

2021 PIBC AWARDS

/ Kelly Chan, Member Services Coordinator

The PIBC Awards winners were celebrated on June 17, 2021, at the virtual PIBC 2021 Annual Conference: *North of Normal*. If you missed this year's award presentation video, find it online on the PIBC YouTube channel.

It was with great pleasure that PIBC announced the following 2021 Award winners!

EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING PRACTICE

Award for Excellence in Planning Practice, City & Urban Areas (Gold Winner)

Title: Heather Lands Rezoning Plan

Authors: The Canada Lands Company, MST Development Corporation, & DIALOG

The Heather Lands rezoning project aims to rezone and reimagine an 8.5 ha site near Vancouver's Cambie Corridor, on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (MST). The site will become *χewš tə nà šxʷtə' nà χətəl' / X a wš uÚxwumixw* / a new neighbourhood, with 2,600 homes, shops, offices, parks, daycare, and an MST Cultural Centre, organized around a forest trail reminiscent of the paths travelled by ancestors of MST Nation members. The process of planning and developing the Heather Lands is being driven by a historic joint venture partnership between Canada Lands Corporation (CLC) and MST Development, the development body for the MST First Nations. This unique partnership – both between CLC and MST, as well as amongst the three Nations

– demonstrates a commitment to reconciliation and offers a new relationship and planning model for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments across Canada.

The jury felt that this project was extremely innovative and compelling in the spirit of reconciliation that demonstrates a collaborative partnership approach which embeds First Nations culture, history, identity and expression into a new master planned community. The project is appropriately respectful, empowering, and the authentic public engagement approach was rewarded with solid input, the results of which are very clearly integrated into the final plan. The full incorporation of narrative, spirituality and landscape understanding is a great learning tool for other municipalities.



EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING PRACTICE (cont'd)

Award for Excellence in Planning Practice, City & Urban Areas (Silver Winner)

Title: Municipal Regulations to Deter Renovictions

Author: City of New Westminster

The City of New Westminster was the first municipality in British Columbia to tackle the issue of renovictions using municipal regulations and is considered a leader among municipalities for its bold and direct action to protect tenants. In June 2019, the City amended the Business Regulations and Licensing (Rental Units) Bylaw, which offers protection to tenants by requiring landlords to offer temporary accommodation to those tenants displaced by significant renovations and the first right of refusal to reoccupy the same unit at the same rent. Following adoption and a robust public awareness campaign delivered

to both landlords and tenants, the number of renovictions in the City decreased dramatically.

The jury felt that this was a very topical and innovative approach which demonstrates courage in tackling a controversial issue. This initiative showed creative and original thinking in how to use municipal regulatory tools effectively in the frontline trenches in the face of a relatively new phenomenon and showed measurable results. The jury believes that this approach demonstrates the power of development planning and can be mobilized by many other municipalities.

NEW WESTMINSTER

TENANTS IN NEW WEST

Did you know ...
we have new regulations protecting rental units in New Westminster?

What are the new regulations?

The new regulations require that before issuing an eviction notice (or evicting a tenant under an eviction notice issued before the new regulations), the property owner must provide tenants with:

- alternative accommodation while renovation work is being carried out, and
- a written offer to return to the renovated unit or another rental unit at the same rent as currently paid, subject to any rent increase permitted under the BC Residential Tenancy Act.

The regulations are intended to discourage landlords from evicting tenants for building renovations without making arrangements for each tenant to continue their tenancy at the same rent during and after the renovations.

The City can impose fines if the new rules are not followed.

Award for Excellence in Planning Practice, City & Urban Areas (Honourable Mention)

Title: New Westminster COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Transforming Planning Practice and Saving Lives

Author: City of New Westminster

Partners: Over 20 faith-based and non-profit organizations involved in the collaborative framework, including umbrella organizations New Westminster Homelessness Coalition Society and New Westminster Inter-Ministerial Association. Funding from the City of New Westminster, the Reaching Home Program, the United Way, and the Vancouver Foundation.



**EXCELLENCE IN
POLICY PLANNING**

The New Westminster Planning Division created a collaborative framework involving over 20 faith-based and non-profit organizations, developing equitable and targeted responses to address their unique and diverse needs during the pandemic. This responses enhanced livability and improved health outcomes.

The jury felt that this submission was very timely and serves as a template for other municipalities in addressing emergencies.



