidelines builds upon the Institute's many *Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities* initiatives.

Implementation of these guidelines will help to create positive impacts on children and youth. I can think of few things more compelling than acting to ensure the health and well being of current and future generations.

Wayne Caldwell, MCIP, RPP
President, OPPI

A copy of the Call to Action and further information on the guidelines can be found at:
<http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/media/pressreleases.aspx>

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Its more than 3,000 members work in government, private practice, universities, and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. For further information, go to: www.ontarioplanners.on.ca

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