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PLANNING WEST

Fall 2021

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PIBC PLANNING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FORWARD THINKING
SHAPING COMMUNITIES

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

With the ongoing pandemic, a "new normal" is gradually emerging. In this issue, we explore what the future of work can look like for planners and for the planning profession.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

recommendations of the group. Appreciation and gratitude are extended to the Committee members thoughtfully undertaking this important work.

On September 30, 2021, our country took a new step forward with the first annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. To honour, respect, and mark this important day, PIBC closed its offices and encouraged all our members to take the time to listen, learn, hear the stories, and engage with Indigenous peoples in our communities as we endeavour to right the wrongs resulting from colonialism that the planning profession and practice were part of. As we move forward, we will look to the leadership and guidance of our Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee, Indigenous planners and peoples in BC and Yukon, and our members to help us make meaningful progress towards truth and reconciliation.

PIBC continues to engage at the national level with CIP and our collegial professional institutes across Canada. This included a recent meeting of the national Planning Alliance Forum (PAF) – a useful leadership roundtable of representatives from CIP and the various provincial and territorial institutes – that I was honoured to chair. I have also been involved with the national Professional Standards Committee – the policy committee responsible for shared national standards for member certification and university program accreditation – as PIBC's representative for the past two years. It has been an extremely interesting experience that has provided me a deeper understanding of the processes our profession follows at the national level and to be directly involved in ongoing work to help update and raise the standards for the planning profession.

I am encouraged as we near the end of 2021 that we are starting to move into a new and brighter 'normal' in which we will be able to meet and engage together in person again. While circumstances continue to evolve, looking ahead, I encourage you all to mark your calendars for July 5-8, 2022, for the upcoming CIP-PIBC National Conference: Elevation 2.0 to be held in Whistler, BC. An updated call for program proposals is taking place this Fall and watch for registration to begin in the new year. I am sure many of you will have unique and interesting stories and lessons to share about how planners and the planning profession have played a role in establishing and supporting community resiliency during these challenging times, helping to sustain our towns, cities, and regions – stories and lessons that will benefit and encourage others. I look forward to seeing you there!

David Block RPP, MCIP

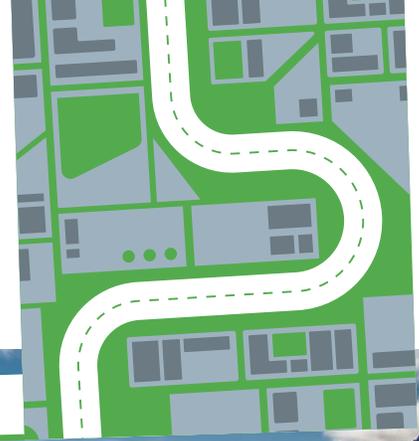
It's a cool grey Thanksgiving Day in Terrace, and I have been enjoying time with family this weekend. I am thankful for many blessings in my personal life and workplace and have been thinking recently of the strength of our Institute thanks to the many volunteers who play such a key role in the programs, activities, and services PIBC provides to us as members. With winter approaching, with beautiful Fall colours and first frosts now appearing, it is a time of planning and preparing. This is true for the current PIBC Board as we have met to begin setting the strategic direction and establish updated goals for this two-year term. The new Board is a diverse, energetic, thoughtful, and committed group of your peers with a passion to see our profession excel and advance as we support and contribute to the communities, regions, people, and places we serve, and meet the significant challenges that Registered Professional Planners are ideally suited and qualified to help address.

The Board has held two full, regular meetings since the start of the new term. This included an online orientation session, regular business meeting, and full day of facilitated virtual strategic planning discussions in August using some innovative online technology along with a regular meeting and budget session in September. The ongoing pandemic continues to pose challenges for us as a new Board as we get to know each other and strive for meaningful discussion and deliberation and as we set the course for the next two years. The Board's November meetings were held in person in Vancouver to coincide with PIBC's World Town Planning Day gala event celebrating our new professional members, and our long-serving experienced members. While ensuring appropriate health and safety protocols, we are returning to events and activities to connect in-person again.

As noted, the September Board meeting focused on approving the initial budget for 2022, as well as the fee schedule for the coming year. Despite the unprecedented challenges the global pandemic has posed for society and for our organisation over the past two years, we continue to maintain a healthy financial position while maintaining programs, services, and support for members. Strong membership retention and overwhelmingly positive attendance and support for our online webinars and 2021 conference, hosted virtually by our Yukon Chapter from Whitehorse, have contributed to the positive financial position, and, going forward, allowed the Board to allocate funds to maintain services, support new committee activities and programs (such as student internships), while managing rising costs, and keeping membership fee adjustments very small (about 1% for 2022). Additionally, as we work to finalize our updated Strategic Plan for the coming few years, the Board and Institute have the flexibility and resources available to make additional investments in key strategic initiatives, new activities and potential programs that may emerge or be developed going forward, as we look to address emerging issues and new challenges for the Institute and profession.

We are also pleased to be moving ahead with implementation of a new internship program for student members during this academic year. Many thanks are extended to Kenna Jonkman RPP MCIP and the volunteer members who have been moving that initiative forward. The Board also formalized the new Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee (formerly the Indigenous Planning Working Group) as an ongoing standing committee, based on the work to date and

OUTLINES



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



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

The Adaptation Learning Network encourages interdisciplinary professionals, including planners, to share knowledge and tools in adapting to climate change.

What's Trending?

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

The future of work begins, in part, with taking new knowledge and planning forward. With the accelerated urgency to address climate change, inequity in cities and communities, and acknowledgments of the uncomfortable truths necessary for meaningful reconciliation, the organizations featured are sharing their knowledge and tools to help chart a stronger path for our futures.



Adaptation Learning Network

Adaptation Learning Network

@ALNClimateActn

People and communities worldwide are experiencing the impacts of climate change at a rate never witnessed before. For each country and region, the effects are different and varied. For BC and Yukon, these include uncontrollable wildfires, unprecedented warmer temperatures, and anticipated rising sea levels. The urgent need for immediate climate action and adaptation is undeniable.

Adaptation Learning Network (ALN) is made up of professionals, academics, and citizens working together to provide education, research, and tools to build up capabilities for adapting to a changing climate. ALN provides research and courses to equip professionals like planners, engineers, landscape architects, agronomists, and others with knowledge and skills to care for our region's natural resources and infrastructure. The ALN platform encourages knowledge exchange to build solutions among interconnected disciplines.

Check out ALN's current climate adaptation resources, including the Adapt Map, an interactive map showcasing work-in-progress climate adaptation initiatives around the world: <https://adaptationlearningnetwork.com/ica-resources>.



UCLG's Learning Forum

@UCLGLearning

The World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is a global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments. Its motto is: "to leave no one and no place behind." Their mission is to represent and amplify the needs of local and regional governments and communities to collaborate for real change.

UCLG's Learning Forum (<https://learning.uclg.org/learning-forum>) is an online space for learning, discussing, and creating sharable content, new methodologies, and partnerships. Tools available include online guides, courses, and webinars.

The latest webinar: *Learning from Cities in Crises – Metropolitan Perspective on Fragility and Resilience (Feb. 2021)* explores solutions for cities to address specific challenges that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hear from city managers on how they responded to challenges of working with limited resources and in frameworks that were not designed to respond to such a large scale emergency. The consensus is that there is a need for new and adaptive tools, not only to face this pandemic, but to prepare for the post-pandemic world to come.

Watch the webinar here:
<https://learningwith.uclg.org/p/learning-cities-crisis-webinar>



Indigenous Science, Technology, and Society

@indigenous_sts

Indigenous Science, Technology, and Society (Indigenous STS) is an international research and teaching hub based at the University of Alberta. The institution is committed to building and supporting techno-scientific projects and ways of thinking that promote Indigenous self-determination.

Its mission is to build Indigenous scientific literacy by training graduate students and communities involved in techno-scientific projects that affect their territories, peoples, and economies. Through its research and other intellectual outputs, Indigenous STS works to inform and shape national and global policymaking related to science and technology.

Take a listen to podcasts available with one of Indigenous STS's principal investigators, Dr. Kim Tallbear, at: <https://indigenousts.com/media/>

Ep. 140: Unpacking the Colonial Foundations of Philanthropy (Nov. 11, 2018)

What's in a name? Everything, for Indigenous families hoping to reclaim their people's traditional naming practices. What gives with philanthropy? An author says it's time to decolonize the sector.

Ep. 148: War on the Wet'suwet'en? (Jan. 14, 2019)

Why Wet'suwet'en resistance to the Coastal Gas Link pipeline project is—and isn't—so complicated to understand.

Noha Sedky RPP, MCIP Principal – CitySpaces Consulting

As we ride the most recent pandemic wave towards a "new normal," people and businesses are adapting and adjusting more quickly to new ways of working. We reached out to Noha Sedky RPP, MCIP – a PIBC member who has an established professional career working alongside non-profits on affordable housing, homelessness, and social planning projects, about her plans for the future of work and for life.

You studied Political Science and then pursued further education in the field of planning. What initially brought you to BC and attracted you into the planning profession?

I immigrated to Canada from Egypt with my family in the late 1980s. We moved to North Vancouver because we knew one family who lived there, and they became our new community. I remember it being a bit of a shock to start high school in a new country. It took all of us a few years to get settled but we quickly fell in love with the beautiful city.

I was one of those undergraduate students who didn't know anything about the planning profession. I stumbled across it by accident when applying for a research position at the Centre for Human Settlements (CHS) at the University of British Columbia (UBC). My soon-to-be employer, Basil Van Horen, asked me if I was applying to go to the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP). I had to admit, I had never even heard of it.

In working with Basil, I learned about the evolution of human settlements and how we, the inhabitants, shape our cities in complex ways. But I also learned about disconnects between government regulations and the broader social good, and how housing was fundamental to the city fabric – contributing to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the cities we live in.

Planning West Call for Submissions

Winter Issue:
World Town Planning Day and Celebrating the Profession

Deadline for submissions Dec 15, 2021

Spring Issue:
Open call for submissions – Surprise Us!

Deadline for submissions Mar 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.

MEMBER IN FOCUS



Housing, human settlements, and how planning can positively (or negatively) drive change in our communities was an immediate draw for me. I was hooked. I will forever be grateful to Basil for his role in exposing me to the profession.

You've worked alongside non-profits and helped lead affordable housing initiatives for over 20 years. What are one or two significant changes you've seen over time?

I began working in the area of affordable housing in the early 2000s – a time that was seen by some to be the “dark ages” of affordable and rental housing. Many municipalities still believed that housing was the purview of senior governments, and it would not be uncommon for entire OCPs to include no more than a simple policy statement on the importance of affordable, rental, or special needs housing. The era of social housing of the 1970s and 80s had more or less dried up, and privately led rental housing construction

had been elbowed out of the way by strata condominiums.

Leaping ahead to today, it is safe to say that there is not one municipality in BC or throughout the rest of Canada that does not prioritize housing policy and practice. There is a renewed awareness of the need to facilitate a diversity of housing options, particularly rental and non-market housing. Provincial and federal governments are finally back at the table with funding and financing dollars to help address the massive shortfall in non-market housing – a much needed positive change.

While there have been a lot of creative policies and programs, there is more to do to address the limited supply of rental housing. Municipalities are working to create incentives to support new rental construction in their communities, but with few tax incentives for rental housing to help level the playing field with condo developments, the much-needed shift towards rental housing has not yet transpired.



With the impacts from the pandemic changing the nature of work, what do you see as the biggest challenges and opportunities for the future of work within our communities? What about the impacts on communities that may be at greater risk?

The pandemic expedited the use of technology and flexibility in the workplace, with a mix of both positive and negative implications for businesses and work-life balance. The pandemic has shown us how resilient we are and that we can adapt when needed. For better or worse, it has allowed us to blur the lines between work and home. I think finding the perfect balance between flexibility, productivity, and work culture will be the issue we grapple with in the coming months and years.

