



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Using the CST's Guidelines to Put Kids First**

Winnipeg, Feb. 12, 2009 - The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) wants to put children first, and they are using guidelines from The Centre for Sustainable Transportation (CST) at The University of Winnipeg to do so.

Two of the Centre's research associates, Dr. Richard Gilbert and Dr. Catherine O'Brien, developed 21 child and youth friendly guidelines for Ontario with a grant from the Trillium Foundation. Based on these, OPPI is issuing a Call to Action to encourage all Ontario municipalities to endorse the CST's land-use and transportation recommendations.

"We want to commend the Ontario Professional Planners Institute on their efforts to protect the health and safety of children," said Arne Elias, the CST's Executive Director. "By emphasising the needs of children, we address the needs of all citizens for a safe and sustainable transportation system."

The guidelines outline a comprehensive selection of new ways to meet children's – and everyone else's - need for a safe, healthy, and socially enriched environment. The Ontario study, entitled *Kids on the Move*, is the basis for producing the national guidelines. The study is available at [cst.uwinnipeg.ca](http://cst.uwinnipeg.ca).

Both Dr. Gilbert and Dr. O'Brien were in Winnipeg yesterday as part of a national workshop and study series funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada that examines the transportation needs of children and youth on a province-by-province basis. Resource Conservation Manitoba is providing local assistance for the workshop entitled, Child and Youth-Friendly Land Use and Transport Planning Guidelines. Students from Argyle Alternative High, among others, presented suggestions to an audience that included the Honourable Kerri Irving-Ross, Minister of Healthy Living.

The CST at The University of Winnipeg is a membership-based, non-profit organization that facilitates best practices for the movement of people and goods over the long-term. The Centre bridges academic, business, and public interest to identify and help craft winning transportation solutions that benefit society and the environment and enhance mobility. For more information, visit [cst.uwinnipeg.ca](http://cst.uwinnipeg.ca).

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