

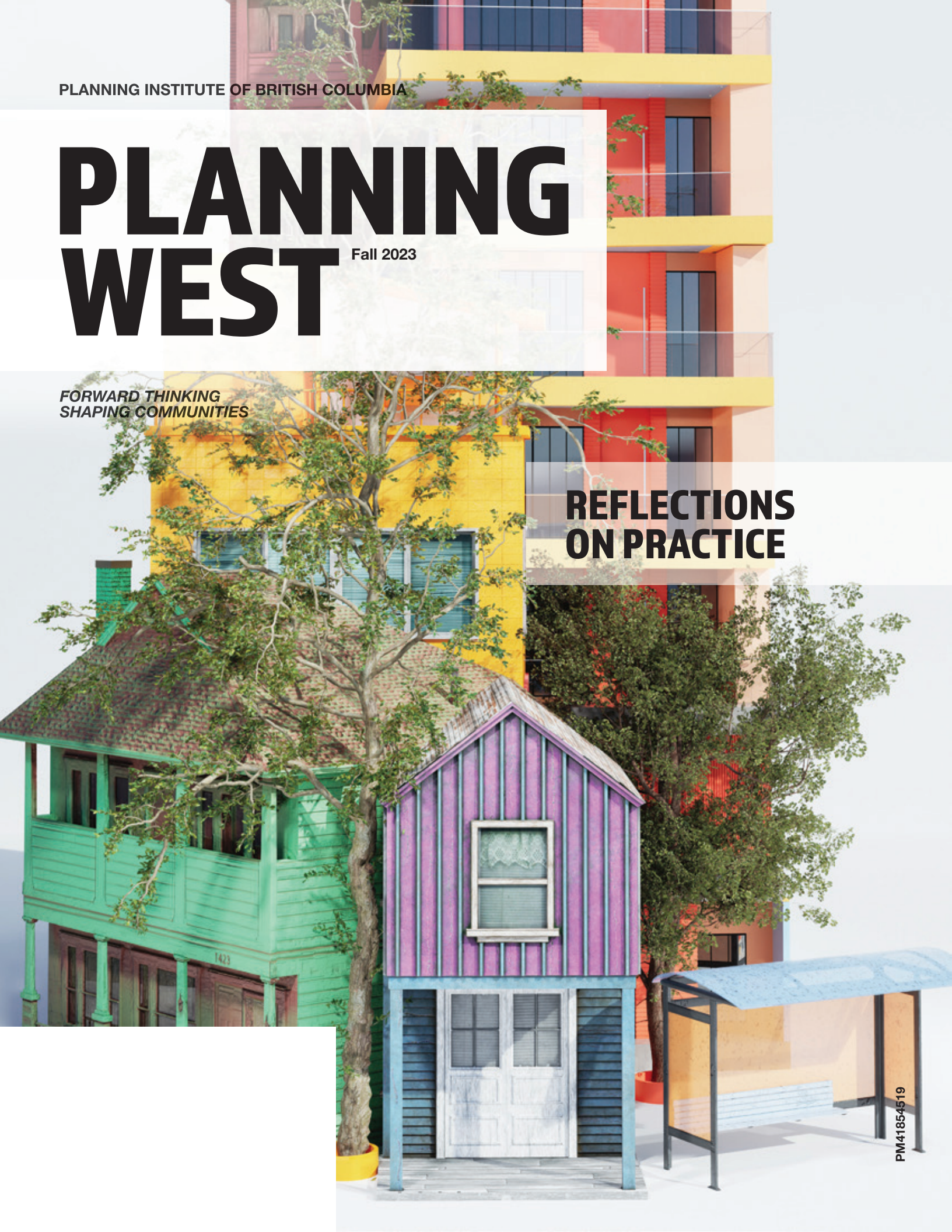
PLANNING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PLANNING WEST

Fall 2023

*FORWARD THINKING
SHAPING COMMUNITIES*

**REFLECTIONS
ON PRACTICE**





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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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St. Thomas Elevated Park,
St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues, mentors, and friends,

Throughout my career as a professional planner, I've been inspired by the hard work of planning leaders, including those showing leadership on social equity, climate action, affordable housing, and many other challenges of our times. It's not fancy titles that show us who the leaders are, but a commitment to use your skills and knowledge as agents for change.

In the past few months as President of the Institute, I feel ever more inspired by our nearly 1,800 members and all that you do. By the time you read this message, we will have completed the Board's strategic planning retreat and orientation session, and I hope we will have the new Board's strategic plan released by the end of the year. May our community continue to support one another and drive positive change both within the Institute and in the world around us.

Speaking of leadership, my experience in the past five years as an Adjunct Professor in the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) has taught me that, while I work hard to avoid becoming a "jaded" practitioner, it's the students who are breathing new energy, vitality, and ideas into the profession. I salute the next generation of planners.

In the coming quarter, I will be co-instructing with Susan Haid RPP, MCIP as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Our Master of Urban Design course's broad range of students includes planners and also many 'planning-adjacent' professionals in architecture, land development, and engineering. I appreciate the opportunity to bring these voices together. Collaboration on tackling all aspects of the built environment is key. We need to hear from people with different perspectives than our own.

Have you been reading the whole issue of *Planning West* or skimming through? As busy as you are, I'd encourage you to sit down with each issue. In the most recent summer issue, there are great finds, including:

- Planning podcast links;
- Professional development highlights from the Institute;
- Photos of your professional colleagues and planning friends, which are sure to make your hearts sing; and
- Great articles with titles such as "The Housing Act: The Other Shoe Drops."

In the August cover story for *Harper's Magazine*, Jason Blakely bemoans the rise in North America (perhaps more pronounced in the USA) of a sharp divide between anti-scientific conviction on the one part, and "scientism" on the other. Blakely contends — as planners well know — that we must transparently analyze and recommend from amongst many value-laden options. Setting public policy necessitates complex tradeoffs. His point is not that American decision-making is too technocratic — not at all. Instead, it's that political decision-making lacks legitimacy if leaders defer to experts instead of engaging in meaningful dialogue. As planners, we have an important role to play in supporting politicians when they take a stand and make tough, principles-based decisions. There's important work to be done.

As a last word, I would like to urge you to increase your volunteerism if you get the chance — including with PIBC. We need you. We need a diversity of voices, areas of expertise, and perspectives. Join us in making the Institute — and all we do — better and more responsive to all members. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the next two years and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Emilie Adin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Emilie Adin RPP, MCIP

OUTLINES



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



The 2024 BC Land Summit will take place in beautiful Nanaimo from May 8 - 10, 2024.

Coming up this May 8 – 10, 2024, the PIBC Annual Conference will be held in conjunction with the 2024 BC Land Summit in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Held every five years, this premier, collaborative conference brings together interdisciplinary land-use organizations in one unique event that provides interdisciplinary education and professional development, as well as training and networking opportunities for land and land-use professionals across BC, Yukon, and beyond.

The BC Land Summit is organized by the BC Land Summit Society (BCLSS) with a number of member organizations, including PIBC. The main goal and mission of BCLSS is to continually promote and advance *collaborations and connections* amongst diverse land professionals and to encourage public understanding of land issues.

Stay tuned for exciting announcements about the 2024 BC Land Summit! Interested in participating as a speaker? Be sure to submit a proposal for the conference program!

Stay connected with the BC Land Summit and members of the BC Land Summit Society.

2024 BC LAND SUMMIT COLLABORATIONS & CONNECTIONS

BC Land Summit
www.bclandsummit.com
@BCLandSummit

The Appraisal Institute of Canada – BC
www.aicanada.ca/province-british-columbia/british-columbia
@AICanada_BC

The British Columbia Institute of Agrologists
www.bcia.com/
@bc.institute.of.agrologists

The British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects
www.bcsla.org
@BCSLA

The Real Estate Institute of British Columbia
www.reibc.org
@THE_REIBC

Stay Updated with PIBC e-News!

Keep up-to-date regularly with current Institute & local planning news, events and job opportunities with PIBC e-News! The Institute's electronic newsletter is emailed to members every other Wednesday. Haven't seen your PIBC e-News? Check your spam/junk email folder and be sure to add enews@pibc.bc.ca to your contacts.

What Membership Means to Me

Planners across British Columbia and Yukon join PIBC and value becoming Registered Professional Planners for a variety of reasons. From Candidate Members working towards their certification to Retired Members who continue to contribute through important volunteering work, we reached out to our members across the province and beyond to learn why they value becoming an RPP and what membership means to them.



Kristin Agnello RPP, MCIP
Editor of *Planning West*,
PIBC Communications Committee
Member, and Director of Plassurban
Consulting Inc.

“

As a solo practitioner, membership in PIBC means being able to reach out to an established network and speak peer-to-peer with colleagues across the region.

It gives me the opportunity to mentor emerging professionals, ask for advice on challenges that I am facing, and share my research and experiences with a diverse and engaged audience.

Volunteering as Editor of “Planning West” has been a rewarding experience and one that has connected me more deeply to my local planning community.

”

Editor’s Notes & Corrections

We’d like to make the following amendments in the Summer 2023 issue. We thank you for your understanding.

Under 2023 PIBC Awards winners (page 25), for the Awards for Excellence in Planning Practice (Small Town and Rural Areas) — Honourable Mention, the following names should be included/corrected: Rasika Acharya (Manager of Community Planning), Kris Patel (Planner Community Planning), Komal Shaikh (Director of Lands) with name correction to Nicol Watson (not Brown).

Under Membership Reports (page 44), Julia Dykstra should be noted as “From Member on Leave to Certified” instead of “From Member on Leave to Candidate”.

Planning West Call for Submissions

Winter 2024 Issue:
**World Town Planning Day
& Evolutions in Planning Practice**
Submission deadline: Dec 15, 2023

Spring 2024 Issue:
The Housing Issue
Submission deadline: Mar 15, 2024

Articles should be 1000-1200 words in length 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

Michele Cloghesy RPP, MCIP, MBCSLA
*Principal, PWL Partnership Landscape
Architects Inc.*

From an early age, Michele found her happy place in creating imaginary towns and designing spaces. Now a leading planning and landscape architecture professional, Michele continues to use her interdisciplinary and artistic skills to find joy in creating well-planned spaces that connect people and nature, creating healthier spaces not just for humans but also for the environment. She shares how, hand in hand, planning and landscape architecture continue to feed her constant passion to make this planet a better place, one project at a time.