Within all of this, COVID-19 has also put a spotlight on the inequities in society and highlighted the urgency of housing and health services for those experiencing homelessness today. Many emergency shelters have had to close over the past 18 months and the challenges of keeping people safe without the availability of affordable and stable housing has put significant pressure on frontline service workers. Focusing on rapid housing initiatives and supportive housing options is even more critical than ever.

What have you done to pivot in work and in life during the last year and a half? Is there something you indulged in or enjoyed doing that you'll continue to do post-pandemic?

These very unusual times have given me gratitude and appreciation for family and friends I haven't seen in person and for travels of times past. I am ever more grateful for the years of grandparent support and childcare that I have had over the years. Throughout this pandemic, I have had to be a chameleon – business owner, professional planner, spouse, and parent – sometimes all at the same time!

I am looking forward to the future indulgences of world travel, large family get-togethers and occasional babysitting so I can get out for a special meal with my partner every once in a while. ■

Noha Sedky with Gwyn Symmons RPP, MCIP (PIBC Life Member) and the CitySpaces team.

The Future of Work

Understanding the Impacts of COVID-19 on Employment in Our Communities

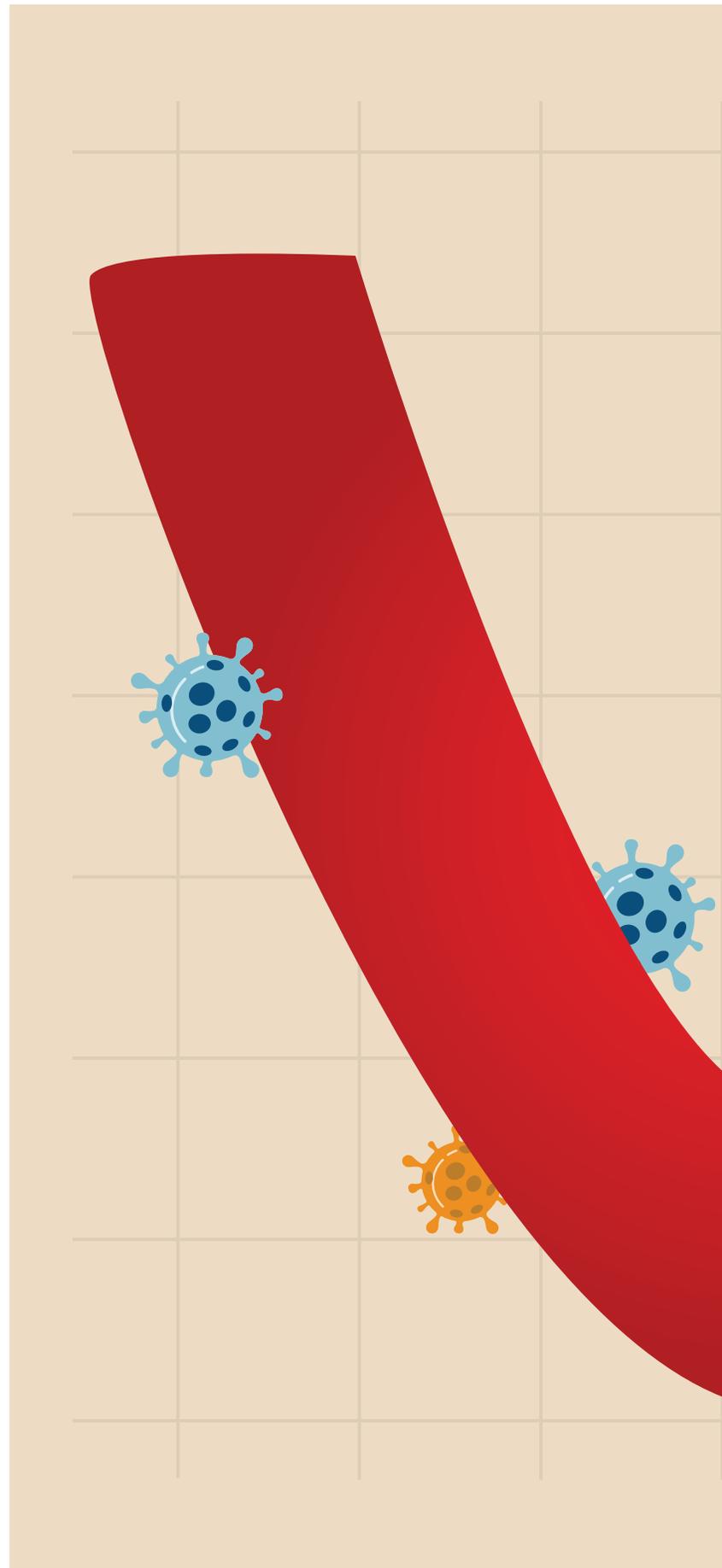
/ Adam Mattinson RPP, MCIP, PLE

Beyond the individual and personal effects, the COVID-19 pandemic has delivered a powerful blow to economies at the local and global scale. The initial wave of lockdowns put many businesses on hold, while others have been forced to transform how they operate. Almost overnight, front-line businesses were shuttered, offices transitioned online, and supply chains were stretched to the limit. The initial effects of this shock were profound, with impacts on employment and productivity being far more severe than any other economic recession since the Second World War.

While subsequent waves of the virus and new variants have tempered hopes for a ‘V’-shaped recovery, a “new normal” of a post-pandemic world is gradually emerging. However, the exact nature of this new normal for our places of work is still somewhat uncertain. It is yet to be seen which of the COVID-19 driven work arrangements will revert to pre-pandemic norms, and which will prove more permanent.

By many accounts, pandemic-related changes sped up trends that were already underway, well before British Columbia and Yukon officially declared the public health emergency in March of 2020. As such, many work place changes are not so much a temporary adjustment as an accelerated leap forward.

To understand these changes and their implications for the future of employment in our communities, consider the trends affecting three primary land use categories: office, retail, and industrial.





Office

Employment in office-based sectors was, comparatively, the least affected by the public health emergency as these jobs were the best equipped to transition to an online work-from-home model. While the change has given rise to new challenges, including Zoom-fatigue, the primary question facing many office-based organizations is what the eventual “return to the office” office will look like.

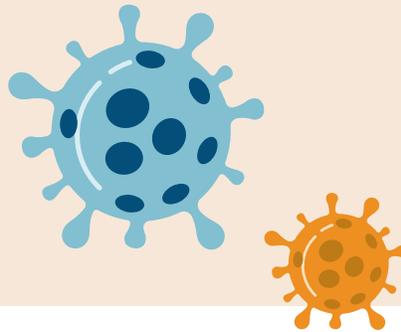
According to a recent survey by KPMG, only a small portion (18%) of office-based businesses have indicated they intend to mandate their employees to return to the office full-time. The vast majority (82%) are considering offering some form of flexibility in returning, with various hybrid forms of report-to-office and work-from-home split across the five-day workweek. Because of this changing pattern of occupancy, many real estate stakeholders anticipate average space

requirements will contract by as much as 20% as office-tenants experiment with forms of hot-desking and ‘hoteling’ in offices where previously employees would each have had an assigned desk.

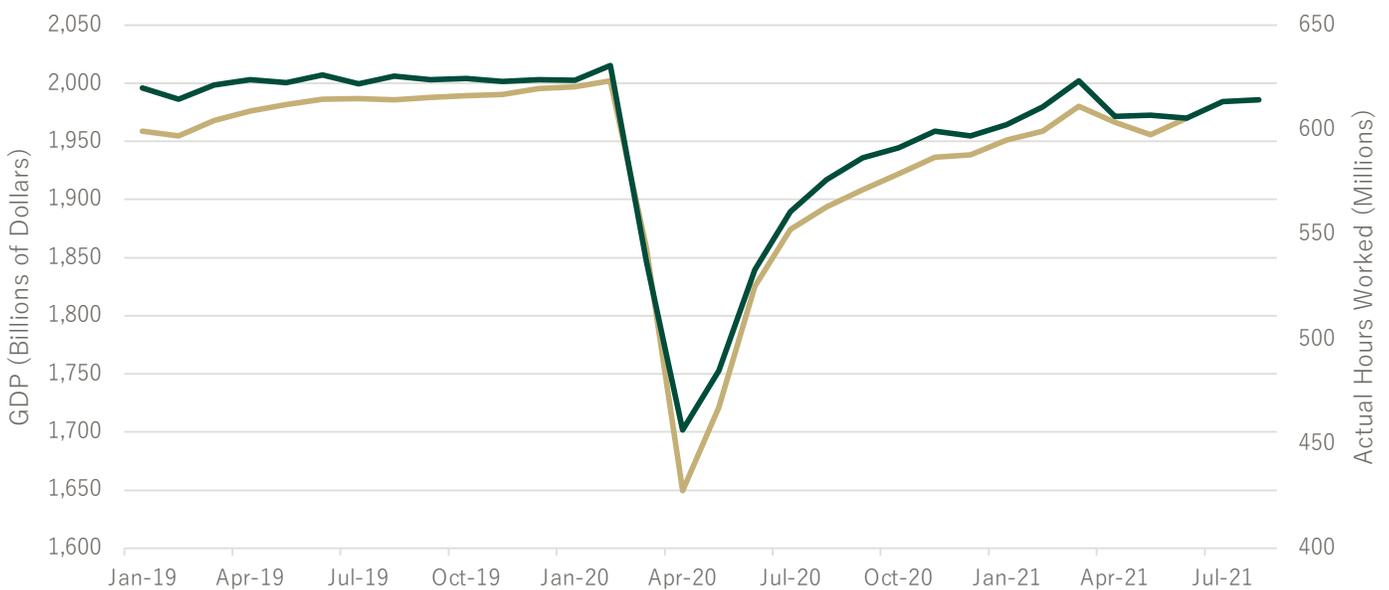
While a consensus has yet to emerge as to which hybrid model will work best for the various sectors, over time demand in many primary office markets is likely to decline to greater or lesser degrees. In central markets like Metro Vancouver, where pre-pandemic demand was far outpacing supply and vacancies were extremely low, this shift will bring the market towards more of an equilibrium, allowing more flexibility for companies to move and grow. At the same time, there is potential for

suburban and tertiary markets to compete for office space users as organizations consider locations further afield now that their employees do not have to commute into a central location every day.

With that said, it is still likely that Central Business Districts will retain a degree of primacy. Factors such as the benefits associated with agglomeration economics, access to a wide labour pool and the services and amenities found most commonly in regional downtowns are likely to re-exert themselves as health concerns abate. Co-working spaces, which were booming pre-COVID but have struggled since, may serve an enhanced role by providing day-to-day overflow desk requirements, particularly for smaller office-based businesses. Many larger office landlords have been developing ideas to help attract employees back to the office, such as more bicycle storage, shared meeting space and, where permitted, child-care facilities.



Change in Total Gross Domestic Product and Total Hours Worked All Industries, Canada, January 2019 – August 2021



Source: Statistics Canada

— Gross Domestic Product

— Total Actual Hours Worked

Retail

Shops, restaurants and services were some of the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic. The lockdowns and travel restrictions hampered both local business and activity associated with tourism. Coupled with increased competition from online retailers, many traditional retail businesses experienced a significant decline in sales, or were forced to close entirely.

In order to survive the worst of the lockdowns, firms either cut or furloughed staff. Now, as demand is gradually returning, many of these businesses are struggling to attract and retain staff, particularly for jobs that offer minimum or near-minimum wage.

