



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

N E W S R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release

New York State Mayor Kicks off Lecture Series in Inner City

WINNIPEG—**Mayor William Johnson** of Rochester, New York will tour Winnipeg's inner city and then kick off the Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) Lecture Series with a free public lecture **Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m.** at the newly restored **Ellice Street Café and Theatre, 587 Ellice Ave.**

Johnson, Mayor of New York State's third largest city, will deliver a public presentation entitled, *"Smart Communities, Smart Future"* sponsored by Corbett Cibinel Architects. His presentation will discuss the costs of sprawl and the importance of smart growth, particularly for mid-sized cities and regions.

"Mayor Johnson is very much looking forward to visiting Winnipeg, meeting with Mayor Sam Katz, and hearing from residents about local urban issues," said Jino Distasio, Acting Director of IUS. "He has asked to see examples of urban issues within the inner city and suburbs. We expect that he will be impressed by the positive changes taking place, but not overly surprised that big box development and the continued suburbanization of the city dominate local trends."

As Chairman of the United States' Smart Growth and Regionalism Task Force, Johnson will argue that urban sprawl can hinder growth in inner cities and contribute to disinvestment in the community. He will answer such questions as: What is smart growth? How can it benefit us, wherever we live? How can we enjoy the economic benefits of growth and still preserve farmland and open space? Johnson's presentation will be approximately 30 minutes with ample time set aside for a question and answer period, moderated by Distasio.

The renovated and "re-opened" Ellice Café and Theatre venue offers an opportunity to see and experience a local response to urban decline that encapsulates the tremendous potential of Winnipeg's inner-city community.

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For more information or to arrange an interview with Mayor William Johnson, please contact:

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