

BC offers incentives for brownfield remediation

By Erika Beauchesne, Web Reporter

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The British Columbia (B.C.) government is spending \$1.8 million to encourage brownfield remediation projects throughout the province.

Ron Cantelon, B.C. Minister of Agriculture and Land, said landowners and developers are often reluctant to take on the initial investigative and related environmental work of remediating a brownfield site.

The Brownfield Renewal Funding Program is offering financial incentives for investors who are interested in cleaning up abandoned or underused commercial and industrial properties that may be contaminated.

The financial incentives include:

- up to \$40,000 for Preliminary Site Investigations and up to \$125,000 for other types of work

- up to 85 per cent of the costs for Preliminary Site Investigations

- up to 70 per cent for Detailed Site Investigations

- up to 50 per cent for all other types of work.

"The funding should help reduce uncertainty around abandoned and idle sites, as well as attract the investment necessary to foster revitalization of communities," said Robert Hobson, president of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

First Nations, local governments, non-profits, private companies and individuals are eligible to apply. The government will take applications up until June 15, 2009.

The government made the funding announcement from Ladysmith Harbour, an historical B.C. brownfield that was recently developed into a waterfront tourism and recreation site.

More information is available on the government's <http://www.news.gov.bc.ca/>.