In order to compensate, many businesses have increased wages and adapted their business models, including new revenue streams through options such as curbside pickup, hybrid in-store and online distribution options, and new street front service areas, where permitted. Many businesses will continue to rely on these expanded service delivery options as people gradually return to nearby offices and tourism activity increases once more. Just as the office sector was undergoing change before the pandemic, certain aspects of retailing will continue to shift from brick-and-mortar towards online platforms, though more experiential uses will continue to rely on well-located, attractive and flexible space.

Industrial

Industrial space has been at a premium across much of British Columbia for a number of years, with competition for near non-existent vacant space driving up rents in many sub-markets. Growing demand for warehousing, distribution and logistics-related uses has heightened demand for a limited supply of viable land from the Lower Mainland to Vancouver Island to Prince Rupert. Much of this is attributable to the rising role of e-commerce and global trade with the Pacific Rim which has driven port and other goods-movement-related land needs. Additionally, there has been a growing demand for film studios, clean-tech and other new production-related facilities.

In many ways, the pandemic has put even more pressure on industrial lands – particularly through the accelerated trend towards e-commerce and an increased push for local manufacturing of certain critical

goods. Due to limited land availability and rising prices, many industrial developers and users have had to adapt. It is now increasingly common to see higher density developments with ultra-high ceilings and even multi-storey warehouses where financially feasible and permitted by municipal zoning.

What does this mean for Planners?

When it comes to land use planning, while we must do our best to anticipate future demands, we can never predict the timing or impact of “black swan” events such as a pandemic. In the case of COVID-19, the nature and scale of the pandemic was unexpected, but its overall effects may have largely accelerated trends that were already occurring prior to its arrival. However, with the growing likelihood of more frequent disruptions related to global trade stoppages, climate change and future pandemics just beyond the horizon, the importance of planning for economic resiliency cannot be overstated.

Given the limited supply of employment land in many of our communities, it is crucial for municipalities to better understand and protect these types of land, recognizing the role each plays in the local, regional and even national economic ecosystem. There are also benefits to be gained from the support of business by making investment in infrastructure and the public realm, and through flexibility in regulations. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a rare opportunity to embrace changes that will enable us to address emerging challenges and to mitigate the next economic shock. ■

Adam Mattison is a Registered Professional Planner and Professional Land Economist with Hemson Consulting experienced in growth forecasting and economic land use planning. He has assisted communities of various sizes across Canada in understanding the changing nature of work and how to encourage and plan for resilient economies in uncertain times.

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The Future of Where We will Work?

/ Andrew Ramlö RPP, MCIP

Opinions on the future of our downtowns due to the global Covid-19 pandemic are wide and varied. Some predict their rapid demise as our nodes of commercial and office activity, while others see a shift back to business as usual once we achieve herd immunity from the virus. As always, the reality will likely end up somewhere between the two extremes, but only time will truly tell.

As we transition through the pandemic, we can look to data to see what has been happening and what trends may be emerging. In terms of overall employment, Canada has fared relatively well given what most economists expected. The most recent jobs data show that nationally almost all of the jobs lost through the early stages of the pandemic lockdown have been rehired. Total employment in September 2020 was 900 jobs above what was seen back in February of 2020.

Within this national landscape, BC has been an outlier: we are the only province to have added more jobs than those lost during the pandemic. By September our jobs numbers were 1.5% above where we were at back in February of 2020, or more than 40,000 more jobs.

This broad-based recovery has also been reflected in most of Canada's metro regions. Vancouver and Toronto now both sit slightly above total employment levels seen in February of 2020 (1.6 and 0.5% respectively), and Montreal is getting close, with about 20,000 jobs still to add before reaching pre-pandemic levels.

Within this general employment picture, the pandemic has however become known as a "great revealer", with its impacts being felt differentially between different cities, sectors and population

groups. When looking at downtowns, it is important to dig a bit deeper into the data to see how different sectors have been impacted by *our great suppression of 2020/21*.

Throughout the course of 2020, employment in office-types of occupations (business, finance, administration & management, among others) were less impacted as a result of lockdowns and have largely recovered beyond pre pandemic levels. By September of 2021, jobs in many of these office-using sectors had well surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Outstanding sectors have been business and finance (8% above February 2020 nation-wide), health (3% above), and natural and applied sciences (a whopping 14% above where we were pre-pandemic). Notable was also education, law and government services which was 4% above. Collectively these office types of occupations are almost 530,000 jobs above pre-pandemic levels.

Unfortunately, the service-based sectors such as retail and food & accommodation shouldered the brunt of the impacts of the suppression and continue to languish. The September jobs data show that total employment in sales and service occupations were still 8% below pre-pandemic levels. This equates to more than 355,000 jobs nationally. With shuttered storefronts and 'For Lease' signs looming large, activity in these sectors (or lack thereof) is one of the factors weighing heavily on the minds of those speculating about the future demise of our downtowns.

That being said, while the jobs numbers are important in tracking our economic recovery, it is the *how and where* of the office jobs that will shape the futures of our downtowns. By September 2021, Statistics

Photo credits from Unsplash:
1 Edwin Hopper 2 Sigmund
3 Ave Calvar



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Canada reported that about a quarter (24%) of Canadians were working the majority of their hours from home, down from a peak of 39% in March of 2020. Interestingly, as part of a separate study, Statistics Canada estimated that only about 40% of all jobs in Canada could plausibly be performed remotely, which correlates closely to the peak of people actually working at home during the height of the lockdown in March 2020 (39%).

So, the question is "*will the 24% to 40% of people who are able to work remotely continue to do so, or will our great industrial machine pull us back towards old norms?*" The simple answer is YES (we will do a little of both). We can look to some recent surveys and development data as indicators of where we might fall along this spectrum.

Employee survey results show a wide range of perspectives. Anywhere between 40% and 80% of employees surveyed indicating they would prefer some degree of flexibility to work both remotely and in the office once we shift into our next normal. However, in terms of our next generation of workers, a recent McKinsey & Company survey showed that two thirds of new college graduates hope to spend most or all of their work time in an office environment.

While many employees are focusing on a post-pandemic era with much more flexibility of how and where their work gets done, it seems that few employers are ready to completely abandon office spaces altogether. The scale of new office development in our major Metro regions provides some insight into employers' intentions for the coming months and years.

In terms of new office construction, my colleagues at Altus Group report that



2, 3

upwards of 20.6 million new square feet of office space are planned and on the books for major Canadian metro regions. Of this, Toronto has about 9 million square feet in the development pipeline, Vancouver 6 million, and Montreal 2.5 million.

Within the context of the past 19 months, it is important to note how much of this upcoming floorspace has been pre-leased. CBRE leasing data show that 78% of total new office inventory in Downtown Toronto is already preleased, driven by a mix of different users from Shopify and the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO), to Microsoft, Google, Spaces, CIBC, and Deloitte.

In Vancouver, almost 65% of additional office space has been pre-leased, pre-sold, or is under contract. Vancouver's activity has been driven by the expansion of Amazon, Spaces, Apple, and Deloitte to name just a few of the large players. Over the past 18 months, existing pre-lease and sales contracts have held tight with new groups becoming more prominent in each market. Commercial brokers in both Toronto and Vancouver have indicated they are experiencing a growing number of showings for available space.

Further to this, a recent survey by PWC of executives in the US found that while a handful expected to reduce office space, more than half (56%) expected to expand office space, with almost 90% of these executives indicating that plans included consolidating and re-orienting space in premier locations and/or opening more satellite locations to better serve a diversity of employee home locations.

From a planning perspective, it appears *the office* is here to stay and the

prognostications about our downtown's demise may be overstated. What is clearly emerging is that the role of our downtowns as our central place of work is shifting due to some push and pull factors.

Employees will continue to push for some degree of remote work to take advantage of the environmental, economic, and social implications of reduced commuting and housing costs, not to mention increased flexibility for managing other

daily activities from childcare to eldercare. Employers on the other hand will continue to try to pull employees back to the office to foster collaboration, creativity, and productivity and maintain aspects of corporate culture and cohesiveness.

With this data in hand, it is evident that a hybrid model is emerging. We expect to see a growing job base in our major metro downtowns as new office space that is under construction is filled; but we will also see a certain degree of repositioning of existing floorspace. This repositioning will largely happen within the existing office spaces that comprise our downtowns as employers reconfigure and reimagine workspaces to better suit the post-pandemic needs and demands of a growing and changing workforce. ■

Andrew Ramlö is the VP Consulting Services at the Rennie Group in Vancouver.

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UNDRIP and the Future of Planning Work

/ Dawn Smith, PIBC Student Member

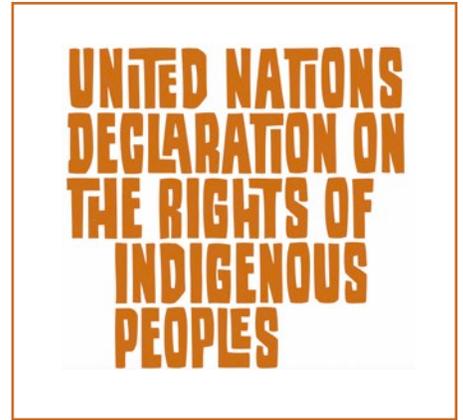


Photo by Sonya Ramonovska on Unsplash

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is a global human rights resolution, ratified by Canada in 2010. Legislation in BC (Bill 41) and federally (Bill C-15) has made the commitment of aligning BC and Canadian laws with UNDRIP through collaboration with Indigenous governments.

The passing of provincial and federal UNDRIP legislation changes the future of planning work. UNDRIP, and UNDRIP legislation, gives planners an accessible, tangible, framework to use in our planning work. Implementing UNDRIP is the next step towards decolonizing planning in BC.

Planners have a special role in implementing UNDRIP. Our work directly interfaces with topics now governed in part by UNDRIP, such as land use, resource planning and housing. UNDRIP gives planners explicit guidance regarding respect for Indigenous rights. Upholding and aligning our work as planners with UNDRIP is a minimum standard for Indigenous rights in Canada. UNDRIP is a floor, not a ceiling, for Indigenous rights.

UNDRIP articles explicitly elaborate and describe Indigenous rights, such as the right to self-determination, the right to establish and control their own educational systems, and the right to maintain and strengthen their own distinct legal systems. Provincial and federal UNDRIP legislation create a framework to share power and authority between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments. The provincial and federal legislation requires comprehensive shared decision-making over many topics, including laws, land, and resources.



Photo by Maria Stanborough

The future of planning work will be shaped primarily by three aspects of UNDRIP:

1

Planning work should support collective rights

UNDRIP rights are collective rights, held by Nations as a whole. This will require our planning work to shift from focusing on the rights of individuals to the rights of Nations. For example, UNDRIP does not assert the right of a Nation Member to access housing, but rather the right of the Nation to define, control, create and manage their own housing projects using their own concepts and standards.

Policies and programs developed by planners are usually based around individual rights, not collective rights. As we consider how to align policies and programs with UNDRIP, we need to reimagine how planners can support collective rights.

2

Planning work should support Indigenous cultures and laws

UNDRIP places Indigenous culture and law as central and equal to Western practices. This will require Planners develop more awareness and understanding of Indigenous cultures and laws. This will impact material aspects of planning, such as determining who qualifies for an Indigenous focused program. UNDRIP Article 33 states that someone is a Member of an Indigenous Nation if they meet the standard upheld under the laws of that Nation. This means that Indigenous Nations, through their own legal systems and teachings, define who are their members, and consequently who qualifies for participation in a program.

3

Planning work should support & follow Indigenous leadership

UNDRIP rights cannot be implemented without material, reciprocal, collaborative partnerships, led by Nations. This is well beyond planning practices of “consultation” or “right to information.” This approach requires a higher and deeper standard. UNDRIP will require deep holistic partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments when working on issues of land, resources and culture. UNDRIP positions planners as supporters, collaborators, and followers of Nation leadership.

Implementing UNDRIP articles will require respectful, reciprocal relationships with Indigenous Nations.

