



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release

When Energy Demand Exceeds Supply: Impacts on Transportation and Cities

WINNIPEG—Provocative New York author **James Howard Kunstler** (*The Geography of Nowhere*, *The City in Mind*, and *The Long Emergency*) will speak on the societal impacts of peak oil production at a daylong symposium entitled *When Energy Demand Exceeds Supply*. Hosted by UWinnipeg's Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) & the UWinnipeg-based Centre for Sustainable Transportation (CST), the symposium will take place on Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Kunstler will also present a free public lecture **Wednesday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Muriel Richardson Auditorium, 300 Memorial Boulevard.

Kunstler contends that typical North American suburban sprawl is "*the greatest misallocation of resources the world has ever known.*" Today's urban landscapes are not "walkable" requiring people to drive everywhere; yet he argues that the peak of oil production will soon make such transportation habits unsustainable. Kunstler also warns that the looming global oil crisis may bring a period of unprecedented civil unrest. Kunstler advocates a re-localization and downsizing of society and economies; but as he notes on his blog, while he believes this is the direction we are going in, he wonders, "*how violent and destructive the process will have to be.*"

"Our symposium and public lecture will expose participants to all sides of the oil depletion issue and encourage reflection on how Canadian cities can prepare for peak oil production," said Jino Distasio, Director of The University of Winnipeg's Institute of Urban Studies.

Al Cormier, Acting Executive Director of the Centre for Sustainable Transportation, added, "Canada depends heavily on transportation; its settlements are scattered, and international trade comprises a large part of the economy. The impacts of dramatic changes in transportation and our cities could be greater for Canadians than most other people."

Speakers at ***When Energy Demand Exceeds Supply: Impacts on Transportation and Cities*** Symposium include: **Dr. Richard Gilbert**, Centre for Sustainable Transportation; **James Howard Kunstler**, author; **Stuart Ramsey**, City of Burnaby, BC; **John Spacek**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Manitoba Department of Transportation and Government Services; and, **The Right Hon. Ed Schreyer**, Chancellor, University of Brandon, guest lecturer on Resource Geography and Energy Economics, and Special Advisor on Energy, Science and Technology to the Manitoba Government.

For more information about *When Energy Exceeds Supply* symposium, please visit:

<http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/>

and

<http://blog.uwinnipeg.ca/cst/>

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