



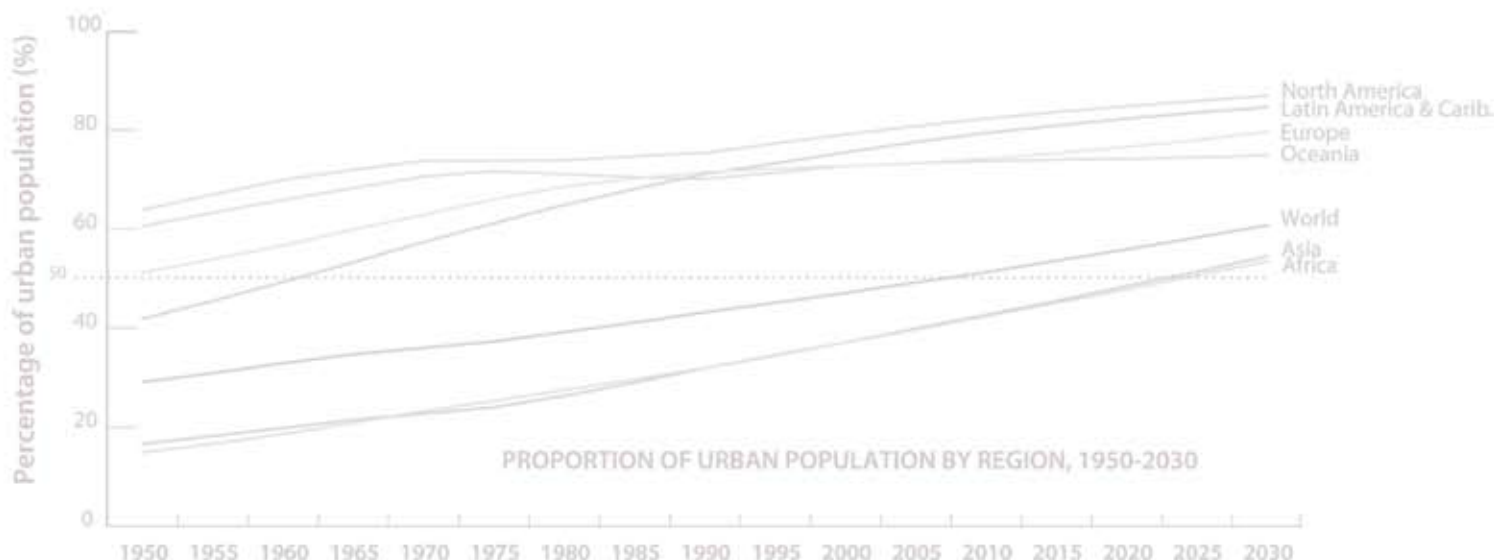
Message from the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, Government of Canada

Canada is pleased to partner with UN-HABITAT to hold the third session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3) in Vancouver, one of Canada's most beautiful and sustainable cities. It was in Vancouver, 30 years ago, that the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements took place. That historic meeting led to a new understanding about cities and communities, the urgent need to make them sustainable and to preserve a mutually supportive urban-rural balance.

Thirty years later, urbanization around the world is occurring at an ever more rapid pace, and we face important challenges to ensure that this happens in a sustainable way. I believe that government can play an important role in building strong communities, working closely with local organizations and individual citizens. I invite all concerned to come to WUF3 and share your ideas for action to make the world's cities and communities better places to live, work and visit.

The Honourable Diane Finley

Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada



Biography of the Honourable Diane Finley

Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada

Haldimand–Norfolk (Ontario)

Diane Finley was first elected to Parliament in 2004 and was then re-elected in 2006.

Since her election, she has served as Official Opposition Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food. On February 6th, 2006, Ms. Finley was appointed Minister for Human Resources and Social Development by the Right Honourable Stephen Harper.

Fluently bilingual in English and French, Ms. Finley's professional career began as an administrator of The University of Western Ontario's highly regarded French Immersion School. Prior to her election, she held several senior positions in both the public and private sectors encompassing health care, transportation, agricultural equipment manufacturing, printing and publishing, and aviation. While working with the Laidlaw group of companies, Ms. Finley built Canada's largest publicly funded ambulance service company.

Beyond her work, Ms. Finley has been Board Chair of the Brant Community Care Access Centre, and has been active with a number of other organizations, including The Canadian Council for Public-Private Partnerships, The National Standards Committee of the Paramedic Association of Canada, The Aurora Club, The Canadian Strategic Leadership Forum, The Ambulance Service Alliance of Ontario, and the Ontario Government Health Policy Advisory Council.

Diane Finley has received many awards for her activism, including The University of Western Ontario's Coupe du président. She was also named "one of Canada's future leaders" by the prestigious Governor-General's Study Conference 2000.

Ms. Finley was raised in Port Dover and Charlotteville, Ontario and, today, resides in Simcoe, Ontario with her husband Doug.