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 Frisken 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.