

# FAQ Resource

## Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project

Published: December 4, 2024

Updated: January 16, 2025 (new or updated content highlighted)



## The Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project

### 1. Why is PIBC undertaking research and engagement about professional governance?

Professional governance, or how a profession and its professionals are regulated, is a longstanding topic of interest of PIBC. Following enactment of the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) by the government of British Columbia in 2018, several professions were required to transition to the new provincial regulatory framework. There is no pending requirement of the Province of British Columbia, nor has PIBC decided to voluntarily apply, to become regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*. But given the changing context of professional governance in British Columbia, ongoing interest within the planning profession, and the evolving regulation of planners elsewhere in Canada, the PIBC Board has identified this matter as a strategic priority for engagement with the membership and other stakeholders.

### 2. What decisions have the PIBC Board made on this matter?

Following initial internal committee work and discussion, the PIBC Board, at its meeting in December 2023, directed the Policy & Public Affairs Committee to undertake initial member outreach and education about the PGA; and supported the Institute sending a courtesy letter to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) informing them of PIBC's discussion.

### 3. Has the PIBC Board decided on whether to voluntarily apply for designation under the PGA?

No. The PIBC Board has made no decision on whether to proceed or not to proceed with a voluntary application for designation under the PGA. There is no current timeline to make a potential future decision.

### 4. What is PIBC's approach for engaging its membership on professional governance?

The first phase of the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project begins in Fall 2024 and will conclude in Summer/Fall 2025. It is PIBC's intention to deliver an inclusive and informative process by engaging both members and non-members using a variety of methods, including surveys, webinars, key informant interviews, focus groups, and conference sessions. The Board will decide whether there will be subsequent phases to this project. The Phase 1 work plan can be downloaded from the project webpage.

### 5. Who is providing oversight of the project?

The Policy & Public Affairs Committee and its RPP Regulation Subcommittee are providing strategic oversight for this project. Other PIBC committees, members, and stakeholders are being engaged as well.

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### *The Professional Governance Act*

#### **6. According to the Office of Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG), what is professional governance and why is it important?**

Professional governance relates to the oversight of a profession and its designated professional practitioners by a governing body. This includes professional self-regulation which is an agreement between an occupational group or profession and provincial government to regulate the activities of its registrants (professional practitioners).

Professional governance is important for the following reasons:

- a) self-regulation is a privilege granted to a profession through legislation to protect the public interest;
- b) regulated professionals have an ethical and legal duty to put the interests of the public ahead of their own;
- c) regulated professional are granted exclusive rights to practice certain disciplines and/or use certain titles; and,
- d) this system helps the public understand who is qualified to practice in these areas.

#### **7. What is the *Professional Governance Act*?**

The *Professional Governance Act* received Royal Assent in British Columbia on November 27, 2018 and took effect on February 5, 2021. The Act provides a consistent governance framework for self-regulating professions that incorporates best practices of professional governance. There is currently no equivalent legislation in Yukon.

#### **8. Why did the Province of British Columbia enact the *Professional Governance Act*?**

The *Professional Governance Act* was created in response to recommendations made in the independent [Final Report of the Professional Reliance Review](#) submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in June, 2018. The PGA implements two of the Review's recommendations by legislating best practices for professional governance and establishing the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance for consistent and independent oversight of the professional regulators.

In this arrangement, the provincial government trusts professionals to set aside their self-interest in favour of professional standards set in the public interest, and relies on an ethos of professionalism that includes a commitment to public service. This system is used by the provincial government to reduce the risks of incompetent and unethical practice. It allows the provincial government some control over the practice of the profession while enabling professionals to use their expertise to set and enforce appropriate requirements.

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### 9. What professions are regulated by the *Professional Governance Act*?

Six regulatory bodies have completed transitions to the *Professional Governance Act*:

- a) Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC)
- b) Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASSTTBC)
- c) British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA)
- d) College of Applied Biologists (CAB)
- e) Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC)
- f) Forest Professionals British Columbia (FPBC)

There are also two active files: the BC Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA) voluntarily applied for designation assessment under the PGA and the Deputy Solicitor General asked OSPG to examine the regulatory governance of home inspectors.

