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**EMERGING LEADERS NETWORK TO LAUNCH ELNSTUDIO ON
DECEMBER 15 IN TORONTO: WILL FEATURE SHOWCASE OF
CITY-BUILDING PROJECTS**

December 3, 2009 – Toronto – The Emerging Leaders Network (ELN), an initiative of the Toronto City Summit Alliance, will host a studio gathering of up-and-coming leaders to showcase their city-building projects in Toronto on December 15 at the MaRS Discovery District.

“We’re bringing together this high-energy, high-potential group of emerging leaders to discuss new and inspiring ways we can all advance our city,” says Donna Lindell, ELN Co-Chair and President of Lindell Inc. Communications. “These are not the same people we usually hear from on these topic areas. Rather, the ELNstudio is a forum for new ideas, new energy, new people, and new leadership. It’s incredibly exciting.”

The ELNstudio will feature presentations from ELN working groups and interactive workshops on a wide-range of issues including:

- Attracting the next generation of leaders and innovators to Toronto
- Animating John Street: Creating an arts and cultural spine and creative hub in downtown Toronto
- Creating a Living Library of Torontonians from diverse backgrounds to build cross-cultural networks
- Exploring municipal voting reform to increase the effectiveness and diversity of Toronto City Council
- Enhancing awareness and dispelling myths about poverty through outreach and engagement with senior leaders

The ELNstudio’s keynote speaker will be former Ontario Premier, David Peterson, Chair of Toronto’s winning 2015 Pan Am bid and member of the Toronto City Summit Alliance Steering Committee. “The ELN has asked me to address the question of how we turned a big idea into reality. This is a challenge for any initiative, big or small,” says Peterson. “I look forward to sharing my experiences and to meeting the ELN members. It is encouraging to see so many Torontonians coming together to create the next wave of leadership in our city region.”

Launched in March 2006, the Emerging Leaders Network began as an information-sharing and networking organization that is now a strong alliance of more than 200 committed city-builders who are making a bold statement about the new generation of leaders in Toronto.

“From the outset, ELN members quickly grasped their immense collective potential. They want more than a monthly meeting and some casual networking. They want to affect their city in real and positive ways,” says Mitzie Hunter, Co-Chair of the ELN and Chief Administrative Officer, Toronto Community Housing. “The ELNstudio will showcase some of their innovative ideas and, hopefully, inspire new ideas and new leaders.”

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About the Toronto City Summit Alliance

The Toronto City Summit Alliance is a not-for-profit, non-partisan coalition of leaders from the non-profit, business, labour, education, and government sectors. The Alliance was formed to address challenges to the future of Toronto such as expanding knowledge-based industry, poor economic integration of immigrants, decaying infrastructure, and affordable housing. At the present time, twelve projects are underway or completed. To read more about the Alliance visit: www.torontoalliance.ca.

About ELN

The Emerging Leaders Network (ELN) is a group of over 200 engaged civic leaders who in their own spheres are becoming known as "city-builders": people who mobilize action, laying the social groundwork for the city of tomorrow. ELN members support the work of the Toronto City Summit Alliance and, as a result of the myriad resources available through the ELN network, are pursuing city-building projects of their own. For more information, visit www.elnonline.ca

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