**Award for Excellence in Policy Planning,
City & Urban Areas (Gold Winner)**

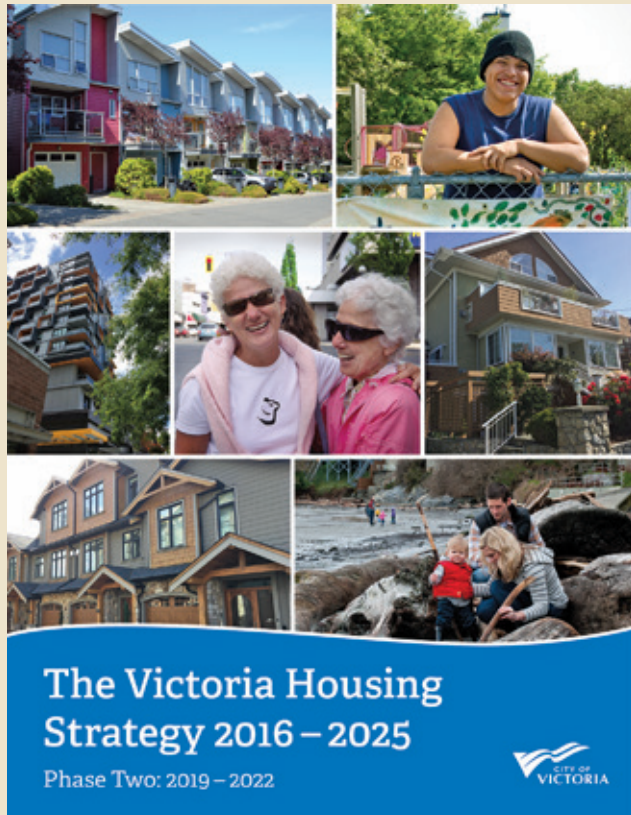
Title: Victoria Housing Strategy Phase Two 2019-2022

Author: City of Victoria

The Victoria Housing Strategy Phase Two 2019-2022, envisions a future where everyone has access to an affordable home that meets their needs. Phase Two provides a comprehensive action plan to respond to the housing crisis and is the second part of a 10-year roadmap. It identifies housing as a human right and asserts that every Victorian deserves a safe and affordable home. Through the Strategy, Victoria will advance 44 actions, based on existing community feedback, current and meaningful evidence, promising practices and innovation. The Strategy includes measurable outcomes that embed accountability and responsiveness throughout its implementation. This

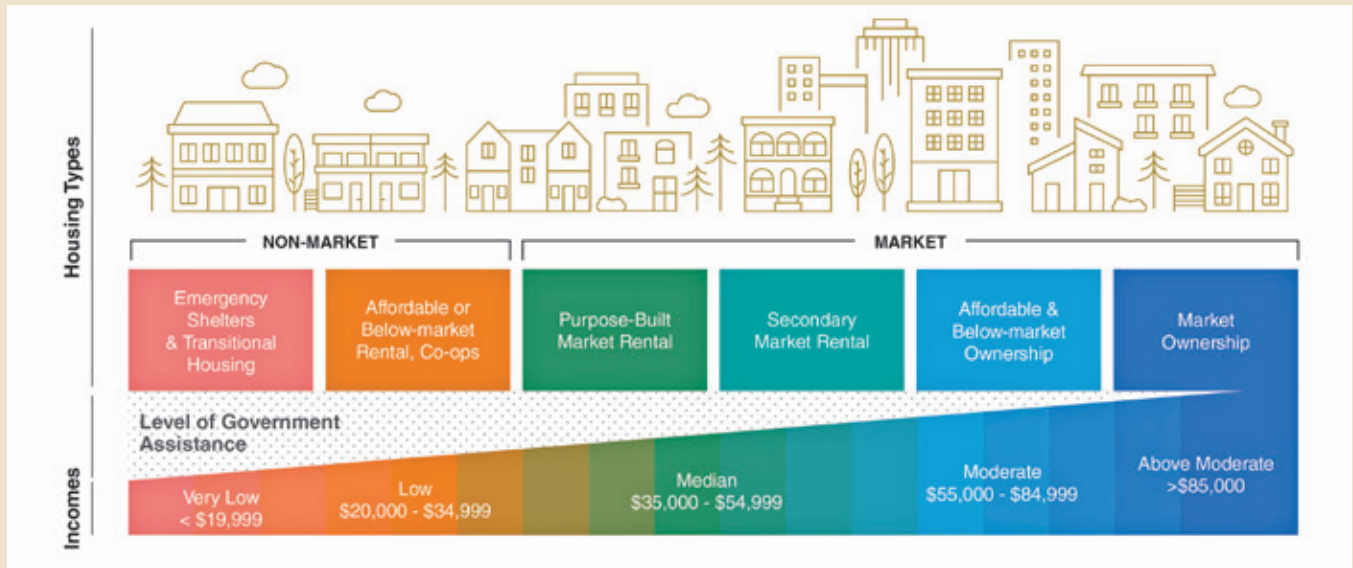
was evidenced in the first year of implementation, where actions were refocused to address mounting housing insecurity exacerbated by the onset of COVID-19.

