

Notes for Remarks by
Prof. Engin Isin
Canada Research Chair

at the public launch of
The City Institute at York University

Wednesday, May 31st 2006

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Good afternoon and thank you for joining us today.

The City Institute at York University is well poised to produce innovative, collaborative and interdisciplinary urban research.

Urban research involves understanding *and* changing the city – that most complex human habitat and habitus of citizens.

York University has had eminent urban researchers in its first fifty years – our professors emeriti include:

- Alan **Blum** on the culture of cities;
- Gerry **Carrothers** on planning
- Gerry **Daly** on homelessness;
- Edmund **Fowler** on urban growth and politics;
- Frances **Friskin** on urban government and planning;
- Michael **Goldrick** on urban politics;
- Bryan **Massam** on planning and civic engagement;
- Bob **Murdie** on housing and immigration;
- David **Morley** on sustainable urban futures;
- Alex **Murray** on housing;
- Tony **Turittin** on civic participation; and
- David **Wood** on historical geography of cities.

All have left an impressive legacy, marked indelibly by engagement, activism, and commitment.

Another generation of urban researchers, many of whom are featured on the posters surrounding us in this gallery, is building upon this legacy with new angles, approaches and concerns. They continue to share a deep commitment to understand *and* change the city. The launch of The City Institute will provide an important opportunity for these researchers to bring together their expertise.

You will also find a poster here in the Research Gallery that provides a glimpse of a new generation: **our graduate students** – whose training exemplifies not only innovative, collaborative and interdisciplinary research, but also engaging and activist projects. The City Institute will provide unmatched opportunity for students, and graduate students will play a central role within the new institute.

Again, thank you for joining us today to launch The City Institute.