The five attributes planners will need to incorporate in our work:



1 Cooperation and collaboration

Planning managers and directors should ensure staff training in these skills, and reward staff proficiency.

2 Supportive and flexible

Each Nation has their own distinct traditions and practices. This means planners should become skilled at learning, and supporting, the distinct practices of each Nation. We should ensure approach, programs, and policies are flexible and centered on Nation-determined priorities.

3 Relationship focused

Central to implementing UNDRIP will be the deepening and strengthening of reciprocal relationships with Indigenous Nations. Planners should devote resources to improve and support these relationships. Planners should focus primarily on the quality of relationships with our Indigenous partners and less on the end product.

4 Curious and self-reflective

Non-Indigenous planners should be curious and reflect on our biases and preconceptions. What can we learn about ourselves and set aside, while supporting the distinct practices of a Nation? We may need to process and learn from feelings of guilt, overwhelm, or fear in order to move forward.

5 Imagination and bravery

Implementing UNDRIP represents a significant shift in the future of planning work. We need to reimagine the process of planning, as well as the end result. We should embrace the opportunity to do better, learn, and grow.

UNDRIP has changed the future of planning work and set a new standard for decolonized planning. Planners should step forward, step up, and follow Indigenous leadership to implement UNDRIP. ■

Dawn Smith is a non-Indigenous planner and recent Indigenous Community Planning graduate from the School of Community & Regional Planning at UBC. She received the PIBC Student Fellowship award for her SSHRC research into UNDRIP and planning. She is grateful to live in peace on the homeland of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.



Photo by Maria Stanborough

Contributing Editor's Note by Gwen Bridge

There is much expectation and many new responsibilities for planners, but also for Indigenous peoples. There will need to be changes to capacity funding to Indigenous communities in UNDRIP implementation. It is conceivable, and is often my experience, that the Nation simply does not have the human, knowledge, financial, or time resources to respond to the relationship development with every professional and governmental sector that will need to implement UNDRIP. Without this understanding, and when relationships don't materialize, dashed expectations can be a little disappointing to all involved.

Planners need to do the things recommended in the article without question but also may have an obligation to, if not create a level playing field, at least recognize when it isn't and adjust expectations accordingly. Part of working through UNDRIP is understanding the structural and systemic issues hampering its implementation (notwithstanding fundamental

differences in worldview and decision making processes). These are many, and on all sides, including provincial reticence to change (even with DRIPA), expectations of those wanting to engage, i.e. planners, unpreparedness of First Nations, etc. Once these are identified and understood then incrementally developing and implementing solutions and workarounds can be done. This challenge luckily has been met by a few and they can serve as guides for us.

For more information on UNDRIP articles, [visit https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html](https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/declaration/index.html).

Gwen Bridge is an Indigenous management consultant and negotiator. A member of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation, she has spent the last 20 years working with Indigenous peoples to advance their interests and authority in natural resource management and decision making. She is the Contributing Editor for *Planning West*.

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PANDEMIC DIALOGUES – LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

/ Claire Negrin RPP, MCIP, and Chris Hutton RPP, MCIP,
with input from the PIBC Vancouver Island North Chapter Committee

Few of us would have ever imagined that we would live through a global pandemic in our lifetime. Collectively, we are living through a significant global event that has impacted each of us in terms of our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health. In addition to how we are affected personally, this also has great implications for our work and our roles in community as planners.

The PIBC Vancouver Island North Chapter struggled to find ways to support its members in 2020, just as many organizations and individuals faced similar challenges. Through the spring and summer of 2020, local and international events like pipeline protests, the COVID-19 pandemic, the affordable housing crisis, the opioid overdose emergency, and the Black Lives Matter movement increased conversations about social and racial inequities in our communities. The sudden frankness in conversation about these issues opened up the opportunity for us to begin to talk about how these issues are impacting planning on Vancouver Island and in BC.

On December 12, 2020, after nearly a year without any opportunities for in-person learning or networking, we hosted a free virtual event entitled, “Pandemic Dialogue: What Happened? Where Do We Go From Here?”

Facilitated by Jenn Meilleur of NewStories and Erica Crawford of SHIFT Collaborative, the event was a virtual ‘debrief’, an opportunity to connect, reflect on our experiences, and generate recommendations and actions that could inform the work of individuals and organizations. It was an opportunity to begin to imagine what might be possible now for the health and well-being of our communities.

The Conversation

The PIBC Vancouver Island North Chapter created this opportunity for members to come together and share individual experiences of the change we had been through so far. Through this process, we affirmed common and new experiences. Participants made observations that we could use to generate ideas for how to move forward during and beyond the pandemic, even as many things remained uncertain.

This discussion was motivated by an understanding that not everyone wants to go back to exactly the way things were before the pandemic. Through rounds of conversation, we arrived at the need to act on the things that COVID has brought to light and not just forget these lessons.

In particular, this experience has elevated our sense of responsibility as planners to uphold the needs and voices of those who are vulnerable and not often well represented in our planning processes. In addition to bringing us to some clear Calls to Action, the

session also provided a healthy and fulfilling experience for participants to share their experiences.

The Pandemic Dialogue Report provides a taste of the conversation, in three main sections: Our Stories, Implications, and Calls to Action.

Our Stories – What Happened

Our Stories is an overview of our experiences over the course of the pandemic:

- what it was like to plan in a crisis;
- how the pandemic highlighted social inequities;
- how we weighed our priorities between work and home;
- the emotional toll of missing family and friends; and
- how reflecting on this time has provided us all with an opportunity to clarify what is important, and appreciate what may have previously been taken for granted.

Implications – What Does It Mean

Implications is pulling the main themes from the discussion, such as:

- the urgency to plan for everyone, especially those who have often not had as strong a voice in planning and decision-making processes;

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- the critical place of social wellbeing and connectedness in healthy and thriving communities;
- the need to act with courage, tenacity, boldness, and conviction;
- the need for us, and our plans, to be more adaptable, resilient, and creative;
- the challenging tension between the benefits of density and the desire for more private and outdoor space; and
- the gains made in working and engaging online, going to where people are, rather than expecting them to come to us.

Read the Pandemic Dialogue Report on the Vancouver Island North Chapter webpage on PIBC's website. Learn more about our facilitators at: www.newstories.org and www.shiftcollaborative.ca ■

PIBC Vancouver Island North Chapter Committee are:

- Chris Osborne RPP, MCIP, Chair
- Chris Hutton RPP, MCIP
- Claire Negrin RPP, MCIP
- Courtney Smith RPP, MCIP
- Dana Beatson RPP, MCIP
- Kevin Brooks RPP, MCIP
- Lauren Wright RPP, MCIP
- Nancy Gothard RPP, MCIP
- Nick Redpath RPP, MCIP

CALLS TO ACTION – WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As a group, we developed these 'Calls to Action' during our discussions. These Calls to Action are not only for us as individual planners, but also for our organizations, volunteer committees, and professional institute:

- place the principles of courage, creativity, adaptability, compassion, tenacity and justice at the forefront of planning practice;
- implement metrics that prioritize core values such as human and environmental well-being and equity;
- cultivate more representative, inclusive and community-driven planning by addressing systemic biases in policy and decision-making structures. For example, communicate to decision-makers the degree to which engagement results are, or are not, representative of the community, and advocate for addressing the shortfalls;
- get more planners into local politics to make more informed planning choices;
- use technology to extend the reach of our engagement efforts, and take advantage of ways that this can be an equalizer. Advocate for the continued use of online engagement options (e.g. virtual public hearings);
- promote the importance of both public spaces and density – find the opportunity in this heightened tension.

FOR PIBC AND OUR COMMITTEES:

- develop a statement or policy on addressing diversity, equity and inclusion within the profession;
- provide education and supports (e.g. mentorship) to planners to play an advocate role in their organizations;
- use participatory with small group dialogues in other sessions, to allow for more reflection and unstructured conversation;
- offer engaging online sessions for members to meet across a wider geographic scale;
- create opportunities for members to "work collaboratively and conspiratorially with each other," and;
- offer sessions on resilience leadership.

The View from the Island: What's on the Horizon for VIU

/ Felicia Fischer, Mark Holland RPP, MCIP, and Pam Shaw RPP, FCIP

This article marks the second in a series of brief insights on ideas emerging from British Columbia's planning schools – the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver Island University (VIU), and the University of Northern BC. In this update from VIU's Master of Community Planning Program, we provide an overview of the program, highlights of student work, and some insight on the "wicked questions" currently being considered by faculty.

A Brief Overview

VIU's Master of Community Planning (MCP) Program was initiated in 2014 and combines research along with applied learning through real-world projects. The Program benefits from strong ties to the local planning community who act as mentors, adjuncts, committee members, and guest speakers, offering their knowledge and expertise to students. The MCP program leverages its location and VIU's strong ties to communities to equip students with a strong foundation of professional and academic skills and develop an extensive professional network.

The Year Ahead

We are welcoming the seventh cohort of MCP students in-person in September 2021. Some highlights of the Program include:

- All students will be engaged in an intensive planning exercise with the South End Neighbourhood Association

during Orientation Week (the first week of classes). This is the first of many practical, applied opportunities to work with First Nations, municipal governments, and community groups across the academic year;

- Students have the opportunity to complete an additional six-course Urban and Regional Planning Certificate along with their degree on a range of specific planning topics. Students can then graduate with a degree and certificate;
- Pat Maloney RPP, FCIP is the Program's Practitioner in Residence, and Dave Witty RPP, FCIP is our Professor Emeritus. The Planning Studio was recently renamed as the Dave Witty Studio to honor his contributions to the Program;
- The student-initiated and managed "Future Plans Journal" (see: <https://www.futureplansjournal.com>) continues to provide students and faculty with a place to publish peer-reviewed articles;



1

1 Master of Community Planning Students working in the Dave Witty Studio.
2 Landscape of Vancouver Island University's Nanaimo campus.



2



MCP

Highlights of Student Research

Students graduating in Spring 2021 were one of two cohorts to engage in a year of online learning. While online life certainly had some challenges, it also opened opportunities to connect to interesting people from around the world, including an engaging and insightful keynote address from Charles Montgomery at the MCP Grad Celebration. Graduating students continue to contribute to planning research and professional practice through an amazing array of theses and major projects:

Vesa Atanasoff	A small, sustainable, standard: how tiny homes could be realized as accessory dwelling unit infill in Nanaimo	Peter Johnston	Post-Pandemic Resiliency: Exploring Greenbelts, Agricultural Land Reserves in New Brunswick
Jacob Burnley	Improving Rural and Small-Town Public Transit: Best Practices and Strategies for Smaller-Scale Transit Solutions	Isha Matous-Gibbs	Deathscapes in Planning: How Planners Can Create Grief-Friendly Spaces
Hayley Burns	Navigating a New Normal: Planning for resilient tourism on Vancouver Island	Brian McLoughlin	Spirit Squares: Planning for Public Space in Vancouver Island Municipalities
Janet Chen	The Mid-Sized/Aged City Approach to Smart Cities: A Proposal to Create a Smart City Strategy and Practice for Nanaimo, British Columbia	Maureen Nolan	Improving Neighbourhood Livability and Transportation Safety in Nanaimo, BC.
Ian Cox	Rainwater in Trust: Legislation, Policy, and Regulation Governing Catchments, Systems and Use on the Gulf Islands	Aishwarya Pathania	Responsive Cities: Reimagining society's role in shaping its cities in the age of the internet
Sonal Deshmukh	Pluralistic Planning for Multicultural Cities: Exploring Cultural Expression in the Built Environment	Jake Rogger	The Homeless Serving System: A Case Study of Quesnel, B.C.
Felicia Fischer	Walking, dogs, and the built form: An examination of the role of the built environment in supporting dog walking as a form of exercise in Nanaimo, BC	Shalini	Comparing Solid Waste Management Systems of three Regional Districts on Vancouver Island: Regional District of Nanaimo, Capital Regional District and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Celina Fletcher	Assessing the progress of local government greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets on Vancouver Island	Neethu Syam	Repurposing Streets for People: Quick-Builds using Tactical Urbanism
Evans Frimpong	Official Community Plan Assessment in Measuring the Welcoming Capacities of Non-Urban Communities in British Columbia	Bailey Walsh	An Exploration of Factors Contributing to Smooth and Efficient Development Approvals Processes on Vancouver Island
Kira Gill-Maher	Best Practices in a Changing Climate: Investigating the Role of Local Government Planners in Climate Change Mitigation	Zehra Wazir	Rethinking Affordable Housing; An integrated approach for sustainable and equitable living
Samreet Grewal	Food Systems on Campus: A Comparative Study		

- The new Professional Indigenous Lands Management (PILM) Certificate launched in May 2021 in partnership with the National Aboriginal Lands Manager Association's (NALMA) and will be offered again in Summer 2022; and
- The proposed Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Certificate, in partnership with the IISAAK OLAM Foundation (www.iisaakolam.ca/aboutus) is currently under internal review and could welcome its first cohort in 2022.