How did you first discover your passion for placemaking and how did this lead you down the path to becoming a landscape architect and planner?

Growing up, I always enjoyed two things – creative activities and placemaking. While I didn't call it placemaking when I was designing room interiors or imaginary towns, the sentiment was the same – improving places for people. In my late teens, I learned there were professions that encompassed these passions. Landscape architecture feeds my creative soul, while planning provides the framework to get the job done. They are both human and environment centric.

You are also an experienced artist and graphic illustrator. How has this helped in your public consultation and engagement work?

Our profession gives us the unique opportunity to connect with people where they are. While we have numerous technical means to solicit feedback from folks, graphic facilitation engages all. Actively drawing ideas as they are shared creates immediate validation and connection with participants. Not only that, it is fun and people enjoy the process!

You have worked on a range of projects in North America and China that helped create spaces that reflect a community's heritage and connections. What is one project you found fulfilling and how did you apply both a planner and landscape architect's lens to this project?

So many projects come to mind! The projects I have found most fulfilling may appear quite basic in nature but improve the daily lives of many. Ensuring a trail network is well planned and implemented when a community is growing creates a foundation of healthy living (City of Langford Trail Network). There is so much crossover between planning and landscape architecture and I'm fortunate to have been involved in many projects in both worlds.

You said, "We are on this earth for a relatively short time; it is incumbent on us to do everything in our capacity to leave it in a healthier shape than when we found it." We agree! What is something you are hopeful for in terms of the positive differences placemaking professionals can make?

When I started out in this profession, there was a distinct differentiation between public spaces in an urban context and



those elsewhere. It is so heartening that people are starting to understand the value of incorporating natural systems within the urban environment.

Blue/green strategies that incorporate daylighting streams, creating natural corridors, and urban canopies not only create healthier environments for creatures, but for people and the planet. We have damaged our Earth but we also have the capacity, skills, and passion to start to repair it, project by project.

Where do you like to go to relax? Is there a community or place that always brings you joy when you visit?

We are fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful places in the world. I have a vintage 1972 Boler trailer that I venture out in with my dogs to revel in this province's wonders. Further afield, I have a soft spot for Peru where I am fortunate to own a small piece of oceanfront property that someday I will build on. The people of Peru are lovely, warm, and welcoming! ■

Michele's recent adventures in Tofino, the Andes, and the Chilcot.

Planning Podcasts

In this issue, take a listen to learn more about a report on missing middle housing and how one group in Ontario is urgently advocating for its provincial government to help increase housing supply immediately. Also, hear from a passionate American urban planner turned advocate and politician, who is using her planning knowledge and skills to educate and fight for positive change regarding homelessness in Los Angeles.

Got a podcast about planning you want to share? Contact us with your podcast summary at editor@pibc.bc.ca

**Please note: Podcast content and opinions are solely those of the podcast creators. PIBC does not endorse third party content and/or necessarily share the same views as expressed in these podcasts. Podcast links and content may change without notice and PIBC is not responsible for updates to content from podcast creators.*

Arbitrary Lines Author Nolan Gray on Zoning Reform and Hitting Planning’s Reset Button

Run time 30:00

Podcast summary by Heike Schmidt RPP, MCIP, PIBC Communications Committee Chair

From American Planning Association’s “People Behind the Plans” Podcasts
Hosts: Jason Jordan, Director of Public Affairs, American Planning Association
Guest: Nolan Gray, Research Director at California YIMBY, professional planner and Author of *Arbitrary Lines*

Podcast link*
<https://planning.org/podcast/arbitrary-lines-author-nolan-gray-on-zoning-reform-and-hitting-plannings-reset-button/>

Podcast Summary
 In this special podcast episode, Nolan examines the cities and states charting a new course for zoning reform and offers advice for planners navigating the myriad of interests impacting land use decisions.

Why Planners Should Listen
 As the old saying goes, “when all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.” For decades, planner Nolan Gray argues, zoning has been the hammer swung by cities at a laundry list of challenges. But this blunt tool, developed to regulate land use and density, has caused profound collateral damage. Listen to this podcast for insights into Gray’s book, *Arbitrary Lines*, which looks for answers in the form of zoning reform in America.

Majority of Canadians Support a Price on Housing Inequity

Run time 37:00

Podcast summary by Lindsay Allman RPP, MCIP, PIBC Communications Committee member

Generation Squeeze Podcast Series “Hard Truths”
Host: Umair Muhammad, Knowledge to Action Lead, Generation Squeeze
Guests: Andrea Long, Senior Director, Research & Knowledge Mobilization, Generation Squeeze, and Paul Kershaw, Founder, Generation Squeeze & Policy Professor at UBC School of Population and Public Health.

Podcast Link*
<https://gensqueeze.substack.com/p/majority-of-canadians-support-a-price-d77#details>

Podcast Summary
 In this episode, Generation Squeeze talks about the results of a poll they commissioned on housing wealth and affordability. Among other things, the poll found that a majority of Canadians support a modest surtax for those who live in homes worth more than \$1 million. The podcast discusses the implications of these findings, why there is a need to start closing the home ownership tax shelter, and lots more.

Full results of the poll available at: https://www.gensqueeze.ca/housing_wealth_poll_2022

Why Planners Should Listen
 Generation Squeeze is a “Think and Change Tank” and a charitable organization that conducts research and advocacy on how we can make Canada more fair and equitable for all generations of people. In particular, it investigates how Canadians are leaving an unfair legacy for younger and future generations: climate change, unaffordable housing and childcare, and massive government debts.

This Generation Squeeze podcast is an excellent starting point to learn about the nuances of Canada’s housing crisis, as the team ensures the content is accessible and easy to understand. The team does a great job of turning “boring” excel sheet findings into an exciting, energetic conversation.

This specific episode dives into the topic of home ownership tax shelter and how it has produced a substantial inequity among Canadians (“haves” and “have-nots” based on the geographic location of homeownership). They also discuss potential solutions to mitigate issues moving forward. While most planners have little to no say regarding tax laws, it is important that planners understand the full picture of Canada’s housing system in order to better communicate with the public and make smart policy decisions.

* Podcast links are available on the PIBC Planning Podcasts web page at www.pibc.bc.ca/planning-podcasts



5 THINGS PLANNERS NEED TO LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE ACTION

Keltie Craig RPP, MCIP

From devastating wildfires to raging floods, there's no doubt that our planet is facing a climate emergency.



Photo by Marcus Kauffman on Unsplash

But there's also hope: collaboration and more diverse forms of leadership, ecological practices, and technological advances mean we now have workable solutions to prevent or mitigate some of the worst effects of climate change.

Still, despite the availability of these real and effective solutions, many governments and communities remain slow to act. The primary hurdle, unfortunately, is systemic in nature; from dominant worldviews related to consumer capitalism and extractive colonialism, institutional resistance, and siloed thinking to lack of political will. As planners, what role can we play in moving climate



Photo by Wes Warren on Unsplash



action forward? And do we have the skills to help lead the change we so urgently need?

First, let's consider what planning is about. While planning is an incredibly diverse discipline, at its core it's about relationships: human relationships to each other and to our surroundings; different elements of the land and ecosystems and how these interact. As planners, we play a big role in trying to understand these relationships and in learning and sharing about their impacts. We work to explore what might be possible to bring out the benefits and diminish the challenges or conflicts related to these relationships.

When it comes to climate action, planners have an opportunity to bring forth our skills and experience to achieve the goal of changing patterns—patterns of use, of behaviours, of relationships—towards more sustainable, just and respectful ways to live, learn, and grow.

In effect, planners are required by our profession to work for the public good. But there is no one singular “public.” So, we need to work on developing a deep understanding of privilege and equity: intergenerational, interspecies, and intersectional. Seeking out professional development opportunities that delve into issues of climate justice and equity can help cultivate this rich understanding.

I've been fortunate to be involved with an incredible cohort of climate leaders through the new Climate Action Certificate program recently launched by SFU Continuing Studies. The online program focuses on helping professionals build the knowledge and confidence necessary to turn climate ideas into action.

Through a lens of climate justice and Indigenous ways of knowing, the program was developed by experts in a number of different climate fields. Along with myself, the instructional team includes: Ginger Gosnell-Myers, Board Chair of Greenpeace Canada; Lindsay Heller, Nehiyaw Scholar and SFU Fellow in Indigenous Ways of Knowing; Maya Chorobik and Pat Bell of the Community Energy Association; community leader and former Vancouver city councillor Andrea Reimer; Dara Parker of the Vancouver Foundation; Rita Steele, Manager of Campus Sustainability at SFU; Melina Scholefield of Metro Vancouver Zero Emissions Innovation Centre; Tara Mahoney of SFU's Community-Engaged Research Initiative, and facilitator and systems change consultant Olive Dempsey.

Drawing on the perspectives, words, and insights of these colleagues behind the SFU program, I would suggest the need to grow professional and personal capacity in five key areas if you want to get serious about implementing a climate action plan:

1. Navigating power

We know the main obstacle to climate action isn't technological; it's people and power dynamics. How do we identify power and leverage it strategically? When power appears to be held in the hands of very few, what can we do to change the playing field? Learning about power, including your own, and how we can navigate power in the workplace and the community can help us to transform climate policy into actual action and implementation, rather than have it languish in a document.

2. Climate communication

It's easy to get lost in the doom and gloom of our current and future state. But despair is not a good starting place for action. Narratives and storytelling, creating a context for engaging in climate conversations, being able to counter misinformation—all of these are necessary skills to help break through persistent barriers so you can effectively talk about climate action with different audiences and motivate the necessary changes in behaviour.



Photo by Vivek Kumar on Unsplash



Photo by Matt Palmer on Unsplash



3. Climate justice

We have to recognize that climate change doesn't affect us all evenly, nor have we all contributed to climate change to the same degree. Those with the most power and privilege have a greater ability to avoid the worst climate impacts, and most often contribute a higher carbon footprint. Climate justice recognizes that climate change impacts and causes—as well as benefits that may accrue from taking climate action—are disproportionately distributed, at a global, national, and local scale. We must ensure that decisions made around climate policy, grants, and actions consider equity and justice so we don't continue to exacerbate the problem as we're working toward a solution.

