From the outset of my tenure as Chair I had the objective to advance the Toronto region in pursuit of the Urban Land Institute’s mission to advance the responsible use of land. We sought to do this by leveraging the assets of our multi-disciplinary membership spanning across the private and public sectors and our robust international network.

Part of our strategy was to grow as an organization to build capacity to deliver greater impact. And on this front we achieved great success, doubling our membership to over 1500, making us the fastest growing District Council - and now one of the largest in the global network. We also boast the highest percentage of women members at 31%, and young leaders (under age 35) at 45% - in doing so, expanding leadership opportunities for these members.

And our growth has more than doubled our public sector and suburban memberships. It’s an amazing story. But our growth story was never about growth for growth’s sake. It was about creating the capacity to deliver greater value and relevancy to our members by increasing the quality of our programming and the convening of impactful thought leadership. We did this through the expansion of our traditional event offerings (too many to mention!) and the development of new programming. I am especially proud of our now annual Meet the Chiefs gala that brings the regional public sector chief planners together with private sector land and development professionals. Last fall’s inaugural Symposium brought 750 professionals together with over 60 local and international speakers.

Through the enhancement of our event programming has emerged an important regional initiative called ‘Electric Cities’ that we launched at our Meet the Chiefs gala this past spring. Electric Cities seeks to put a deeper multi-sectoral focus on the crucial urban goal of building economically stronger, more socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and livable neighbourhoods by bringing community leadership more centrally into the fold of city and region building.

We believe that Toronto can - and must - serve as an urban global beacon that points to how successful progressive urbanism can achieve these complex socio-economic goals. They are goals that can’t be achieved simply by knowing what to do. They demand that we better understand how we get there. And central to how we get there is the expansion of our mission beyond the professional community and into communities themselves.

There are many thank you’s to extend – too many to do so fully. But I must thank the members of my Management Committee (also co-chairs of our committees) and of our Advisory Board. Thanks also to our many generous sponsors who have been central to our development. And a big thanks to the staff team, Richard, Alex, Erin and Lauren.

No greater accomplishment of one’s leadership tenure is the success in transitioning to the next. I am so proud that my Vice-Chair over the past two years, and Chair of Mission Advancement, Derek Goring has been appointed as ULI Toronto’s next Chair. In assuming this new role, Derek will build on the past two years and continue to focus on our mission to deliver impact and leadership to the Toronto Region.

We are set up for greater success, and I look forward as past Chair to continuing my role in achieving great things!

ROB SPANIER
MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

“Expect more future-focused programming that will engage and challenge our region to modernize community, city and region building.” - DEREK GORING

My tenure as Chair of ULI Toronto picks up on an amazing period of growth in organizational capacity and influence for our District Council. It is an exciting moment for us.

Entering its twelfth year in the region, ULI Toronto has established itself as a major institution within a broad and healthy constellation of city and region building organizations. Our DNA as a multi-disciplinary, public and private sector, and international network makes us a unique leadership platform.

As Rob notes in his outgoing Chair message, this Annual Report goes beyond providing detail of the fiscal year past and points to how we will leverage this momentum to deliver greater impact to our urban region in the year ahead.

Two major milestones of the past year signaled a direction for our future. The Fall 2015 Symposium identified three important intersecting lenses through which we will drive our mission to advance the responsible use of land: Placemaking, Mobility and Technology. The other was the launch of our ‘Electric Cities’ initiative that seeks to “inspire better city building, community by community.”

In FY17 we will build on the foundation of these ideas through the advancement of a program of activities designed to advance ULI’s global mission by better engaging civil society in the challenges and opportunities of urban transformation. In doing so, we will deliver even stronger member and sponsorship value – and community impact. Expect more member-only events, industry roundtables, and unique behind-the-scenes tours.

Expect more thought leadership opportunities.

Expect more leadership development opportunities for early and mid-career professionals.

Expect more community outreach to local neighbourhoods and community leaders.

Expect more educational opportunities for students – this year expanding to high schools.

In FY17 our goal is to further elevate ULI Toronto’s relevance to its members, our sponsors and the communities that we serve. We are set up for greater success, and I look forward to delivering on this opportunity.

DEREK GORING

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to our outgoing Management Committee members.
Thank you to our FY16 annual sponsors for their generous contributions!

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TODAY’S LANDSCAPE

ULI Toronto has experienced unprecedented annual budget and membership growth, ending FY16 as one of the top District Councils: 4th based on sponsorship revenue and 5th based on membership numbers of 55 District Councils globally. This has created a foundation for greater thought leadership and community impact.

REVENUE

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MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

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Fiscal plan will shift focus towards thought leadership and community impact.

The 2015 Fall Symposium explored three major themes of thought leadership: Placemaking, Mobility and Technology.

Looking Ahead

ULI Toronto will build on the foundation set in FY16, FY17 and will introduce new programs aimed at advancing the ULI global mission to advance the responsible use of land and build healthy communities.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Five major community focused outreach programs will be introduced that signal an important expansion of our audience from industry and government to communities across the region.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A mid-career education series aimed at developing leadership skills for the next generation of city builders will be launched.

SPRING SYMPOSIUM 2017

ULI Toronto’s Symposium will further elevate our three thought leadership focuses of Placemaking, Mobility and Technology in a unique forum that will introduce community and civil society leadership to the challenges and opportunities of city and region building. The two-day Symposium will attract over 75 speakers and 1000 attendees.

The 2015 Fall Symposium explored three major themes of thought leadership: Placemaking, Mobility and Technology.

The Spring 2016 ‘Meet the Chiefs’ Gala launched ‘Electric Cities’ our multi-year community initiative that will better engage civil society on the challenges and opportunities of urban transformation.

TODAY’S LANDSCAPE

The 2015 Fall Symposium explored three major themes of thought leadership: Placemaking, Mobility and Technology.
MEMBERSHIP

DISTRICT COUNCILS

1,500+ Toronto
2,448 San Francisco
2,390 New York
2,093 Washington
1,813 Los Angeles
1,307 Chicago
1,246 Boston

VOLUNTEERS

140+ Volunteers

PROGRAM ATTENDEES

3,923 Attendees
21 Programs

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

MEMBERSHIP TYPE

MEMBERSHIP BY SECTOR & DISCIPLINE

68% 24% 8%
Private Equity Real Estate Planning/urban Design Consultancy
12% 8% 5%
Architecture Engineering Real Estate Brokerage
15% 9% 3%
Development Construction Financing
13% 11% 2%
Principal Young Leaders Student/Other

GENDER

MEN 68%
WOMEN 32%

FINANCIALS

FY15 REVENUE

Sponsorship 471,120
Programs 268,944
DC Admin Services 186,657
Membership 66,590
Policy and Practice 9,836
WLI 26,510
Other 4,612
Total Revenue 1,034,269

FY15 EXPENSE

DC Admin Services 186,657
Staff 258,414
Contract 146,994
Travel 20,183
Telephone 8,120
Office Supplies 6,287
Rent 12,013
Program 221,923
Printing & Postage 27,861
Membership 22,367
Community Impact 47,500
WLI 5,762
Total Expense 965,081

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BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES