

LEADING THE

# RURAL RENAISSANCE

TORC  
*Rural*  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONFERENCE  
2008

MARCH 18 - 20, 2008, CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, OTTAWA, ONTARIO

## Call for Workshop Proposals

*You are invited to submit a workshop proposal*

### Conference Overview

The TORC Rural Development Conference 2008 will bring together rural and urban stakeholders from across Ontario to learn firsthand about effective and practical approaches to empowering rural communities in the challenges and opportunities presented to them by a changing climate and a climate of change in Rural Ontario. Building on the success of THE Rural Development Conference 2006, for which TORC was a presenting partner in collaboration with the provincial and federal governments, The TORC Rural Development Conference 2008 will engage delegates through a variety of informative sessions - interactive workshops, skills development, mobile workshops, debates – each with an emphasis on profiling real life success stories.

### The Goals for this Conference are:

- to create and enhance awareness around the 'rural renaissance' currently taking place across the Ontario landscape
- to provide delegates with practical tools and strategies that can easily be translated into action in their communities; introduce a fresh approach to addressing rural issues
- to create valuable opportunities to network with, and learn from, rural and urban colleagues

### Audience

The TORC Rural Development Conference 2008 is expected to attract 300 delegates from a cross-section of the rural community dynamic in Ontario and beyond. Delegates will be representative of rural, northern and urban communities, private, public and non-profit organizational sectors, educational institutions, youth, etc.

### Overview of The Ontario Rural Council (TORC)

The Ontario Rural Council (TORC) is a member-driven, multi-sector, non-profit provincial organization that acts as a catalyst for rural dialogue, collaboration and advocacy. Through scheduled forums and events, TORC is the only rural organization dedicated to drawing out and capturing the *collective* rural voice. By breaking down the silos and encouraging effective partnerships for progress, TORC works to inform and influence rural policy, programs and research development.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2007

## Workshop Proposals

Concurrent sessions at The TORC Rural Development Conference 2008 must fall under the following general themes. Possible topics are suggested under each theme:

<p><b>Rural Infrastructure / Technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadband/technology infrastructure in rural areas</li> <li>• Green infrastructure for rural municipalities</li> <li>• Innovative infrastructure solutions</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Capacity Building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical solutions to leadership development</li> <li>• Enhancing community vitality (ways to...)</li> <li>• Rural youth engagement strategies</li> <li>• Rural volunteerism</li> </ul>
<p><b>Rural Economy / Social Well-being</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic diversification</li> <li>• Communities in transition</li> <li>• Downtown revitalization</li> <li>• Proven strategies to addressing labour issues in rural agriculture</li> <li>• Rural Health &amp; Social Services issues and opportunities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rural / Urban Linkages and Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local rural/urban food systems</li> <li>• Rural production / urban consumption</li> <li>• Rural/urban interconnectivity</li> <li>• Governance challenges and solutions</li> </ul>

### Proposals must clearly demonstrate:

- Success stories/case studies that can be shared; or
- Tools/practical information with immediate, realistic applications
- The learning outcomes (i.e. specific knowledge and/or skills) that will be achieved by workshop participants

### Concurrent Sessions Workshops will take place:

Tuesday, March 18 <sup>th</sup>	3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	..... seminar / workshop / participatory
Wednesday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	..... case study presentations
	1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	..... seminar / workshop / participatory
Thursday, March 20 <sup>th</sup>	10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	..... seminar / workshop / participatory

While we greatly appreciate all submissions, there is limited space available at the conference. All submissions will be acknowledged. Workshop proposals will be evaluated by a committee based on relevance of the proposal to the broader conference theme and to the conference audience. You will be notified of the status of your application during the week of **September 10th, 2007**.

## Submission Guidelines

Please complete the enclosed workshop proposal template. This Workshop Proposal Form is also available for download as a PDF file on the TORC website – [www.torc.on.ca](http://www.torc.on.ca). (Word (.doc) files also available). Please note that presenters will be asked to provide an electronic copy of their presentation for posting on the TORC web site following the conference.

Submissions are due no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**

Should you have any questions or require assistance regarding submissions please contact Vicki Nash-Moore, Conference Coordinator at [groupworks@sympatico.ca](mailto:groupworks@sympatico.ca)

