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# PLANNING WEST

Winter 2021

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# PLANNING WEST

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The Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) recognizes, acknowledges, and appreciates that we are able to live, work, and learn on the traditional territories of the First Nations and Indigenous peoples of BC and Yukon. Acknowledging the principles of truth and reconciliation, we recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all Indigenous peoples of Canada whose presence continues to enrich our lives and our country.

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**ON THE COVER**  
"Our Future Is In Your Hands" by Paddy O'Sullivan from a 2019 youth climate protest. Courtesy of UnSplash.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



so honoured to be your President, but my time is over in June. Director positions will be open for Certified members, a Candidate member representative, and for the position of President-Elect. The Institute's Governance & Nominating Committee, which I currently chair, is seeking interested members who wish to be considered for nomination for election to the Board this year. There will also be a further opportunity for additional at-large nominations of members following the completion of the Committee's process. The election itself will take place during the weeks leading up to this year's AGM in June.

**W**elcome to 2021! While winter typically brings with it the coldest weather and many of the shortest days, it also brings the holiday season and the renewal and sense of forward momentum that comes with the transition to a new year. With that in mind, let me first wish everyone the best for the new year. And while the rather unprecedented circumstances of 2020 – particularly the global pandemic – follow us into the new year, with the rollout of vaccinations across the world (including right here at home) we can sense hope and start to see some light at the end of this tunnel. At PIBC, as we turn the page on 2020 and move ahead into the new year, we are also looking ahead to a number of key events and milestones, as well as other ongoing initiatives, projects and activities.

Looking back at the end of 2020, a special thank you to all those that attended and participated in our online Annual General Meeting and virtual 'World Town Planning Day' presentation this past November. I want to particularly thank my AGM 'colour commentator' Kenna Jonkman RPP MCIP, who so skillfully and thoughtfully helped me fill the time while we voted online. Also, to Dave and the team, you made it look so seamless – but as Kenna and I learned there was lots going on behind the screen – thank you!!! We were also pleased to premiere our 2020 awards video, celebrating highlighting the winners of this past year's awards for excellence in planning and for individual achievement. We were pleased to be able to adapt to the unusual circumstances and continue to mark these important events and occasions. And if you missed any of these events, please visit the PIBC YouTube channel where recordings are available.

Moving into 2021, I would like to thank the many members who responded to the call for presentation proposals for the 2021 PIBC Annual Conference – North of Normal – scheduled for this coming summer in my hometown, Whitehorse Yukon. Our dedicated Yukon conference team is working hard reviewing the many submissions and finalizing the selection of potential presenters for this year's conference. Additional thanks are extended to the organizations who have already come on board as sponsors supporting the conference. And as our planning moves ahead, we are mindful and working to be adaptable for this conference – whether it will be in person, online, or some creative combination. We look forward to members joining us for conference in the Yukon.

Our Awards and Recognition Committee is busy getting ready to launch this year's awards program. I encourage you to take the opportunity to have your work and accomplishments from across the Province and Territory shared and recognized by making a submission. Or consider taking some time to nominate a member for their outstanding or noteworthy individual achievements. Watch for more to come on the 2021 awards program.

I wanted to also take a moment to note that 2021 will be an election year for PIBC's Board of Directors – elections are held every two years. I have been

Of course, the turn of the new year is also the season of membership renewals and reporting continuous professional learning (CPL) activities for Certified and Candidate members. Thank you to everyone who has already successfully completed their 2021 membership renewals and their 2020 CPL reporting as well. We know it's been an unusual and, in many ways, challenging past year. If you have not yet been able to renew your membership or complete your CPL reporting, be sure to follow up with the PIBC office for guidance and assistance. There are so many opportunities to get both structured and unstructured CPL credits – again contact the office and they can help.

And, finally, we also continue to move forward with and maintain a number of ongoing initiatives, projects, and member services. These include continued work on indigenous planning initiatives; climate action policy work; and initial policy work related to equity and diversity. Key member services that we continue to focus on delivering also include: our ongoing CPL webinar series; our member consultants' directory (which we are continuing to offer at no charge into 2021); and working towards delivering more virtual local chapter events. We also continue to advance our external outreach on behalf of the profession, including a recent meeting with the new BC Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, Okenge Yuma Morisho. With the new provincial government now in place, following last fall's BC provincial election, we look forward to maintaining and strengthening these key relationships.

As we move towards the spring and the anticipated transition beyond the current pandemic later this year, I continue to encourage you all to keep connected; keep well; stay safe; and take care.

**Lesley Cabott** RPP, MCIP

# OUTLINES

What's Trending... Member in Focus...

Notice some planning gold in the social media universe? Share it @\_PIBC

In February, PIBC's CPL webinar #2 explored COVID-19's impact on the planning practice and speakers shared innovative ways to move forward.

## What's Trending?

> **Cindy Cheung**, PIBC Communications & Marketing Specialist

**W**e have passed the first anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. How can planners and communities leverage what's been learned in the past year and continue to shift and pivot towards recovery and healing? Here are some organizations contributing to the post-pandemic rebuilding efforts.



### The Federation of Canadian Municipalities

@FCM\_online

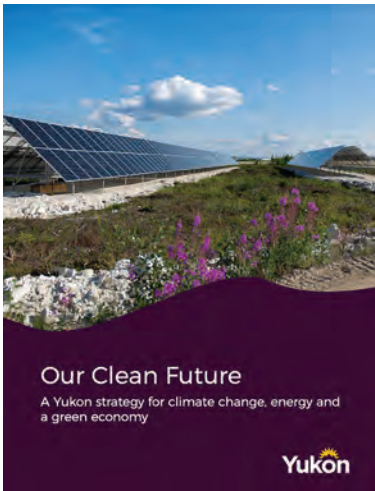
“Local solutions are key to tackling national and global challenges” – this statement is a key to how the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) provides an empowering and collective voice to municipalities across Canada. Its programs and advocacy help to secure new tools for building stronger communities of all sizes. FCM understands that local governments are closest to people's daily lives, and often have the expertise to deliver results.

First established in 1901, FCM is the national voice of municipal governments, with more than 2,000 municipalities across the country, including the largest Canadian cities and the most remote rural communities. Canadian municipal leaders from coast to coast assemble each year to set FCM policy on key issues and to deliver programs that help municipalities tackle local and current challenges.

Check out FCM's latest report and webinar for recommendations on post-pandemic recovery and rebuilding communities.

**Latest report & recommendations: Building Back Better Together**  
<https://fcm.ca/en/resources/building-back-better-together>

**Latest webinar series: Collective**  
<https://fcm.ca/en/resources/webinar-series-collective>



## Our Clean Future Yukon's strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy

In mid-November, as the keynote for the CIP/PIBC joint national webinar series *Elevation*, Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm implored planners across Canada to take action on climate change (you can read more about his engaging and thought-provoking keynote in this issue). Along with officially declaring a Climate Emergency for the Old Crow & Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Government of Yukon also developed *Our Clean Future*, a strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy.

For three years, in partnership with Yukon First Nations, transboundary Indigenous groups and Yukon municipalities, the government of Yukon established the vision and values for this climate action strategy. They also prioritized the areas needing a response in the climate emergency. The complete report is available online – a must-read for insights into a collaborative process that resulted in multiple perspectives, worldviews and ideas.

<https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-our-clean-future.pdf>



## Indigenous Tourism BC

@IndigenousBC

“Stay local. Support local.” As part of its strategy in supporting BC’s Indigenous communities, Indigenous Tourism BC (ITBC) launched tools to help its stakeholders during COVID-19. These tools included webinars, a comprehensive outreach program, and partnering with Indigenous Services Canada & Aboriginal Financial Institutions to help deliver emergency financial support to support community-owned tourism.

A recovery campaign is already underway. As part of this campaign, ITBC launched its Indigenous BC Trip Planner App to help connect locals with the province’s Indigenous cultures. Aside from finding local Indigenous experiences and businesses, the app also includes learning common Indigenous words and phrases as well as hearing traditional songs, stories, and legends.

Check out this YouTube video about the Indigenous BC Trip Planner APP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW1yu-YAJQY>

Download the APP at:

<https://www.indigenousbc.com/indigenous-bc-trip-planner-app/>

## MEMBER IN FOCUS



**O**ur members come from all over the country and in this issue, we connect with a passionate Northerner who grew up on Prince Edward Island and eventually made Whitehorse her home. Currently a Senior Planner at Stantec and our Co-Chair for the upcoming 2021 PIBC Annual Conference (June 15 to 18 in Whitehorse), Zoë Morrison shares how planning “North of Normal” is a most fitting theme not only for the upcoming conference but also for how she has adapted her personal and professional life during this pandemic.

### Was there someone or something in particular that inspired you to become a planner?

Looking back, it feels like I had made my decision to study planning a long time ago. I grew up on Prince Edward Island and also lived in Newfoundland, Ottawa and Pangnirtung (Nunavut) as a child.

As an undergraduate, I studied Physical Geography because I love maps. After working for a few years repairing outdoor equipment and as staff in the geography library at UBC, I decided to go back to school. I considered several different programs but decided on a Master’s in Planning in Halifax because the course descriptions sounded the most interesting.

In hindsight, my decision to become a planner was made without knowing what sort of jobs a planner might do. Since graduating, I have worked as a planner for the City of Whitehorse, for Sheinberg Associates (a small planning firm) in Juneau, Alaska, and for Yukon government.

## Planning West Call for Submissions

Spring 2021 Issue:  
Indigenizing Planning

Deadline March 15, 2021

Summer 2021 Issue:  
PIBC Annual Conference and  
COVID Recovery

Deadline June 15, 2021

Articles should be 1000-1200 words in length and in an unformatted, MS Word document. **Please note:** not all articles may be accommodated based on editorial decisions and the number of submissions received.



## Zoë Morrison RPP, MCIP

Senior Planner, Stantec Architecture Ltd.

> **Cindy Cheung** PIBC Communications & Marketing Specialist

I am now a planner for Stantec based in Whitehorse. Each of these positions has been interesting, rewarding and challenging. Given how little I knew about planning when I started my studies, I feel I really lucked out.

**You are our Co-Chair of the 2021 Conference Committee (thank you for volunteering)! What are you most looking forward to?**

We are still hoping and planning for a traditional, in-person conference, with people attending sessions here in Whitehorse. The reality is that the conference may be online or it may be a hybrid model with some people attending in-person and some joining online.

The planning committee for the 2021 conference had our first real meetings just as the 2020 PIBC annual conference was being cancelled. Our informal tagline was “planning for the worst, hoping for the best” which evolved to our official theme for 2021 - Planning “North of Normal”.

The committee & I have been looking forward to hosting PIBC’s planners in the Yukon for a long time and I am personally very excited about hosting and sharing with visitors what we love about the Yukon. Given that we don’t know how many actual visitors we will have, I have had to re-adjust my thinking – something we are all getting good at this year!

Right now, after closing the call for proposals, we are looking forward to showcasing the interesting topics that have been submitted and the work that is being done in the North by northern planners. And, of course, those long summer Yukon days in June!

**What’s one tool or key piece of knowledge that is a must-have for a planner working in the North?**

I have always felt a pull to the North and I set out for the Yukon when I was finished my Master’s degree. I drove west and north with a friend and was fortunate to land a job with the City of Whitehorse when I arrived. With the exception of three years spent working in Juneau, Alaska, I have stayed in the Yukon ever since.

In the last couple of years I’ve been lucky enough to travel for work to Iqaluit (Nunavut), Aklavik (Northwest Territories), Old Crow (Yukon) and Kasabonika Lake (Northwestern Ontario). I’ve had lots of adventures travelling to small, remote communities and am so grateful to the people who welcomed me and showed me around. The long flights have given me plenty of time to think about what makes planning in the North different.