4. Indigenous perspectives

As SFU's Lindsay Heller shares, Indigenous peoples are among those who contribute the least to the climate crisis, yet are impacted the most through changing weather patterns and the loss of lands and

waterways. Indigenous peoples are also structurally excluded from the political discourse and policy processes designed to combat the effects of climate change. Despite this suppression of rights and lack of decision-making authority, many Indigenous communities have demonstrated significant leadership on climate action. In planning or implementing a climate solution, it's critical to develop the skills to respectfully and reciprocally engage with Indigenous communities.

5. Dialogue and engagement

Obviously, a problem like climate change is far too massive for any one organization to solve. Engaging in collaborative partnerships across different silos, areas of experience, and organizations is necessary for us to respond to important questions about how to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. Learning how to have conversations without triggering fear and overwhelming others, and doing so in ways that are self-aware and embrace learning and self-reflection—these are all skills planners can work on.

As planners, most of us are already familiar with working within systems and navigating complexity, which is invaluable experience for tackling climate change. Ultimately, it comes down to how we use our own power, as professionals and individuals, to bring forward critical, reflective and justice-centred climate solutions.



Keltie Craig RPP, MCIP, is an instructor in the Climate Action Certificate program at SFU Continuing Studies. She brings together experience in local government policy with formal training and practice as a registered professional planner. Keltie's focus is weaving social policy, equity and health into sustainability and community planning.

E-BIKES POWER UP CLIMATE ACTION IN SAANICH & BC

Glenys Verhulst



Over the years, climate change and affordability have become increasingly urgent matters for Canadian municipalities to consider. As recently as 2020, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Insurance Bureau of Canada released a report claiming that climate adaptation would cost an estimated \$5.3 billion at the municipal level.

With transportation representing the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions for most municipalities, and also one of the largest average household expenses, it's no surprise, really, that an e-bike incentive pilot program emerged from a Vancouver Island municipality with deep roots in sustainability and climate friendliness. While the District of Saanich has made strong commitments to the development of compact, complete, sustainable communities – and made considerable investments in our bike network since approval of our Active Transportation Plan in 2018 – our Climate Plan (2020) clearly demonstrates

that aggressive action is needed on all fronts if we are to meet our climate targets. So, the potential for a program that could rapidly accelerate a shift to sustainable modes of transportation and help maximize investments in cycling infrastructure was of great interest to the District.

“E-bikes caught our attention for scaling up climate action in the transportation sector. The academic literature shows that typical e-bike trip lengths match the average car trip distance in our community, filling in a gap left by typical bicycle trips which are only half the distance of average car trips,” explains Rebecca Newlove, Manager of Sustainability with the District of Saanich.

While e-bikes have certainly grown in popularity across the country, they remain unattainable for many families and individuals due to relatively high purchase costs.

“Transportation is among the top three household expenses for average households in our community. We were interested in how an e-bike program could help address both climate emergency and affordability issues in our community in a way that embeds equity in climate action from the start” explains Diana Gibson, Executive Director of the Greater Victoria Community Social Planning Council, who partnered with the District of Saanich on the design and evaluation of their e-bike pilot.

In October 2021, following a year of feasibility and design work, Saanich launched its community e-bike incentive pilot program. Because the pilot was first of its kind in British Columbia, a detailed feasibility study was undertaken in-house to review the potential greenhouse gas (GHG) savings from e-bikes, models for promoting e-bike adoption (including e-bike shares, education, loan, and incentive programs), best practices in e-bike program design, and measures to center equity in climate programs.

The feasibility study benefitted from the work of previous, income-qualified climate programs, summarized in resources from the Canadian Urban Sustainability Practitioner's Network and the Urban Sustainability Director's Network, and of previous e-bike programs, including from the City of Nelson, BC SCRAP-IT, and the Yukon government's

e-bike programs. Academic research on e-bikes was also key to program design. In particular, research conducted by Saki Aono, Dr. Alex Bigazzi, and Elmira Berjisian with the University of British Columbia (UBC) Research on Active Transportation (REACT) Lab, commissioned by the City of Victoria with funding from Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) was foundational for the Saanich pilot. This research explored the potential design for an e-bike incentive program that strove to maximize new adopters and minimize free ridership levels through econometric modelling of marginal induced demand.

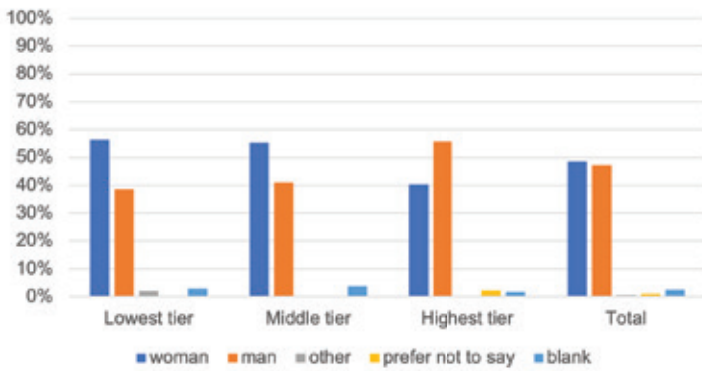
The Saanich pilot further benefitted from a partnership with the Community Social Planning Council, who convened advisory groups of local, income-qualified program practitioners and individuals with lived experience of systemic discrimination to help inform how the program could reduce barriers to participation among those often not reached by climate incentive programs. In particular, the engagement showed that the District would need to go beyond the usual municipal communication channels to reach those who are usually underrepresented in climate programs. We were fortunate to be able work with the Greater Victoria Inter-Cultural Association (ICA), the Capital Regional District, and the City of Victoria on a launch event that enabled newcomer adult English Language Learners to try e-bikes on guided tours and learn about new cycling infrastructure in the region. At the event we also worked with the ICA to recruit and provide honoraria to representatives for a photo shoot so we could show ethnic diversity of e-bike riders in our communications materials.

At the launch, demand was overwhelming, with almost 400 incentives distributed: 101 in the \$1,600 tier, 105 in the \$800 tier, and 183 in the \$350 tier. Contrary to expectations, the incentives for the lowest income tier were filled more quickly than the other tiers, showing that the program did indeed succeed in reducing affordability barriers for e-bikes, and that e-bikes were an attractive transportation option across the income spectrum in Saanich.

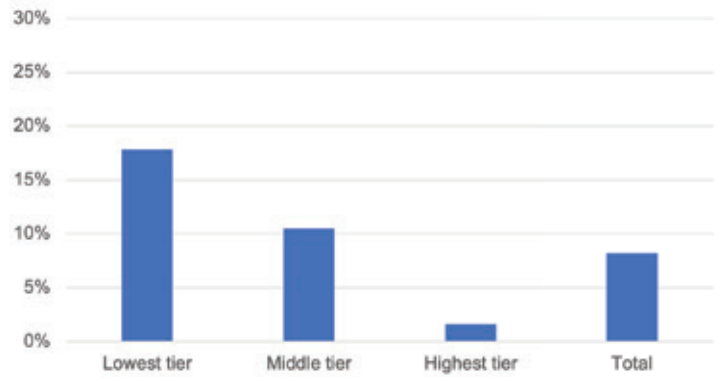


By collecting demographic information from participants, staff found that the participants in the income-qualified tiers (lowest and middle tier incentives) had higher rates of participation from women, newcomers to Canada, visible minorities, and people with disabilities. This shows that reducing income barriers to climate programs can also increase the diversity of participants along other spectrums as well. However, more work is still required to reach diversity levels that are representative of our community.

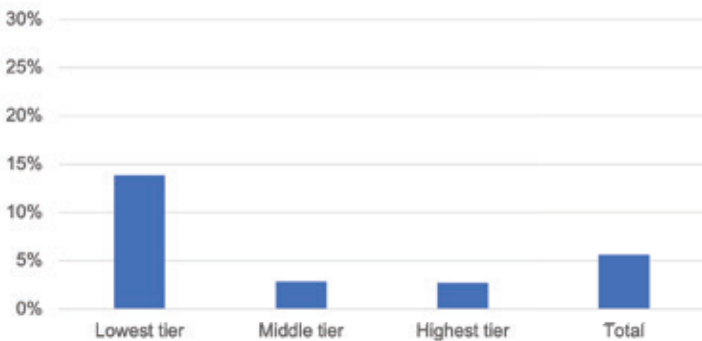
Gender of recipients by incentive tier



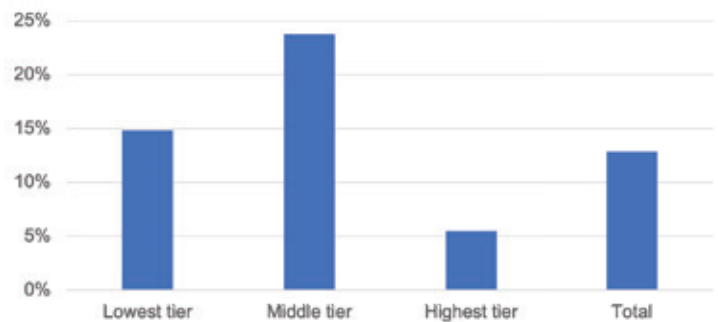
Person with disability status by incentive tier



Immigrant or newcomer status by incentive tier



Visible minority status by incentive tier





E-bikes go the distance



From the outset, Saanich staff collaborated with researchers at the UBC REACT Lab to collect high quality data on how e-bikes and the e-bike incentives impact our transportation behaviours and greenhouse gas emissions. There is limited research in North America about the impact of e-bikes on transportation choices, therefore this research will contribute important information for academics and policymakers regarding the role e-bikes can play in climate action.

“We at the UBC Research on Active Transportation Lab have been fortunate to be able to partner with Saanich staff to evaluate the long-term impacts of the incentive program through a rigorous independent research study,” explains Dr. Alex Bigazzi, Associate Professor at UBC. “This study will provide invaluable information about the real-world impacts of e-bike incentives including how benefits vary across sub-groups and the mode shift achieved,” Bigazzi explains.

While final results are not yet available, interim UBC study results are very promising, demonstrating that the incentive program motivated people to purchase e-bikes who would not otherwise have purchased them; that people used their e-bikes regularly for commutes to work, school, and to run errands; and that e-bikes were being used to replace vehicle trips at a higher rate than the conventional bike control group.

