

NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
Concept Paper
May 2006

The Concept

The National Round Table on Sustainable Infrastructure (NRTSI) is to be an independent, multi-stakeholder, non-partisan, not-for-profit advisory body that:

- provides decision-makers, and stakeholders with advice on sustainable infrastructure;
- develops, commissions, collects, analyzes and shares data, trends, forecasts, technical and management innovation and tools;
- provides high level coordination of Infrastructure initiatives;
- creates a forum to bring together an important yet highly diverse, diffused and complex community to generate greater understanding, synergies so as to support the community's optimal use of available resources.

The NRTSI will address broader infrastructure areas with an integrated, holistic approach. The initial focus of the NRTSI is to be public works, i.e., water systems, sewers, roads and bridges. With a focus on "sustainable" infrastructure, the Round Table will be able to anticipate the social, economic and other community environmental factors that impact on, and are impacted by, infrastructure decision making.

Invitations to join the NRTSI would be extended to the infrastructure community's major players which would include:

- all three orders of government;
- urban planners;
- banking and insurance industries;
- engineering and professional services industries;
- construction and environmental service industries;
- research and the education community;
- others, as may be approved by the advisory council.

The NRTSI would be governed by an Advisory Council comprised of, and appointed by, its stakeholders. It would conduct its business with the help of issue and/or project committees or working groups as determined by the Advisory Council. Decision would be reached by a consensus of the Advisory Council and if none is reached, the issue would be returned to the working groups for further work. No one stakeholder will have a disproportionate interest or influence over the work of the Round Table. At the very least, the NRTSI would allow stakeholders to contribute, learn, adopt, adapt and/or be guided by Round Table outputs in their own jurisdictions.

The NRTSI would be managed by a small secretariat and would be located at a place to be determined by the stakeholders.

Specific Deliverables of the NRTSI

The NRTSI would:

- build a more cohesive, collaborative sustainable infrastructure community;
- help decision makers to :
 - i. build a shared vision between stakeholders (public and private);
 - ii. develop a long term (i.e., 30 years) strategic framework for sustainable infrastructure supported by five years plans.
- develop and/or share knowledge, technology and best practices across the community;
- assess and establish life cycle management guidelines of total capital stock;
- provide a catalyst to the development and utilization of new and innovative management, technology and financing tools;
- help to maximize the use of each dollar invested in sustainable infrastructure.

April 2006