For me, Northern planning is about connecting with the people you are working with. These personal connections come from being able to listen and see each community from a local perspective. As planners, we like to have everything planned out, but the reality is that Northern planning requires flexibility; your flight will be delayed, your meeting might not start until the hockey game is over; and if someone

asks you to stop at the radio station for a quick interview, you will say yes.

**What does your new normal look like?**

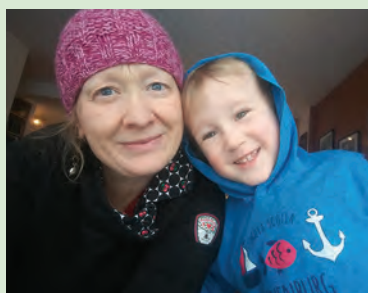
For me, 2020 has been an exercise in adaptation. Through the spring, I worked from 5 am to 9 am and then spent the rest of the day with my two boys, ages 4 and 8. It was an intense time for our family but having so much time together was also special. We spent every afternoon outside skiing and skating, and then biking and hiking as the weather warmed up. We are back into a more normal routine now, with business as usual at school, day-care and work.

I am happy to have a good job and to have my family safe and healthy, but I am really starting to miss sharing food with friends, departure lounges and crowded places!

**More than ever, self-care is very important. How do you most like to relax and decompress?**

One time early this winter, I told my co-workers I had to leave early to pick up my kids and I told my mother-in-law that I had to work late. Then I slipped between the cracks and out for a quick ski just as the sun was setting. For me, getting outside is that best way to reset. Whitehorse has a great trail system, so it is easy to access the wilderness in any season.

As a mother of two young boys, I’ve been trying to dream up a way to turn picking up Lego pieces into either an exercise routine or a mindfulness practice. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know! ■



# Going Virtual with the *Elevation 2020* Webinar Series

/ Alison McNeil RPP, MCIP  
PIBC Communications Committee Member

Due to the pandemic, in place of the 2020 annual in-person PIBC Conference in Whistler, PIBC and the Canadian Institute of Planners instead partnered to hold a virtual online webinar series in late November. In total, more than 15 webinars were hosted on a wide range of emerging and complex planning issues.

## Opening Keynote: Bending Lines and Making Circles – Our Way Home, Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm, Government of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation



True to this year's conference theme, Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm's keynote address contained 'elevating' and inspiring ideas for taking action on climate change. His big picture thinking was a refreshing look at the problem of climate change, how we got here, and how Indigenous people can be a vital part of the solution.

Chief Tizya-Tramm explained that his community of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, located in Yukon, is like many others in the north – they don't have the luxury of denying climate change since the evidence is all around them. They are experiencing unprecedented changes like accelerating permafrost and sea-ice melt, increasing forest fires, 30 percent loss of bird species, and changes in animal migration patterns. Bottom line – the Arctic north is warming nearly twice as fast as the rest of the world.

So how did we get here? For Chief Tizya-Tramm, the explanation lies in a Western linear mind-set that has sought to dominate and exploit nature. This mindset has driven the first three industrial revolutions – mechanical, electrical and internet – which have resulted in the domination of corporations and the current climate crisis. The fourth industrial revolution is one of 'digital intelligence' which opens up huge potential for empowerment of people at the local level.

For the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, empowerment has meant taking action on climate change through their 2019 Climate Declaration and accompanying projects to achieve carbon

neutrality by 2030. Their Declaration, which has now inspired similar ones in many other communities, provides a compelling call to action for:

Local, national and international communities, governments, organizations and movements to respect the traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples as well as established science and utilize all available powers, resource and abilities to coordinate and mobilize efforts to prevent the rise of global temperatures above 1.5 degrees Celsius from pre-industrialized levels.

■ <http://www.vgfn.ca/pdf/CC%202019%20Declaration.pdf>

Chief Tizya-Tramm's bold vision for the future of Canada is to bring together Indigenous ways of knowing with Western practices to create a powerful partnership. Indigenous communities can share their knowledge on how to balance modern technologies with living with the land to seek resource renewal rather than depletion.

His view is that currently the contribution of Indigenous people is undervalued and, while they don't have all the answers, they have something important and vital to contribute to climate change solutions. As we navigate Canada's future, Chief Dana Tizya-Tramm encouraged planners to keep our minds open, question how we interact with the world, and craft a worldview in partnership with Indigenous peoples that will serve all people.

## Workshop: Building Places for Everyone – Edmonton's Infill Planning Toolbox to Support 'Missing Middle' Housing (Module 1)

This workshop promised to "add more tools to our planning toolbox" and fully delivered!

In the session with City of Edmonton planners Anne Huizinga and Carley Holt, we learned about the powerful lessons and tools emerging from their city's "Infill Roadmap" planning initiative.

They explained the City's planning challenge in terms of some essential questions, which will likely resonate with many planners:

- How do you welcome more people and homes into older, mature core neighbourhoods?
- How do you drive the conversation with the public forward and not get stuck in the old conversation?

The answers they found lay in evolving their Infill Roadmap of 2014 to develop a new set of viable "infill" actions that had broad public input and support. The City's renewed Infill Roadmap provides a range of issues the City is trying to address, as well as policy and bylaw changes to support development of a wider variety of housing stock.

One intriguing tool was their "Integral City Model" for public engagement. This approach was founded by Dr. Marilyn Hamilton (and scaleable to all types of communities – see [integralcity.com](http://integralcity.com)) and helps to engage the community's four main voices, defined as:

1. Community organizations/civic society
2. Citizens
3. Business
4. Public institutions





The City of Edmonton’s Infill Roadmap Team brought these groups together in working sessions designed to help them ‘hear themselves, hear each other’ and agree on viable actions. The result? Edmonton’s renewed Infill Roadmap was approved by Council with no one from the public speaking against it, despite infill being the City’s most contentious planning issue for many years.

In addition to the valuable tools they developed through this initiative, they also shared some powerful lessons learned through their efforts, including:

- Good things happen when people talk. Public engagement has to be designed with tools and techniques that result in transparency and trust. Planners need to be stewards of relationship-building with the community
- Good things happen when people share. The City of Edmonton’s planning team is committed to sharing experiences and seeking to learn from other cities and communities.

It was evident from their presentation that another clear take-away from the Infill Roadmap experience is: “Good things happen when people focus on innovation.” Success comes from seeking out different ways of doing things and sharing the responsibility for generating new ideas with the wider community, academics, planners elsewhere, and other innovators.

Workshop Modules 2 to 4 that follow this first module included much more on the City of Edmonton’s Missing Middle design competition, community engagement model, and policy and regulatory improvements. Planners will find reviewing all the “Building Places for Everyone” workshop sessions a great learning experience.

### **Workshop: Using Google Earth and Census Data to Explore Your City’s Spatial Structure**

Prepare to be amazed! I think all of us who attended this highly engaging seminar with Professor David Gordon from Queen’s University’s School of Urban and Regional with Planning were just that.

Before demonstrating the tool that he developed for spatial visioning, Professor Gordon told us how it was born. Like most useful inventions, it started with a good question, in this case from a Federal government minister who wanted to know, “What do we mean by urban?”

Professor Gordon explained that at that time there was no easy answer to that question. Essentially urban was being used to describe anything that is not rural, including the suburbs.

Professor Gordon and his colleagues embarked on a multi-year research project to develop a tool that can tell us much more about population density in Canada’s cities and towns. They used Geographical Information System (GIS), Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) data and Google Earth maps.

Professor Gordon demonstrated how the tool worked by zooming in on towns and cities across Canada to show the distribution

of their population in newly defined “active core” and “suburban” and “ex-urban” areas. .

In showing us how the tool works, Professor Gordon shared some unexpected and interesting findings, including:

- 84% of the population of the Vancouver metropolitan area lives in some kind of suburb
- 67% of Canada’s population is actually suburban
- Peterborough, Ontario is the most highly urbanized CMA in Canada

The study methodology and resulting tool, which can be used and accessed by anyone, is found at [www.canadiansuburbs.ca](http://www.canadiansuburbs.ca)

Planners will enjoy using this tool to find out more about the urban/suburban characteristics and trends in cities and towns they live and work in across Canada. ■

**PIBC members can access recordings of the webinars at the CIP Learning Hub: <https://www.cip-icu.ca/Learning-Hub>**

Alison McNeil is the Local Government Programs Chair and Instructor at Capilano University and a member of PIBC’s Communications Committee.

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# World Town Planning Day Gala

/ Maria Stanborough RPP, MCIP

This past year the World Town Planning Day gala took place as a virtual event. The event, hosted by both the PIBC President Lesley Cabott RPP, MCIP and Lindsay Chase RPP, MCIP, included a number from Vancouver Island University's first graduating class of planners. The virtual gala also acknowledged 11 planners with 25+ years as PIBC members.

## Life Member Recognition at World Town Planning Day

This year PIBC also had the opportunity to recognize the commitment and contribution of two foundational members – **Linda Allen** and **Gwyn Symmons** – who were recognized with Life Member designations.

Both Linda and Gwyn have had a tireless commitment to creating lasting, livable communities. Their work focused on housing policy, affordability, and non-profit housing, and always held high standards and ethics. They were the co-founders of CitySpaces, a consulting firm in Vancouver that provides planning skills and services around the province. Gwyn and Linda have been professional planners for nearly 50 years.

Elected as a CIP Fellow in 2002, Linda has been a Certified member of PIBC since 1982. Linda began her career in the public sector, working with Alberta Municipal Affairs and the City of Ottawa, which shaped her future as a community planner. In 1986, Gwyn and Linda founded

CitySpaces which quickly became a leading consulting firm focused on policy, research, community planning and development.

As a generalist and community planner, Linda has worked on many community plans, strategies and policy documents. Her communication skills are unparalleled, taking complex data and strong analysis and relaying it into materials and documents that are widely accessible and easily understood. In this way, she has been able to communicate complex or technical matters, succinctly explain good policy and practice, and support the implementation of strategic actions and change in our communities.



Linda Allen RPP, FCIP

She always enjoyed travelling to new communities, highlighting what is unique and special about each place and supporting them to build on the foundation of their past, while looking towards a positive future of livability and healthy and inclusive neighbourhoods.

Linda has, through community planning, always looked to best practices and innovative approaches from other jurisdictions, working to stretch communities to further livability, affordability and choice. Linda, a former President of PIBC, has tirelessly volunteered, contributing to the association and to the profession as a whole. She is currently an appointed member of the Real Estate Council of BC.

Gwyn has been a Certified member since 1999 and began his career in the UK in the early 1970s as the Principal Planner with the City of Manchester. His experience with urban renewal and low-income housing in England was to shape his career focused on housing policy and development. He moved to Ottawa where he led the City of Ottawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation and the Capital Region Housing Corporation. Gwyn took this expertise and guided the development side of CitySpaces, which has since proceeded to complete 1,000s of non-profit housing units, emergency shelter beds, and other mixed use or complex projects.

With such depth of experience, Gwyn is often asked to provide advice to non-profit housing providers, provincial agencies,



Gwyn Symmons RPP, MCIP

developers and municipalities. He has been extensively involved in the planning and project management of housing projects for families, seniors, youth, persons with special needs and others.

Gwyn has been a strong advocate of the value of social housing and providing high quality, appropriate affordable housing, particularly for the most vulnerable members of society. He has defended new nonprofit housing developments at many a public hearing and continually advocated for the importance of excellent design in shelters and non-market housing.

The timing of this designation to Linda and Gwyn was especially important as this is the year that they decided to retire from their active planning practice and transferred ownership of their CitySpaces to two senior staff members at the firm. We wish them all the best in their retirement and thank them for all they contributed to planning in British Columbia. ■

Maria Stanborough is the editor of *Planning West* and principal consultant at C+S Planning Group.