Observations on Planning Education Today

Planning education is going through an exciting renaissance in BC and, as part of that, VIU's program is undertaking a major refinement of curriculum this year. The question of "what do young planners need to know to be effective in the 21st century?" is on the minds of many of us.

This has led to VIU's curriculum refinement with many courses being restructured, content removed or added, add a whole new layer of concurrent certificates, colloquia and partnerships with industry groups, such as the Urban Development Institute (UDI). The intent of this work is to ensure our students have exposure to the widest range of issues and professions that we can.

One of planning's primary roles is "to make order out of chaos" in helping a community grapple with challenges and opportunities. We believe that "planning is the choreography of civilization." The faculty at VIU hope to teach the content and practical skills to the next generation of leaders to have the tools themselves to lead and create positive change.

For more information, check out our website at <https://socialsciences.viu.ca/mcp>. ■

Felicia Fischer is a graduate of the MCP Program and the Assistant to the Community Planning Department. Mark Holland is a Professor in the MCP Program. Pam Shaw is the Director of the MCP Program.

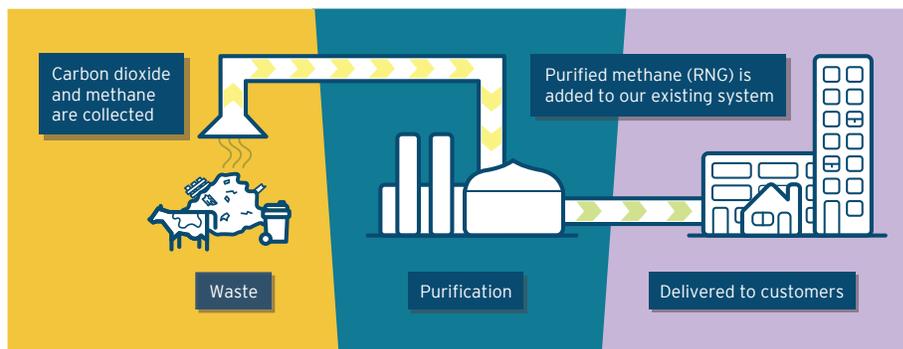
Ten Questions on the Minds of VIU Faculty



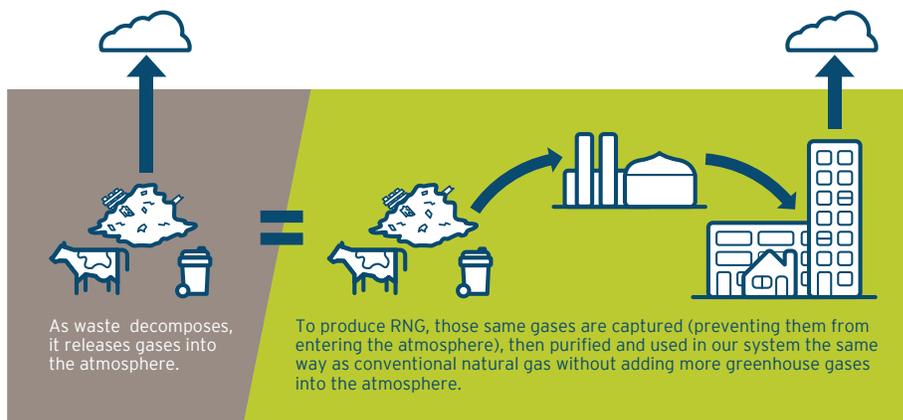
Among many interesting areas of investigation, faculty are currently grappling with the following:

1. **How do we change how humans live to reduce consuming resources at an unsustainable rate?**
2. **How do we address both the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in real and practical ways to create positive change?**
3. **How do we plan for mass movement of communities as a result of the climate crisis?**
4. **How can we create homes for people, along with buildings and public spaces, and stop the relentless climb in housing prices?**
5. **What is the impact of digital platforms and misinformation on our communities?**
6. **How can we create whole places that include industry, ecosystems, recreation and food systems?**
7. **Should we now be considering the "end of the downtown" and the "rise of the (15 minute) neighbourhood" as the basic building block of a region?**
8. **How do we structure communities to both function as part of larger regions accessed by vehicles and as sustainable neighbourhoods that focus on local services?**
9. **How do we create better alignment among all the actors in the development of places and spaces?**
10. **How do we balance planning for cycling with walking and the expensive adaptation of cycling infrastructure for a small percentage of the population?**

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Thinking Tactically: Public Space in the 'Global South'

/ Elsabe Fourie & Adriana Valentina Farías, PIBC Student Members



1

As cities around the world continue to debate the merits of density, how to best provide public spaces in dense environments poses a key challenge to planners. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that these conversations cannot be ignored; rather, COVID-19 amplified the need for public space provision. Cities of the 'global north', who too often turn to other 'global north' cities for best practices, have the opportunity to now look toward the 'global south' where the conversation has been ongoing for years.

Planning in the 'global south' is frequently thought of as crisis and disorder. While this may sometimes ring true, cities of the 'global south' are also at the forefront of many innovations in response

to rapid densification. Inspiration can be drawn from cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America of how to be more flexible and creative in providing public spaces. Communities in the 'global south' have turned underutilized and unexciting spaces into impressive and much used public amenities through 'tactical urbanism' – improvising what exists to create great urban spaces.

Caracas, Venezuela

In 2009, the municipality of Sucre, the organization Fundación Espacio, and students from the Simón Bolívar University partnered to develop a series of public spaces, amenities and parks in

Caracas, Venezuela. The project took place in Petare, the largest slum in Latin America, and converted leftover spaces that were underutilized by the community into parks, amenities and public spaces.

The project included over 25 interventions. The park 'Los Coquitos' took leftover space in between housing, which is often overlooked by planners. Between the main street and the Guaire river they created a 48m² park (520 sq ft) which includes swings, benches and seesaws for residents of all ages to gather, play, and view the cityscape. The walls of the park were converted into murals with a pattern that was recreated in other parks developed by the municipality.

Franco Micucci, a founding member of Fundación Espacio and director of the Architecture and Design Faculty at the Simón Bolívar University, stated that a key takeaway of this project was collaboration: the municipality and the students were able to innovate while partnering with an organization that was willing to fund the project. Micucci emphasized that working on these micro-projects was more financially feasible than large-scale projects and allowed the municipality to create a long-term network of public spaces.



2

Cape Town, South Africa

In line with the lighter, quicker, cheaper concept of tactical urbanism, Open Streets Cape Town began the 'Bench, Bin, and Blomme Bellville' (B4) campaign in 2016. B4 aimed to provide on-the-ground knowledge that would feed into the formal planning process of upgrading in Kruskal Avenue.

Urban design theory tends to provide standardized guidelines for how to create desirable spaces. However, not all places meet this design criteria and yet continue to attract people. Kruskal Avenue was being adapted by users to meet needs that the previous infrastructure did not fulfill. Municipal fixtures such as electrical and telephone boxes were used as structures to lean against due to a lack of available seating.

In response, Open Streets began working with local partners to provide residents with the infrastructure they needed. Wooden pallets were repurposed and upcycled into benches to provide low-cost seating, and were painted bright blue. These pallets were also re-shaped to create vertical planters that easily attach to the back of the benches to create an urban garden.

While the B4 example may seem like a simple intervention, providing benches that were able to be moved around allowed people to rearrange the infrastructure and show how they envision the space to meet their needs.



3

Lima, Peru

The RUS Playground in Lima, Peru was an 'amusement park' created on an abandoned elevated electric train structure using recycled materials such as tires and ropes. Completed in 2010, RUS Playground was established through a partnership between local artists, architects, social activists, and a Spanish-based collective known as Basurama. Basurama (basura means garbage) seeks to create spaces using trash and reused materials. The project was funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Aid for approximately USD\$5000.

The 'amusement park' consisted of climbing areas, swings, and spaces for relaxation that were brightly painted. Replacing the abandoned infrastructure with the park allowed Limeños to experience the advantages of a public amenity. The RUS Playground was eventually taken down when the local government continued to build the elevated rail line. After the loss of RUS Park, Limeños decided to create initiatives like Parques Autoarmables (Auto-assembled Parks) throughout the city to fill the void left by RUS Park's demolition.

The temporal nature of RUS park highlights the many lives that a space can have. Temporary tactics do not have to be in conflict with long-term visions, and can instead provide windows of opportunity for immediate gain, and examples that can be built from.

- 1 Caracas, Venezuela
- 2 Cape Town, South Africa
- 3 Lima, Peru

Izmir, Turkey

Izmir's 'Think Micro' project provides another example of how lighter, quicker, cheaper tactical urbanism can be used to activate space. Originally tested in 2014, Think Micro has lined the Izmir's waterfront with 4m² (43 sq ft) floating parks that are modular, multi-functional spaces.

Implemented to break up the monotonous, flat open spaces that defined Izmir's waterfront, Think Micro's docks were constructed and installed by designers with the end users in mind. Docks are shaped as long piers to serve fishermen, or installed with seating and shade to act as a seaside meeting spot. Residents are now able to interact with their waterfront in unique ways and are able to turn a desolate space into a vibrant one.

Think Micro's floating dock structures are lightweight, easy to assemble, and cheap to construct. The project demonstrates the potential of local, small-scale public space improvements that challenge the standardized nature of waterfront promenades.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged planners to think more creatively about public space. Where better to turn our eyes than to the 'global south', which has been thinking innovatively about public space for years? As cities continue to respond to ever-evolving pressures, so must their planning. We challenge you, the reader, to think creatively: what could tactical urbanism look like in your city or in your work? ■

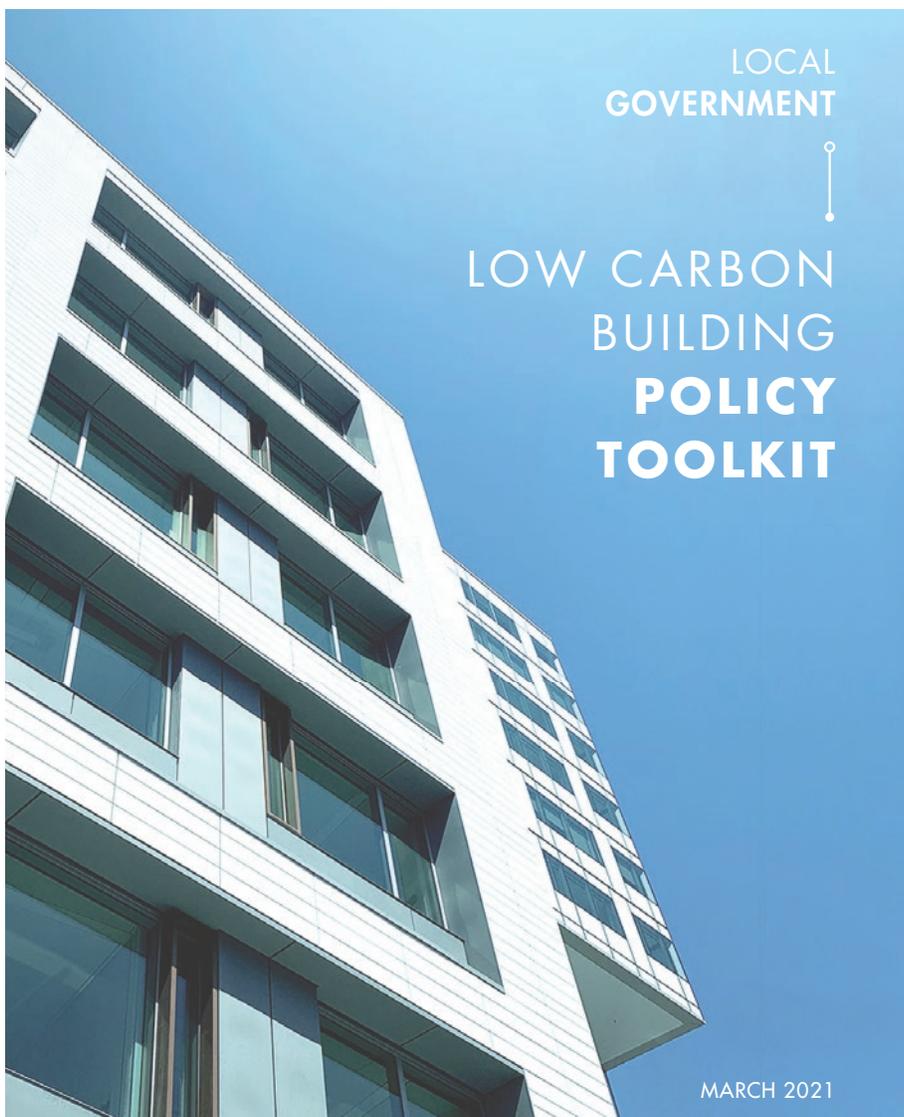
The authors would like to express their gratitude to Dr. Michael Hooper for his continued support and encouragement, and Franco Micucci for his valuable insights into the Venezuelan case study.

Adriana Valentina Farias and Elsabe Fourie are graduate planning students at the School of Community & Regional Planning at UBC. Valentina is originally from Caracas, Venezuela and Elsabe from Cape Town, South Africa. They continue to draw on their exposure to different cultures and places in their work in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Building on the Step Code: Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit

Changes local governments can make to remove barriers to low carbon building construction

/ Devon Miller, PIBC Candidate Member



Many local governments have adopted the BC Energy Step Code and developed climate plans with ambitious GHG emission reduction targets; concurrently these local governments may also have policies and bylaws that do not support, and in some cases inhibit, construction of low carbon buildings.

The *Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit* provides local governments with recommended policies, guidelines and bylaws to support the transition to low carbon buildings in their communities. Funded by BC Hydro and led by Origin Planning and McEwen Climate & Energy, the development of the Toolkit was supported by a Working Group of local government staff, and an Advisory Committee consisting of government and industry representatives. Toolkit recommendations build upon adoption of the BC Energy Step Code, and are focused on (1) enabling energy efficient building form and (2) removing barriers to heat pump uptake - two focus areas that will be critical to meeting building sector-related emissions reduction targets.

Enabling energy efficient building form

Achieving high levels of energy efficiency in a cost-effective manner

requires the flexibility to design buildings differently. Some design features, often required in Development Permit (DP) Form & Character design guidelines, may impact the ability for projects to affordably achieve high performance. In addition to DP Form & Character Guidelines, zoning bylaw definitions related to floor area ratio, setback requirements, and building height limits can inadvertently penalize high performance design strategies such as the use of thicker wall and roof assemblies.

Recommendations include:

1. OCP Climate Action Policies that support High-Performance Buildings

The Toolkit includes 6 categories of recommended policies to be included in OCPs to best support climate action and low carbon buildings which include:

- Linking to high level, globally-adopted GHG reduction and renewable energy targets
- Supporting and coordinating with higher levels of government and other organizations working on climate action
- Applying a climate lens to all local government decision making
- Drawing connections to other OCP policies, sections and directions that support climate action, such as linking a compact land use framework with lower per capita transportation emissions
- Supporting low carbon building policy adoption, such as the BC Energy Step Code with consideration for the inclusion of low carbon energy systems
- Setting up future climate action projects, such as Climate Action Plans and Electric Vehicle strategies

2. Development Permit Form and Character Guidelines that are aligned with High-Performance Design

Many municipalities have adopted accelerated approaches to Step Code,

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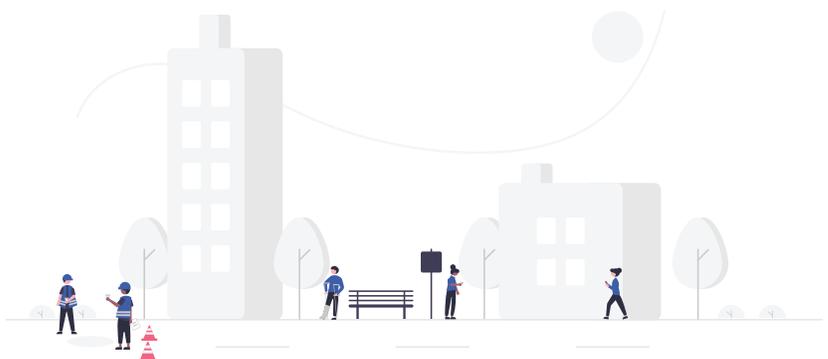


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"Achieving high levels of energy efficiency in a cost-effective manner requires the flexibility to design buildings differently. "

seeking to require the Upper Steps of the code in advance of the 2032 timeline set out by the Province. This means that Planning departments will increasingly see development applications for buildings that may not be supported by current design guidelines.

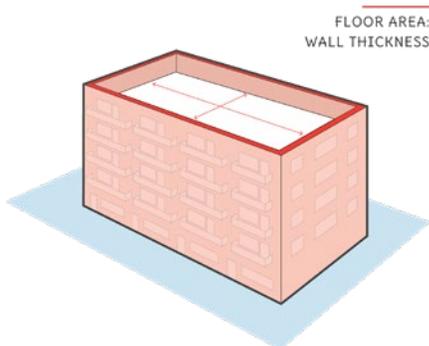
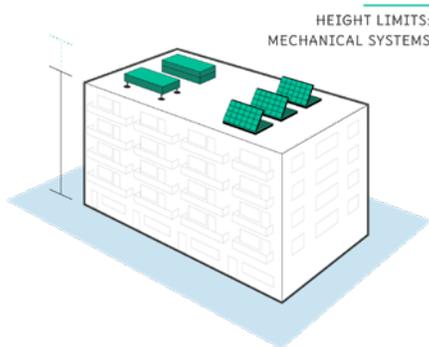
The Toolkit provides recommendations for reviewing DP Form and Character Guidelines to ensure they provide

flexibility and support for high performance design strategies, including:

- Simplified building form
- Lower overall window to wall ratio (WWR), with allowances for higher WWR at grade for active, transparent frontages
- Optimized orientation to balance solar gains and losses
- Exterior shading devices on building facades
- Balcony design strategies that limit thermal bridging and associated heat loss through the building envelope

energy systems such as solar photovoltaic arrays towards building height, penalizing the use of such systems as it can reduce the amount of usable floor space in a building

- Building setbacks that present barriers to the implementation of exterior shading devices, as they may require a variance if they extend into the setback
- Building setback requirements that limit the siting of heat pumps, causing barriers to their uptake. For example, some municipalities do not allow heat pumps in side yards.



3. Step Code-friendly Zoning Bylaws

In many municipalities in BC, buildings built to higher energy performance standards may not have the same usable floor space as those built to existing standards. This can be due to two primary reasons:

- Gross Floor Area (GFA) is measured to the outside of the exterior wall, which effectively penalizes the use of thicker (more insulated) walls as a high performance design strategy
- Similarly, building setback requirements that inadvertently penalize the use of thicker walls

In addition to limiting usable floor space, there are several common zoning bylaws that inadvertently impact high performance design strategies, including:

- Height limits that penalize the use of thicker roof assemblies by counting it towards building height
- Height limits that count rooftop mechanical equipment and renewable

The Toolkit includes “Step-Code friendly” zoning bylaw language that local governments can use to address these issues and better support high performance buildings in their communities.

Making it easier to install Heat Pumps

Heat pumps are efficient electric home heating systems that extract heat from a source (e.g. the outdoor air) and transfer that heat to an end use in a building (e.g. space heat, or hot water heating). Many heat pumps can also provide space cooling, which offers an important climate change adaptation function in preparing buildings for anticipated warmer weather. Because of BC’s low-carbon electrical grid, they are a low carbon option for home heating and cooling, and are recognized as a necessary component to decarbonize both new and existing buildings. It is therefore important that local government bylaws and permitting processes support heat pump adoption in order to meet GHG reduction targets.

Toolkit recommendations related to optimizing heat pump uptake include:

1. Noise bylaws & interpretation that do not inappropriately penalize heat pumps

Some municipal noise bylaws, and interpretation and enforcement of these bylaws, can unfairly target heat pumps and lead to misconceptions about the noise level of heat pumps.

The Toolkit includes recommendations for removing this barrier to low carbon buildings, including:

- Ensuring noise bylaw provisions are appropriate and that there are no provisions particular to heat pumps
- Guiding reasonable and consistent enforcement practices, including suggestions for staff engagement and the creation of education materials for staff and community members.

2. Heat pump permitting processes that optimize heat pump uptake

There can be a lack of clarity among local government staff regarding what policies or regulations apply to heat pump installation, as well as permitting requirements. To encourage heat pump implementation, it is important that the permitting experience is clear, simple, low cost and consistent.

The Toolkit provides recommendations for clarifying and optimizing permitting processes for heat pumps, including a flow chart illustrating when permits may be required.

The Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit is a new resource for local governments seeking to remove barriers and make it easier to build low carbon, high performance buildings in their communities. The Toolkit can be accessed at: https://docs.communityenergy.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021-03-19_BCH_LCB_Toolkit_Final.pdf ■

Devon Miller is Principal and Founder of Origin Sustainable Design + Planning and a member of PIBC's Climate Action Subcommittee. He can be reached at devon@originplanning.com

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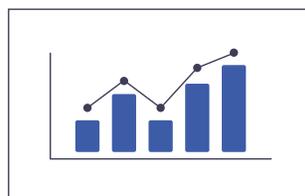


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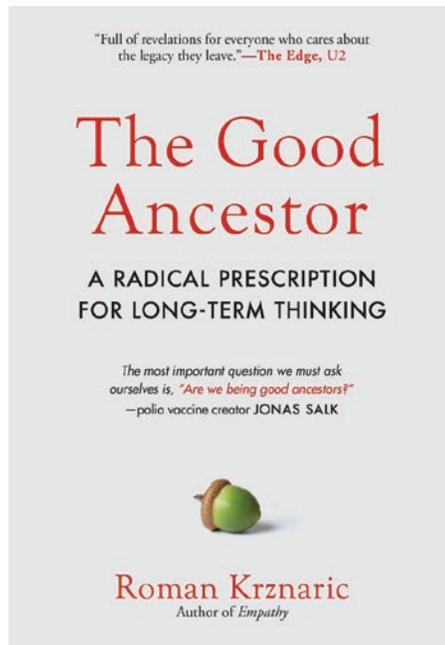


Your Municipal Survey Experts

THE GOOD ANCESTOR: A RADICAL PRESCRIPTION FOR LONG-TERM THINKING

by Roman Krznaric
Blackstone Publishing
2020, pp 336.

