
August 27, 2024

Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance
Attention: Acting Superintendent Kate Haines (Kate.Haines@gov.bc.ca)
PO BOX 9157
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W9H2

Dear Superintendent Haines:

RE: *Professional Governance Act Inquiry*

I am writing as Board President of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) to introduce our organization and initiate contact with your office about the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)*.

PIBC Overview

As you may know, the Institute is the professional association and regulator of professional planners in BC and Yukon – currently numbering about 1,600 registrants. The PIBC is incorporated under the *Society Act of BC* as a “Division 2 – Occupational Title Society”. Certified PIBC members use the title “Registered Professional Planner” and “RPP” in BC and Yukon, and are permitted to use “MCIP” to indicate national membership with the Canadian Institute of Planners.

The 11-person elected Board determines Institute policy and strategic direction. Operations are managed by an Executive Director and staff. Various committees include Governance and Nominating, Policy and Public Affairs, Planning Practice and Reconciliation, Professional Conduct Review, and Professional Standards and Certification. PIBC bylaws address qualifications for membership, Institute administration, continuous professional learning, and professional conduct and discipline. A Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct establishing core standards is incorporated in the bylaws.

The Planning Profession

Planners work throughout British Columbia, Yukon, and beyond, in large urban centres, suburban communities, and in rural and remote places. Planning is a multidisciplinary field with practitioners in the public and private sector. The scope of planning generally revolves around land use and covers diverse areas of practice and specialization such as housing planning and policy, transportation planning, resource management planning, environmental planning, social policy and planning, and population and employment forecasting.

What sets planning apart from other professions in upholding the public interest mandate is the expectation to understand and balance the interests of a multitude of interested parties, while recognizing the interplay between the built and natural environments. All of this occurs in the context of having a long-range perspective on building sustainable, livable, and equitable communities.

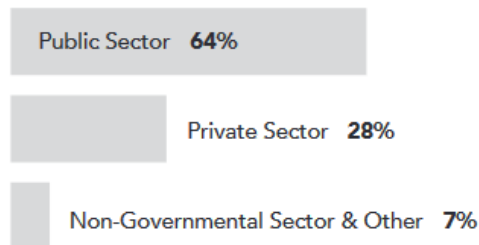
In practical terms, planners take on a variety of tasks, such as: convening and facilitating dialogues with land developers, local government officials, other professionals, and citizens; undertaking technical analysis of demographics and transportation demand; preparing neighbourhood and community plans and policies that comply with laws and regulations; and providing independent professional advice to decision-makers and clients.

Professional Governance Act

As an organization, we have followed the policy and legislative trends in BC and Canada over the past 10 years in relation to professional regulation with great interest. We are familiar with

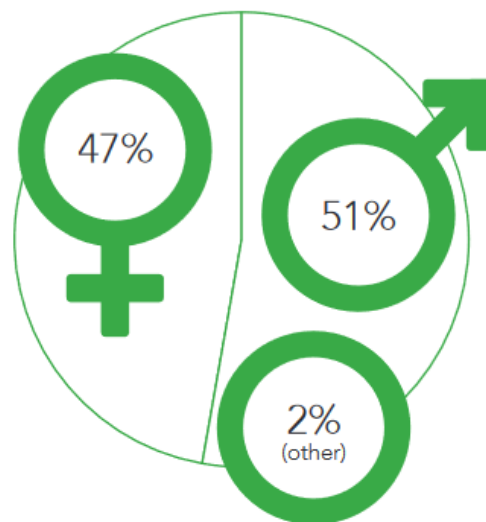
Membership Profile Snapshot

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP BY EMPLOYMENT SECTOR



Note: Estimate excerpted from results of joint national 2019 member compensation and benefits survey, based on respondents who participated.

PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS BY GENDER



the work of Harry Cayton (“Right Touch Regulation”) and the heightened expectations of government and the public surrounding professional competency, ethics, and accountability. The PGA and the *Health Professions and Occupations Act* have charted a shared regulation/superintended model that has generated Board and membership interest and questions.

The work of professional planners in public and private practice often intersects with the work of engineers, architects, landscape architects, and building officials. While the Board has not determined a direction, we are actively considering the matter of professional governance, and wanted to open a dialogue with you and your office at your convenience. The PIBC has developed relationships across the professions and with the regulators noted above.

Discussion and Direction

In 2023, the PIBC Board undertook an initial policy and legal review of the PGA as it might pertain to PIBC and the planning profession. After this analysis, the Board approved next steps, including undertaking member outreach and education about the PGA and transmitting a courtesy letter to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance informing them of the Institute’s work in this area.

Earlier this year, we began engaging current members about the future governance and regulation of the planning profession at the BC Land Summit. The PGA will be formally introduced for discussion to the wider membership in a forthcoming article in the autumn edition of *Planning West*, the Institute’s primary publication.

Under the leadership of the Board, formal member engagement and legal/policy research will be planned and delivered in the coming months and throughout 2025. PIBC’s Policy & Public Affairs Committee, Member Engagement Committee, Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee, and Justice, Equity, Diversity, Decolonization, and Inclusion Working Group are all expected to play significant roles in the Institute’s engagement and research activities.

While we focus on our core professional regulation programs and processes in a manner very similar to PGA regulators, we recognize that we retain some elements of the ‘dual mandate’ associations that other regulators who have or are transitioning to new legislation must also address. For example, as part of our overall policy analysis, we have identified our awards programs and the use of legacy terminology such as ‘member’.

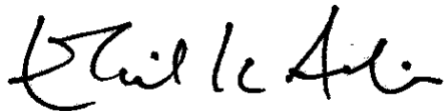
Before formal steps can be taken by the Board to apply for regulatory change, a number of issues must be discussed with the membership and other external stakeholders. We are

also reviewing the *International Credentials Recognition Act* and its implications for registration and labour mobility for professional planners.

We would like to take the opportunity to meet, at a convenient time for you, to share more about the Institute and the profession of planning, and to discuss the PGA and the Office's expectations. I invite you to consider whether and when your schedule might allow for an informal call or meeting in Vancouver or Victoria.

Thank you for your time, and the Board looks forward to discussions with your office.

Sincerely,



Emilie K. Adin RPP, MCIP – President

- c. PIBC Board
 - Dave Crossley, Executive Director
 - Narissa Chadwick RPP, MCIP – Co-Chair, Policy & Public Affairs Committee
 - Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP – Co-Chair, Policy & Public Affairs Committee