### 10. What is the role of the Office of Superintendent of Professional Governance?

The PGA established the OSPG – currently in the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills – to strengthen the provincial government’s oversight of designated professions. The OSPG is responsible for administering the PGA and for ensuring that best practices for professional governance are implemented. The establishment of the OSPG simplifies and standardizes how professions governed by the PGA are regulated by government.

### 11. What is the authority of a profession’s governing body under the Act?

A profession’s governing body has the authority to manage itself within a regulatory framework and set requirements for persons to enter profession, standards of practice, a pathway for complaints, and investigation and discipline procedures.

### 12. What is the difference between professional regulators and professional associations?

Professional regulators, such as regulatory bodies under the *Professional Governance Act*, have a duty to regulate their professions in the public interest, which may not necessarily reflect or advance the interests of their registered professionals (e.g. business or commercial interests). Professionals regulated by a professional regulator have an ethical and legal duty to put the interests of the public ahead of their own. In contrast, professional associations are usually voluntary organizations which advocate for a profession and their members’ interests.

PIBC serves a dual role: first as a self-regulator of its members that, in coordination with the wider planning profession across Canada, sets and enforces entry to membership, professional standards, and professional conduct requirements for professional members who apply to join; and, second as an advocate for the profession and members’ interests.

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### 13. What is the formal process for applying for a designation assessment under the PGA?

Professional bodies may voluntarily submit an application for a designation assessment to the OSPG. The PGA requires the Superintendent of Professional Governance (superintendent) to make a decision upon receiving a designation assessment application to either refuse the application without assessment or to conduct an assessment. Should an assessment proceed, the superintendent is required to give public notice that it is carrying out an assessment to determine whether it is in the public interest for a professional body to be designated under the PGA.

Following an assessment, the superintendent may make recommendations to the minister responsible for the PGA. The minister must consider the superintendent's recommendations in the designation assessment report. Should the minister determine that it would be in the public interest to designate the profession, the minister will recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council (Cabinet) that the profession be brought under the PGA. Cabinet makes the decision whether a profession is brought under the PGA, and has the authority to make regulations to put the decision into legal effect.

### 14. What are the Superintendent of Professional Governance's decision-making criteria for accepting or refusing a designation assessment application?

In determining whether to refuse a designation assessment application or to conduct a designation assessment, the superintendent generally will consider similar factors as the superintendent is required to consider in the context of a designation assessment as set out in s.87 of the PGA:

- the degree of risk to the environment and to the health or safety of the public from incompetent, unethical or impaired practice of the profession;
- the degree of supervision necessary or desirable in respect of a person practising the profession;
- the degree of supervision that a person practising the profession receives or is likely to receive with respect to that practice;
- the educational programs that exist in B.C. or elsewhere for the proper education and training of persons with respect to the practice of the profession and the contents of those programs;

The superintendent may also consider additional, related factors such as:

- Indicators that the profession is a distinct profession with a defined scope of practice, and that it is not currently regulated effectively by other means; and
- Indicators that a regulatory body would likely be able to meet the responsibilities of the Act in overseeing the profession, such as a large enough number of professionals to contribute to the governing of, and funding of, the regulatory body

(Source: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/498/2024/09/OSPG-Guidance-Applying-for-a-Designation-Assessment.pdf>)

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### 15. What are the Superintendent of Professional Governance's required considerations when conducting a designation assessment?

Section 87 of the PGA sets out specific matters the superintendent must consider when creating a report with recommendations to the minister on whether a profession should be designated. The mandatory factors the superintendent must consider are:

- the degree of risk to the environment and to the health or safety of the public from incompetent, unethical or impaired practice of the profession;
- the degree of supervision necessary or desirable in respect of a person practising the profession;
- the degree of supervision that a person practising the profession receives or is likely to receive with respect to that practice;
- the educational programs that exist in British Columbia or elsewhere for the proper education and training of persons with respect to the practice of the profession and the contents of those programs;
- any information obtained during the assessment;
- any prescribed criteria respecting matters of public interest that must be considered by the superintendent.

