



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULY 14, 2008**

***WINNIPEG WARMLY WELCOMES 700 PLANNERS***

**Winnipeg** – This week, the Winnipeg Convention Centre and Destination Winnipeg are pleased to welcome nearly 700 members of the **Canadian Institute of Planners** to Winnipeg!

Visitors from across the globe will gather July 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> for the 2008 CIP National Conference. Themed around “***Planning by Design in Community: Making Great Places***”, this exciting program is designed to be a ‘legacy’ conference with a rich engaging mix of inquiry, celebration and inspiration. Great places are defined as places that are Healthy, Caring, Inclusive and Green.

The Winnipeg Convention Centre and Destination Winnipeg worked closely with both the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Manitoba Professional Planners Institute in attracting this conference to Winnipeg.

“With the direction of the local planning committee and the encouragement and resources provided by The Winnipeg Convention Centre and Destination Winnipeg, we are thrilled to be able to integrate the 2008 Manitoba Planning Conference into our national event, bringing a new level of dialogue between planning professionals and elected officials”, notes Conference Chair, Chris Leach.

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) is a collaborative national federation that advances professional planning excellence through the delivery of membership and public services in Canada and abroad. Members work in the public service and the private sector, in a wide variety of fields including land use planning, environmental resource management, land development, heritage conservation, social planning, transportation planning and economic development.

With nearly 700 delegates, 59 sessions, 13 mobile tours/workshops, 15 professional development workshops, approximately 200 speakers from all parts of Canada and the world, and a variety of unique hospitality and entertainment experiences for which Winnipeg is famous, the Winnipeg Convention Centre is honoured to be the host of this conference.

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