

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### SMART GROWTH BC'S 2008 CONFERENCE HOLDS THE SECRETS TO MAKING SMART GROWTH HAPPEN

Vancouver, BC- Land use is the key driver affecting our lives. It influences our air quality, our water quality, our health—and our tax dollars. Uniting British Columbians around the land use reform needed to meet our pressing sustainability challenge will be Herculean. Smart Growth BC's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference titled, ***Making Smart Growth Happen: From Policy to Practice***, holds solutions. On April 18, 2008, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver, North America's top experts in planning and development will gather to share and discuss best practices in implementing smart growth.

Keynote speaker Parris Glendening will unveil how, as Governor of Maryland in 1997, he brought together disparate groups in launching North-America's first incentive-based, statewide smart growth policy. In the *Environmental Forum*, Glendening writes, "I was aware that it would not be easy. And I was right. There was major opposition from the very beginning. [Today] there is a sense of excitement all around the country and in many other nations about planning for better growth." He held hundreds of meetings before introducing the smart growth legislation, listened to citizens and shared what was happening in the Legislature with them. The policy passed in 1997 and, when Glendening ran for re-election in 1998, he won by the largest margin in modern Maryland politics.

There is more. At Smart Growth BC's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, municipal councilors, planners and developers from across BC will discuss the challenges and opportunities they have encountered while advancing smart growth in their communities. Canada's green building gurus will shed light on the implementation of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Neighbourhood Development program in Canada. Smart Growth BC will showcase its newly-released affordable housing toolkit, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Smarty Awards will celebrate local excellence and innovation in smart growth development. Smart Growth BC's President, Charlotte Ciok, says,

*Walkable, vibrant communities don't just happen - they are cultivated and crafted over time. With careful planning, creative design and meaningful community engagement a community can develop the qualities that make it the best place for the people who call it home.*

Smart Growth BC is the leading non-governmental organization working towards creating more livable communities in British Columbia. ***Making Smart Growth Happen: From Policy to Practice*** threads new connections between provincial legislation and what communities are facing on the ground. The full conference program and registration packet are available at: [www.smartgrowth.bc.ca](http://www.smartgrowth.bc.ca)

**For more information or to set up an interview with keynote speaker, Parris Glendening, please contact:**

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