## Honouring 25+ years of Certified Membership



Felicity Adams RPP, MCIP



Raul Allueva RPP, MCIP

### 25+ Year Certified Members not pictured:

- Carl Bannister RPP, MCIP
- Colleen Hannigan RPP, MCIP
- Malcolm MacPhail RPP, MCIP
- Mark McMullen RPP, MCIP
- Stephen Mikich RPP, MCIP
- Susan Palmer
- Kerry Pateman RPP, MCIP
- John Sellers
- Robert Thompson RPP, MCIP

# Honouring New Certified Members & Registered Professional Planners



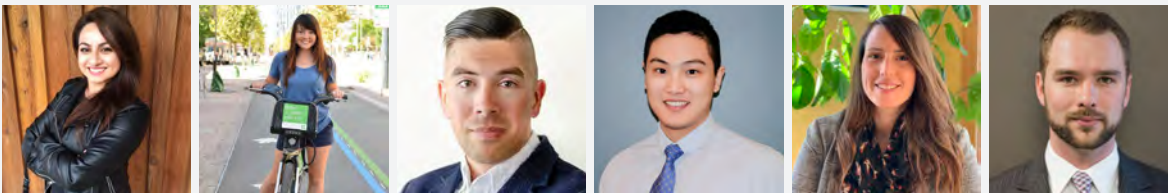
*L to R:*  
 Fahad Abrahani RPP, MCIP  
 Anthony Batten RPP, MCIP  
 Sarah Bingham RPP, MCIP  
 Liberty Brears RPP, MCIP  
 David Capper RPP, MCIP  
 Steven Collyer RPP, MCIP



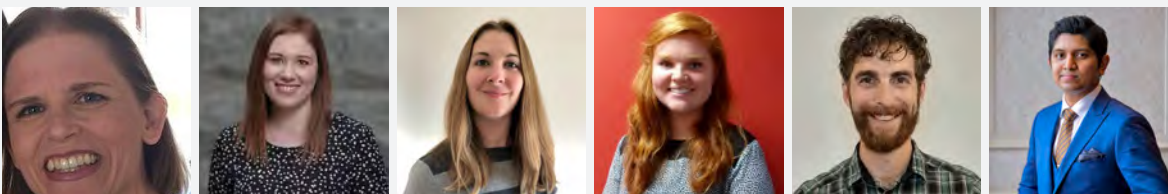
*L to R:*  
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 Julia Dykstra RPP, MCIP  
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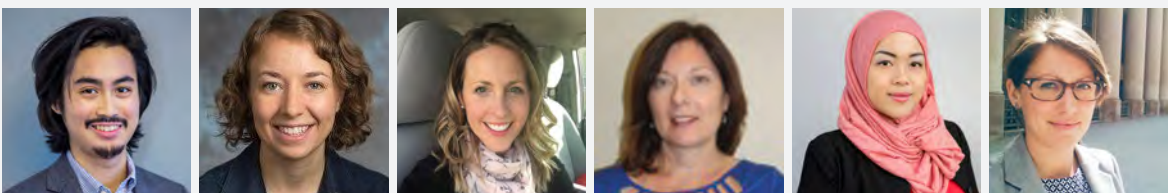
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# Tools for Change

/ Craig Axford, Raymond Belmonte, Alyssa Beurling, Clarissa Huffman, Emily Sonntag, Taylor Reidlinger and Alannah Urbanczyk-Gallo

**“To create better health in a living system, connect it to more of itself”**

—Margaret Wheatley & Myron Kellner-Rogers

We’ve all seen it happen - environmental or sustainable development plans being thoughtfully crafted by municipalities, only to be partially implemented by the end of the planning horizon. Despite the best of intentions, it is easy to fall short on environmental goals. Take the United Nations’ Aichi Biodiversity 2020 targets for example. In the past decade, participating countries, including Canada, have made partial progress on only six of twenty goals.<sup>1</sup>

There are a number of reasons this happens, but ultimately it is because we live in a complex world where governments juggle social, environmental, and economic priorities. Our predominantly Western model of governance tends to parse issues into discrete elements, and create siloed departments for decision making and action. Despite the importance of environmental initiatives, their long timeframes are not particularly compatible with the ‘4-year election cycle’ and are not often allocated the resources they need to succeed.

In addition to being short-sighted, this approach also fails to appreciate interconnectedness and how sustainability initiatives are a central part of a more broad-reaching and complex whole. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this failure more apparent than ever by exposing the fundamental lack of resilience within our societal, economic, and environmental systems. While dire, the pandemic has also provided us with an opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities and create a healthier and more sustainable future.

It is essential for organizations to integrate sustainability considerations into the decision-making process of every department; it should not fall squarely on the shoulders of environmental planners to make change happen. The following ideas are intended to arm environmental professionals with the capacity to influence their organizations from within for greater impact. Our four key tools for maximizing sustainability efforts in complex systems are: increasing connections; fiscal creativity; leading by example; and embracing uncertainty.<sup>2</sup>

## Increase Connections

**“Collaboration is the essence of life.**

**The wind, bees and flowers work together, to spread the pollen.”**

—Amit Ray

Internal integration of, and collaboration between, environmental staff and other departments is needed to ensure that sustainability is a priority in every organization. Creating space for intentional, interdepartmental collaboration can create linkages that uncover common goals and allow for creative strategies. As an added bonus, these solutions can also help to reduce funding barriers when initiatives align or overlap.

Blending group and one-on-one connections can help advocates create stronger networks between departments and empower others to integrate sustainability into their decision-making. We recommend balancing broad, team-based methods (e.g. interdepartmental projects and collaborative goal-setting exercises) with more personal approaches that create meaningful peer-to-peer connections. Professional relationships can be nurtured by genuine curiosity, using active listening techniques, and asking powerful questions.<sup>3</sup> The IAP2 spectrum of public participation provides guidance to planners, but these same tools can also be used to strengthen interpersonal relationships. Collaborating with, rather than merely consulting, other departments on sustainability projects can help give new perspective to complex problems, help identify leverage points, and open new doors of opportunity.



## *Shifting to a nimble and adaptive way of thinking allows enough room for change*

### Get Fiscally Creative

Revisiting a budget isn't usually the first thing that comes to mind when thinking of creativity, but understanding the resources that are allocated to environmental action is a critical step. A limited budget can be a true barrier to implementing actions, but sometimes it simply reflects misaligned funding priorities. Whatever the reason, reframing, reducing, or removing financial barriers can be a strong start to invigorating a sustainability plan.

Staff can use different economic valuation tools to demonstrate and quantify the financial benefits of sustainable options that might otherwise be overlooked. For example, a carefully constructed cost-benefit analysis can help showcase all the medium- to long-term advantages of sustainable decision-making.<sup>4</sup> This type of analysis could reveal the positive externalities of sustainable solutions, such as increased food and water security from restored or constructed natural green spaces; reduced infrastructure costs from planning for the effects of climate change;<sup>5</sup> lowered health costs from less air pollution;<sup>6</sup> or benefits to mental health for residents using active methods of transportation (e.g., walking or cycling).<sup>7</sup>

Alternatively, fiscally creative teams might explore full or partial funding through outside sources such as grants, matching donations, and partnerships. For underfunded projects that are anticipated to draw wide community interest and support, it could be valuable to prioritize funds towards increased community consultation. Non-profit organizations and local stakeholder groups may be important to include for political influence.

### Lead By Example

As an environmental professional, what does it mean to be a change-maker taking action against the 'wicked' environmental problems facing our communities? There are ways to promote change within our organizations, but we also need to consciously work on our inner selves to reflect the changes we want to see. By understanding our drivers, biases, strengths, and weaknesses, we can be more aware of how we interact with the systems we work in.

Every choice, big or small, has the power to inspire others to follow our lead and become positive sustainability change-agents themselves. Our actions matter – whether or not we opt to refuse, reduce, reuse, or recycle waste at the office; leave our vehicles at home; or begin a conversation with a colleague about a sustainability topic that we feel strongly about. As we become more mindful of our actions and how they interact with the systems we work within, we may find that peers, other citizens, and people we look up to view us as trailblazers.



### Embrace Uncertainty

An appreciation of uncertainty is central to any sustainability effort that communities undertake. Sustainability is an immense, illusive challenge filled with unknowns. However, acting, while acknowledging uncertainty is better than searching for a perfect 'solution.' Shifting to a nimble and adaptive way of thinking allows enough room for change to take place and enables decision-makers, elected and unelected alike, to shift the status quo.

The four recommendations we provide are interdependent. For example, leveraging connections may improve our ability to find creative financing solutions, and leading by example can foster a trust and a willingness to take risks.

The fear of taking the 'wrong' action can no longer hold us back from making progress towards a more sustainable and resilient society. Now is the time to work towards a sustainable future and for this belief to permeate through our actions and into our spheres of influence across all directions. ■

The co-authors of this work are Master's candidates in the Environment and Management program at Royal Roads University. The ideas presented here are a culmination of almost three years of collaboration.

Craig Axford has worked as program director for an environmental organization in the United States and is currently working toward an environment and management career in Canada, hopefully working with Indigenous communities.

Raymond Belmonte is a Filipino-Canadian engagement coordinator currently researching how environmentally responsible behaviours in Vancouver are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alyssa Beurling BSc, is shifting gears towards a career in environmental policy. Her thesis research explores urban development and greenspace loss in the Capital Regional District (Victoria, BC).

Clarissa Huffman is on leave from her role as the Environmental Coordinator at the City of Port Coquitlam. Her graduate research focuses on sustainable community development and the role of local government.

Emily Sonntag, program coordinator in the Environmental Services department at the Cariboo Regional District, is researching the recovery of ecological systems from disturbance and invasive plants.

Taylor Reidlinger BSc, works with Ecotrust Canada on West Coast fisheries policy, collaborates on coastal community resilience with the Coastal Routes network, and is researching marine food systems.

Allannah Urbanczyk-Gallo BSc, BIT is a wildlife biologist in the Albertan energy sector. Her thesis research examines pollinator abundance at operating solar facilities across Alberta. ■

<sup>1</sup>CNN, J. Y. (n.d.). *World fails to meet a single target to stop destruction of nature, UN report finds*. CNN. Retrieved December 11, 2020, from <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/16/world/un-biodiversity-report-intl-hnk-scli-scni/index.html>. For more information on the Aichi Biodiversity targets, visit <https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

<sup>2</sup>Meadows, D. H. (2008). *Thinking in Systems: A Primer*. Chelsea Green Publishing.

<sup>3</sup>Gino, F. (2018), *Business Case for Curiosity*. Harvard Business Review. <https://hbr.org/2018/09/the-business-case-for-curiosity>

<sup>4</sup>McDonald, R. I. (2015). *Conservation for Cities: How to Plan & Build Natural Infrastructure*. Island Press. <https://islandpress.org/books/conservation-cities>

<sup>5</sup>International Union for Conservation of Nature (n.d.). *Nature-based solutions*. Retrieved from <https://www.iucn.org/theme/nature-based-solutions/our-work>

<sup>6</sup>Government of Canada. (2013). *Air pollution: Human health costs*. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/air-pollution/quality-environment-economy/economic-issues/human-health-costs.html>

<sup>7</sup>Mueller, N., Rojas-Rueda, D., Cole-Hunter, T., de Nazelle, A., Dons, E., Gerike, R., ... Nieuwenhuijsen, M. (2015). Health impact assessment of active transportation: a systematic review. *Preventive Medicine*, 76, 103–114. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2015.04.010>

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# Activating Our Relationships

## A model for involving ethno-cultural communities in community planning

/ Aaron Lao and Belle Cheung

As community planners, we spend a lot of time and energy trying to engage the public in our work. From open houses to online surveys, newsletters to social media posts, we make an effort to try to reach anyone that may be affected by a planning process. And yet, we may often see the same demographics over-represented in our processes.