The jury found this to be a very comprehensive approach to the development of a housing policy framework, with a clear understanding of the current and future housing situation in Victoria. This strategy offers a wonderful road map for other municipalities with an aggressive approach to the housing crisis that addresses the full spectrum of housing need. At the very heart of Planners' responsibilities, it shows what we can do even if other sectors are not stepping up.



EXCELLENCE IN POLICY PLANNING (cont'd)

Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, City & Urban Areas (Gold Winner) (cont'd)



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, City & Urban Areas (Silver Winner)

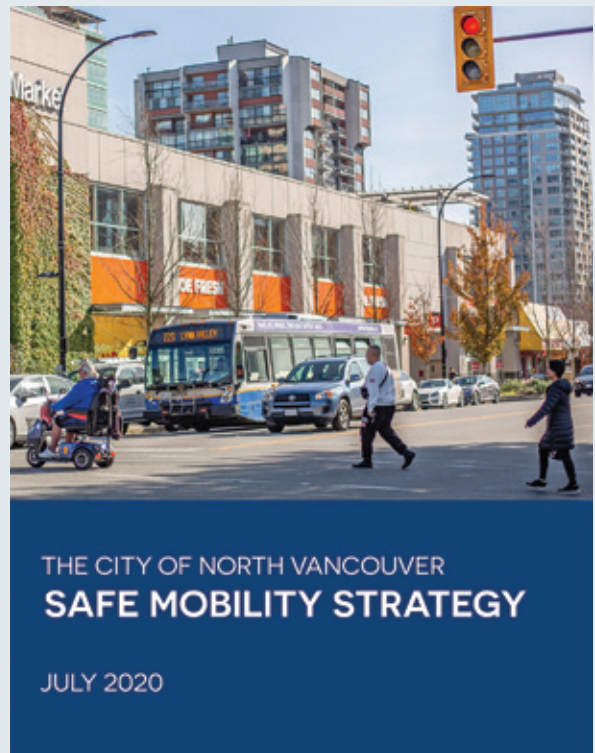
Title: Safe Mobility Strategy

Author: City of North Vancouver

Partners: Insurance Corporation of British Columbia, Vancouver Coastal Health, North Vancouver RCMP, and North Vancouver City Fire Department

The Safe Mobility Strategy is the City's practical "playbook" to guide transportation planning, design and investment decisions in support of achieving a consistent, year-over-year reduction in the rate of collisions on our streets that result in serious injuries or fatalities, no matter what way people use to get around.

The jury felt that this submission was very innovative, illustrating simple and executable strategies to achieving Vision Zero while increasing network connectivity and encouraging active transportation and micro-modal options. The playbook provides low barriers for improving cities and urban areas and is a unique way to mobilize this initiative. The jury also appreciated the articulation of the importance of streets to urban health, the community-wide focus, and the analysis at a human scale.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, Small Town & Rural Areas (Gold Winner)

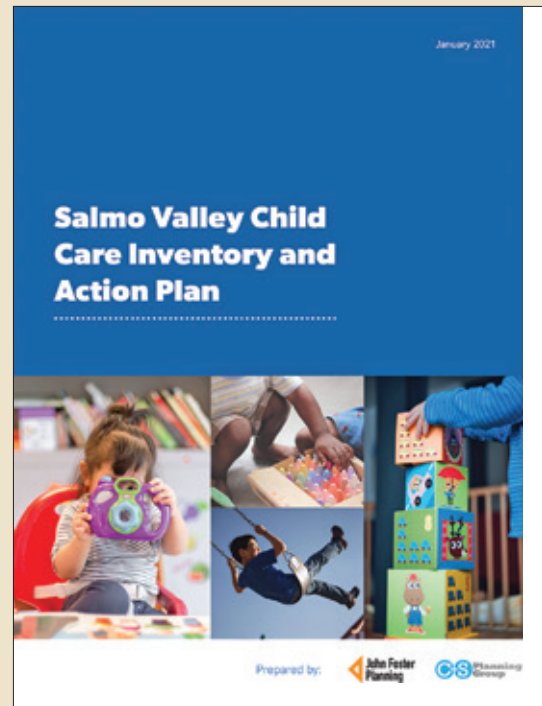
Title: Salmo Valley Child Care Inventory and Action Plan

