

What is PIBC? And why be a member?



Professional planners use their knowledge, experience, skills, and insights to help shape more liveable, sustainable environments and communities. The Planning Institute of BC (PIBC) is the professional association for planners in British Columbia and the Yukon. It is the westernmost affiliate of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), which has advanced and promoted responsible community planning since 1919.

History

PIBC was incorporated in 1958 under the Society Act of BC with just eight founding members. Fifty plus years later, it has more than 1,500 members.

Leadership

PIBC is led by an elected council of 12 volunteer members who work with staff to develop and support the strategic plan, guide and oversee business activities, set and monitor policies and protocols, establish annual budgets, and advance and promote the planning profession and PIBC. The council is elected every two years. PIBC also organizes professional development

events and upholds professional and ethical standards.

Structure

PIBC has its main office in Vancouver and nine chapters across BC. The chapters help members in different regions to meet, network, and organize

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Membership Options

Members work in the public and private sectors, and in many planning fields—including land-use and development, municipal and regional planning, resource and environmental management, policy planning and law, heritage conservation, sustainability planning, transportation planning, economic development, urban design, and more.

PIBC offers a number of categories of corporate and non-corporate memberships.

CORPORATE MEMBER categories include Certified Member, Candidate Member, and Fellow (honourific designation for Certified Member).

Certified Members in good standing have the exclusive right to use the title 'Registered Professional Planner' and designation 'RPP' in BC and the Yukon. They may also use the designation 'MCIP' to indicate their professional status nationally with the Canadian Institute of Planners. PIBC's more than 1,200 corporate members have voting rights and enjoy equivalent joint membership with the Canadian Institute of Planners.

NON-CORPORATE MEMBER categories include retirees, students, honorary members, pre-candidates, and public subscribers.

Membership Benefits

Whether you're a student, a practicing professional, or a retired planner, PIBC membership provides many benefits that enable and encourage you to connect, grow, and succeed in the field of planning. Membership offers:

- Certification as an RPP (Registered Professional Planner) in BC and the Yukon
- Ongoing professional development (e.g., conferences, publications)
- Regular planning and PIBC-related information (e.g., *Planning West* magazine)
- Networking opportunities for students and professionals
- Exposure and profile within the profession (e.g., online consultant and resume postings)
- Annual awards for planning excellence and individual achievement.
- Support and funding for planning students

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local events and activities. The chapters also help PIBC deliver events and professional development opportunities in those regions. Chapters include South Coast, Fraser Valley, Central North, Okanagan Interior, Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island North, Vancouver Island South, Kootenay-Rocky Mountain, and the Yukon. Members are encouraged to participate in chapter activities, many of which provide Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) units for participation.

Committees

PIBC has several committees that help administer and oversee its activities.

While the Executive Committee focuses on financial, legal and personnel matters, other committees direct membership, education, communications, and awards. The Professional Practice Review Committee administers the PIBC Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and investigates complaints of alleged misconduct against members. PIBC also appoints or nominates

member volunteers for a variety of external roles (e.g., on government committees or external agencies).

Members are encouraged to volunteer for committees that align with their interests or areas of expertise.

“PIBC’s annual conference is an excellent venue for networking with like-minded people who want to help shape sustainable environments and communities.”

— Catherine Berris, MCIP, RPP, RLA, FCSLA
Community Planner and Landscape Architect, Urban Systems

Ongoing Projects

PIBC undertakes projects that align with its mission, and include policy development, member and professional development, events, and external communications and outreach initiatives.

In keeping with PIBC’s current Strategic Plan, the institute’s Professional Legislation & Certification Task Force is exploring the potential for future provincial legislation to oversee professional planners in BC and the Yukon. ■



Here’s what members say about PIBC...

“The ongoing professional development I have received from PIBC has been timely, relevant and valuable, providing insights in relation to the projects that I am working on.”

— Rob Bateman, MCIP, RPP, LEED AP
Planning Analyst, City of Victoria

“PIBC puts a face and a name to a profession that many people in the province don’t understand.”

— Luke Sales, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning
Town of Qualicum Beach

“Working as a non-member planner with PIBC over the years was great. The people became like family and that experience made me want to join and become a full member.”

— Connie Halbert, MCIP, RPP
Planner, City of White Rock

PIBC Signature Events

For decades PIBC has hosted its Annual Conference and AGM in cities throughout BC. This marquee professional development and networking event draws hundreds of members and non-members alike from throughout the province and beyond.

Every five years, PIBC combines its annual conference into the BC Land Summit—a partnership of five professional organizations with ties to land and land-use in BC. The Summit provides an inter-professional opportunity to learn, network, share ideas, and collaborate with others working in diverse land-related fields.

PIBC also hosts local chapter events, workshops, student events, and social networking events—including an annual celebration of World Town Planning Day each November.

For more information about PIBC and becoming a member...

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