

PLANNING PRACTICE & RECONCILIATION:

The Institute's Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee was formally established as a standing committee in 2021, evolving from the previous Indigenous Planning Working Group. The Committee was created in keeping with the Institute's ongoing strategic priorities related to truth and reconciliation with respect to Indigenous peoples and communities. It is responsible for acting as representatives of the Institute and the planning profession in BC and Yukon who are asked to seek truth, to assist in the active decolonization of planning practices in BC and Yukon, and to support members in advancing this work. The volunteer membership of the Committee continued to be chaired throughout 2024 by Sarah Atkinson RPP, MCIP.

The Committee also underwent a recruitment campaign in late 2024. Following a successful call for expressions of interest during the year, a number of new committee members were appointed in January 2025. The Committee looks forward to continue advancing its plans and initiatives during the course of 2025 and beyond.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

The Committee continues to work with Saṇala Planning on Phase 2 work exploring pathways for Indigenous Planning Membership, and continues to work through the recommendations in the Phase 1 report. As part of this work, Saṇala Planning and the PPRC hosted a panel-style discussion at the CIP Connections Conference in Edmonton to share findings and lessons learned from Phase 1 and encourage planners' self-reflection on the role of planning in colonization, and toward reconciliation. It is expected that Phase 2 will conclude and Phase 3 will be begin and progress throughout 2025.

RESEARCH PROJECT

The partnership and funding agreements were finalized this year to support relevant research work led by Dr. Christopher Lamb, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the School of Community and Regional Planning at UBC. The scope of work was refined, and focuses on investigating how planners in BC are educated about Indigenous land use and planning principles, reconciliation, and decolonization.

The study involves four phases: 1) interviews with key informants to explore the possibilities and challenges for decolonial planning education and practice in BC; 2) focus groups with Indigenous and decolonial planning educators and knowledge holders to a) delineate knowledge critical to reconciliatory and decolonial planning in BC and Canada and b) co-design surveys to provide benchmarking and to measure the impact of planning education on students' awareness about Indigenous land use and planning principles, reconciliation, and decolonization; 3) delivery of surveys to students in the four accredited planning schools in BC; and 4) reports on findings from the first three phases to planning institutes in BC and Canada. Interviews and research work will progress throughout 2025.

CONTINUED STRATEGIC SUPPORT:

Support and resources have continued to be allocated and provided by the Board to assist in the Committee's ongoing work and the strategic importance of the work is carried forward by the Board in the organisation's Strategic Plan.

LOOKING AHEAD:

The Committee continues to move ahead with its deliberative and meaningful truth and learning work; focusing energy to working through Phase 1 recommendations and advancing the additional work of Phases 2 and 3. The Committee also continues to explore ways in which the Institute can further develop and implement truth and reconciliation for the planning profession in BC and Yukon. Thanks and gratitude are extended the volunteer members and other valued contributors who have participated and given their time and knowledge in support of the work of the Committee. Thank you.