Involving diverse people and perspectives improves our planning work and creates better outcomes for the communities we serve. When we see that single parents, or young people, or racialized communities, or any other marginalized groups face barriers to participating in community planning, we may want to make our processes more inclusive but do not know how.

Racialized communities are among the largest segment of the population of marginalized people. In British Columbia, almost one in three residents identify as a visible minority, and 16% of residents speak a language other than English at home. It is simply not an option for our processes to be inaccessible to such a large group of people. But how can we start to effectively build connections with ethno-cultural communities?

### IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

Engaging with ethno-cultural communities means building and maintaining relationships: with community leaders who can involve others; with those on the ground who know what's happening in community; and with local experts who can provide valuable guidance. Building these relationships takes time and effort, and unfortunately, they are relationships that many planning organizations have under-invested in for years.

At the City of Vancouver, staff realized the urgency of building these relationships when the COVID-19 pandemic



began, and the City activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Racialized communities are disproportionately impacted by disasters and crises, and COVID-19 is no different. These communities had poorer socioeconomic status prior to the pandemic, contracted COVID-19 at disproportionately higher rates, faced barriers accessing COVID-19 response measures, and have suffered greater economic losses during lockdown.

The City of Vancouver needed to connect with ethno-cultural communities fast so that the City's COVID-19 response could reach those who needed it most. There was no time to build these relationships from scratch, so the EOC created a new team, called the Ethno-cultural Communities Branch (ECCB), which leveraged the existing relationships that staff had to communities. In doing

# Racialized communities are disproportionately impacted by disasters and crises, and COVID-19 is no different.

this, we created a new relationship-based model for engaging ethno-cultural communities.

While the creation of the ECCB was unique to Vancouver's Emergency Operations Centre, the model we used has important lessons for community planning outside of an emergency. Building relationships takes time, but leveraging existing ones is an achievable way of expanding the reach of planning initiatives, building staff capacity, making better planning decisions, and embedding equity into our work.

## The ECCB Model

The ECCB was assembled by redeploying staff from their regular positions within the City. We sought out staff with existing relationships into the largest ethno-cultural communities. These staff worked in various departments across the organization, and they all brought the lived experience, cultural competency, professional expertise, and multilingual skills to do community-based work.

This type of expertise lives in every organization, but is often unrecognized because it looks different from traditional and formal professional planning experience. It may mean that the planning technician or the librarian may be better suited to doing certain types of community planning than the community planner.

The newly deployed staff took on roles called Community Action & Language Access Leads, and were assigned to a particular ethno-cultural or linguistic community - Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Persian. There were also Community Action Leads assigned to work with community groups - settlement organizations, neighbourhood houses, seniors, faith communities, international students, low-income residents and those living in Single Resident Occupancy buildings.

The existing relationships the Community Action Leads had allowed them to extend the effectiveness of the City's COVID-19 response. They translated informational material and distributed it through community hubs, including faith leaders, multilingual media, neighbourhood houses, and social media groups. They provided nuanced, real-time updates about the conditions on the ground, from the needs of seniors in isolation, to the operational state of non-profit organizations. We achieved a greater reach than can be achieved through traditional channels of communication.

In many cases, these staff acted as a resource that expanded the capacity and effectiveness of other teams in the EOC. Other work groups would seek the ECCB's advice to help integrate the interests

of marginalized communities into their work. The Community Action Leads provided input to the City's communications, policy decisions, and response actions in ways that improved the work of the overall organization.

## Creating Value

Similar to a centralized communications unit, the ECCB provided value to all groups within the organization. During COVID-19 the Food Security team began policy research on Vancouver's food assets. Traditional methods of engagement, such as sending online surveys to BIAs, would not have reached small, ethno-cultural businesses, some of which are not even part of BIAs. The Community Action Leads assisted by providing advice on how to make the survey content and format more accessible, in addition to providing translation. They also helped identify specific food businesses in each community, from Punjabi wholesalers to Korean grocers. The Community Action Leads also conducted phone interviews with some of these businesses in their first language. In these calls the Community Action Leads gave much-needed context about the survey because for some businesses, this was their first interaction with the City beyond paying taxes or applying for permits. Even during a pandemic, business owners were generous with their time during these phone interviews, some feeling seen and heard for the first time. The result was a much higher multilingual response rate, which greatly improved the richness of the data and ensured that racialized communities are reflected and included as a part of future planning.

This collaboration helped inform the City's food policies during COVID-19, but the lessons from the ECCB can be applied to any planning process. Whether it's a land-use plan, a parks and recreation strategy, or a transportation study, the input of racialized communities is a necessary part of the process, and improves outcomes for everybody.

Of course, not every organization is able to re-deploy staff from different departments to form a new team, especially outside of an emergency. However, every organization has a rich potential of interpersonal connections that can be activated in creative ways. This may be done through a new working group, or a collaboration between teams. It may mean entrusting junior racialized staff with greater responsibility, or hiring equitably to ensure a diverse workplace. Regardless, the benefits to the entire organization – and the many communities we serve – are vast.

Race and ethnicity should not be a barrier to participating in planning processes. Unfortunately, the field of planning has a history of excluding and harming Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities. Our organizations have an opportunity to change that dynamic, and it must start with building better relationships or, in some cases, building relationships for the first time.

Engaging ethno-cultural communities may be new, unfamiliar, and challenging. But it also means that even taking a first step will go a long way in creating change. In many cases, we may find that people in our organizations – especially staff of colour – want to build these relationships and have the valuable competencies to do so: we just need to activate them. ■

Aaron Lao and Belle Cheung served as Co-Directors of the Ethnocultural Communities Branch in the City of Vancouver’s COVID-19 Emergency Operations Centre from March to June 2020. They have diverse experience in community and cultural planning in Vancouver, located on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Selilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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<sup>1</sup>Statistics Canada. 2017. British Columbia [Province] and Canada [Country] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.

<sup>2</sup><https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed September 8, 2020).

<sup>3</sup>Cheung, Jessica. Black people and other people of colour make up 83% of reported COVID-19 cases in Toronto. CBC News, July 30, 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/toronto-covid-19-data-1.5669091>

<sup>4</sup>Bowden, Olivia, and Patrick Cain. Black neighbourhoods in Toronto are hit hardest by COVID-19 — and it’s ‘anchored in racism’: experts. Global News, June 2, 2020. <https://globalnews.ca/news/7015522/black-neighbourhoods-toronto-coronavirus-racism/>.

<sup>5</sup>Owen, Brenna. Community groups filling gaps in translation of COVID-19 information. CTV News, June 1, 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/community-groups-filling-gaps-in-translation-of-covid-19-information-1.4963022>.

<sup>6</sup>Hou, Feng, Kristyn Frank, and Christoph Schimmele. Economic impact of COVID-19 among visible minority groups. Government of Canada, Statistics Canada, July 6, 2020. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00042-eng.htm>.

<sup>7</sup>These statistics are provided for Canada and Ontario, because unfortunately British Columbia has not released COVID-19 data disaggregated by race.

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# Elevating Youth Voices in Climate Action Planning

/ Emma Squires, Martin Mateus, Nadia Springle, Bhoosun Nuckchady and Valeria Vega



## “How dare you?”

These three simple yet powerful words spoken by Greta Thunberg in her address to the United Nations Climate Action Summit resonated around the world as she criticized world leaders for not acting fast enough. The direct and emotional plea made by Thunberg shone a spotlight on the power of youth voices, as well as their notable absence from most decision-making spaces.

As youth-led climate movements have become central to public dialogue on climate change, the notion of youth participation has also gained increased attention in planning discourse. In practice, however, there remains a notable absence of youth perspectives and involvement in climate action planning and governance.

Thunberg sparked a global movement that led to over 6 million people across 150

countries participating in climate protests in September 2019; despite this she also faced vicious backlash in response to her activism. Thunberg has been delegitimized due to her age, mocked for her appearance and disability, and accused of being a puppet of liberal organizations. Maxime Bernier tweeted that she was ‘mentally unstable,’ while Donald Trump accused her of having an ‘anger management problem.’ Such comments were not only driven by ageism, but also the sexism and ableism that systematically exclude diverse voices from positions of power. Rather than considering the merits of her message, Thunberg is too often dismissed because of her age.

Although the United Nations defines ‘youth’ as those between 15 and 24 years of age, there is no universally agreed upon

definition of the term. Many cultures acknowledge that children and youth are different from adults, yet the idea of ‘childhood’ carries different meanings across cultures. Therefore, when considering youth participation in planning and governance, it is critical to examine the social perceptions held of youth and question our preconceived notions and beliefs.

The old English proverb that children should be seen and not heard illustrates the cultural norms from which Western society has evolved. In Western culture, young people are often viewed as inexperienced, naïve, or idealistic, rather than capable, educated and deserving of public trust.

Indigenous cultures across Turtle Island, however, offer alternative perspectives towards youth. *Inunnguiniq*, which translates to ‘the making of capable and contributing human beings’ in Inuktitut, describes traditional Inuit childrearing practices. Under the *Inunnguiniq* model, community members of all ages are considered to be both teachers and learners. When named after a deceased relative or friend, a child carries their namesake’s soul, personality, and knowledge, affording them a great deal of independence and respect compared to Western standards.<sup>1</sup>

Autumn Peltier, an Anishinaabe youth environmental activist and water warrior, offers an example of youth leadership in an Indigenous culture. At the age of 15, Peltier was appointed as Chief Water Commissioner for the Anishinabek Nation, taking over from her late great-aunt Josephine Mandamin who previously held the role. This leadership position is tasked with raising awareness of water issues, providing management advice, and sharing traditional knowledge. By being given this role, it is clear that Peltier holds



the respect and trust of her community, despite her age.

Comparing the receptions of Thunberg and Peltier represents a stark contrast. While Thunberg has received significant media attention, she continues to strike in attempt to make governments implement substantial changes toward climate action. Conversely, Peltier has been appointed to a position of authority and responsibility within her community, allowing her to affect change from within.

The growing popularity of youth-led climate movements and the involvement of youth in the political sphere show that today's youth want to participate in a more positive and sustainable future. Thanks to educational programs and social media, today's youth are more informed about climate change and environmental issues than generations past, and they hold strong potential as agents of change.

Urban planners are uniquely positioned to empower and elevate youth voices to advance fairer and more representative decision-making. Meaningful consultation lies at the heart of planning practice, and concepts such as social equity and reconciliation have become mainstream planning ideals. However, thoughtful and proactive youth engagement still remains on the periphery of planning practice. Planners must begin to create opportunities for youth participation, particularly as it relates

to climate action planning. As segment of the population that will be disproportionately affected by climate change, youth inclusion in climate action planning is an imperative that cannot be overlooked.

Meaningful youth engagement also offers opportunities for planners to multi-solve: it improves youth mental health outcomes, decreases rates of climate-induced stress, and builds confidence, communication, and leadership skills among young people<sup>ii</sup>. Ensuring youth voices are included in planning can also have a ripple affect among other young people who see their peers involved climate action. Finally, it can create opportunities for intergenerational relationships, fostering feelings of genuine partnership and improve perceptions of youth by adults.

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted the momentum of recent in-person youth-led protests calling for 'greener' planning policies. Despite this, youth have demonstrated resilience and dedication in migrating their movements to social media platforms, as seen by the #climatestrike-online and #facetheclimateemergency movements. Calls for renewable energy investment and greater efforts towards carbon capture and storage are just a few of the policies promoted by these youth movements. Rather than imposing a barrier for youth involvement, the pandemic has created an alternative avenue through which planners can engage with youth ideas and perspectives.

As we continue to navigate the uncertainties of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, the following is certain: from the high-profile leadership of Thunberg and Peltier in the political sphere to the widespread activism of young people across all communities, youth will continue to demonstrate that they are

prepared and eager to raise their voices to influence climate planning and policies. The question that remains is: are planners ready to listen? ■

Emma Squires, Martin Mateus, Nadia Springle, Bhoosun Nuckchady, and Valeria Vega are all graduate planning students in Simon Fraser University's Resource and Environmental Management Program.