Review by Don Alexander RPP, MCIP



The Good Ancestor by Roman Krznaric is one of the most exhilarating books I've read in a long time. It offers a profound analysis of our current social and ecological crisis, while remaining eminently accessible and entertaining to read. Krznaric convincingly argues that humans are possessed of what he calls a 'marshmallow brain,' committed to short-term thinking/short-term gratification, and an 'acorn brain' which is capable of long-term planning within a time frame of 100 years or more.

The book is divided into three parts. The first analyzes the factors driving "short-termism" and what its antidotes are. The second goes into a number of ways to "think long." The third elaborates on specific practices being advocated by what he calls more visionary "time rebels." He groups these under the headings 'Deep Democracy,' 'Ecological Civilization,' and 'Cultural Evolution.'

In the first section, Krznaric cites many examples of the marshmallow brain. The six drivers of what he calls "short-termism" are: (1) the acceleration of time since the Middle Ages, which has also shifted from circular time to linear; (2) the distractions we experience at the hands of our digital technology; (3) the limitations of the four-year election cycle; (4) the fact that most corporations are mainly interested in appeasing the greed of their shareholders; (5) a future characterized by enormous uncertainty (as has been demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic), and; (6) the commitment of capitalism to unending growth regardless of costs. All of these factors are 'colonizing the future' – mortgaging the interests of future generations for the needs and wants of the present.

Pulling in the opposite direction is what he calls "deep-time humility" where humans acknowledge our ultimate insignificance in the vast eons of time. On the acorn thinking side he gives the example of the Ulm Minster church in today's Germany that bears a foundation stone from 1377, but wasn't completed until 1890. A more recent, but less dramatic, example is Antoni Gaudi's Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, begun in 1882, and likely to be completed in 2026. While he provides examples of the acorn brain, he notes that as a species we are not consistently good at using it.

What does this all have to do with land use planning? While Krznaric doesn't say much in this regard, he does cite two examples. In Japan, the Future Design movement has begun changing the way people design cities:

One group of participants takes the position of current residents, and the other imagines themselves to be 'future residents' from the year 2060, even wearing special ceremonial robes.... Multiple studies have shown that the future residents devise far more radical and progressive city plans.

The other example he cites is the 100-year Sustainability Vision of the City of North Vancouver which won an international award in 2009.

In daily practice we see some cities embracing 'acorn' planning approaches. Portland, Oregon and Oakland, California adopted climate justice programs, while the City of Seattle has adopted a forward-looking Equity policy which it is vigorously putting into practice. Portland, Amsterdam, and even my hometown of Nanaimo have all adopted Kate Haworth's "Doughnut Economics" framework. Haworth's model explicitly acknowledges ecological limits, the need for humans to live within them, while at the same time ensuring that economic activity advances social equity and addresses the needs of the most vulnerable.

Krznaric cites the code of conduct for the UK's Institution of Civil Engineers which states that "all members should have full regard for the public interest particularly in relation to matters of health and safety, and in relation to the wellbeing of future generations." While the Canadian Institute of Planner's Code of Professional Conduct contains many admirable statements, consideration of the needs of future generations – and other species and ecosystems in the future – is not one of them. Maybe it's time that that we embrace Krznaric's acorn brain and incorporate planning for next generations into daily practice.

Don Alexander teaches Community Planning and Geography at Vancouver Island University and has written extensively on planning issues. He is indebted to his students for an ongoing dialogue on new ideas and practices.

PIBC BOARD NOTES

On **June 15th, 2021**, the PIBC Board of Directors met 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.

New Student member representatives Deanna Cummings (SFU) and Chelsea Krahn (UBC) were welcomed.

PRESIDENT

Lesley Cabott RPP, MCIP provided an update on various activities, including work with the Yukon Chapter helping to organize the online 2021 Annual Conference, participation with the Indigenous Planning Working Group, ongoing liaison work at the national level with CIP and other Institutes. Sincere thanks were extended to all Board members for their participation and contributions during the current two-year Board term. It was noted that progress had been made on a number of key strategic and other initiatives over the term.

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.

The Board endorsed the work of the Professional Standards & Certification Committee to develop and implement mandatory ongoing CPL on ethics and professionalism for members.

Various committee chairs and liaisons also provided brief updates on the work of their respective committees, including from the Member Engagement Committee, the Policy & Public Affairs Committee and Climate Action Sub-Committee, the Professional Standards & Certification Committee, and the Professional Conduct Review Committee.

The Board reviewed and received the 2020 Annual Report, which would be presented at the upcoming 2021 Annual General Meeting.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Executive Director, Dave Crossley, reported on ongoing and key projects, initiatives and the activities at the PIBC office. This included work on the 2021 annual conference, work

on the 2021 Annual General Meeting and Board elections, and work on the 2021 awards program, among other activities.

The Institute's internal, unaudited 2021 year-to-date financial statements (to May 31st, 2021) were reviewed for information. Additionally, the Board approved the allocation of additional budget resources to support the ongoing work of the Indigenous Planning Working Group, which is working on restructuring as a committee focuses on planning practice and reconciliation.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

The Board reviewed the proposed 2022 budget for the national Professional Standards Committee (PSC). David Block RPP, MCIP also provided a brief update on the continuing work of the PSC to review and update the profession's national competency standards, to update the national membership standards manual, and other internal work.

Patricia Maloney RPP, FCIP provided a brief update on the work of the national Professional Standards Board (PSB) Professional Education & Examination Committee (PEEC).

COMMITTEE REPORTS & BUSINESS

Professional Standards & Certification: The Board approved the admission of a number of new members, and also approved or acknowledged a number of membership transfers and other membership changes.

Professional Conduct Review: Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP presented and the Board approved a proposal from the Professional Conduct Review Committee to move forward with preparing and publishing anonymized summaries of completed complaint cases on the Institute's website for information and educational purposes.

INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS & BUSINESS

Asset Management BC: Executive Director, Dave Crossley, reported on the work of Asset Management BC, in which PIBC is a partner organization. The Board reviewed and approved the renewal of the Institute's continued participation in Asset Management BC (AMBC) as a partner.

Student Member Representatives: The Student member representatives from the accredited university planning programs at UBC and SFU provided brief updates regarding activities at their respective schools and programs.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that it was the final meeting of the current Board term. The next Board meeting would be the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Board on a date to be determined following the 2021 Annual General Meeting, which would be taking place online on Friday June 18th, 2021.

On **July 9th, 2021**, the PIBC Board of Directors met 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.

President David Bock RPP, MCIP welcomed members. It was noted that it was the inaugural meeting of the new Board for the 2021-2023 term. Board members present introduced themselves.

KEY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Board reviewed, discussed, and considered a number of key Board appointments for the new Board term, including key officer and committee roles. Certain key appointments were approved by the Board including:

The appointment of Kenna Jonkman RPP, MCIP as Secretary-Treasurer; and the appointment of members of the Professional Conduct Review Committee, including Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP as the chair.

It was further noted that other key standing committee appointments would need to be made, and Board members were encouraged to consider what committees they might be interested in leading or what roles they might wish to volunteer for during the new term. There was discussion regarding opportunities to expand and diversify volunteer participation on Institute committees.

BANKING & SIGNING AUTHORITY

The Board reviewed and approved a revised resolution confirming the updated designation of authorized signers on behalf of the Institute (for banking and other official purposes) for the new Board term.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

A copy of the regular Board meeting schedule for the 2021-2023 Board term was circulated for information.

ORIENTATION & STRATEGIC PLANNING

It was noted that there would be a Board orientation and strategic plan review session held later in the year in conjunction to the next regular Board meeting. There was discussion of options for the timing and format, recognizing the ongoing pandemic and related challenges for travel and in-person meetings. It was agreed that all Board members would be polled for feedback to determine the best approach for these upcoming meetings, likely in late August.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to sections three and five of the national membership standards manual circulated by the national Professional Standards Committee (PSC) for final approval.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next regular Board meeting would be held on a date to be determined (in conjunction with the new Board orientation and strategic plan review session), following input from Board members and finalization of the format and timing.

On **August 27th, 2021**, the PIBC Board of Directors met 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.

PRESIDENT

David Block RPP, MCIP welcomed members, and provided an update on various activities, including a number of national meetings held over the summer, such as the Planning Alliance Forum, the Professional Standards Board (PSB) annual meeting, and the annual meeting of the signatory parties to the Professional Standards Committee (PSC).

BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Board reviewed, discussed, and considered key Board appointments for the new Board term, including key officer and committee roles. The Board approved the appointment of Patricia Maloney RPP, FCIP as chair of the Institute's Professional Standards & Certification Committee.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Executive Director, Dave Crossley, reported on ongoing and key projects, initiatives, and the activities at the PIBC office.

The Institute's internal, unaudited 2021 year-to-date financial statements (to July 31st, 2021) were reviewed for information.

MEMBERS PROGRAMS & SERVICES:

Executive Director, Dave Crossley, reviewed a

request and proposal for the Institute to sponsor the PLACE21 national student conference scheduled for November 2021. The Board approved sponsoring the conference in the amount of \$1,500.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed revisions to sections three and five of the national membership standards manual, circulated by the national Professional Standards Committee (PSC) for final approval. There was discussion of the need to do further work on the aspects of the standards and manual with respect to key issues such as equity, diversity, and inclusion, continuous professional learning, and climate.

The Board approved final ratification of section five of the national membership standards manual as recommended and struck a working group to provide additional feedback on section three of the manual.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & BUSINESS

Professional Standards & Certification: The Board approved the admission of a number of new members, and also approved or acknowledged a number of membership transfers and other membership changes.

LOCAL CHAPTERS

Central North: The Chapter's 2020 annual report was reviewed. The Board approved receipt of the report and the release of the Chapter's 2021 annual seed funding.

Kootenay Rocky Mountain: The Chapter's 2020 annual report was reviewed. The Board approved receipt of the report and the release of the Chapter's 2021 annual seed funding.

Vancouver Island North: The Chapter's 2020 annual report was reviewed. The Board approved receipt of the report and the release of the Chapter's 2021 annual seed funding.

Vancouver Island South: The Chapter's 2020 annual report was reviewed. The Board approved receipt of the report and the release of the Chapter's 2021 annual seed funding.

OTHER BUSINESS & CORRESPONDENCE

Kenna Jonkman RPP, MCIP provided a brief update and overview to the Board regarding the implementation of the new student internship program, including reviewing a draft of the online submission portal for the roll out of the program, which is expected in the coming months.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next Board meeting would be held on Friday, September 24th, 2021, by online videoconference, in conjunction with an online session to review and consider the 2022 operating budget.

SAVE THE DATES!

PIBC 2021 CPL Webinar #7 Affordable Housing Policy & Partnerships November 24, 2021

An innovative presentation on housing affordability through partnerships.

Thank you to our learning partner Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation for supporting this webinar.

PIBC 2022 CPL Webinar #1 Provincial Planning Outlook 2022 January 26, 2022

Register early for this popular webinar - a succinct overview of the vital information real estate and planning professionals need "to get the job done". The economic, demographic, housing and industrial/commercial market information that will help you formulate a strategic planning perspective in 2022.

Thank you to our learning partner Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation for supporting this webinar.

PIBC 2022 CPL Webinar #2 Black History Month February 23, 2022

A critical view of planning policy and its impact.

Save the following dates as we explore topics related to accessibility & the city, mental health & social resiliency, and more!

March 30, 2022

April 27, 2022

May 25, 2022

For current webinar information, registration, and the latest details on other CPL webinar offerings, please visit www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS

June 15, 2021

Welcome New Members!

Congratulations and welcome to all the new PIBC Members!