A key goal of the pilot was to share not only the research, but also information on program design, lessons learned, and program materials

so that it could be replicated by other local governments across British Columbia and Canada. The program generated considerable interest from local governments and media in addition to our local community and led to multiple webinars, interviews, and conference presentations. Collaboration was a key principle critical to the success of the program, with funding support from multiple sources and webinar support from the Community Energy Association in addition to the partnerships noted above.

While several larger municipalities were keen to pursue a similar program for their own community, it was clear that many interested local governments may not have the staff and resources to administer such a program on their own. To this point, Saanich staff engaged with the Province early in the process and met frequently with staff at the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to share findings and lessons learned, building on knowledge from their previous programs such as Scrap-It. This led to the recent launch of the highly popular Provincial BC Electric Bike Rebate Program in June 2023, which was based upon the Saanich pilot program and has seen considerable uptake. This has provided residents across BC an opportunity to apply for an e-bike rebate and demonstrates the value of collaboration and climate leadership.

“We are pleased with the success of this program and encourage all local governments to keep experimenting with new approaches to scale up climate action, including partnering

with academics, community groups, and other governments to collect and share lessons learned and ensure you’re meeting the needs of your community,” says Newlove. “Our most important recommendation is to be ready to meet high demand!”

The final results of the UBC Study and broader program analysis are expected at the end of 2023 and will be posted on the webpage. The Province has also collaborated with the UBC REACT Lab to further the research on the impacts of e-bikes and e-bike incentives, which will help inform future programs and policy development. For more information on the District of Saanich E-Bike Incentive Program, visit <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/sustainable-saanich/climate-change/programs-rebates/e-bike-incentives.html> or contact sustainability@saanich.ca.

Acknowledgment The project was possible thanks to FCM’s GMF, which is funded by the Government of Canada.

Glenys Verhulst is a Sustainability Specialist with the District of Saanich. She led community engagement for, and was a lead writer of mitigation policy in the award-winning Saanich Climate Plan. Glenys leads reporting on corporate and community climate action to Provincial and international climate disclosure bodies, and is responsible for implementing corporate and community-mobilizing climate actions, including the Saanich E-bike Incentive Pilot Program.



Photos by Kevin Light

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RETHINKING AND REPAIRING THE DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS PROCESS



Pam Shaw PhD, RPP, FCIP; Sonal Deshmukh MCP; Graham Sakaki MCP, Alicia McLean; Emma Adams; Pooja Choudhary; Nisha Gnanasingarajan; Luke Sales MCIP, RPP; Mark Holland RPP, FCIP; Teunessa Evertse MCIP, RPP; and Mailyn Lai MCP.

City and community building involves a dance between the public and private sector, and their interests and realities. In addition to its rigorous academic requirements, Vancouver Island University's (VIU) Master of Community Planning (MCP) program has embraced this public-private sector reality and embedded real estate development knowledge as a cornerstone of the MCP program.

This approach has allowed the program to form many collaborative partnerships with municipal governments, First Nation governments, private sector companies, and not-for-profit organizations over the past half-decade. Many of these projects are undertaken with VIU's research partner, the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI).



Photos provided by VIU.

This article profiles one such project, titled: *An Adaptable Development Approvals Process Toolkit (ADAPT)*.

The Adaptable Development Approvals Process Toolkit (ADAPT) includes:

1. Foundation philosophical principles
2. Detailed recommendations on the local government internal application review process
3. Recommendations and draft template letters for external referrals
4. A detailed application process guide with diagrammatic maps
5. Draft content for a local government website
6. Information and a draft terms of reference for the majority of consulting studies required for most development projects
7. Community engagement recommendations for primary application types
8. Draft application forms



In 2019, the Province undertook the *Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR)* initiative – a study of development approvals processes in BC municipalities. The Provincial government then provided UBCM with funding to disperse to BC municipalities for projects that would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the development approvals process.

UBCM awarded a grant to VIU/MABRRI, the Town of Qualicum Beach, and Westplan Consulting Group to create a best-practices toolkit for approvals for small communities across BC. Many students were involved, including several doing their master’s theses on related issues.

The impetus for this project was a realization that the planning profession has no best practices or norms for application management across the province, and that small communities have few to no resources to allocate to considering changes to their processes. This toolkit is intended to be easily customized to any community.

Methodology

Since there is no database of best practices for development approvals for a BC municipality associated with PIBC or any other organization, the research began by identifying basic *Local Government Act* requirements and

reviewing a wide range of relevant literature. Typical practices from 11 BC municipalities (<10,000 pop) were then analyzed, including OCP amendments, rezoning guidelines/requirements, development permits, variances, subdivisions, covenants/phased housing agreements, terms of references for technical studies, correspondence logs, public hearing records, and similar others to identify challenges, opportunities, current best practices, and areas for improvement. In addition, following approval from the VIU Research Ethics Board, the team engaged municipal staff, private sector consultants, developers, technical consultants, and First Nations referral staff

through online surveys and interviews.

The data gathered from the desktop research, surveys and interviews was then coded and analyzed. Multiple virtual events were then organized for our project partners to review and discuss the results.

The core team then undertook significant work to rethink and propose refined development approvals practices and generate supporting documents. Once our project partners review and help refine the toolkit, it will be made publicly available on the MABRRI website in late 2023.

Core Challenges

During this work, the team identified core challenges that needed to be addressed, including:

- **Politicization** – development approvals have become a highly political issue in many municipalities. A culture of distrust and antagonism has also taken root in some places between municipal staff and the development community. Community criticisms of development processes, applicants, and staff are often used to oppose or advance development.
- **Capacity** – the volume of development applications has increased significantly in the last few years. Handling this influx of applications requires improved development processes and flexible and scalable processes that can respond to fluctuating demand over time. A more consistent process between municipalities would also reduce delays in staff onboarding.
- **Inconsistency** – applicants working in multiple municipalities encounter entirely different application forms, guidelines, processes, and timelines in each, resulting in significant confusion.
- **Applications** – development applications need to be complete and include all the information that planners and decision-makers need to make good decisions.
- **Expectations** – decision-makers often have unrealistic expectations of staff and applicants, in terms of application processing times, scope of work, or the ability of a project to provide amenities.
- **Community capacity** – most citizens and stakeholders do not understand the development process, or why certain developments are approved or denied.

As with all things in life, it is easier to complain than to come up with better alternatives that meet both public and private interests – and this project was no different. The work

to agree upon or create best practices in the development approvals process involved significant thinking and debate within the team.

The team generally agreed upon a foundation of several core principles:

- **Respect and mutual accountability** – both public and private participants need to acknowledge their roles and responsibilities and show mutual respect and accountability to each other.
- **Changing regulations is the purpose of the process** – the purpose of high-level approvals (amendments to RGS, OCP, zoning, variances) is to change the existing regulations and plans and, as such, existing plans and policies should not be seen as paramount. Existing plans and policies play a more prominent role in evaluating subdivision and development permit applications.
- **Collaboration** – both parties need to adopt a culture of collaboration to achieve an effective and highly efficient process to get an application to Council. The private sector builds our cities, and the public sector needs to work with them.
- **Generosity and fairness** – both parties need to be generous and fair to each other with respect to the characteristics of the project and existing plans and policies.
- **Defensible policies and plans** – the public sector needs to undertake the necessary due diligence when creating policies and plans to ensure they are fully implementable in the current market context.
- **Community engagement** – the community needs to be informed but not overly empowered or entitled in their comments on the process that builds the future.

The team then revisited the general steps of the development approvals process as practiced in many communities and have developed recommended practices that endeavour to balance freedom and control, clarity and expediency, early discussions and final approvals, all the while, trying to not over-bureaucratize the process.

Salient points in the recommended approvals process include:

- **Online resources** – bolstering online resources to provide better customer service for inquiries and questions.
- **Mutual workplan** – establishing formal communication milestones and a shared workplan from early inquiry through to project approval.





- **Application** – clear expectations and communication on what is considered a ‘complete application.’
- **COW check-in** – early decision-making inputs by presenting applications to the Committee of the Whole very early in the process for a political check-in.
- **Delegation** – an emphasis on delegation of decisions to staff whenever possible.
- **Review** – streamlining external referrals and internal department communication and negotiation, and tracking information exchanged and decisions made in detail at every step.
- **Public hearings** – waiving public hearings for zoning bylaw amendments that are compliant with an Official Community Plan.

Since the development approvals process is central to the work of many planners in BC, we need to engage in a robust and ongoing discussion on all of its aspects and continue to develop and refine best practices, standards, and tools for all our communities and the profession. We hope that the ADAPT process is a first step in this direction.

The toolkit will be available later this year on the project website, <https://mabrri.viu.ca/adapt>, for all BC communities, developers, and consultants to use as a resource.

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PLANGIRL TRAVELS: LESSONS TO BRING HOME ... FROM STOCKHOLM

Emilie K. Adin RPP, MCIP, LEED AP

White sneakers flash past the corner of my eyes. A vision from the 80s is evoked: here's a woman charging by in a crisp navy power suit, replete with immaculate runners. She's schlepping her dress shoes, winged by two security guards. The wind whips her cropped blond hair.

"That's the Prime Minister," says our tour guide, and my head snaps back towards her. She travels at a ferocious clip. The chilly winds, shoreline and cloudy sky form the perfect backdrop. Only in Scandinavia could I come across the head of state, enroute and on foot, between national government precincts.

Our group bursts into applause.

Magdalena Andersson, Sweden's first woman prime minister, suffers our attentions. We've bumped into her in her last hour as PM. It's September 2022, and she's on her way to Parliament in order to resign. There's been an election and she's unwilling to participate in the right-wing coalition that is looking to form government.

"Where are you from?" she asks. We chat briefly about Canada; the similar values between our northern countries. In time, we release her back to the winds. Her white sneakers resume their heel-and-toeing.

We're giddy and quickly gelling as a group. We're participating in a city planning tour group with the UBC Alumni Travel Club. Larry Beasley, a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners, leads us on our jaunt. It's the first full day of the ten-day tour.

It's my passion for city planning – not for politics – that has drawn me to this place. However, during my stay, I keep wondering, how is it that the PM, on her way to resigning, could be willing to stop to talk to people who don't even have a vote?

Soon enough, we learn that the Swedish concept of *lagom* — meaning "not too little, not too much, just right" — is the Goldilocks theme that governs every aspect of Swedish society, even the (former) prime minister's workday. Her Excellency is earnest about politics—but also the outdoors, her well-being, and—seemingly—her ability to dress up and dress down simultaneously. She seeks balance. We seek to learn.