<sup>i</sup>Tagalik, S. (2009). *Inunnguiniq: Caring for children the Inuit way*. National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health. <https://www.nccah-ccnsa.ca/docs/health/FS-InunnguiniqCaringInuitWay-Tagalik-EN.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup>MacKay, M., Parlee, B., & Karsgaard, C. (2020). Youth Engagement in Climate Change Action: Case Study on Indigenous Youth at COP24. *Sustainability*, 12(16), 6299. doi:10.3390/su12166299



Photo by Markus Spiske on UnSplash

# What does West Kelowna Want to Be When it Grows Up?

/ Dallas Clowes RPP, MCIP, Stirling Scory RPP, MCIP, and Jana Zelenski

**N**estled on the western shores of Okanagan Lake, the City of West Kelowna is a young municipality with a bright future. After three unsuccessful attempts to incorporate dating back to the 1970s, the community incorporated in 2007 as the Westside District Municipality and received long-awaited City status in 2015.

Although West Kelowna is emerging as one of the best places to live in Canada,<sup>1</sup> like any adolescent, West Kelowna is still trying to determine exactly what it wants to be when it grows up.

The City is currently undertaking a Community Visioning exercise to work collaboratively with residents to chart West Kelowna's future to 2040. The City is reflecting on the challenges it has faced in its growth as well as the opportunities that lay ahead for West Kelowna as it matures, as indicated by public feedback through the #OurWK Community Visioning process.

## Growing Pains

The preliminary round of engagement for the Visioning exercise has highlighted a number of challenges for the community in its path to 2040. Many of these are a result of West Kelowna's evolution from an unincorporated area to an urban centre. Prior to incorporation, neighbourhoods were created following rural development standards, and servicing and transportation infrastructure were not built to the standards required of the city that West Kelowna is today. As a result, many of the urbanized neighbourhoods lack sidewalks and active transportation linkages that current residents desire.

To address the infrastructure deficit, plan for the City's future growth, and meet the desire of residents, the City has maintained a strong focus on infrastructure since incorporation. Yet infrastructure alone does not make a community. As West Kelowna becomes increasingly urban, the City is also starting to understand the increasing importance of its social and environmental networks - networks that will be crucial to maintain and enhance as these aspects are what make the community special.

West Kelowna's downtown is challenged by the presence of Highway 97 which becomes two one-way roads (a couplet) through the commercial centre, with two parallel east-west high volume streets intersecting the highway. The highway couplet

occurred in 1986 and has significantly impacted the downtown's public and private realm, effectively splitting the core.

The Community Visioning process has demonstrated the strong desire of residents to revitalize the downtown, along with rising concerns about how and when this can be achieved. While the couplet poses substantial challenges to address in the long-term, Visioning participants still saw opportunities for beautification, improved circulation and creation of an enhanced sense of place in the short-term. Residents also saw the value of strengthening local



neighbourhood centres outside of the core as a way to bring essential services closer to home and decrease traffic on Highway 97.

Based on the Visioning feedback, the community has mixed opinions as to how West Kelowna should grow in the future. Many participants indicated a strong desire to retain the community's 'small town feel' and expressed concern about increased density and development pressures.

However, many other participants indicated a desire to embrace strategically-located densities as a means to pay for amenities and increase access to jobs and services. Balancing the expectations of both perspectives will be a delicate dance as West Kelowna matures.

The divide in perspectives is highlighted by the change in agricultural land use. The community's uniquely integrated farm/city landscapes have supported the community's transition to a coveted winery destination for both domestic and international visitors. However, increased winery production has amplified land use conflicts at

the interface between agricultural lands and suburban residential areas, which will need to be addressed as the community grows.

## Growing Forward

The Community Visioning process has been an important and valuable exercise for collectively imagining West Kelowna's future. After receiving over 5,200 ideas, concerns and hopes from the community, the City is gaining a clearer picture of what matters most to the people of West Kelowna. Participants value the community's natural areas and recreational opportunities with a strong support for our parks, trails, lakes, waterfront access and natural environment that makes West Kelowna a desirable place to live.

Other comments in the Visioning exercise included the need to attract more high-quality businesses that provide well-paying jobs so people can live and work within their community. Participants also demonstrated a strong desire for thoughtful growth that embraces the

unique neighbourhood centres and creates a variety of housing options. These comments are likely a reflection of the fact that the community has grown by 25% percent since incorporation, an increase of over 8500 residents.

Community feedback highlights the opportunity for West Kelowna to work with its neighbours to enhance life on the west side of Okanagan Lake. The jurisdictional boundaries of West Kelowna, Westbank First Nation, and Peachland are indelibly intertwined. Maintaining and enhancing the relationships between all jurisdictions will support the collective success of the Westside.

Westside communities are building strong relationships through activities such as the Westside Housing Forum and working together to develop the 'Okanagan Trail 2000' – a continuous recreational trail from Peachland to the Bennett Bridge. Westbank First Nation is currently undertaking a review of its Comprehensive Community Plan, which will clarify

## SNAPSHOT OF WHAT WE LEARNED

 **What participants valued most about WK**

- 1 Parks, Trails & Recreation**
- 2 Lakes & Waterfront Access**
- 3 Environment & Scenery**
- 4 Businesses & Jobs**

 **What participants are concerned about in WK**

- An underutilized Westbank Centre
- Roads and traffic, including Hwy 97
- Managing impacts from growth
- Social challenges
- Limited employment opportunities
- Limited housing diversity
- Lack of community identity

## Potential focal points for the future

-  **GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT:** Sustainable and thoughtful growth with diverse neighbourhood centres
-  **HOUSING:** High quality and affordable housing options that support all ages, incomes, and needs
-  **ECONOMY & JOBS:** A diverse economy and business friendly environment that supports employment options
-  **HEALTH & LEARNING:** Safe community that promotes health, growth, and learning through centralized services
-  **TRANSPORTATION:** Safe and efficient road network complete with active transportation
-  **ENVIRONMENT:** Protection of natural habitats, agricultural land, and water to support long-term sustainability and prosperity
-  **PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE:** Expansion of amenities to encourage healthy, active living and community connection
-  **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Planning ahead to ensure our systems support existing and future residents

## Mayor for the Day

- #1 make every body feel welcome.
- #2 Help every body who needs it.
- #3 make sure every body has fun!!! U

Infographic & drawings (submitted by younger participants) courtesy of the author.

Westbank First Nation's vision for the future. This may allow West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation to look for additional collaborative opportunities to support their linked communities.

A key goal for Community Visioning has been to hear directly from our youth – our future leaders. Community

engagement has been tailored to ask what youth have to say and what matters most to them about their community. It is the City's hope that it can create a future West Kelowna that is highly attractive to younger residents so they are not only proud to be 'from' West Kelowna, but are also proud to call this community home

as they grow into adulthood alongside the community.

## Final Thoughts

West Kelowna is 13 years young and has time to chart its way and figure out what it wants to be when it grows up. Like all teenagers, 13 is a defining moment in a lifetime. It is where we are poised for great things – provided that we make good decisions and we continue to learn, grow and adapt.

Defining West Kelowna's identity will be a key part of our *growing forward*. We have much to learn from our older siblings – those mid-sized communities that have made their way before us. And while we'll look to them for knowledge and advice, we're also excited to chart our own path and create an approach that is uniquely #OurWK. Ongoing collaboration within the community and with our neighbours will enable an understanding of where we are today, what has changed, and what this means for our future. It's going to be an exciting trip into adulthood! ■

Dallas Clowes is the senior planner with the City of West Kelowna, managing the work on the #OURWK Community Vision and the Official Community Plan Update. Further information about the project can be found at [ourwk.ca](http://ourwk.ca).

Stirling Scory is a planner with the City of West Kelowna working on policy development and the #OURWK Community Vision.

Jana Zelenski is a principal with LANARC, a BC-based planning, design, and engagement firm focused on creating resilient, future-focused communities and implementing positive and thoughtful change.

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<sup>1</sup>2019. "Maclean's List of Canada's Best Communities in 2019". *McLean's Magazine*. Retrieved December 2, 2020 from <https://www.macleans.ca/best-communities-canada-2019-full-ranking-tool/>.

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# Rising Seas on the Coast: A Campbell River Case Study

/ Amber Zirnhelt RPP, MCIP & Chris Osborne RPP, MCIP

In March 2012, a king tide during a raging storm, with winds in excess of 100 km/hour, threw massive logs, rocks and gravel into a waterfront park in the heart of downtown Campbell River. The extensive damage to the popular park, waterfront walkway and parking lot demonstrated the risk of rising seas caused by climate change.

Although climate change had been an emerging part of the City of Campbell River's planning for several years, the impact of this storm elevated the priority for climate adaptation and sea level rise planning. The City's planning efforts began with a design concept for park repair that considered the impacts of sea level rise for future park development. This, in turn, led to a more comprehensive sea level rise analysis along Campbell River's 15 kilometers of urbanized shoreline and low-lying areas, including the estuary and downtown.

In 2017 a database was created that identified areas at risk of inundation due to sea level rise including land parcels, municipal infrastructure, roads, parks, and natural areas.

The City's analysis used:

- GIS data and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging Data)
- Aerial photos
- A coastal-survey that involved walking and photographing the entire coastline
- An analysis of local tidal, geological, and climate data
- Provincial sea level rise projections.

A high-level estimate of the value of land and assets at risk was determined using BC Assessment parcel data and by calculating the cost of City infrastructure. Costs were based on risk severity according to inundation extent/depth.

Although this was only a first high-level analysis, the figure was astounding. Approximately \$700 million of infrastructure and property were at risk from inundation. This dollar figure doesn't even include the additional value of associated business disruption. The City's annual operating budget is \$80 million, so the risk to community infrastructure, assets and property is substantial.

With this initial data on hand, the City, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) partnered to fund the City's comprehensive sea level rise work. After a multi-year planning process, *Rising Seas - Sea Level Rise Action Plan* was adopted in February 2020.

Many lessons were learned by the work of other communities such as the Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Surrey, and City of Vancouver, municipalities that pioneered early work on sea level rise planning. Experienced consultants Northwest Hydraulic Consultants and Lanarc supported the City's technical analysis and community engagement for the plan.

Sea level rise is a global phenomenon that manifests differently in different places. In Campbell River, localized glacial rebound, where the land continues to rise following the last glacial period, is no longer keeping pace with sea level rise. After one metre of global sea level rise (forecast within 50 to 80 years), sea level in Campbell River will increase by 0.7m. Preparing now with adaptation measures built into today's construction will help meet flood risk faced in decades to come.

The *Sea Level Rise Action Plan* provides a suite of priority actions for the next 30 years including regulatory/policy tools, such as a floodplain bylaw and new development permit guidelines, future technical studies, considerations for capital works projects, capacity building and partnership recommendations.