Authors: Salmo Valley Early Childhood Advisory Committee, C+S Planning Group, John Foster Planning, Splash:Design, & Licker GeoSpatial Consulting

The Salmo Valley Child Care Inventory and Action Plan is a 10-year strategic document to address the needs for childcare in the Salmo Valley, including the Village of Salmo, Ymir and Area G. The Salmo Valley has experienced an influx of young families moving to the area and the demand for childcare as well as the cost of housing has increased exponentially. These two factors have led to a strong demand for new spaces for quality, affordable and accessible childcare. The goal of the Plan is to support universal childcare for all families in the Salmo Valley in a way that would best reach local residents and work most effectively with existing organizations, amenities, and policy directions. The ground up approach was successful in garnering support from both local governments – the Village of Salmo and Regional District of Central Kootenay.

The jury felt that a rural childcare plan setting an aspirational target of universal childcare is laudable and truly inspiring. The impact of this study is very well defined as a high proportion of childcare needs are not currently being met and the report demonstrated a lot of empathy to those living with childcare struggles. The jury also felt that the positing of the planning process as an opportunity to lead education around the importance of childcare advocacy and support demonstrates that planning is much more than land use considerations.

"the planning process as an opportunity to lead education ... demonstrates that planning is much more than land use considerations."



Thank you PIBC for recognizing the Salmo Valley Child Care Inventory and Action Plan with a Gold Award for Excellence in Policy Planning - Small Town and Rural Areas.

WE ARE
Thrilled



SPLASH:DESIGN

EXCELLENCE IN POLICY PLANNING (cont'd)

Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, Small Town & Rural Areas (Silver Winner)

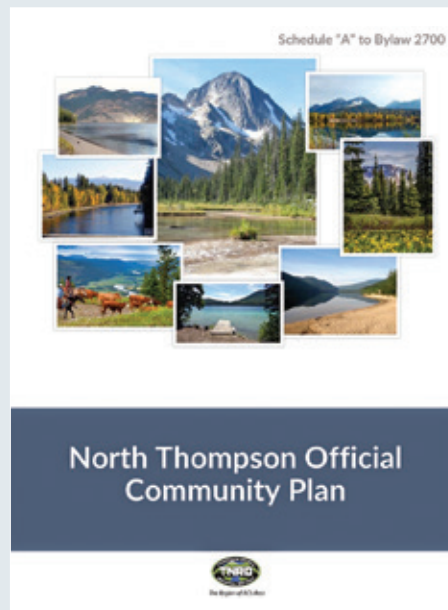
Title: North Thompson Official Community Plan

Author: Thompson-Nicola Regional District

Partners: The residents of Electoral Areas A, B and O, OCP Advisory Group, Simpcw First Nation, and Urban Systems (Kamloops)

The North Thompson Official Community Plan (OCP) provides a new path forward for an evolving economic and demographic reality in the Plan area, specifically a growing outdoor recreation economy, rural population decline, and a diminished resource sector. The macro-regional approach used in this OCP will help enable a new rural economy that nurtures a broader, more inclusive way to embrace future change, challenge historic norms, and celebrate connectivity across the whole area. Rigid land use designations were replaced with simple, flexible, and defensible policy for each Community Node, Rural Settlement Area, and the outlying Electoral Areas. Natural amenity appreciation must now equal resource extraction as the basis for resident/business retention and attraction.

The jury felt that dealing with population decline is a really unique challenge that was tackled well by this OCP with solid First Nations and public consultation. The concept of amenity migration in a rural context was a great lens of analysis and the inclusion of temporary use permits for RV living was very unique. The OCP leads in establishing development permit areas for environmental protection with policies to downzone and limit growth, which supports redevelopment over new development.