The story of city planning in Sweden starts in its capital. Stockholm's landscape and hard-scape hews to the concept of *lagom*. Stockholm is touted by the municipality to be composed of equal parts buildings, water, and parkland/green space. This is apt given that, with thousands of mountains, tens of thousands of lakes, hundreds of thousands of islands, and 2,000 miles of saltwater shoreline, Sweden's residents are avid outdoors people.

"Just right" too is the warmth of Swedish lighting; impeccable design aesthetics; the balance of colours; harmonious urban geometry; a tightly woven social fabric; all anchored in radical livability and equity. Stockholm is a microcosm of these national forces at play.

I settle down to my time in Stockholm, knowing that even my blisters will feel like they're learning something.

One day, walking alongside railway tracks, I stop and listen as the inter-municipal trains rumble over a nearby bridge connecting Stockholm's 14 islands. An echo reverberates across the water. With a flash, as I listen to the deepening sounds of a robust public transportation system, I realize Sweden's famed social safety net—the tax-funded "middle way" between socialism and capitalism—drives everything I see and hear in Stockholm.

Every day, walking thousands of steps, I

come upon a thunder of men with toddlers. Parental leave is an astounding 530 days and must be divided between the two parents or else reduced. This guarantees that papas are in at the ground floor. In most cases, birth parents take the first shift at parental leave while – just as babies metamorphose to toddlers – non-birth parents take the second shift. This is my theory on why residential neighbourhoods are awash with fathers—and why Stockholm is so kid-friendly.

Most of the women I see on weekdays are two-dimensional. About ten years ago, all pedestrian walking signs became gender balanced across Stockholm. "Feminine" silhouettes are mounted above me at many crosswalks. Beskirted, with helmet hairdos, the women appear to be wearing mittens or prosthetics. The sheer prevalence of these *flâneuses* makes me feel welcome in Stockholm. My mind races faster than any pedestrian, as I ask myself, "How can I move here?"

We range all over central Stockholm, and make some trips out to the suburbs. One afternoon, near the tram loop of the Hammarby Sjöstad eco-district, we gaze up at a tall building, resplendent with a fresco of glazed public art along one of its faces. The art is fully functional: the windows open directly onto private residential units. The fresco tells the story of a couple falling in love, having a baby, and—as a delightful nod to Sweden being one of the most gender-egalitarian countries in the world—in the last frame, the masculine figure changes the diaper while the mother relaxes.

In the scene depicting the couple falling in love sits a heart-shaped window. A couple with a little girl once lived in the unit behind, relays our tour guide. One night, a red light began shining in the heart window. It came to



Taking in the sights around Stockholm.
Photos courtesy of the author.



be known quickly across the neighbourhood that the girl living in that home was battling cancer. Every night, people would pass this intersection, pause to look up, and send thoughts and hopefulness and prayers to the family. One night, the light was extinguished, sending a shock of understanding through the community. For many months, the heart window stood empty. And then one night, a red light shone again. The family, in moving through their grief, had realized that the little girl lived on in the community's memories and hearts.

This story shows the strong sense of community within Stockholm's neighbourhoods that results—in part—from the efforts of Sweden's city planners. Factors such as optimal densities, shared outdoor amenities, dynamic play areas, public art projects, and built-in opportunities to embark on communal efforts (such as recycling facilities, environmental remediation, gardening plots, etc.) all help to build a sense of connection.

Sweden's drive for social equity also propels the patterning of streets and the layering of land uses. Daycares—divinely known as “educare”—are prominently located in the centre of almost every residential project. Each neighbourhood radiates around childcares, parks, ponds, and squares. These are the outdoor rec rooms and front parlours of the nation. Residential areas are thrumming all day and into the evening. Great examples can be found in the Starrängen, Odenplan and Östermalm neighbourhoods.

Sweden's social safety net may also account for the flimsily-locked and the many unlocked bikes and electric scooters I come across on my walks. As to the lightweight furniture, unafixed, outside of closed cafes, even late at night, why are there no security cameras or guards in sight? My jaw falls open, time and again.

It's no secret (even among the Swedes) that the country has the highest tax rate in the world. Those very taxes appear to “buy” social trust and gender equity, and community mindedness.

The deliberate design of the city to create an egalitarian atmosphere, coupled with the just-rightness of *lagom*, have provided me with unique insight into Swedish planning. It's more than kismet that we came upon the head of state going for a brisk walk along the shoreline

in the middle of a busy day in Parliament—or that she would be willing to stop and chat. Where else in the world would you see that?

Does Sweden's culture mould the design interventions undertaken in Stockholm, or is their culture being shaped by the egalitarian design? Happily, answering this question will take more research. I'm packing my runners for my next trip to Stockholm.

Emilie K. Adin is the President of the Planning Institute of BC as well as an Adjunct Professor at the UBC School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, within the Master of Urban Design program.



ELIXIRS FOR A BUSY WORK PLACE

Justin Hall

After a frenetically busy week, have you ever sat back and wondered: What have I actually accomplished? Why am I in so many meetings? Why is it so difficult to stay on task? Everyone in the modern workplace has probably asked themselves some version of these questions.

Over the past few years, the Public Realm Infrastructure Team at the City of North Vancouver has been working to develop and implement better tools and practices to operate more effectively in a busy workplace. While I do not claim these strategies to be novel or groundbreaking, they have helped my team save time, improve communication, and build stronger and more effective working relationships. Most importantly, they have evidenced that no matter where you sit in the organizational structure, affecting change is possible. I am happy to share some of the approaches we have developed to stop, or at least minimize, asking some of the common workplace questions.

Where has all my time gone and what have I done?

For me, Spring of 2022 was marked by frustration and burnout. Despite feeling incredibly busy day-to-day, all I could see was net growth in my “to-do list.” Born out of this frustration, I began a simple time-tracking spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel (no fancy software required), plugging in time before lunch and at the end of the day. I know this may be nothing new for our private practice friends, but in the public sector, while accountable for our time, there are less robust structures in place for recording



how our time is spent as one jumps between tasks throughout the day. Tracking my time created greater transparency as to where my hours were being spent and enabled me to better evaluate if my time was aligned with team, department, or corporate priorities. Being better equipped to articulate my time quantitatively, I could set goals to consciously adjust my time use if I found it to be inconsistent with my priorities. Others on my team have adopted this practice and it has made it easier to articulate overall capacity, what issues were drawing the most time, and what might be sliding to the back burner. For managers, it is also useful to help build a quantitative case for seeking additional resources or accurately estimating the time required to advance a new initiative. Try time tracking for a week, you might be surprised by the outcome.

Why am I in so many meetings?

I am sure many of you have asked yourself this question and likely the follow-up: What is this meeting actually supposed to accomplish? If so, it could be time to reflect on the recurring meeting slate. It is very likely that you have inherited meetings from your predecessor or received an invite for something “you should probably attend.” Meetings often get added with less scrutiny applied to the meeting purpose than we might admit and less frequently do superfluous meetings get dropped.

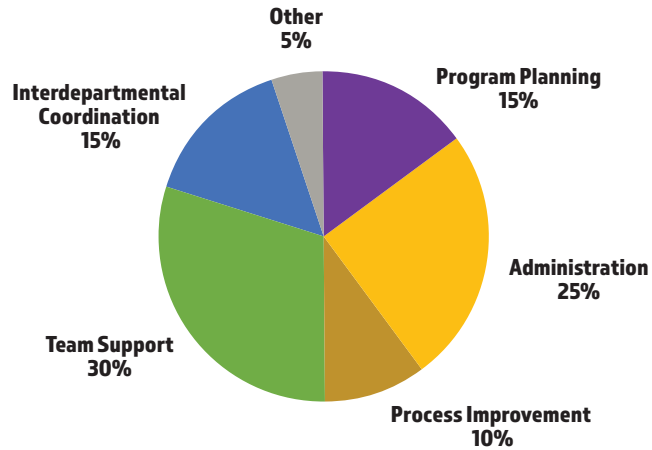
Reflecting on all the meetings on one’s schedule, we might ask:

- How did meetings arise?
- What value do they add?
- Do they have a defined purpose?
- Are all the right people in the room?
- How long does it actually take to get through the agenda before participants start filling time?
- Are the meetings sequenced well for information to travel up, down, and across a team or organization?

Meeting sequencing and timing is an underappreciated issue. Often, availability influences when a meeting occurs, not more important considerations like the right time for information to be shared considering a typical cognitive capacity cycle throughout the day, or ensuring information is available to those who need it when they need it. Over time, needs may change. Questioning the meeting slate is a good way to streamline existing meetings and, perhaps, identify a gap where a new meeting with a defined purpose will save you time, help the organization, or improve communication and coordination.

Orchestrating a complete restructure of the meeting slate is difficult, so where to start? For my team, it has helped to include a basic terms

TIME USE BY WORK TYPE



of reference (what is the meeting supposed to accomplish, frequency, timing, and who needs to be present) in the invitation, along with the meeting agenda, to provide clarity of purpose for the meeting. With this practice, it is easier to consciously consider if that meeting is needed or not.

Why is it so difficult to stay on task?

Easy access to email, direct messages, texting, or the classic desk/office drop-in creates constant potential for distractions that can draw your time, break your focus, and prevent you from doing productive work. In Cal Newport’s *A World Without Email*, he speaks of the cognitive penalty that distractions cause through “context shifting” (switching between tasks). This can cause mental fatigue and make people less productive overall. With easy access to communication tools and the subconscious expectation for a quick response that these tools propagate, we all risk constantly distracting one another in a struggle to engage in productive work. Even if those distractions are well-intentioned and provide valuable information, mistiming and frequency can be problematic.

To combat distractions and context shifting, the team has implemented two techniques: establishing live agendas for 1:1 and team meetings, and creating space at team meetings for questions between members. For us, live agendas were the first step. With a live agenda, all parties can populate the agenda with issues that come up, ideas, and questions – reducing ad-hoc interruptions and minimizing the fear and probability of forgetting something that needs to be discussed. The agenda is also a convenient location to take notes, and track follow-ups and to-dos, generating a history

that can easily be referenced later to help remember why a decision was made and avoid the “what did we agree to do?” phenomenon.