The City's Capital Works Department has led the charge, with the first raised,

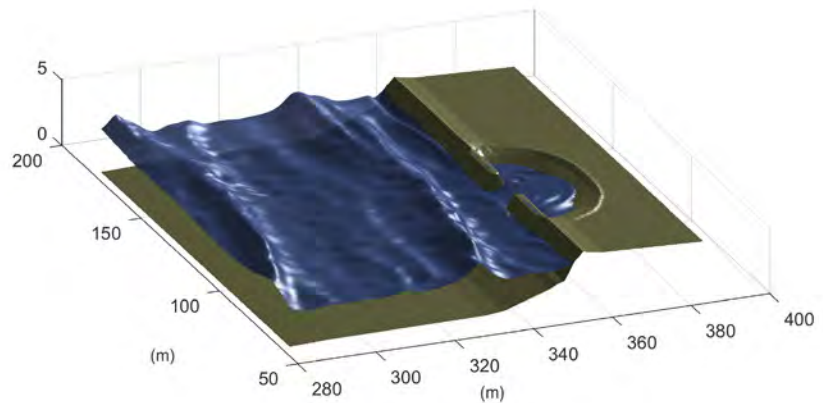


Fig. 1: A three-dimensional rendering of a sea level rise scenario

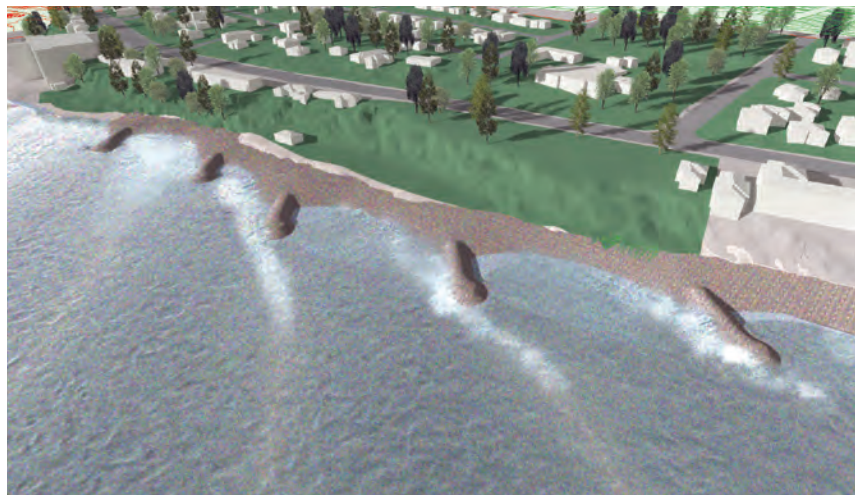


Fig. 2: 3D rendering showing the concept of embayments

multi-use pathway along recently-upgraded sections of Highway 19A. Along with raising sections of the seawalk, some newly-installed critical sewage infrastructure has been developed to accommodate short term flooding.

*"Our infrastructure has the potential to last us for the next 50 to 75 years, and we know we will see the impacts of sea level rise during that time, so it's our responsibility to design and construct infrastructure that is capable of withstanding the impacts of sea level rise,"* says Jason Hartley, the City's Capital Works Manager.

Hartley was instrumental in engaging City Council and the City's senior leadership in the importance of planning for sea level rise, which helped initiate the *Rising Seas* project.

Among the aspects of *Rising Seas* that make the project unique are the

combination of technical analysis and innovative public engagement. The community was involved throughout the process to consider the values and trade-offs associated with proposed adaptation measures, and to help define priorities. The project team also welcomed three co-op students who supported community outreach and plan development.

To aid with public understanding, the plan includes three-dimensional renderings of various sea level rise scenarios (see Figure 1).

Recognizing that sea level rise will have the most significant impact on Campbell River's youth, the project team worked closely with the City's Youth Action Committee and developed a robust strategy to garner youth input. Co-op students took terrain models into local elementary schools, where they used hairdryers and ice

cubes to model glacial melt. They demonstrated how the rising water level began swamping settlements and destroying farmland. Youth outreach efforts also involved college and university students, and direct invites to student representatives at public consultation events.

The City has a Youth Engagement Policy that calls for at least 10 per cent of public input on City projects coming from youth. The project team found that the youth focused on solutions that promote ecological and human wellbeing, even when this represented a trade-off in terms of cost or flood protection efficacy.

The project team felt that youth engagement was critical to climate change planning, as young people did the least to cause climate change, but are the ones who will experience its impacts the most.

Another unique aspect of the plan is analysis of ecosystem impacts from sea level rise. Adaptation strategies to address this include a ground-breaking concept of creating embayments. Embayments are recesses in a coast line that create a bay to dissipate wave energy and create new intertidal ecological habitat to help counteract “coastal squeeze” (see figure 2).

*Rising Seas* has been recognized with a Sustainable Communities Award from FCM, an Environment Award from the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators and an Honourable Mention in the Provincial Climate and Energy Action Awards.

*Rising Seas* charts a course for interventions, capital projects and considerations for new development along Campbell River’s coastline. Action items will be integrated into the City’s 2022-2031 Financial Plan and reviewed annually by the City’s Environmental Advisory Committee to help solidify implementation efforts.

To check out the *Rising Seas* Plan visit: [www.campbellriver.ca](http://www.campbellriver.ca) ■

Amber Zirnhelt is the Long Range Planning & Sustainability Manager for Campbell River

Chris Osborne is the Senior Planner & *Rising Seas* Project Manager



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# Housing Supply and Affordability Expert Panel Review – An Opinion

/ Bill Buholzer RPP, FCIP

The Canada/British Columbia Expert Panel on the Future of Housing Supply and Affordability released its interim report ‘What We Heard’ in December 2020.<sup>1</sup> The report suggests that the panel’s final recommendations will focus on two matters that lie at the heart of planning practice: public engagement on land use decisions, and development cost charge (DCC) and community amenity contribution (CAC) practices. Each is portrayed in the interim report as a major obstacle to the production of an adequate supply of housing.

The interim report addresses the roles of federal, provincial and local governments in the production of affordable housing, identifying three key areas that require attention by each level of government – governance, diversity of housing types, and development approval processes.

The Report suggests the Province might be urged to contribute with initiatives like reforming tenancy laws and providing ‘political cover’ for local governments by mandating affordable housing targets. A provincial mandate may help local governments address NIMBYish sentiments expressed at public hearings about housing diversity in neighbourhoods without any.

Local governments will clearly be the subject of many of the panel’s final recommendations, so they should be paying close attention to this initiative. I found two of the panel’s interim observations on matters within local government jurisdiction to be surprisingly shallow, and hope that the final recommendations reflect deeper

understanding and more rigorous thought on those points.

## Public Engagement

The interim report identifies the public hearing processes mandated by the Local Government Act and the Vancouver Charter as a governance failure that interferes unduly with the production of housing supply by the private market. In particular, public hearings are said to ‘privilege’ the voices of those who attend and oppose projects, over those who perhaps support projects but don’t attend.

Paradoxically, the expert panel’s principal means of hearing from the ‘general public’ was an online survey in which some 2000 persons participated. The survey privileged the voices of those who logged on over those who didn’t. Those who responded had opinions about what is wrong with the process, but many others who didn’t may have had other suggestions about what’s to blame for the affordable housing situation. Which calls the legitimacy of the findings into questions, by the panel’s own standards.

However, for many years local governments have been allowed to waive public hearings for zoning changes that conform to the official community plan, but have done so only rarely. Their allegiance to participatory democracy only partially explains the commitment to public hearings for rezonings.

Local governments and their planners cherish the rezoning process because it generates millions of dollars of revenue

that can, unlike almost all other municipal revenues including DCCs, be spent at the discretion of elected officials. The public hearing is merely a milepost on the road that leads to land value capture through CACs.

## Development Charges and CACs

The panel suggests that local governments rely on fees and levies associated with the land use planning system to generate revenue for general municipal purposes, and that both DCCs and CACs “need to be standardized and not determined on a project-by-project basis.” This is seriously off the mark. DCCs in this province don’t generate mad money for municipal spending sprees, and never have. To the contrary, B.C. has one of the most rigid, centrally-controlled development charge regimes in the country.

Each DCC bylaw (other than Vancouver’s) needs to be approved by the provincial Inspector of Municipalities, who uses a 116-page best practices guide as a benchmark for approval, and every dollar of DCC revenues (including in Vancouver) must be placed in a reserve fund and spent only on the infrastructure for which it was collected.

Further, DCCs may only be collected for highways, water, sewage and drainage systems, and park land acquisition benefiting development – what my colleague Jay Wollenberg calls the ‘plumbing’ of urban development. (Vancouver can also levy charges for child care facilities and replacement housing.)

Critics of our DCC system have never been willing to address just where the money for this essential infrastructure would come from if developers don't pay DCCs. B.C.'s statutory structure for development charges establishes the certainty and predictability that the panel seeks.

CACs are another matter entirely, lacking statutory authority and the rigorous bylaw approval and reserve fund structure associated with DCCs. Here the expert panel is definitely onto something. CACs are a form of land value capture, a phenomenon that's a feature of land use management around the world, from Brazil (where development rights are simply auctioned to the highest bidder) to Ontario.<sup>2</sup>

In Ontario, the legislature has recently expanded the scope of development charge bylaws for that province's municipalities from basic plumbing to a total of 20 categories of municipal infrastructure and services, including the majority of the services for which B.C. local governments have been collecting CACs on an ad hoc basis for many years.<sup>3</sup> This is the 'super DCC' described in the Development Approval Process Review conducted last year by our Ministry of Municipal Affairs.<sup>4</sup>

Looking back over the past twenty years or so, it seems clear to me that the B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs made a serious error in allowing the DCC authority to get so profoundly out of step with mitigating the impact of development on community infrastructure and livability. Local governments' need to retain discretion over zoning, exercised case by case, to lever

CACs from developers has contributed significantly to the housing supply problem.

However, the expert panel's suggestion of federal fiscal transfers to municipalities to eliminate the need to seek CACs from developers seems highly unrealistic. A more realistic approach, that builds on B.C.'s well-established structure for DCC bylaws and the demonstrated willingness of B.C. developers to shoulder the cost of growth, would be a significantly expanded DCC authority to include the costs now shouldered by CACs. The amended Ontario development charges regime would be a reasonable starting point for discussion on expanded DCC authority.

### What Comes Next?

Several years ago, the B.C. provincial government mandated the preparation of local government housing needs assessments that makes the contents of the reports easily comparable from one local jurisdiction to another. It seems to me that, within the next year, a bill will likely be introduced in the B.C. Legislature enabling the government to set binding targets for the inclusion of appropriately zoned land for a variety of housing types in each local government zoning bylaw. I expect this to be linked to the contents of local housing needs reports.

At this point in our province's development, it seems to me that provincially-mandated housing targets have probably become necessary. Even Alberta and Manitoba (as well as Ontario, which so often seems to lead in these matters) have

mandated inclusionary zoning in their planning enabling legislation.

If local governments are given clear authority to require developers to cover the real costs of growth, rather than just the cost of the plumbing, then it seems reasonable to expect that local governments will take advantage of any 'political cover' that mandates municipal housing targets and will meet (or even exceed) affordable housing targets without much fuss.

The final report from the Expert Panel on Housing Supply and Affordability will be made available in Spring 2021. For more information, see: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/housingaffordability/> ■

Bill Buholzer is associate counsel at Young Anderson Barristers and Solicitors.

<sup>1</sup>[https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/588/2020/12/20200805\\_001\\_WhatWeHeard\\_Report\\_w\\_ACC.pdf](https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/588/2020/12/20200805_001_WhatWeHeard_Report_w_ACC.pdf). The panelists include experts in non-profit housing, business, land development, information technology and finance in the credit union sector, as well as a former provincial public health minister.

<sup>2</sup>The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy based in Cambridge, Massachusetts has been conducting research and publishing material on land value capture for many years. See for example <https://www.lincolnst.edu/sites/default/files/pubfiles/land-value-capture-policy-brief.pdf>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/97d27>

<sup>4</sup>[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/planning-land-use/dapr\\_2019\\_report.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/local-governments/planning-land-use/dapr_2019_report.pdf)

## PIBC BOARD NOTES

On **September 25, 2020** the PIBC Board of Directors met in Vancouver.

*It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

### PRESIDENT

Lesley Cabott RPP, MCIP provided an update on various activities, including recent national meetings of the Planning Alliance Forum where new planning legislation in Prince Edward Island and new disciplinary processes in Manitoba were highlighted; work with the Institute's new Indigenous Planning Working Group; and work with the Governance & Nominating Committee.

### BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Board reviewed and discussed progress on various goals and tasks from the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. A number of ongoing initiatives and tasks were reviewed and discussed.

Various committee chairs and liaisons also provided brief updates on the work of their respective committees, including from the Professional Standards & Certification Committee, the Policy & Public Affairs Committee, the Continuous Professional Learning Committee, the Awards & Recognition Committee, the Governance & Nominating Committee, the Member Engagement Committee, and the Professional Conduct Review Committee.

There was further discussion and feedback provided to the Professional Standards & Certification Committee regarding initial work on possible required topic areas for member continuous professional learning (CPL) activities. There was general support for the approach being considered, and direction to continue work in this area.

The Board confirmed that the 2020 annual general meeting (AGM) – postponed from earlier in the year – would be held online on Friday November 6th, 2020, and that an online presentation event would be held in place of the usual annual World Town Planning Day gala in-person event on the same date.

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Executive Director, Dave Crossley, reported on ongoing and key projects, initiatives and the activities at the PIBC office. This included further updates on responses and emerging issues related to the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, work on the annual budget, the recent member survey, and other ongoing member service delivery activities.

The Institute's internal, unaudited 2020 year-to-date financial statements (to August 31st, 2020) were reviewed for information. Some continuing impacts on both revenues and expenses resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic were noted, though overall things remained in a healthy financial position.

The Board approved the schedule of membership fees for 2021. It was noted that due to the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, there was no increase to PIBC fees for 2021, while there was a small cost of living adjustment by the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) to national fees, and no change to liability insurance premium rates. The Board reviewed and approved the continued collection and remittance of applicable membership fees and insurance premiums for members, in accordance with existing agreements with CIP.

The Board also approved and adopted the Institute's 2021 operating budget as developed and discussed at an in-depth budget workshop held earlier in the day, prior to the regular Board meeting. The budget as approved reflected anticipated revenues of about \$713,000 and expected costs and expenditures of \$780,000 (reflecting an expected operating deficit of about \$67,000, which will be covered the Institute's existing operating financial reserves).

### MEMBER PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The Board reviewed the summary report of the recently conducted survey of members regarding impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic on members and potential impacts on the Institute. The survey also provided insights into members' professional resilience and well-being, and explored the potential for additional services for members in those areas.

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

The Board ratified and confirmed the re-accreditation of the PLAN four-year undergraduate, PLAB two-year Post-Baccalaureate, PLAD two-year Post Diploma, two-year Master of

Planning-Urban Development (MPL), and one-year accelerated Master of Planning-Urban Development (MPL) programs at Ryerson University; all as approved and recommended by the national Professional Standards Board (PSB).

The Board also reviewed and discussed a report and set of recommendations from the national Joint Administrators Group (JAG) regarding possible revisions to the governance structures of the national Professional Standards Committee (PSC).

The Board received an update on the work of the Professional Education & Examination Committee of the national Professional Standards Board (PSB) – particularly work on continuing to improve the content and delivery of the national professional examination.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS & BUSINESS

**Professional Standards & Certification:** The Board approved the admission of a number of new members, and a number of membership transfers and other membership changes. The Board also approved the extension of eligibility for Candidate membership for members completing the certification process to become Registered Professional Planners who had reached or were nearing the normal prescribed time limits to remain a Candidate member.

**Member Engagement:** The Board received and considered an update on the work of the Member Engagement Committee, including reviewing a proposed approach for PIBC to implement a student internship program in the future, to support student members and the work of the Institute, as well as work exploring services in support of member professional resilience and well-being. The Board approved the allocation up to \$15,000 in the 2021 budget to support a new student internship program as outlined, and provided its support for the direction of the committee's work on member professional resilience and well-being.

**Awards & Recognition:** The Board reviewed and discussed recommendations from the Awards & Recognition Committee in camera related to Life Membership designation. The Board approved granting Life Membership designation to Linda Allen RPP, FCIP and Gwyn Summons RPP, MCIP.

**Governance & Nominating:** The Board approved the appointment of a number of members to the Governance & Nominating Committee.

## INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS & BUSINESS

The Student member representatives from the accredited university planning programs at VIU, SFU, UNBC and UBC provided brief updates regarding activities at their respective schools and programs.

## OTHER BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE:

The Board received, for information, copies of correspondence sent by PIBC to the BC Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing regarding input on responses to the impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, as well as copies of materials from OPPI regarding its equity and diversity work.

## NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next regular Board meeting would be held on Friday, November 6th, 2020 by online videoconference, prior to the online AGM.

## 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTES

The Institute's 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Friday **November 6th, 2020**, by online videoconference.

*While the meeting was held remotely, it was acknowledged that we are able to live, work, and learn on the traditional territories of the First Nations and Indigenous peoples of BC and Yukon.*

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

President Lesley Cabott RPP, MCIP presided over the AGM and welcomed members and guests attending. The process for the online proceedings, including electronic voting was reviewed.

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETINGS

Copies of the Institute's 2019 Annual Report, including the minutes from the May 8th, 2019 AGM held in Vancouver, were distributed digitally and are available on the Institute's website. The minutes of the 2019 AGM were approved as presented.

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD & COMMITTEES

President Lesley Cabott RPP, MCIP presented highlights from the 2019 Annual Report on behalf of the PIBC Board of Directors and the Institute's various committees. The Annual Report, including the audited Financial Statements, is available on the Institute's website. Key sections of the report included:

- The President's Report
- The Executive Director's Report
- The Secretary-Treasurer's Report
- The Professional Standards & Certification Report
- The Professional Conduct Review Report
- The Governance & Nominating Report
- The Policy & Public Affairs Report
- The Member Engagement Report
- The Continuous Professional Learning Report
- The Communications Report
- The Awards & Recognition Report
- The Local Chapters Report
- The National Affairs Report
- Committees & Volunteers – Thank You
- 2019 Audited Financial Statements

## 2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Secretary-Treasurer Kenna Jonkman RPP, MCIP presented the audited Financial Statements for the 2019 fiscal year. A copy is also available as part of the Annual Report. It was noted that the Institute maintained a healthy financial position with a very small net surplus earned in 2019.

The Institute's auditors – Tompkins Wozny LLP, Chartered Professional Accounts – were reappointed as auditors for the current (2020) fiscal year.

## ADJOURNMENT

President Lesley Cabott RPP, MCIP thanked the many members who volunteered on behalf of the Institute over the past year and thanked everyone for attending the online AGM. The meeting adjourned.

For Reference: 2019 Annual Report & Financial Statements

Copies of the complete 2019 Annual Report and audited Financial Statements are available online at: [www.pibc.bc.ca/official-documents](http://www.pibc.bc.ca/official-documents)

## 2021 Webinars – Continuous Professional Learning (CPL)

The CPL Committee is working hard to create an engaging program for 2021. As always, we began with January's **Provincial Planning Outlook**. If you missed this informative webinar, the recording is available for purchase.

**SAVE THE DATES !**

## Upcoming 2021 Webinar Dates are:

**Apr 28th, May 26th, July 14th, Sept 29th, Oct 27th and Nov 24th.**

Webinar topics for the **early part of 2021** will include:

- **The Impact of COVID-19 on Planning**
- **Legislative & Proposed Policy on Agricultural Lands**
- **What Planners Need to Know About Accessibility & Public Engagement.**

Our annual National Indigenous Peoples' Day webinar is in July this year and will focus on **'Indigenous Place-Making – A Space for Indigenous Place' – how we can genuinely and creatively incorporate Indigenous identity, culture, history and art into our built environments.**

And finally, we are hoping to host you at **PIBC's 2021 Annual Conference from June 15 to 18th** at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse, Yukon. However, with the ongoing pandemic, we may move the conference online or to a hybrid model. We will keep you updated!

Please reserve the last Wednesday of each month for our regular Webinar program. If you have an idea for a presentation, please email Sophie King at [sophie.king@pibc.bc.ca](mailto:sophie.king@pibc.bc.ca). PIBC members earn 3.0 CPL Units for presenting during a webinar. Thank you for your enthusiastic and continued support of PIBC's webinar program.

*For current webinar information, registration, and the latest details on other CPL webinar offerings, please visit [www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars](http://www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars).*

# MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

September 25, 2020

## New Members

Congratulations and welcome to all the new PIBC Members!

At its meeting of September 25, 2020, it was recommended to and approved by the Board to admit the following individuals to membership in the Institute in the appropriate categories as noted:

### CERTIFIED:

**David Capper**  
(Joint with OPPI)

**Ian Harper**  
(Joint with APPI)

**Angela Lucas**  
(Transfer from APPI)

**Andrew McCurran**  
(Reinstate)

**Barbara Myers**  
(Transfer from MPPPI)

**Travis Shaw**  
(Transfer from APPI)

### CANDIDATE:

**Erica Amador**

**Chelsey Andrews**

**Jordan Brietzke**

**Shareen Chin**

**Natalie Cho**

**Torill Gillespie**

**Emily Huang**

**Shannon Lambie**

**Charlotte Luscombe**

**Alexander Taciuk**

**Dylan Thiessen**

### PRE-CANDIDATE:

**Lisa Da Silva**

**Anne-Marie Paquette**

**Matthias Purdon**

### STUDENT:

**Kristina Bell (VIU)**

**Skye Bell (VIU)**

**Makayla Berger (VIU)**

**Julie Bull (VIU)**

**Charly Caproff (UBC)**

**Sadie Chezenko (VIU)**

**Laura Clark (VIU)**

**Florencia Comesana (SFU)**

**Eyvette Elliott (VIU)**

**Sarah Foulkes (VIU)**

**Kari-Ann Gandy (VIU)**

**Geoffrey Genge (VIU)**

**Annie Girdler (VIU)**

**Mark Gledhill (VIU)**

**Alex Harte (VIU)**

**Monika Korczewski (UBC)**

**Mallory Lowes (VIU)**

**Scott MacDonald (VIU)**

**Yeva Mattson (VIU)**

**Sarah McBain (SFU)**

**Maren McBride (UBC)**

**Alex Messina (VIU)**

**Duncan Miller (VIU)**

**Mikaila Montgomery (VIU)**

**Chris (Crystal) Oberg (VIU)**

**Lee Orpen (VIU)**

**Madelaine Parent (Ryerson)**

**Sharifa Riddett (VIU)**

**Andrew Stewart-Jones (VIU)**

**Julia Tippett (VIU)**

**Brad Vince (VIU)**

**Iris Wolf (VIU)**

## Member Changes

It was further recommended to and approved by the Board to grant or acknowledge the following membership transfers and changes in membership status for the following individuals as noted:

### FROM CERTIFIED TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

**Rachel Harrison**

### FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CERTIFIED:

**Maggie Baynham**

**Sarah Bingham**

**Maira De Avila Wilton**

**Caitriona Feeney**

**Jennifer Miles**

**Danica Rice**

### RESIGNED:

**Lucie Stepanik**

**Maxine Schleger**

### DECEASED:

**Dr. Larry McCann**

**Fall 2020 Correction:** On page 34 of the Fall 2020 issue of *Planning West*, PIBC Members Gary Holisko RPP, MCIP and Roger Tinney RPP, MCIP were listed in error, and they continue to be members in good standing. We regret the error and apologize for the misprint. The error has been corrected in the downloadable digital version of the Fall 2020 issue of the magazine. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO OUR  
2020 VOLUNTEERS!

