

Awards for Individual Achievement

Award for Distinguished Professional Contribution: Christine Callihoo RPP, MCIP

Over more than twenty-five years, Christine Callihoo has advanced climate resilience, natural asset management, and risk-informed planning from emerging concepts to embedded professional practice — while mentoring generations of planners and strengthening the institutional foundations of the profession itself.

Her influence spans local governments, First Nations, federal guidance, international assessment processes, and professional education. Yet what most distinguishes Christine is not the breadth of her résumé, but the sustained, values-driven leadership behind it: a planner who gives back, builds others up, and elevates the profession through action.



Annual Student Fellowship Award Winners



Author:

Ella Champion

**Simon Fraser University's
Master's of Resource Management
(Planning) program**

Presentation:

**Nature-based Solutions for Wildfire
Risk Reduction in the Okanagan:
Challenges and Potential**

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are an ever-growing area of planning research that looks at how ecosystems and other nature-inspired measures can be leveraged to address planning challenges, in ways that benefit both nature and human societies. One such challenge is the growing impacts of climate change-exacerbated wildfire regimes on communities around the world—including those felt acutely across the BC Interior. NbS measures for wildfire risk reduction include prescribed and cultural burning, and protecting and restoring landscapes in ways that make them less prone to uncontrollable wildfire. Their implementation can be challenged by interjurisdictional coordination issues, but can create new opportunities for collaboration. This session will cover recent research looking the current and potential use of NbS for wildfire risk reduction by Okanagan communities, and what we can learn from the region about interjurisdictional collaboration on landscape-scale NbS.



Author:

Brooke Euloth
Vancouver Island University,
Master of Community Planning

Presentation:

A Third Place: Data Collection
for Support-Based Planning

This presentation introduces a walking-based planning method designed to document forms of informal, everyday urban life that are routinely excluded from formal municipal data systems. Drawing on an in-progress case study from an urban neighbourhood in Nanaimo, BC, the research demonstrates how informal social gathering, intergenerational presence, harm-reduction activity, and grassroots placemaking function as meaningful, support-based land uses. These practices reveal forms of community life, care, and spatial knowledge that are often missed by conventional public engagement and data collection methods. By recognizing informal activity as legitimate planning data, the research highlights opportunities for more inclusive representation and identifies ways municipalities can better support existing community initiatives and respond to local needs.



Author:

Simonne Mikolay
Simon Fraser University's
Master's of Resource Management
(Planning) program

Presentation:

Planning for Urban Water
Resilience to Extreme Heat

Extreme heat is changing how much water communities have, and when it is available. This presentation explores how planners can help communities adapt to a hotter, drier future through integrating water availability into the planning process, bridging the gap between siloed disciplines, and building urban water resilience.



Author:

Megan Turcato
Vancouver Island University,
Master of Community Planning

Presentation:

Stay Cool: Activating Downtown
in a Changing Climate

As climate change progresses, hotter and longer heat waves are coming to B.C. communities. How is that sweltering heat already changing the use of our urban cores? How can we prevent downtowns from becoming quiet and deserted each summer as residents flock to air-conditioned spaces? Based on recent research out of Vernon, learn how heat is already impacting residents' use of public space and practical strategies to address those changes by placemaking in the heat.