

POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Overseeing and assisting with the Institute’s policy and public affairs matters, including relevant government outreach, external relations, and potential advocacy on issues or identified areas of interest to the Institute, and providing related advice and assistance to the Board, is the responsibility of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee. Board members Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP and Narissa Chadwick RPP, MCIP took over as the Co-Chairs of the Committee in 2023, succeeding Sara Muir RPP, MCIP who previously chaired the Committee.

The Committee met regularly throughout 2023 to coordinate and follow up on various key activities, including relevant strategic objectives and tasks identified and delegated through the Board’s strategic priorities (updated in 2023). This work continued to focus on a few key areas of interest, including monitoring and considering professional regulation and legislation, government relations related to development approvals and other public policy matters, and continued work on climate issues through the Climate Action Sub-Committee. The Committee also established a new Housing Task Force to focus on new Provincial housing legislation, and to help develop and oversee the Institute’s development of a new ‘peer learning network’, for which the Province of BC provided funding to the Institute.

RPP REGULATION & PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATION:

A small sub-committee of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee is responsible for monitoring matters related to the potential regulation of professional planners and regulation or legislation related to the Registered Professional Planner (RPP) designation. Throughout 2023, this work continued through monitoring and consideration of the continued implementation of the BC ‘Professional Governance Act’ (the Act).

As previously reported, following the implementation of the Act with the five professions originally mandated under the legislation (Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC); Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFFP); British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA); College of Applied Biology (CAB); and Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC)), the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) continued to move ahead with the incorporation of architects (the Architectural Institute of British Columbia), and landscape architects (the BC Society of Landscape Architects) under the Act as well. The Superintendent has the authority to both consider requests from professional bodies to become regulated under the Act, and to compel professional bodies to become regulated under the Act.

Under guidance and strategic direction from the Board the Committee (and sub-committee) continued work to investigate and analyze the opportunities, challenges, and implications of potential ‘right to practice’ regulation for RPPs in BC and Yukon under the Act. Currently, the Registered Professional Planner (RPP) title and designation continue to remain protected exclusively for PIBC under the Occupational Titles Protection provisions of the ‘Societies Act’.

The Committee made a recommendation to the Board in early 2023 to further engage the services of legal counsel to specifically undertake an analysis and report on how the new Act might apply to PIBC (should PIBC become subject to it

at some point in the future), how PIBC’s current organization and operations might align (or not) with the requirements of the Act, and what some of the opportunities, advantages, risks and challenges of operating under the Act might be for PIBC.

With the support of the Board, Legal Counsel carried out a review and analysis of the impacts of PIBC coming under the Act. An initial report was provided to the Committee and forwarded to the Board in December 2023. The Board reviewed and considered the findings from this analysis and the potential impacts should PIBC become subject to the Act and endorsed moving forward with recommendations from the Committee. The Committee will be undertaking further work in this area, including reporting to and engagement with the membership, further legal analysis, and communication with the OSPG.

PEER LEARNING NETWORK:

It was announced in September 2023 that the Province of B.C., Ministry of Housing is partnering with PIBC to develop and implement a new ‘peer learning network’ (PLN) to support local government and other practitioners across the province working on addressing housing challenges and implementing new housing legislation. The need for a PLN was identified during consultation with stakeholders as part of the Province’s Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR). Through the PLN, participants will:

- Share knowledge, best practices, and experiences with adjusting to new development approvals-related legislation.
- Receive education and capacity building about DAPR initiatives.
- Learn about local government-initiated improvements to aspects of their own development approvals process.

The Housing Task Force developed an initial action plan, which was endorsed by the Board in late 2023, and implementation of a variety of actions – including



engagement, webinars, regional sessions, online resources and discussion forums, and legal information support – are being rolled out in early 2024 and beyond.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

During January 2023, the Institute held meetings with both the new BC Ministry of Housing, as well as the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs. The purpose of these meetings is to maintain and build ongoing relationships between the profession and key government officials and to provide opportunities for feedback and input to government from the planning profession. Through these engagements, the Institute will continue to build upon these outreach opportunities and continue to seek opportunities to engage with key government officials.

CORE PLANNING ISSUES:

As part of its ongoing role supporting and advising the Board on potential advocacy, the Committee works to identify possible broad topic or issue areas of relevant interest or concern for PIBC and the planning profession from time to time. There continues to be a strong focus on the areas of climate action (through the Climate Action Sub-Committee) and Indigenous reconciliation and planning practice (through the Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee).

CLIMATE ACTION:

The Climate Action Sub-Committee continued its active work in the core advocacy area of climate and climate action throughout 2023. Patricia Dehnel RPP, MCIP served as Chair of the Sub-Committee during the year. Sara Muir RPP, MCIP also continued to serve on the Sub-Committee in a Board liaison role. Key work undertaken this past year included developing plans for an internal climate assessment of the Institute and its operations 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 also continued to respond to opportunities for stakeholder feedback and input to government on climate related matters, as well as continued ongoing external engagement, outreach and liaison with relevant external organizations, bodies, and processes in the climate action space. As in previous years, the Sub-Committee continued working to deliver ongoing climate related planning education and professional development for members through occasional CPL webinar offerings and climate focused articles in *Planning West* magazine.

COMMITTEE THANKS:

The advancement of the Institute’s policy advocacy and public affairs work continues thanks to the time and contributions of the many volunteer members of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee, its sub-committees, and working groups, as well as the various volunteer members who serve as external representatives and liaisons. Our thanks are extended to all the members who volunteered and served in these roles in 2023. Finally, thanks are extended to PIBC staff for their work supporting the work of the Committee, its sub-committees and working groups. Thank you.