The other technique builds on reflecting on meetings themselves. We have worked to align meeting frequency and duration with the needs of each individual on the team. Need varies between people: where they are at in their job skill development, temporary need when working through a difficult problem or new project, and the type of work they do. Multiple short meetings throughout the week can be more effective than one longer one. If there isn’t something to talk about, a meeting can always be cancelled. It may seem counterintuitive to add more meetings to your week to be more productive, but if it helps focus communication to a specific time to minimize distractions in between meetings, then there is value. This practice doesn’t just go for 1:1 meetings; by creating space for questions and issues at team meetings, everyone can benefit from context shift savings in an environment with interdependent team functions.

For the Public Realm Infrastructure Team, these practices have helped us use our time more effectively, but there is still progress and refinements to be made. These are not strategies that need to be implemented by supervisors; anyone can adopt and adapt these practices to their workplace. Your time is valuable, treat it accordingly. A bit of time spent reflecting and establishing practices and tools can help you and your team function more effectively. Try it for a week, or for a month. See how it goes.

Justin Hall is the manager of the Public Realm Infrastructure Team at the City of North Vancouver and a PIBC Candidate Member.

STARTING A CAREER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: WORKING AS A LAND USE PLANNER IN NORTHERN BC

Ellen Watters

Not for a moment did I ever picture myself packing up and moving to Northern BC for a year in the middle of my time at University. But that's exactly what I ended up doing, and I'm so glad I did.

Gaining work experience is a program requirement for Resource and Environmental Management (SFU REM) planning students and, as I started to job hunt seriously, I found that many exciting opportunities were in rural – and often northern – communities. I took a chance and applied for a Planner 1 position with a northern local government authority and, after a successful interview process, I was making plans to move up north for a year-long,



self-directed co-op placement.

In my short time working as a planner in a local government, my understanding of what land use planning entails has expanded and sparked my excitement about further pursuing planning as a career. It is dynamic, investigative, analytical, and occurs both behind-the-scenes as well as public-facing. Planning in a local government involves a level of expertise in many areas such as geographic information systems, mapping, public health, energy and natural resources, public engagement, conflict mitigation, transportation, food assets and systems, policy, law, community development, and environmental systems...just to name a few. The bottom line: you wear many hats as a land use planner!

I'm shamelessly biased when I say that I can't imagine a better training ground for budding planners than local government. Coming straight from university, I had a solid foundation in planning theory and a broad understanding of topics relevant to good planning. But in my first few weeks on the job, it was clear that I was gaining an invaluable

component to my education: learning the direct, on-the-ground processes of planning. In other words, the practical toolkit for planning and building better communities that can't be learned in a classroom setting.

Some of the exciting things I've been able to jump into include drafting updates to Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw documents, research for the Regional Growth Strategy Plan, building good relations with local First Nation governments, and processing a wide variety of planning-related applications from start to finish. I recognize that these are incredible opportunities to gain experience in so immediately upon entering the field - and a big reason why I took the chance moving far away from home.

Planning is firmly rooted in 'place', and Northern BC has been an interesting setting to practice planning. There is a strong sense of community that is characteristic of Northern BC, which has translated into my experience in the local government workplace. My colleagues have been amazing mentors as I've dived into what has sometimes felt like the "deep end."

But instead of feeling completely overwhelmed, I've found that it's been an ideal environment to grow in.

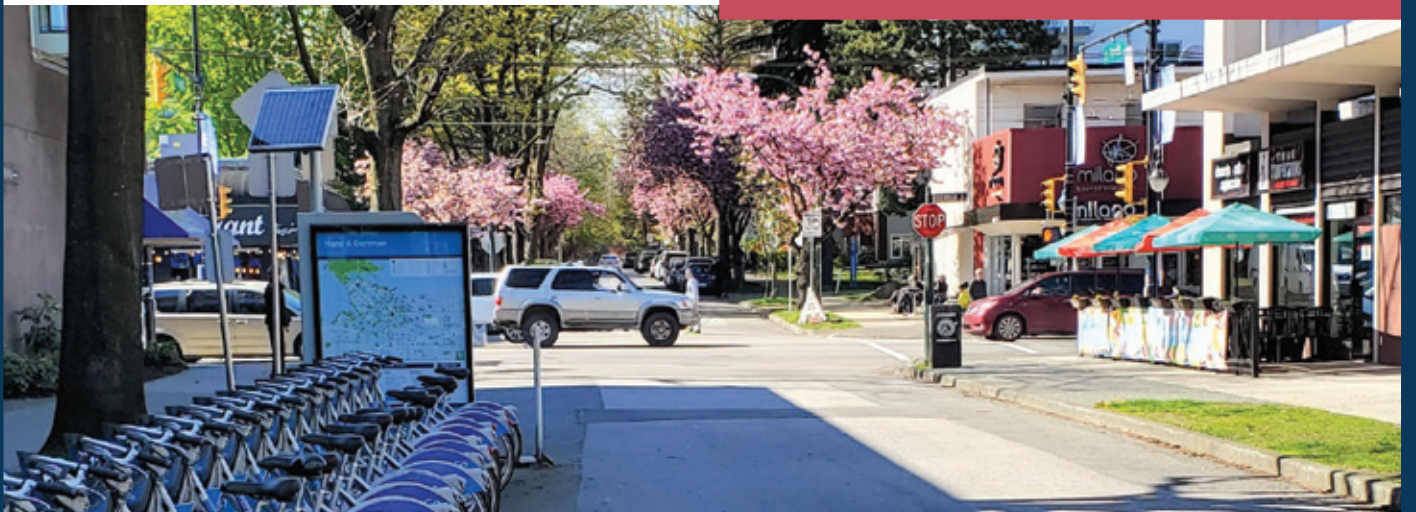
Starting a new career in a new place was a significant change and came with its challenges, but embracing exciting opportunities often means stepping out of our comfort zones. To anyone who is seeking job opportunities that both challenge and inspire, I wholeheartedly recommend considering rural, smaller communities in the north. These settings not only provide a unique learning environment for personal and professional growth but also allow you to meaningfully contribute to the development of vibrant and close-knit communities.

Ellen Watters is a co-op student in the Resource and Environmental Management Planning program at Simon Fraser University. She is currently on a year-long work placement with the Peace River Regional District in Fort St. John, BC.

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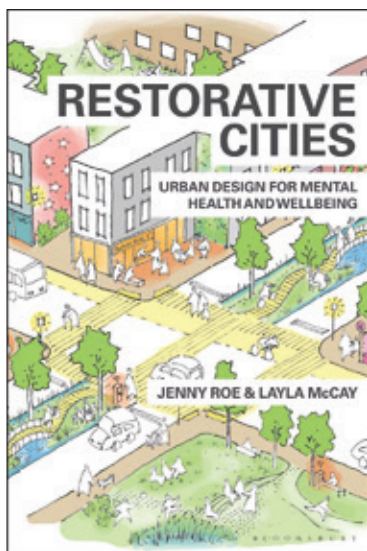
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Restorative Cities: Urban Design for Mental Health and Wellbeing

by Jenny Roe and Layla McCay.

2021. London: Bloomsbury Visual Arts.
\$49.95. 251 pp. 978-1-3501-1288-9.



Restorative Cities is an important theoretical contribution to the field of urban planning, and one that offers recommendations based on solid research. The book argues that the built environment is of enormous significance in influencing mental health and human well-being. In contrast with the grand utopian visions of the Ebenezer Howards and Le Corbusiers, the authors suggest an incremental approach that places “mental health, wellness and quality of life at the forefront of city planning and ... design” (p. 2). Roe and McCay note that the “burden of mental health problems is increasing everywhere ... anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, aggravated by increasing violence and trauma from natural and manmade disasters, political strife and division, and human rights violations” (p. 4). They draw on a vast literature, including numerous empirical studies, amalgamating all this into a comprehensive approach resting on seven pillars. The authors discuss the mental health and well-being benefits of each pillar, while showcasing their overlap.

In their *green city* discussion, they focus on how the benefits of green space can be optimized at a variety of scales, from pocket parks to major destination parks (including on waterfronts), via green streets, linear parks, and additional green roofs and vertical

gardens. An extensive urban tree canopy is also important, as is having green space within close proximity of housing and extensive views of green from workspaces. They cite research that shows that green spaces reduce a variety of mental disorders, including schizophrenia and dementia. Such spaces also reduce depression and improve mood, reduce stress disorders, ADHD, and autism, while enhancing social cohesion.

Blue city aspects offer many of the same benefits, and the authors offer a variety of ways of facilitating contact with water – from preserving existing rivers, streams, canals, and ocean access to daylighting creeks and integrating swales and rain gardens into the urban fabric. Water provides a variety of functions. It holds an inherent fascination, is calming and soothing, emotionally cleansing, provides recreational opportunities, and can buffer urban noise.

The authors explore the *sensory city* which encompasses multi-faceted dimensions – not only the five senses, but also overall ambience, legibility (wayfinding), and place aesthetics (symmetry, scale, proportion, variety, and order). The sense of sight relates to satisfying views and to the diverse colours, shapes, and textures of nature that offer relief from visual monotony. Noise and disruption of sleep and serenity by cars, planes, and leaf-blowers diminish our well-being. By contrast, the sounds of church bells, birdsongs, and the burbling of streams are music to our ears. Petting zoos for kids combine sight, sound, and touch, and outdoor programs in schools foster an experience of all five senses, such as observing wildlife and the sensuous feeling of tree bark. Dark sky precincts are an opportunity to reconnect with the heavens and the authors note that New York City has a program to enable kids and their parents to camp overnight in city parks. Cities are also commonly associated with unpleasant smells, which are often correctly associated with unhealthy substances. The smell of trees and flowers and wafting food aromas offer a healthy antidote, as does ensuring access to affordable, tasty food from a diversity of cultural origins.

The *neighbourly city* is supported by mixed-use environments, with ample pedestrian amenities and what the authors call “bumping spaces” (p. 74). The design of the built environment has an enormous impact on the degree of loneliness and isolation. A study from the Vancouver Foundation discovered that people living in Vancouver high-rises were amongst those who felt the most alone and alienated from their neighbours. City staff have addressed this in Barcelona through the

creation of ‘superblocks,’ where all but essential vehicles are banned from large areas and abundant seating is created where neighbours can sit and converse and watch their kids play.