(Source: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/498/2024/09/OSPG-Guidance-Designation-Assessments-under-the-PGA.pdf>)

### 16. What are the required recommendations from the Superintendent of Professional Governance?

As part of the designation assessment, the superintendent must provide a report to the minister responsible for the PGA that includes a recommendation on whether the profession should be designated. If the superintendent recommends designation of the profession, the superintendent must recommend whether the regulatory body responsible for the designated profession should be:

- A new regulatory body established under the PGA;
- An existing professional regulator continued as a regulatory body under the PGA; or
- An existing regulatory body under the PGA.

(Source: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/498/2024/09/OSPG-Guidance-Designation-Assessments-under-the-PGA.pdf>)

### 17. What is an example of a recent designation assessment?

In 2022, the OSPG completed its designation assessment of the landscape architecture profession following an application from the BC Society of Landscape Architects. The report can be accessed here: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/2022/07/12/ospg-publishes-intentions-report-for-the-designation-of-landscape-architects/>

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## Regulating the Planning Profession

### 18. How are planners regulated currently in British Columbia and Yukon?

The Planning Institute of British Columbia is the professional association of planners in British Columbia and Yukon. PIBC serves as the voluntary self-regulator for its members. The PIBC was incorporated under the *Society Act of British Columbia* in 1958 (now known as the *Societies Act*), and expanded coverage into Yukon in 1981. Beyond the requirements of the *Societies Act* and certain occupational title protections (see Question 24), the planning profession in British Columbia and Yukon is not regulated by any legislation.

### 19. How are planners regulated in other provinces?

Most Canadian provinces have standalone legislation setting out requirements for how the planning profession is to be regulated, including reserved titles for professional planners. Legislation in Newfoundland & Labrador and Saskatchewan also sets out specific reserved practice that only a certified planner may undertake.

- *Newfoundland & Labrador's Urban and Rural Planning Act*: "A plan and development regulations made under this Act and amendments to them shall be certified by a person who is a fellow or full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners."
- *Saskatchewan's Planning and Development Act*: "The official community plan shall be prepared in consultation with a registered professional planner."

### 20. What is a registrant under the *Professional Governance Act*?

Under the PGA, the term 'registrant' replaces 'member'. A registrant is a practitioner who is registered with a regulatory body and meets all the applicable professional, ethical, and competency standards.

### 21. What is regulated practice?

The PGA defines regulated practice as the carrying on of a profession by a registrant of a regulatory body.

### 22. What is reserved practice and how does it differ from regulated practice?

The PGA defines reserved practice as a regulated practice for which the right to practice is reserved exclusively for registrants of a regulatory body. Reserved practice can be viewed as a subset of duties and services within a broader regulated practice.

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### 23. What are the restrictions regarding reserved practice?

Only a registrant of a regulatory body can undertake a reserved practice that is defined in regulation. A person must not receive payments for any reserved practice service unless that person is a registrant at the time the service was provided.

A non-registrant may undertake a reserved practice under the supervision of a registrant if defined in regulation. A non-registrant must not receive payments for any reserved practice service unless that person was supervised by a registrant at the time the service was provided.

### 24. Does reserved practice for planning exist in British Columbia?

No, reserved practice for planning is neither defined in legislation in British Columbia nor in PIBC's Bylaws. As noted above, Newfoundland & Labrador and Saskatchewan have defined reserved practice for planners in their jurisdictions.

### 25. Which professions in British Columbia have been granted reserved practice under the PGA?

The PGA enables reserved practices to be granted to all regulatory bodies governed by the Act. The following bodies have reserved practices: AIBC, EGBC, FPBC, CAB, and BCIA. OSPG is also working with ASTTB and EGBC to determine a process for getting to reserve practice for technologists and technicians. Generally, a transition period will be provided when new additional new reserved practices are granted to support registrants and engagement with stakeholders.

### 26. What does reserved title mean?

Reserved titles are professional titles defined in regulation and exclusively reserved for use by a qualified registrant of a regulatory body. For example, only registrants of Engineers and Geoscientists BC may use the following reserved titles set out in regulation: 'professional engineer', 'professional engineering licensee', and 'engineer in training'.

