

# Sustainable Northern Shelter in a World of Diminishing Resources

## *In Conjunction with the International Polar Year*

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center and the University of Alaska Fairbanks announce the first Biennial Forum on Sustainable Northern Shelter, in conjunction with the International Polar Year, to be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, October 28-30, 2007. The Forum, entitled “**Sustainable Northern Shelter in A World of Diminishing Resources**” presents an opportunity for an international group of builders, architects, building scientists and planners to discuss common challenges and exchange solutions to producing sustainable, appropriate and durable buildings and infrastructure in the circumpolar north. The desired outcome of this forum is the identification of pressing research needs in the field of northern building and infrastructure design and technology, the development of on-going circumpolar partnerships, and a commitment to the dissemination of the information gathered.

*“All of us who live in the Earth’s cold regions are part of a circumpolar community. It is particularly important in these times of climatic, economic, cultural and economic change that we work together toward solutions to our shared challenges. This forum will be a significant contribution to that effort.”*

Jack Hebert, CCHRC President

On Sunday, October 28, 2007, the Forum will commence with a key note speech, open to the interested public, by noted eco-community planners Torbjörn Lahti and Sarah James, co-authors of The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns can Change to Sustainable Practices. Lahti is the project director for Sustainable Robertsfors, a five-year sustainable community demonstration project. He was the project planner for Sweden's first eco-municipality, Övertorneå, and was instrumental in the formation of SeKom, the Swedish national association of eco-municipalities. Sarah James is the principal of a city and town planning consulting firm specializing in participatory planning methods. She co-authored the American Planning Association's Policy Guide *on Planning for Sustainability*, and has published articles and given workshops throughout the United States on this subject.

On Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, the closing key note speaker will be Oliver Drerup a residential building contractor for twenty-seven years. Mr. Drerup has been involved with the Canadian R2000 Project since its inception and held the position of Co-coordinator of Technology for the Canadian Homebuilders Association from 1987-1990. He played a pivotal role in establishing the Energy and Environmental Building Association and the Alaska Craftsman Home Program and has consulted to a variety of national and international clients. A sought after public speaker, Mr. Drerup has delivered technical and business training, demonstration projects and energy efficient residential housing

around the world. Mr. Drerup is currently employed as a Senior Consultant, Housing Systems for CMHC International at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Other keynote speakers will be announced as commitments are finalized. A full agenda will be posted at [www.cchrc.org](http://www.cchrc.org) when speakers and panelists are confirmed.

One presentation will focus specifically on shelter and infrastructure issues of special importance to indigenous peoples around the North. The organizers will webcast the talks simultaneously to an audience in Fairbanks and to a cluster of ‘town meetings’ in northern communities. These communities will be given an opportunity for input in a final document to be published after the Forum.

Two days of panel discussions by international leaders in the fields of architecture, building science and technology, energy systems and appropriate design will take place at the host hotel, The Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge. Panel members will present analyses of the challenges facing the building industry and northern communities in providing affordable, sustainable, energy efficient, healthy, and culturally congruent shelter in northern latitudes. At the conclusion of the Forum, an agenda for the next forum will be established.

- At this time the panel topics are as follows:
  - Building Science and Construction
  - Energy Systems and Infrastructure
  - Appropriate Sustainable Design of Buildings and Communities
  - Integration of Ideas and Development of Future Agenda

Keynote speeches, community responses and the work of the panels will be compiled as a single document available in print, digitally or on the CCHRC website. For more information go to [www.cchrc.org](http://www.cchrc.org), e-mail [jennifer@cchrc.org](mailto:jennifer@cchrc.org) or call Jennifer at (907) 457-3454. For more international information please contact Natalie Noovik at [nnoovik@northernforum.org](mailto:nnoovik@northernforum.org).