The *active and playable cities* provide enticing environments to get out and walk, cycle, skateboard, or rollerblade, and provide easy access to a variety of desirable services and destinations. In cities like Copenhagen, the extensive cycling infrastructure has led to a situation where half the population cycles to work. Such physical activity enhances mental well-being and is more likely to occur when people are not dependent on their vehicles to travel everywhere, and where the immediate environment is beautiful, invigorating, and interesting for people of all ages and abilities. In addition to playgrounds and ‘playstreets,’ open spaces for concerts and festivals add spice to the urban experience.

The final pillar, the *inclusive city*, features settings “that promote inclusion, belonging, equity, and justice” (p. 183). The opposite would be racial segregation and ‘hostile’ architecture, such as benches designed to prevent homeless people from sleeping, a lack of public toilets, or situations where women and other gender groups do not have free and safe access to public space.

Not being dogmatic, they do note instances where a certain degree of segregation can have benefits, as with ethnic enclaves, ‘gaybourhoods,’ or self-chosen ‘55-plus’ communities. But, in many cases, there are benefits associated with bringing different age and gender groups together – locating seniors’ centres next to daycare centres or bringing children into seniors’ facilities to hear seniors’ life stories. They advocate for mixed-income, mixed-tenure developments where a wide diversity of people can encounter one another. A key issue for inclusive cities is designing for different physical abilities and, with the rise of dementia, for different capacities to orient oneself. They call this “designing for the baseline” (p. 172).

In the final chapter, “The Restorative City,” they review how these pillars collectively make cities more resilient, look at key sectors for implementing restorative city aspects, and ask whose job it is to do this implementation. The strength of this book is how well it integrates research and action. As such, it deserves to be on every planner’s bookshelf.

Don Alexander is a semi-retired professor of Geography and Community Planning at Vancouver Island University. He can be contacted at don.alexander@viu.ca. He thanks Christine Krumrey for her help with this review.

IN MEMORIAM



REMEMBERING NATHAN EDELSON

Prepared by Don Alexander
Retired Member

Nathan Edelson (b. 1947) died on September 3rd, 2023 in Vancouver after a short but intense illness.

Nathan received his undergraduate and master's education in Pennsylvania before emigrating to Canada in 1972. He worked as a planner for the City of Vancouver for twenty-five years, serving in a variety of capacities. His diverse professional, consulting, and volunteer work spanned the areas of:

- Affordable housing
- Arts and culture
- Community economic development
- Community planning with First Nations
- Good neighbour agreements for health and social service facilities
- Heritage incentives using density bonusing, grants and tax abatement
- Land use policies for industrial, residential and retail development
- Liquor licensing and adult retail regulation
- Programming the public space for diverse communities
- Public realm improvements
- Securing jobs for people with challenges to employment
- Social policy

In addition to working for the City, he served as an adjunct professor teaching planning at the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto. His extensive consultancy work included serving as the Executive Director of Little Mountain Neighbourhood House (1978 to 1984) and helping to develop other neighbourhood houses in Vancouver. Nathan worked with the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre to initiate a training program on urban Indigenous issues for the Vancouver Police and Vancouver City staff. He served on the board of the Community Arts Council of Vancouver

and assisted the Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts profile local artists to help attract visitors to the inner city.

Nathan also served on the steering committee of Living in Community, a coalition of organizations helping businesses, residents, and sex workers improve the safety and health of sex workers while reducing neighbourhood impacts. He assisted "The Spirit Builders" in developing an innovative model of social housing where residents are trained to build and manage their housing and establish social enterprises. Working with Smart Growth BC, Nathan helped initiate an Official Community Plan for Graham Island (Haida Gwaii), and another for the Burns Lake Band First Nation. He provided consultation and training in cross-cultural relations and anti-racism in response to hate literature and inequitable treatment of Indigenous people in Fort St. John, British Columbia. Working with non-profit agencies, business organizations, municipal officials, police and First Nations communities, he assisted in developing an approach to creating a "Sustainable Community" in Delta, BC through United Way *Communities in Action* project.

In addition to his professional and academic activities, Nathan served on the Board of Directors of the Portland Hotel Society, helping the organization regain its ability to play a leadership role in harm reduction practice. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Alexandra Foundation, helping the Foundation to focus its limited resources on continuing to fund innovative programs at existing facilities and support the development of new neighbourhood houses in low-income communities in Metro Vancouver. Nathan was an Honourary Chair of the Downtown Eastside Centre for the Arts, assisting the delivery of innovative arts programs in Vancouver's inner city, with a focus on enabling urban Indigenous Elders to support one another and to support younger residents facing challenges in their lives. A major passion towards the end of his life was serving as the planning consultant to the *RePlan subcommittee of the False Creek Neighbourhood Association that was attempting to work with Vancouver to secure the future of False Creek South and re-negotiate expiring land leases.

To me, Nathan was a 'super-planner' whose scope of work was enormous. Moreover, he was conscious that his planning practice should address a higher social purpose and serve the needs of the least advantaged. Though I didn't know him as well as I would have liked, he was also one of the kindest human beings I have ever met.

REMEMBERING PAUL DUPUIS RPP, MCIP

It was with deep sadness that the Institute learned of the recent passing of Paul Dupuis RPP, MCIP. Paul passed away suddenly on July 5, 2023, at 46 years of age.

Paul was born in Vancouver and received his Bachelor's degree in Geography at UBC–Okanagan in Kelowna. He subsequently earned diplomas in Sustainable Community Development from SFU and in Local Government Management from LGMA. He began working as a planner in the Okanagan Valley with the District of Peachland in 2007 in the Planning Department until 2015. He left Peachland and moved on to the District of Lake Country, working there until 2022, becoming a Senior Planner, before taking the position of Planning Director in the City of Armstrong in 2022. Paul became a full member of PIBC and a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) in 2012.

Paul's career included many accomplishments in current planning, developing and implementing OCP policies, and advancing sustainable planning and climate action initiatives. He was a progressive thinker, a team player, and was an excellent contributor of high-quality work - providing quality professional advice to decision-makers. Paul was also an active member of the planning profession, with involvement in PIBC's Okanagan Interior Chapter and serving as the volunteer co-chair for the PIBC 2016 Annual Conference in Kelowna.

Paul was athletic, having participated in high school football in Vancouver and in senior lacrosse in the Okanagan. He supported causes for the fair treatment of people and served as a union representative for a period of time during his career. Paul is survived by his daughter Malaya, father Gordon, and brother Michael. He will be missed by all those who knew him. We extend our sincere condolences to his colleagues, family, and friends.

(With thanks to Dave Smith BA, MCP, Dip PA, TESOL, for contributing to this notice).

REMEMBERING KEVIN TAYLOR

The Institute was saddened to hear the news of the sudden and unexpected passing of Kevin Taylor on August 6, 2023.

Kevin was a Pre-Candidate member of PIBC and was working as the Director of Corporate and Development Services for the District of Lillooet at the time. He had previously worked in the Okanagan with the planning department of the District of Peachland, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen development services department, and with the District of Summerland. Hailing from North Vancouver originally, Kevin received a degree in political science from the University of Victoria.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.



PIBC BOARD NOTES

On **May 30th, 2023**, the PIBC Board of Directors met in Sun Peaks, BC.

It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Secwépemc peoples.

PRESIDENT

David Block RPP, MCIP provided an update on various activities. It was noted that meetings with the BC Ministry of Housing had been taking place and an upcoming meeting with the Minister was scheduled for June. It was also noted that several key national meetings would be taking place at the CIP national conference in Halifax. As the current term was ending, members of the Board were thanked for their time and work on the Board over the course of the term.

MEETING MINUTES

There was follow up and discussion by the Board regarding matters discussed at the March 27, 2023 Board meeting.

BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Board reviewed and discussed progress on various goals and tasks from the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan. A number of ongoing initiatives and tasks were reviewed and discussed.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Executive Director Dave Crossley reported on the ongoing and key projects, initiatives, and activities at the PIBC office, including preparatory work for the 2023 annual conference in Sun Peaks and upcoming AGM and Board elections.

The Board reviewed the 2023 unaudited financial statements to April 30, 2023, for information. It was noted that the Institute continued to remain in a very healthy financial position.

The Board discussed and approved recommendations to enhance the current staff capacity for the Institute to provide greater administrative and member service support and new capacity in areas related to advocacy and strategic policy areas.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

It was reported and noted that Pat Maloney RPP, FCIP would be starting her new role on the Board of Directors of the national Professional Standards Board (PSB) in June, having served on its Professional Examination and Education Committee.

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. The Board further confirmed the revocation of certain individuals' membership due to non-payment of 2023 membership fees. Additionally, the Board approved the extension of membership time limits for a Candidate member.

Pat Maloney RPP, FCIP provided the Board with an update on the development of the content and material for a new webinar on professionalism and ethics that will be initially delivered later this year.

INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS & BUSINESS

Brief updates on the activities of the university planning programs at UBC and SFU were provided by and on behalf of the Student member representatives from the respective programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed and approved supporting the holding of a regular Board meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon, during the upcoming new Board term.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the 2023 AGM would take place on June 2, 2023, and that the next regular Board meeting would be held on a date to be determined as part of the new 2023-2025 Board term.



On **June 13th, 2023**, the newly elected 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.

INTRODUCTIONS & WELCOME

President Emilie Adin RPP, MCIP welcomed everyone to the new Board term, and members of the Board present introduced themselves.

BOARD ORIENTATION & RETREAT

The Board discussed plans and scheduling for the upcoming orientation for the new Board and strategic retreat. It was agreed to poll Board members on potential dates in September and to then confirm the dates.

GOVERNMENT OUTREACH

Emilie Adin RPP, MCIP noted an upcoming meeting scheduled with the BC Minister of Housing, Ravi Kahlon. There was discussion of approaches for the meeting, participation, and key topics to raise. There was also discussion of budget support for other outreach activities by the Institute.

BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Board reviewed and discussed the draft meeting schedule for the 2023-2025 Board term, including options for potential adjustments. It was agreed to further review and confirm the schedule at the next regular meeting.

KEY APPOINTMENTS & ROLES

The Board approved the updated signing authorities for the Institute and reviewed and considered appointments to key positions and roles. The Board approved the appointment of Sara Muir RPP, MCIP as the Institute's Secretary Treasurer for the new term. The Board also approved the appointment and re-appointment of a number of members to the Professional Conduct Review Committee.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next regular Board meeting would be held in July on a date to be confirmed.