### 27. Who can use the 'Registered Professional Planner' title in British Columbia?

Certified members in good standing of PIBC can exclusively use the 'Registered Professional Planner' title and 'RPP' designation in BC. PIBC first achieved the protected occupational title of 'Registered Planner' under the Societies Act in 1989; later updating this protected title to 'Registered Professional Planner' and adding the 'RPP' designation in 2012. While PIBC can take legal action under the *Societies Act* against any person who uses the title and designation but who is not a member for that misuse, the Institute does not have any further occupational or professional regulatory jurisdiction over such persons (i.e. professional standards, ethics and discipline, etc.).

### 28. If reserved practice is desired for the planning profession, should it be a narrow definition or a broad definition? What are the pros and cons for either approach?

These questions will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the Professional Governance Act, any potential reserved practice would be explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.



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**29. How might a reserved practice for planning affect other practitioners such as planning technicians, policy analysts, data analysts, and others engaged in planning or planning-related work?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the Professional Governance Act, any potential reserved practice would be explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

**30. Is it possible to restrict or prohibit non-planners from using ‘planning’ in their titles, such as ‘transportation planning engineer’ used by some professional engineers?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the Professional Governance Act, any potential reserved practice would be explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

**31. Would the PIBC Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct be updated?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the Professional Governance Act, any potential necessary changes to the PIBC Code of Ethics or Bylaws would be explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.



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## Considerations for Transitioning to the *Professional Governance Act*

### **32. What are some of the advantages of transitioning to the PGA for planners, PIBC, and other stakeholders?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan.

### **33. What are some of the disadvantages of transitioning to the PGA for planners, PIBC, and other stakeholders?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan.

### **34. What is the degree of risk to the public interest (health, safety, and welfare of the public and the environment) from incompetent, unethical, or impaired practice of planning?**

This is one of the core strategic questions that the superintendent will ask when considering a designation assessment application and when conducting a designation assessment. This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, PIBC would seek to fully articulate the risk to the public and environment from incompetent, unethical, or impaired planning practice.

### **35. What are some potential financial impacts to PIBC should it transition to the PGA?**

Should the planning profession ultimately seek regulation under the PGA, it can be expected that PIBC staff time would be allocated to analyzing transition options; engaging with OSPG, members, and other stakeholders; and, standing up new organizational structures to comply with governance and operational requirements. Consultant support (e.g. legal) may also be required. Operationally, there may be additional resources required to tend to meeting administration, document review, and reporting obligations. Whether these resources will result in net additional costs or simply a reallocation from other activities that will require further analysis by PIBC and discussions with the OSPG.

### **36. What are some potential financial impacts to employers should PIBC transition to the PGA?**

A transition to the PGA could potentially result in some increase in registrants and/or registration fees. In contrast to some other professions, a large proportion of planners are employed in the public sector. Local governments, for example, could experience some additional financial impacts should they cover the registrant fees of their planning staff. This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, PIBC would seek to understand the potential financial impacts on public, private, and non-profit employers.

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**37. Have the registrant fee schedules of professional regulatory bodies changed since transitioning to the PGA?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, PIBC would seek to understand the financial impacts, including any changes to the registrant fee schedule.

**38. How many registrants do the PGA-regulated professional regulatory bodies have?**

The following information was sourced from annual reports and related documents on the websites of the respective regulatory bodies.

For comparison, PIBC’s total corporate membership – comprising Certified RPP, Fellows, and Candidate members – was 1,438 in 2020; 1,464 in 2021; 1,457 in 2022; and, 1,570 in 2023. Further research will be undertaken to understand the factors affecting the changes in registrant numbers as they may pertain to the transition to the PGA and potential lessons for PIBC.