**Linda Adams** RPP, MCIP

**Emilie Adin** RPP, MCIP

**Karin Albert** RPP, MCIP

**Andrew Allen** RPP, MCIP

**Ericka Amador**

**Chelsey Andrews**

**Sarah Atkinson** RPP, MCIP

**Tina Atva** RPP, MCIP

**Signe Bagh** RPP, MCIP

**Justin Barer** RPP, MCIP

**Jada Basi** RPP, MCIP

**Roy Beddow** RPP, MCIP

**Anne Berry** RPP, MCIP

**Robin Beukens** RPP, MCIP

**Sawngjai (Dear)**

**Bhokanandh** RPP, MCIP

**David Block** RPP, MCIP

**Lambert D. (André) Boel** RPP, MCIP

**Mairi Bosomworth**

**Matthew Boyd** RPP, MCIP

**Coralie Breen** RPP, MCIP

**Keith Broersma** RPP, MCIP

**Richard Buchan**

**Robert Buchan** RPP, FCIP

**William (Bill) Buholzer** RPP, FCIP

**Angela Buick** RPP, MCIP

**Anika Bursey**

**Lesley Cabott** RPP, MCIP

**Christine Callihoo** RPP, MCIP

**Ken Cameron** RPP, FCIP

**Nicole Capewell**

**Lui Carvello** RPP, MCIP

**Daniel Casey** RPP, MCIP

**Keltie Chamberlain**

**Patrick Foong Chan** RPP, MCIP

**Lindsay Chase** RPP, MCIP

**Joan Chess-Woolacott** RPP, MCIP

**Blaire Chisholm** RPP, MCIP

**Jeff Chow** RPP, MCIP

**Jason Chu** RPP, MCIP

**Michele Cloghesy** RPP, MCIP

**Odessa Cohen**

**Steven Collyer** RPP, MCIP

**Mitchell Comb** RPP, MCIP

**Norm Connolly** RPP, MCIP

**Robert Conway** RPP, MCIP

**Ken Cossey** RPP, MCIP

**Matt Craig** RPP, MCIP

**Barbara Crawford**



Throughout the year, the Planning Institute of British Columbia relies on the volunteer contributions and efforts of our members in moving forward with the impactful projects, events, and activities that advance and improve the planning profession. It is with heartfelt thanks and appreciation that we recognize our 2020 volunteer members for their contributions. Thank you!

**Ron Cruikshank** RPP, MCIP  
**Gavin Davidson** RPP, MCIP  
**James de Hoop** RPP, MCIP  
**Birte Decloux** RPP, MCIP  
**Patricia Dehnel** RPP, MCIP  
**Bryce Deveau**  
**Michael Dickinson** RPP, MCIP  
**Graeme Dimmick** RPP, MCIP  
**Danika Dudzik** RPP, MCIP  
**John Dumbrell** RPP, MCIP  
**Paul Dupuis** RPP, MCIP  
**Meeri Durand** RPP, MCIP  
**Gordon Easton** RPP, MCIP  
**Kristen Elkow** RPP, MCIP  
**Brent Elliott** RPP, MCIP  
**Elicia Elliott** RPP, MCIP  
**Cherie Enns** RPP, MCIP  
**Katherine Fabris** RPP, MCIP  
**Lawrence Frank** RPP, MCIP  
**Lee-Ann Garnett** RPP, MCIP  
**Mike Gau** RPP, MCIP  
**Kira Gill-Maher**  
**Kenny Gobeil** RPP, MCIP  
**Michael Gordon** RPP, MCIP  
**Lisa Grant** RPP, MCIP  
**Ed Grifone** RPP, MCIP  
**Amanda Grochowich** RPP, MCIP  
**Mark Groulx**  
**Kim Grout** RPP, MCIP  
**Thomas Gunton** RPP, MCIP  
**Tomoko Hagio** RPP, MCIP  
**Teresa Hanson** RPP, MCIP  
**Devon Harlos**  
**Michael Hartford** RPP, MCIP  
**Robin Hawker** RPP, MCIP  
**Dana Hawkins** RPP, MCIP  
**Shaun Heffernan** RPP, MCIP  
**Yazmin Hernandez-Banuelas** RPP, MCIP  
**Ian Holl** RPP, MCIP  
**Mark Holland** RPP, MCIP  
**Robyn Holme** RPP, MCIP  
**Christina Hovey** RPP, MCIP  
**Emily Huang**  
**Daniel Huang** RPP, MCIP  
**Paula E. Huber** RPP, MCIP  
**Andrea Hudson** RPP, MCIP  
**Clarissa Huffman** RPP, MCIP  
**Kari Huhtala** RPP, MCIP

**Ingrid Hwang** RPP, MCIP  
**John Ingram** RPP, MCIP  
**Michael Irg** RPP, MCIP  
**Carl Isaak** RPP, MCIP  
**Katherine Janota-Bzowska**  
**Arlene Janousek**  
**Deborah Jensen** RPP, MCIP  
**Jessica Jiang** RPP, MCIP  
**Carole Jolly** RPP, MCIP  
**Laura Jones** RPP, MCIP  
**Kenna Jonkman** RPP, MCIP  
**Chani Joseph Ritchie** RPP, MCIP  
**Michelle Kam** RPP, MCIP  
**Joaquin Karakas** RPP, MCIP  
**Heather Kauer** RPP, MCIP  
**Lisa King** RPP, MCIP  
**Jonathan Kitchen**  
**Anthony Kittel** RPP, MCIP  
**Mark Koch** RPP, MCIP  
**Jane Koepke** RPP, MCIP  
**Alex Kondor** RPP, MCIP  
**Karen Kreis** RPP, MCIP  
**Cory Labrecque** RPP, MCIP  
**Kailey Laidlaw** RPP, MCIP  
**Caroline Lamont** RPP, MCIP  
**Neal LaMontagne** RPP, MCIP  
**Simon Lapointe** RPP, MCIP  
**Blake Laven** RPP, MCIP  
**Katherine Levett**  
**Dale Lindsay** RPP, MCIP  
**Peter Lipscombe**  
**Jason Locke** RPP, MCIP  
**Charlotte Luscombe**  
**Jennifer MacIntyre** RPP, MCIP  
**Gina MacKay** RPP, MCIP  
**Patricia Maloney** RPP, FCIP  
**David Marlor** RPP, MCIP  
**Paris Marshall Smith** RPP, MCIP  
**Duncan Martin** RPP, MCIP  
**Isha Matous-Gibbs**  
**Shadrach Mayne** RPP, MCIP  
**Alanna McDonagh** RPP, MCIP  
**Hannah McDonald** RPP, MCIP  
**Gillian McKee** RPP, MCIP  
**Jennifer McLean** RPP, MCIP  
**Mark McMullen** RPP, MCIP  
**Alison McNeil** RPP, MCIP  
**Henry McQueen** RPP, MCIP

**Andrew Merrill** RPP, MCIP  
**Brian Miller** RPP, MCIP  
**Devon Miller**  
**Tamsin Mills** RPP, MCIP  
**Gregory Mitchell** RPP, MCIP  
**Lisa Moffatt** RPP, MCIP  
**Hillary Morgan** RPP, MCIP  
**Zoë Morrison** RPP, MCIP  
**Michael Mortensen** RPP, MCIP  
**Sara Muir-Owen** RPP, MCIP  
**Kent A. Munro** RPP, MCIP  
**Ashley Murphey** RPP, MCIP  
**Kathryn Nairne** RPP, MCIP  
**Claire Negrin** RPP, MCIP  
**Greg Newman** RPP, MCIP  
**Jodi-Lyn Newnham** RPP, MCIP  
**Gary Noble** RPP, MCIP  
**Cian O'Neill-Kizoff** RPP, MCIP  
**Teresa O'Reilly** RPP, MCIP  
**Christopher Osborne** RPP, MCIP  
**David Pady** RPP, MCIP  
**Anya Paskovic** RPP, MCIP  
**Kerry Pateman** RPP, MCIP  
**JoAnn Peachey**  
**Lisa Pedrini** RPP, MCIP  
**Kirsten Pichaloff**  
**Barclay Pitkethly** RPP, MCIP  
**Melissa Pryce** RPP, MCIP  
**Andrew Ramlö** RPP, MCIP  
**Karen Ramsay Cline** RPP, MCIP  
**Joshua Reis** RPP, MCIP  
**Ian Robertson** RPP, MCIP  
**Derek Robinson** RPP, MCIP  
**Aaron Rodgers** RPP, MCIP  
**Jaleen Rousseau** RPP, MCIP  
**Robert Roycroft** RPP, MCIP  
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**Blaine Russell** RPP, MCIP  
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**Katrin Saxty** RPP, MCIP  
**Heike Schmidt** RPP, MCIP  
**Cameron Scott** RPP, MCIP  
**Maged Senbel** RPP, MCIP  
**Gwendolyn Sewell** RPP, MCIP  
**Pamela Shaw** RPP, FCIP  
**Leslie Shieh** RPP, MCIP

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**Melodie Simard** RPP, MCIP  
**Courtney Simpson** RPP, MCIP  
**Suzanne Smith** RPP, MCIP  
**Robert Sokol** RPP, MCIP  
**Daniel Sommer** RPP, MCIP  
**Patrick Sorfleet** RPP, MCIP  
**Tanya Soroka** RPP, MCIP  
**Robyn Spencer** RPP, MCIP  
**Lisa Spitale** RPP, MCIP  
**Emma Squires**  
**Maria Stanborough** RPP, MCIP  
**Justine Starke** RPP, MCIP  
**Hailey Steiger-Tang** RPP, MCIP  
**John Steil** RPP, FCIP  
**Alison Stewart** RPP, MCIP  
**James Stiver** RPP, MCIP  
**Beverly Suderman** RPP, MCIP  
**Steffi Sunny**  
**Alex Taylor** RPP, MCIP  
**Leanne Taylor** RPP, MCIP  
**Amanda Taylor** RPP, MCIP  
**Jan Thingsted** RPP, MCIP  
**Kerry Thompson** RPP, MCIP  
**Margaret-Ann Thornton** RPP, MCIP  
**Erica Tiffany** RPP, MCIP  
**Kacia Tolsma**  
**Brittany Tuttle** RPP, MCIP  
**Sean Tynan** RPP, MCIP  
**Eric Vance** RPP, FCIP  
**Gloria Venczel** RPP, MCIP  
**Dan Wallace** RPP, MCIP  
**Patrick Ward** RPP, MCIP  
**Tania Wegwitz** RPP, MCIP  
**Sam West**  
**Richard White** RPP, FCIP  
**Karen Williams** RPP, MCIP  
**Lynn Wilson** RPP, MCIP  
**Andrea Winkler** RPP, MCIP  
**Andrea Witoszkin**  
**Mary Wong** RPP, MCIP  
**Kasel Yamashita** RPP, MCIP  
**Raymond E. Young** RPP, MCIP  
**Amber Zirnhelt** RPP, MCIP  
**Jeff Zukiwsky** RPP, MCIP  
**Brian Zurek** RPP, MCIP



Photos: <https://www.greeka.com/dodecanese/astypalea/photos/>

**Astypalea, Smart Green Island, Greece**

Astypalea is a secluded small island in Greece, part of the Dodecanese group of islands in the southeastern Aegean Sea. Although home to just over 1,300 residents, this beautiful Greek island welcomes nearly 70,000 tourists & visitors each year.

In April 2020, the Greek government announced its plans to transform Astypalea, mainly dependent on fossil fuels, into the country's first smart green island in the Mediterranean with energy autonomy. Partnering with Volkswagen, this ambitious six-year project includes gradually replacing the island's conventional private and public vehicles with electric ones and switching its electricity production to renewable energy sources, ending its current dependency on fossil fuels. The main goal is to successfully introduce and implement an innovative transportation system that will lead to a sharp reduction in greenhouse gas emissions on the island.

Astypalea's Smart Green Island plan is an integral part of the Greek government's national environmental strategy to phase out fossil fuels. By including local, regional and national government departments, as well as private enterprises and citizens, Astypalea Island aspires to become a pioneer for sustainable transportation and tourism in the coming years.



Source: <https://balkan.eu.com/greece-astypalea-smart-and-sustainable-island/>

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