

POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

The Institute's Policy & Public Affairs Committee (PPAC) is responsible for overseeing and supporting the Institute's policy and public affairs related work, including relevant government outreach, external relations, and potential advocacy on issues or identified areas of interest to the Institute. The Committee also provides advice and assistance related to these matters to the Board. Narissa Chadwick RPP, MCIP continued to Chair the Committee in 2025 following the departure of Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP from the Board and Committee in June.

The Committee and its subcommittees met throughout 2025 to advance key work and activities aligned with the Board's strategic priorities. Work focused on several priority areas, including implementing the provincially funded Peer Learning Network (PLN) on housing legislation and policy through the Housing Task Force; researching and engaging with members regarding professional regulation for the planning profession and potential regulation under the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) by the RPP Regulation Sub-Committee; and continuing to work on climate-related matters – including policy monitoring, education, and completion of a carbon emissions review of PIBC through the Climate Action Sub-Committee.

HOUSING TASK FORCE & PEER LEARNING NETWORK (PLN):

The PPAC established the Housing Task Force in January 2024 to provide strategic leadership on the Peer Learning Network (PLN) – a three-year program funded by a contribution from the Province of British Columbia. Through the PLN, PIBC has been able to offer a wide range of offerings to support both members and non-member practitioners to learn about the recently enacted housing legislation and related housing matters. At the outset of the program in early 2024, there was a flurry of activity with numerous in-person events held across the province, as well as webinars and other engagement. As the first year concluded, the PLN program had reached an optimal pace of service delivery.

In 2025, PIBC delivered a number of valuable peer learning activities that responded to the expressed needs and interests of planners and practitioners in relation to housing:

- **PLN Webinars:** PIBC delivered seven PLN webinars. The emphasis was on convening panels that brought practical and legal perspectives, which proved popular, as the webinar series had an average attendance of over 200. The two webinars with the highest audience were the April 2025 webinar on "The Cold Hard Truths About Housing Development and the Art of the Possible" (343 attendees) followed by its sequel in September 2025 (310 attendees). All PLN webinar recordings can be viewed online (<https://tinyurl.com/57ev2r78>) and have, in addition to live attendance, garnered over 3,600 views, and counting.

- **Conference Session:** At the 2025 annual conference in June, the Housing Task Force hosted a well-attended session. The assembled panel provided practical, well-timed, and diverse perspectives about housing. The panel included: Heather Kauer RPP, MCIP (City of Abbotsford / PIBC Housing Task Force), Guy Patterson RPP, MCIP (Young Anderson), Bryn Davidson (Co-Founder, Lanefab), Doreann Mayhew (General Manager of Development, City of Delta), Lilian Chau RPP, MCIP (CEO, Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society), and Adam Cooper RPP, MCIP (Director of Community Planning, Abstract Developments).



The Housing Task Force also took note of the findings of the two engagement surveys conducted in 2024 and identified two priority PLN research projects. The research topics were chosen to maximize applicable benefits for members and non-member practitioners. Two RFPs were issued and consultant teams were selected in the summer. The two research projects, anticipated to be completed in 2026, include:

- **Housing Advisory Bulletins:** these are intended to be practical resources covering three topic areas: the fundamentals of housing development economics, cost of and funding for infrastructure and amenities, and inclusionary housing policies and zoning.
- **Intelligent Inventory:** a repository of Official Community Plans and zoning bylaws powered by Artificial Intelligence that will help planners working in the housing space or in any other areas covered by these policies and regulations.

Lastly, a mini-site serving as an online clearinghouse for PLN resources was implemented in 2025 (www.pibc.bc.ca/pln) and the annual subscription for access to the Quickscribe online legal resource was also renewed. The PLN program is scheduled to wind down and conclude on June 30, 2026.

RPP REGULATION & PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE:

In late 2023, the PIBC Board approved direction to undertake outreach and education about the governance of the profession, the BC Professional Governance Act, and possible opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. In directing this work, the PIBC Board did not make any decisions on whether the planning profession should or should not be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*. In 2024, the Policy & Public Affairs Com-

mittee assigned the RPP Regulation Sub-Committee to guide and implement the work of engaging the membership about professional governance and the *Professional Governance Act*. The purpose of the work is to inform and engage the membership, without any pre-determined outcome, decision, or course of action.