On **July 21st, 2023**, the PIBC Board of Directors met in Vancouver.

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

PRESIDENT

Emilie Adin RPP, MCIP welcomed everyone, and there were brief introductions. An update was provided on various activities. It was noted that a meeting with the BC Minister of Housing had been held, and that several key national meetings had been held at the CIP national conference in Halifax. It was further noted that the Executive was working on potential updates to Board meeting agendas and procedures, including an updated approach to use of consent agendas.

BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Board approved the appointment of several members to key Institute roles, including: Kenna Jonkman RPP, MCIP and Zoë Morrison RPP, MCIP as co-chairs of the Professional Standards & Certification Committee; Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP and Narissa Chadwick RPP, MCIP as co-chairs of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee; Cleo Corbett RPP, MCIP and Andy Yan RPP, MCIP as co-chairs of the Member Engagement Committee. The Board also approved the appointment of Sarah Folulkes to the Professional Standards & Certification Committee; Maya Korbynn to the Communications Committee; Dear Bhokanandh to the Member Engagement Committee; and Aishwarya Kumar to the Student Internship Committee, as members.

The Board further reviewed, discussed, and approved updates to the regular Board meeting schedule for the two-year term.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming retreat to review and revise the current strategic plan, including discussion of timing and logistics, the organization of an online orientation for Board members, familiarization with the existing strategic plan, and initial ideas generation for the retreat.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

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

work related to the upcoming 2024 BC Land Summit conference and ongoing work related to the BC Professional Governance Act (PGA).

The Board reviewed the 2022 unaudited financial statements to May 31, 2022, for information. It was noted that the Institute continued to remain in a very healthy financial position.

MEMBER PROGRAMS & SERVICES

An update from the BC Land Summit Society regarding work planning and preparing for the joint 2024 BC Land Summit conference (May 8-10, 2024) in Nanaimo was received.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

There was further discussion of the recent national meetings held at the CIP national conference in Halifax, including an update on key discussions and plans related to updating the structures and processes of the national Professional Standards Committee (SC). It was noted that more detailed information would be circulated in the coming weeks.

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.

INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS & BUSINESS

Brief updates on the activities of the university planning programs at UBC and VIU were provided by the Student member representatives from the respective programs.

There was a brief 'in camera' update and discussion regarding Provincial government relations.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next regular Board meeting would be held in person in Whistler on September 22nd, along with the upcoming strategic planning retreat.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

MAY 30, 2023

Welcome New Members!

Congratulations and welcome to all the new PIBC Members!

At its meeting of May 30, 2023, 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:

Gurraj Ahluwalia
Alabi Tolulope
Natalie Andrijancic
Jordan Brietzke
Natalie Cho
Remi Drouot
(Joint with OUQ)
Sarah Freigang
Eleni Gibson
Zachary Haigh
Krysten Hogan
Henry Kosch
Alex Lader
(Transfer from APPI)
Courtney Laurence
(Joint with APPI)
Eliakim Longaquit
(Transfer from SPPI)
Malcolm MacLean
Sydney Rankmore
Jayden Riley
David Schoor
(Joint with APPI)
Lenore Swystun
(Joint with SPPI)
Julie Thompson
Ray Tomalty
Jacqueline Tse
(Transfer from CIP Intl.)
Kelsey Tyerman
MacKenzie Walker
Xian Zhang

CANDIDATE:

Celeste Barlow
Larissa Barry-Thibodeau
Kristina Bell
Morgan Braglewicz
Brandon Djordjevich
Allison Dominelli
Shannen Doyle
Qwuy'um'aat (Eyvette) Elliott
Ian Flock
Dimitri Giannoulis
Somayeh (Sahar) Hakimi
Kayla Harris
Sheena Jardine-Olade
Leah Karlberg
Long Lin
(Transfer from OPPI)
Katelyn Ling
Krista Macaulay
Deepnath Majumder
Karissa Noselski
Loretta Pellegrino
Afia Raja
Megan Taylor
Manasvini Thiagarajan
Justin Tso
Michael van der Laan
Kiera Vandeborne

STUDENT:

Regor Abuloc *(VIU)*
Rory Buckman *(UBC)*
Arshpreet Cheema
(University of Alberta)
Sidney Elliott *(UNBC)*
Daniel Han
*(Waterloo –
Joint with OPPI)*
Gillian Holmes *(UNBC)*
Cameron Kral *(UNBC)*
Aaron Kuntz
(York University)
Kylie Li
*(University of Alberta
– Joint with APPI)*

Sebastian Mather
(York University)

Caleb Nakasaki
(Dalhousie – Joint with API)

Xueqi Tan *(UBC)*

Melisa Tang Choy *(Dalhousie)*

PRE-CANDIDATE:

Kateryna Morenets

Sarah Ochitwa

Andrei Pop

Liana Stephan

Suzanne Therrien

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:

Rhona Dulay
Kristen Lassonde

FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CERTIFIED:

Jocelyn Black
Kerri Clark
Emily Gray
Robin Hawker
Jennie Moore

FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CANDIDATE:

Nicole Fraser

RESIGNED:

Graeme Buffett
Elizabeth Chapman
Susan Elbe
Rushi Gadoya
Antoni James
Jordan Konyk

Jessica Mann

Kristy McConnell

Suzanne Nedham-McBriar

Heather Oland

Murray Rutherford

Keri Sallee

Tanya Shah

William Siegner

DECEASED:

Robert Lawrance

Membership Renewals & Removals

At the PIBC Board meeting of May 30, 2023, it was also reported and confirmed that the following individuals had not renewed their membership in the Institute for the current year (2023) and in accordance with the Institute's bylaws ceased to be members effective as of May 30, 2023:

CERTIFIED:

Kristin Aasen
Ron Cruikshank
Diana Hall
Luke Mari
Jiandong (Jim) Wang

CANDIDATE:

Vrishneel Prahalad

RETIRED:

Michael Barrett
Gerald Thompson

PRE-CANDIDATE:

Jerritt Cloney
Naghmeah Nazar Nia
Angela Zhuo

SAVE THE DATES!

JULY 21, 2023

Welcome New Members!

Congratulations and welcome to all the new PIBC Members!

At its meeting of July 21, 2023, 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:

Andrew Hannaford
(Joint with OPPI)

Robert Keel
(Transfer from APPI)

Oz Kemal
(Joint with OPPI)

Stephen Power
(Transfer from APPI)

CANDIDATE:

Paul Belzile
(Transfer from APPI)

Tara Brown
(Transfer from APPI)

Natalie Cappe

Yiping Chen

Francine de Lotbinière-Bassett

Shannon Duong

Desiree Givens

Jennifer Hetherington

Patrik Hunter

Holli Hyatt

Brittany Jang

Bradley Muller

Jeremy Paquin

Laura Tate

Margot Thomaidis

STUDENT:

Alli Di Giovanni (SFU)

Samuel Gibson
(Waterloo – Joint with OPPI)

Stephanie Grondin (UBC)

Jun Ming (Jimmy) Hu
(University of Alberta)

Ossman Nabi (SFU)

PRE-CANDIDATE:

Valerie Berthier

Cameron Power

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:

Jennifer MacIntyre

Hailey Rilko

FROM CANDIDATE TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

Ashley Thandi

FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CERTIFIED:

Liberty Brears

Selena Brill Jutras

Tara Johnson

Danika LeBlanc

Frances Woo

RESIGNED:

Ilaine Marjoribanks

Arta Navab-Tehrani

DECEASED:

Gary Paget (Honourary)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Save the date for these exciting and informative PIBC Continuous Professional Learning webinars. (Eligible for 1.5 units each)

**PIBC CPL Webinar #9:
BC Land Summit Webinar –
AI: Opportunities, Challenges and
Legal Considerations
November 29, 2023**

While Artificial Intelligence (AI) in urban planning can provide numerous benefits, including improving work processes and outcomes, there are potential risks involved with this technology that need to be addressed. This webinar explores the opportunities and challenges of AI in planning and related fields.

**PIBC CPL Webinar #10:
Ethics in Planning (Free Webinar)
December 6, 2023**

Join members of the PIBC Professional Conduct Review Committee at this interactive webinar as they discuss how to address “sticky” situations and the procedures for reporting perceived unethical behaviour.

**Upcoming 2024 Webinar
PIBC CPL Webinar #1:
Annual Provincial/Northern Forecast
January 31, 2024**

More details to come.

**Visit the PIBC Webinars webpage
www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars
for information on current
webinars, registrations, and the
latest webinar recordings.**



ST. THOMAS ELEVATED PARK, ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO, CANADA

Canada's first elevated park is located in St. Thomas, Ontario, and was a vision that came from an innovative idea to conserve and repurpose a decommissioned railroad bridge from decay and destruction. The old railway bridge, which used to carry the Michigan Central Railroad through St. Thomas, stands a staggering 95 feet above Kettle Creek Valley, providing an amazing view.

Abandoned in the mid-1990s, a local heritage conservationist named Serge Lavoie, with support from the Trans Canada Trail, rallied to save the structure and convert it into a public park. Taking inspiration from New York City's High Line Linear Park and Paris' Coulée Verte, the bridge's surface (30 feet wide and 850 feet long) offered a massive open space ripe for transformation. Now redeveloped with trees, flower beds, park benches, and a trail for walking, running and biking, it is also a popular spot for local community artists to share their art.

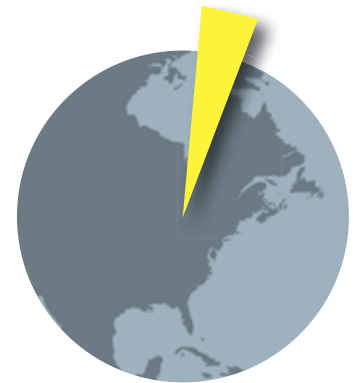
Thanks to donations from the community and help from volunteers, the St. Thomas Elevated Park is open to all and is wheelchair accessible. Canada's first elevated park is a realized vision of conserving and redeveloping unused structures into a hub for community activation and appreciation.

Follow @elevatedpark on Instagram to see the latest artist installments and park views.

Source

<http://www.elevatedpark.ca>

<https://curiocity.com/st-thomas-elevated-park>





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