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## URBAN LEADERSHIP SERIES

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**The Canadian Urban Institute, in association with the Ontario Ministry of Government Services, presents:**

### **Ending Ontario's Digital Divides - Can Better Broadband Improve Livability For All?**

**Friday, November 23, 2007**

**7:30AM to 11:30AM**  
(Program starts at 8:00AM)

**The Sutton Place Hotel  
33rd Floor, 955 Bay St.  
Toronto, Ontario**

<b>KEYNOTE:</b>	<b>Bill St. Arnaud</b> , Chief Research Officer, CANARIE Inc., Ottawa - a non-profit collaboration between business and government that coordinates improved Internet access and network connectivity throughout the country
<b>SESSION CHAIR:</b>	<b>Rob Dowler</b> , Corporate Chief Strategist, Ontario Ministry of Government Services

The keynote presentation is followed by comments from an expert panel:

- **Dan Hefkey**, Chief of Emergency Management Ontario, the Ontario government's coordinating agency for ensuring the safety and security of Ontarians. (invited)
- **Lara Tavares**, Founder and Executive Director, Sky's the Limit, Toronto – an NGO dedicated to overcoming the widening digital divide in Canada by providing students with access to the tools and skills needed to improve their lives.
- **Anita Shilton**, Dean, G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, Ryerson University, Toronto – a leading provider of university-based distance learning.
- **Dr. Ed Brown**, CEO, Ontario Telemedicine Network, using advanced communication technologies to deliver clinical, educational and administrative services to more than 360 health care sites province-wide.

Broadband has an increasingly important role in our lives and is transforming how Ontarians live, work and play. Its impact in the 21st century will be greater than the combined impact of the telephone and television had in the 20th century. Broadband has changed how we communicate with each other, how we purchase books and music, how we bank, how we access essential services such as health care and education, or ensure public safety and security. Broadband also offers the potential to build greener, more competitive cities.

Success in the 21st century will be determined largely by the availability of affordable high-speed Internet, and by the existence of an Internet-literate citizenry and workforce. Ontario faces a number of challenges if it is to be a successful participant in the digital future, including how to provide affordable broadband to rural, remote, and socially and economically disadvantaged communities. Guaranteeing access to technology by itself may not be enough. Ontario needs to consider how to integrate it into the workplace, home-life and in the delivery of government services.

For those left out – whether broadband is not physically available or for economic reasons – the digital divide can make matters worse instead of better. People need the skills to navigate the information highway as well the motivation. Although the jury is still out on many important questions related to broadband access, everyone agrees that the Internet and related technologies are changing our lives. This session will explore questions and issues related to ending Ontario's digital divides.

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**Be sure to reserve your seat early**

Please also visit our website at [www.canurb.com](http://www.canurb.com)

**To Register:**

**Online registration available:** [CUI Urban Leadership Series - November 23](#)

**Please note that the online registration offers you several payment options.**

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