2025 was a very busy and productive one for the RPP Regulation Subcommittee, as work proceeded to implement Phase 1 of the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project. At the direction of the Board, the project is intended to engage the membership and other interest holders about the *Professional Governance Act* and the potential pros, cons, and trade-offs should the planning profession in British Columbia potentially become regulated under the Act.

The first engagement activity was a survey of members and non-member planners (December 2024 – February 2025) to gauge awareness and knowledge about the *Professional Governance Act*, and how members may wish to stay engaged or participate in the project. With over 300 responses, the initial survey helped the Subcommittee fine-tune the Phase 1 work plan, which was approved by the Board in Fall 2024.

From there, an initial round of interviews was conducted with select Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations, and with the six PGA regulators to learn about their respective professional governance journeys and experiences. In May, the Subcommittee convened a webinar to formally introduce the project. Representatives from the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance, Forest Professionals BC (FPBC), and BC Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA) participated on the panel. At the annual conference in June 2025, the Subcommittee convened a panel session comprising the BC Institute of Agrologists (BCIA), FPBC, and BCSLA.

Over the summer, The Regulator's Practice was retained to undertake a formal strategic assessment of the pros, cons, and trade-offs associated with the planning profession being regulated under the PGA. The work included desktop research, key informant interviews, and focus groups. Nine focus groups, comprising 69 people, were convened in Fall 2025 to delve into specific topic areas, such as the public interest imperative of the PGA and reserve practice. At year end, the consultant was completing its report, and the Subcommittee was preparing to take the strategic assessment findings and recommendations forward to the Board in early 2026. All relevant documents, including quarterly Chair Update memos and FAQs, are posted and available on the project webpage (www.pibc.bc.ca/professionalgovernance).

In addition to steering the professional governance project, the Subcommittee took on an unanticipated role of helping guide the Institute's response in late 2025 to Bill M216 "Professional Reliance Act". This private member's bill was introduced in late October, and in a matter of weeks the Subcommittee met with the bill's sponsor and

prepared and submitted an official correspondence to the Premier's Office (copied to other officials) in November 2025. After the Bill received second reading, the Subcommittee pivoted to prepare a comprehensive analysis of the bill, soliciting practice examples from members, and legal input. In December, PIBC made a formal submission to the BC Legislature's Select Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Bills with a recommendation for the Committee to not proceed with the Bill. Also, in December, the Subcommittee hosted a special webinar to provide members with an update on the Bill. Guy Patterson RPP, MCIP provided a high-level legal overview of the Bill. As of the end of 2025 the Subcommittee is actively monitoring the status of the Bill.

Other Legislative Matters & Government Relations:

In January 2025, the Institute met with representatives from both the BC Ministries of Housing and Municipal Affairs for feedback and input to government from the planning profession. These meetings aimed to strengthen relationships between the Institute and the planning profession and key government officials, while also providing a platform for dialogue, feedback and input to government from the planning profession. The Institute remains committed to building on these outreach efforts and actively seeking further opportunities for engagement with government officials.

CLIMATE ACTION:

The Climate Action Sub-Committee continued its active work in 2025 in the areas of climate and climate action. Patricia Dehnel RPP, MCIP continued to serve as Chair of the Sub-Committee during the year, and Sara Muir RPP, MCIP also continued in a Board liaison role with the Sub-Committee. Key work undertaken this past year included implementing an internal climate assessment of the Institute and its operations (with key assistance from PIBC student interns) to help move the Institute towards carbon neutrality, in line with goals outlined in the revised Climate Action Policy adopted in 2022 (the Policy is available on the Institute's website).

The Sub-Committee finalized and presented the Operationalizing Climate Change report which outlined of the Institute's carbon footprint analysis, to the Board in 2025. The report was approved alongside a number of recommendations for implementation to support the Institute moving towards carbon neutrality. The Climate Action Subcommittee is now working with the PIBC office on implementing strategies and operational changes based on the assessment.

COMMITTEE THANKS:

The Institute's policy advocacy and public affairs work continues to advance through the valuable contributions of volunteer members serving on the Policy & Public Affairs Committee, its subcommittees, working groups, and through the work of external volunteer representatives. We extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed in these roles throughout 2025. Appreciation is also extended to PIBC staff for their ongoing support of the Committee, its subcommittees, working groups, and related activities.