

# PLANNING PRACTICE & RECONCILIATION:

The Institute's Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee was established as a standing committee in 2021 as an evolution from the previously established Indigenous planning working group. The Committee was created in keeping with the Institute's ongoing strategic goals and objectives 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 2023 by Sarah Atkinson RPP, MCIP.

## INITIAL RESEARCH WORK:

The Committee previously reviewed and considered Canada's *Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report* and *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. The Committee identified that throughout those documents, the message that came through is a demand for the fundamental right for respect for: First Nations, and First Nations rights, culture, knowledge, and traditions. A continuation of the 'business, as usual', is not going to heal these deep wounds that affect us all. And the positive impact that these lessons can have for the profession is profound.

## TRUTH & LEARNING:

The Committee continued to acknowledge and recognize that its work was still, in many respects, at the 'truth' stage. The Committee continued its learning journey by further engaging in opportunities to hear about Indigenous experience with planning and planning institutions. With the continued support of the Board, the Committee continued its ongoing process of engaging, listening, and learning with various Indigenous and other sources, to undertake various truth and learning sessions and activities.

During the summer of 2023, the Committee travelled to northern BC, and attended listening and learning sessions from Angel Ransom and Crystal Millard, from Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation, Theresa Tait-Day, Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chief and Mike Robertson and Janet Whitford from Cheslatta Carrier Nation.

Sarah Atkinson RPP, MCIP and Angel Ransom RPP, MCIP delivered presentation on Planning Practice and Reconciliation, reflecting on PPRC learnings thus far at the PIBC annual conference in Sun Peaks. A video recording of the presentation is available on the PIBC YouTube channel.

## INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

In 2023, the Committee worked with staff build a call for expressions of interest to find a consultant to research and help define potential criteria which acknowledge and recognize the types of knowledge and experience an Indigenous planner should hold, such that inclusive paths to professional membership within PIBC can be created.

The call for expression of interest was launched in February 2023 and Sanala Planning were selected as the successful proponent. Sanala Planning delivered a Phase I report during the year and the PPRC are continuing to work on the relevant next steps following this report. It is expected that Phase II will be progressed during the 2024 year.

## UBC RESEARCH PROJECT

In the fall of 2023, the Committee connected with Christopher Lamb, researcher and sessional lecturer from the UBC Geography Department to work on two key projects:

The first project was an investigation into how planning students in BC are being educated about Indigenous rights, self-determination, reconciliation, and decolonization. This direction will, for example, help the PPRC and PICB develop accreditation requirements that align with the TRC and PPRC's work towards reconciliation.

The second project was an investigation into current professional planners' knowledge and attitudes towards Indigenous rights, self-determination, reconciliation, and decolonization in their practice. This direction will, for example, help the PPRC and PICB understand and support the work that planners in the Province are doing towards reconciliation in planning. It will also provide a solid benchmark of the work that needs to be done through PIBC's Continuous Professional Learning Program to support practicing planners in their journeys towards reconciliation.

## 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 and is looking ahead to the anticipated work on Indigenous knowledge and experience in the context of professional membership. 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.