At its meeting of June 15, 2021, 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:

Katherine Suggitt
(Transfer from OPPI)

Nicole Yang
(Transfer from OPPI)

CANDIDATE:

Juan Francisco Arellano

Janna Bradshaw
(Transfer from APPI)

Mark Christian
Huy Dang

Patrick Oystrik

Virshneel Prahalad

Maureen Solmundson

Po Sun

Xian Zhang

STUDENT:

Cameron Graham (UNBC)

Jeffrey Leung
(University of Waterloo)

Makaila Wenezenki (UBC)

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:

Katelyn Morphet
Vanessa Wong

FROM CANDIDATE TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

Kayla Pagliocchini

FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CERTIFIED:

Kali Holahan
Minhee Park
Jane Koh

RESIGNED:

Amica Antonelli

Conor Britton

Joanne Gauci

Nicholas Hardy

Christopher E. Jones

Jane Mastin

Alison McDonald

Yvonne Mitchell

K.A. (Tony) Pellett

Trudy Rotgans

David Trawin

Membership Renewals & Removals

At the PIBC Board meeting of June 15, 2021, it was also reported and confirmed that the following individuals had not renewed their membership in the Institute for the current year (2021) and in accordance with the Institute's bylaws ceased to be members effective as of June 15, 2021:

CERTIFIED:

Douglas Earl Allan

Robert Brennan

Karen Hemmingson

CANDIDATE:

Taylor Alexander

Stina Hanson

Ana Maria Koterniak

Steve MacIntyre

Jeff Thompson

Seth Wright

RETIRED:

Trevor Holgate

PRE-CANDIDATE:

Elsie Achugbue

Bryan Chabeniuk

Emma Greendale

August 27, 2021

Welcome New Members!

Congratulations and welcome to all the new PIBC Members!

At its meeting of August 27, 2021, 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:

Karen Hemmingson
(Reinstatement)

Raymond Kan
(Reinstatement)

Christine Rickards
(Transfer from OPPI)

Adam Shamchuk
(Joint with APPI)

Vincent Tong
(Transfer from OPPI)

CANDIDATE:

Holden Blue
(Transfer from SPPI)

Corey Cooper

Spencer Croft

Jenna Dutton
(Transfer from APPI)

Erica Hartling

Zane Hill

Price Leurebourg

Seamus McConville

Amanda McCulley

Evie Morin

Sydney Rankmore

Jean Roe

Darcy Roszell

William Siegner

Jenny Sutton

Annelise van der Veen

Liyang Wan

PRE-CANDIDATE:

Julie Mundy

Meghashree Mysuru

Somegowda

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:

Ashley Elliott

Karen Hemmingson

Hailey Steiger-Tang

FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CERTIFIED:

Rachel Harrison

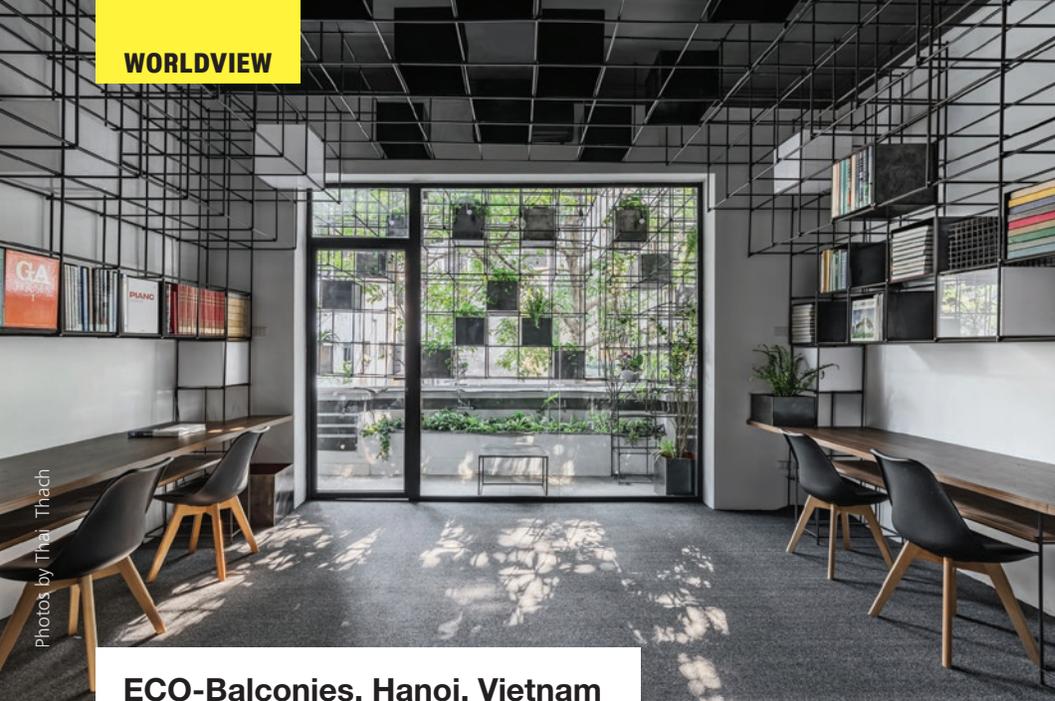
Clarissa Huffman

Charis Loong

Mary Van Order

FROM CANDIDATE TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

Sahisna Chitrakar



ECO-Balconies, Hanoi, Vietnam

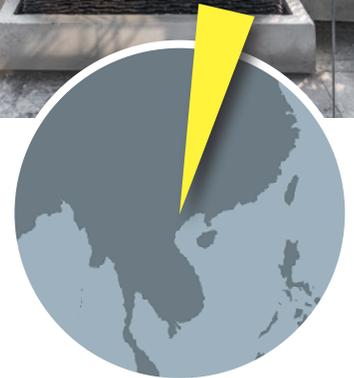
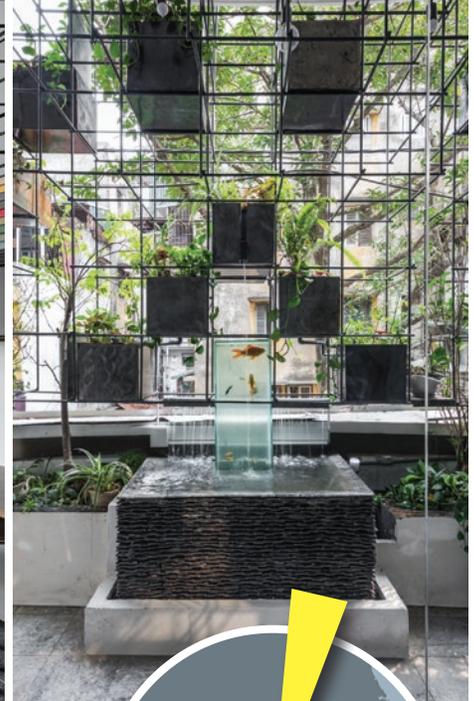
With the lines between working and living spaces now more blurred than ever, people are developing and implementing creative and innovative designs to “wake up!” spaces. These improvements not only enhance the areas themselves, but also take advantage of using natural ecosystems to improve overall flow for their inhabitants.

The award-winning ECO-Balconies by Farming Architects transformed neglected balconies in Hanoi, Vietnam (left unused due to noise, dust, air pollution, and high heat) to air-filtering gardens that reduce noise, external pollutants and heat.

Using aquaponic (raising aquatic animals) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water), the cube-shaped structures circulate water from small aquariums to provide nutrients to plants. In turn, nitrite from the waste produced by the aquariums become suitable nutrient-rich fertilizer for the plants. Foliage from the plants also provides shade from harsh sunlight, slowing down heat build-up from the hot and busy city.

These award-winning ECO-Balconies “woke up” over 100 largely abandoned balconies in Hanoi over two years. Different elements from this design project have been repurposed to build other structures, including the VAC-Library (Hanoi), named one of the best places to visit by TIME magazine in 2019.

Learn more about the ECO-Balcony at <http://farmingarchitects.com/project>.





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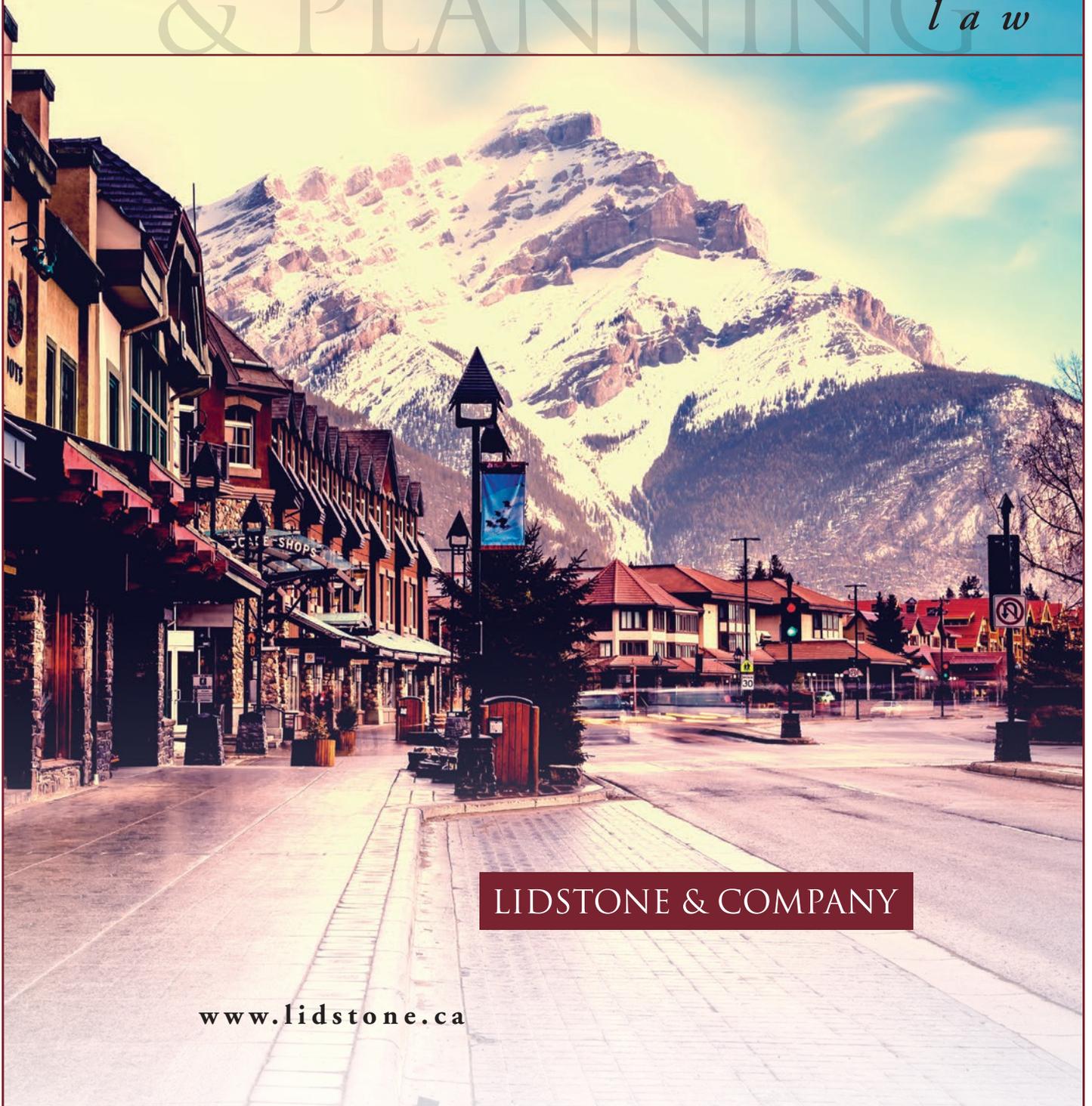
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