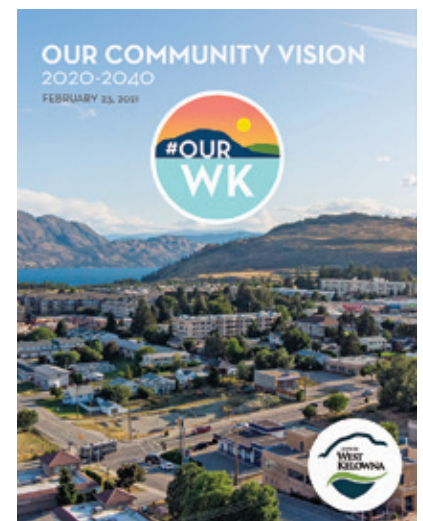
Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, Small Town & Rural Areas (Honourable Mention)

Title: West Kelowna's Community Vision, #OurWK a Vision to 2040

Authors: City of West Kelowna & Lanarc Consulting

The #OurWK Community Vision is the first of its kind for West Kelowna and provides clear direction for Council and the public on where the community wants to go in the future. With an outlook to 2040, the Vision provides directions on key priority areas for the community: Our People, Connectivity, Adaptability, Prosperity, and Places. The Vision is supported by Signs of Success which are to be revisited to ensure that the #OurWK is implemented and holds value in the community as West Kelowna continues to grow and develop.

The jury appreciated the novel focus on developing a strong vision before diving deep into the OCP process. Despite the challenges from COVID-19, there was excellent success with engagement and the connections with youth aged 19 and younger were impressive.



RESEARCH & NEW DIRECTIONS

Award for Research & New Directions (Gold Winner)

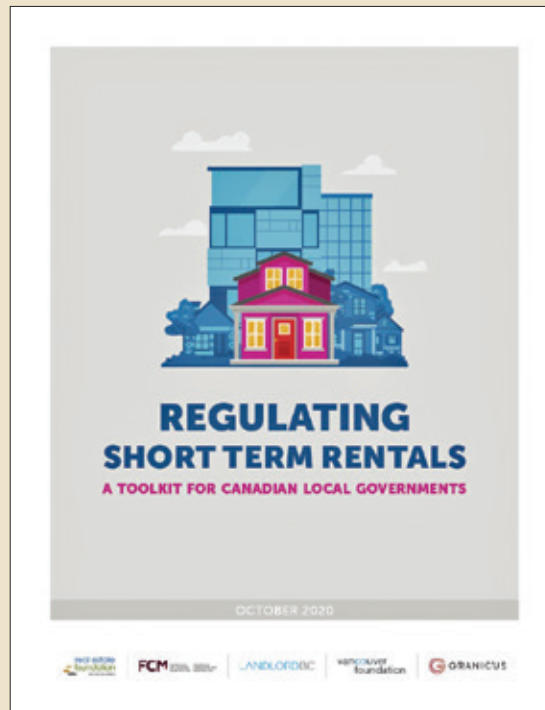
Title: Regulating Short Term Rentals: A Toolkit for Canadian Local Governments

Authors: Third Space Community Planning & Generation Squeeze

Partners: Funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, LandlordBC, The Vancouver Foundation, and Granicus.

This toolkit is a practical resource for local governments who are considering, designing or evolving their short-term rental (STR) regulations. It is of service to local governments in a range of contexts pursuing a variety of STR policy objectives, from protecting housing for residents to encouraging tourism growth to creating regulatory equity. Divided into 4 parts, it includes a background which details the history and rise of STR, an in-depth section that explores the impacts of STR on housing availability and affordability, a step-by-step guide on how to develop effective STR regulatory and enforcement programs as well as snapshots of the 17 most common regulatory tools that local governments employ (e.g. business licensing, principal residence requirement).

The jury felt that this toolkit is an accessible “grab-and-go” resource with a lot of useful research and built-in flexibility for a range of community goals. The enforcement angle is often overlooked in planning, and the jury appreciated that this was addressed. An incredible document, it handles a hot topic for planners and local governments, is practical and contains a balanced discussion on the pros and cons of suggested approaches.



"it handles a hot topic for planners and local governments, is practical and contains a balanced discussion."

DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE GUIDE TO REGULATING SHORT-TERM RENTALS



RESEARCH & NEW DIRECTIONS

Award for Research & New Directions (Silver Winner)

Title: Child in the City: Planning Communities for Children and their Families

Author: Plassurban Consulting Inc

Partner: BC Housing

This publication presents a holistic, inclusive and implementation-centered approach to planning and designing child-friendly communities. Child and family-friendly communities acknowledge that an environment which addresses the needs of children – who have limited independent mobility, experience, and autonomy – is one that is friendlier and more inclusive to people of all ages and abilities. To plan our cities in a way that enables all residents to be co-authors of their own communities is key to a sustainable and inclusive future.



The jury was very excited to see such a comprehensive and well-conceived study. Applicable to today's interests in planning areas, there are many tools that can be used by planners and community champions to try to advocate for better child planning in their communities. In addition, the proformas were very helpful in demonstrating impacts of development scenarios. Relevant, well-researched and well-written, it is a great tool for planners with toolkits that are transferable to jurisdictions outside of planning.

THIRD SPACE PLANNING

NEED HELP REGULATING SHORT-TERM RENTALS LIKE AIRBNB OR VRBO?

BOOK A FREE CONSULTATION:
thirdspaceplanning.ca/book

STUDENT FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

2021 Annual Student Fellowship Award Winners

Author: Myfannwy Pope
Simon Fraser University, School of Resource & Environmental Management

Presentation: Indigenous Housing Governance: Lessons from a First Nation's Housing Needs Assessment Off-Reserve

SFU researchers in partnership with Metlakatla Stewardship Society performed a housing needs assessment to support Metlakatla First Nation's Cumulative Effects Management (CEM) Program. Pope demonstrates how data collection for housing need can be embedded in a community governance framework with specific focus on the process involved in tailoring the report to community goals. The Metlakatla CEM Program is a resource management system for monitoring the status of priority Metlakatla values and proactively responding to cumulative change in Metlakatla Traditional Territory over time. This process highlighted important considerations for developing and using a housing needs assessment to address needs where no formal mandate is recognized.

Author: Sarah Foulkes
Vancouver Island University, Master of Community Planning program

Presentation: Planning for Sustainable Seaweed Aquaculture on Vancouver Island

Maintaining and "growing" localized food sources is evolving as one of the wicked planning issues of the 21st century but there is a food production method which may offer some hope along BC's Pacific Coast. Foulkes takes a deep dive into the issues surrounding seaweed aquaculture, from the potential seaweed aquaculture has to address food insecurity, the impacts the practice has on local economies in coastal communities, and the factors planners should consider when determining regulations around this growing industry.

Author: Dawn Smith
University of British Columbia, School of Community & Regional Planning

Presentation: Implementing UNDRIP to Support First Nations-led Planning

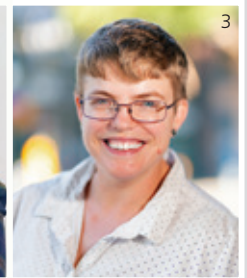
Across BC, local governments, provincial agencies and planners are discussing how the new UNDRIP legalization can and should change our programs, policies and plans. While many want to support First Nations led planning, clarity about what actions to take and what skills to develop is needed. Smith discusses what UNDRIP is, how UNDRIP relates to planning and what skills planners need to undertake work to align with UNDRIP. Smith offers a tangible example of how housing policy can incorporate UNDRIP principles.



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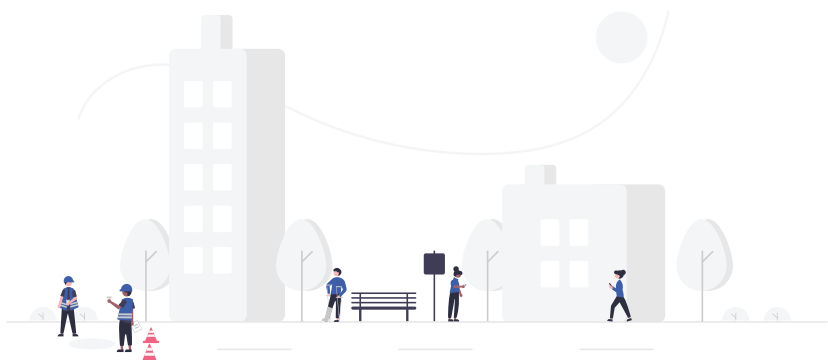
1 Myfannwy Pope 2 Sarah Foulkes 3 Dawn Smith

Students awarded this year presented their projects online during the PIBC 2021 virtual annual conference. Their presentations – *Post-Conference Session 01: Research & New Directions from Tomorrow's Planners* – are available on PIBC's YouTube channel.

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