



MMAH Provincial Updates

DATE: Monday, September 29th, 2014 TIME: 10:30 am

LOCATION: Niagara Room Crowne Plaza

GUEST SPEAKERS: Mr. James Douglas - MMAH, Ms. Brenda Lewis - MMAH, Mr. Chris Thompson - MMAH

DESCRIPTION: Brenda Lewis, Director - MMAH | James Douglas, Manager - MMAH | Chris Thompson, Manager - MMAH - Both Ministry/Ontario Government sessions bookend the conference: The first session lightly covers the chosen topics and the second session tends to be more in depth on a specific topic.

BIOGRAPHY: Mr. James Douglas

James Douglas is the Manager of the Development Policy and Innovation Unit of the Building and Development Branch at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He has responsibility for policy development and the operation of the Building Code Commission and the Building Materials Evaluation Commission.

James has a B.A.(hon.) from Queen's and an M.A. from McMaster, both in urban geography. James has been employed by the province since 1989. He first worked as a program coordinator delivering non-profit housing with the Ministry of Housing. He then occupied a number of policy positions with the Ministries of Housing, Municipal Affairs and Housing and Community and Social Services.

BIOGRAPHY: Ms. Brenda Lewis

Current

Director, Building and Development Branch at Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Past

Director at Ministry of Community and Social Services

Director, Standards Policy and Coordination at Accessibility Directorate of Ontario

Education

Queen's University 2011 - 2011

BIOGRAPHY: Mr. Chris Thompson

Chris Thompson has worked for the ministry for 23 years and is a professional planner with a Master's Degree in Planning from the University of Toronto.

In his current position as Brownfields Co-ordinator, Chris is responsible for facilitating the re-use and redevelopment of former industrial and commercial lands through working with Ministries, municipalities, and stakeholders on strategic reforms to Ontario policies and programs.

Chris has a broad experience in housing, planning, and municipal matters. Prior to taking on the Brownfields portfolio, Chris was Manager of the Urban Affairs Section of MMAH, Executive Advisor to the Deputy Minister, and Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister. Earlier in his career with MMAH, Chris worked as an area planner for a number of Eastern Ontario counties, was involved in the wrap-up of the former Ataratiri project, was a senior policy advisor in the ministry's Market Housing Branch, and also worked as a planner in the former Rental Housing Protection Program.