Regulator	Registrants				Notes
	2020	2021	2022	2023	
AIBC	4,707	4,907	5,021	5,253	Transitioned to PGA in 2023; includes firm registrants
ASTTBC	7,080	8,138	6,327	6,063	Transitioned to PGA in 2021
BCIA	1,847	1,909	1,990	1,999	Transitioned to PGA in 2021
CAB-BC	2,665	2,952	3,195	3,385	Transitioned to PGA in 2021
EGBC	40,118	39,176	40,699	43,007	Transitioned to PGA in 2021; fiscal year is July 1 – June 30; excludes firm registrants
FPBC	5,516	5,499	5,367	5,184	Transitioned to PGA in 2021

**39. What are the financial contexts of the PGA-regulated professional bodies?**

The following information was sourced from annual reports and related documents on the websites of the respective regulatory bodies. Further research will be undertaken to understand the factors affecting the changes in revenues and expenditures as they may pertain to the transition to the PGA and potential lessons for PIBC.

Regulator	Total Revenues			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
AIBC	\$ 4,253,892	\$ 4,505,951	\$ 5,326,170	\$ 5,485,679
ASTTBC	\$ 3,638,181	\$ 3,270,663	\$ 2,840,364	\$ 2,795,807
BCIA	\$ 792,702	\$ 816,129	\$ 1,109,268	\$ 1,221,512
CAB-BC	\$ 1,049,162	\$ 1,139,248	\$ 1,511,780	\$ 1,812,409
EGBC	\$ 20,916,951	\$ 26,212,516	\$ 29,281,094	\$ 32,153,023

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<b>FPBC</b>	\$ 2,948,526	\$ 3,149,577	\$ 3,286,145	\$ 4,007,099
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Regulator	Total Expenditures			
	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>AIBC</b>	\$ 4,456,725	\$ 4,495,123	\$ 5,256,239	\$ 5,310,583
<b>ASTTBC</b>	\$ 3,033,997	\$ 3,120,865	\$ 2,803,942	\$ 2,924,854
<b>BCIA</b>	\$ 673,144	\$ 732,148	\$ 1,039,988	\$ 1,409,763
<b>CAB-BC</b>	\$ 888,049	\$ 1,082,461	\$ 1,394,767	\$ 1,773,496
<b>EGBC</b>	\$ 20,116,187	\$ 20,724,267	\$ 25,465,363	\$ 29,014,779
<b>FPBC</b>	\$ 2,871,007	\$ 2,970,269	\$ 3,341,259	\$ 3,835,947

### 40. What advocacy may the PIBC undertake under the PGA?

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, PIBC’s role in advocacy would be further explored in collaboration with the OSPG.

According to the OSPG, the PGA requires regulatory bodies to only act in an advocacy role in accordance with the PGA, and allows for additional rules, conditions or limits to be set in regulation. The policy intent is that regulatory bodies avoid activities that may lead to the perception, or reality, that the regulatory body is putting the interests of registrants ahead of the public interest.

OSPG has developed guidance to assist regulatory bodies in ensuring their activities are focused on their statutory duty and responsibilities: regulating registrants and serving and protecting the public interest: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/advocacy/>

### 41. Under the PGA, would PIBC be able to provide input to provincial legislation and policy?

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, PIBC’s role in advocacy would be further explored in collaboration with the OSPG.

According to the OSPG, “the relationship between regulatory bodies and ministries that administer legislation and policies for the sectors that registrants work within is important. It is appropriate for regulatory bodies to provide input to legislation and policy that impact registrants, but their response should clearly benefit the public interest and avoid any undue or perceived favour to the professionals. Moving forward, ministries and regulatory bodies should use appropriate channels for constructive/proactive dialogue and work on mutual issues together. The OSPG and Professional Governance Advisory Committee will work to provide and improve these processes.”

(source: <https://professionalgovernancebc.ca/app/uploads/sites/498/2023/07/Advocacy-Framework-Web-20230728.pdf>)

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**42. Planners work in different contexts, such as local government, private consulting, academia, etc. How does the *Professional Governance Act* accommodate these differences?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the PGA, PIBC would seek to address the different contexts in which planners work under the Act.

**43. Planners work in areas that are shared with other professions, such as transportation planning, environmental planning, and climate change. How will work in these areas be interpreted under the *Professional Governance Act*?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the PGA, the relationship between PIBC and the province would be explored in collaboration with the OSPG.

**44. What have been the experiences of the other allied professional regulatory bodies that have transitioned to the PGA, such as EGBC and AIBC?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the PGA, PIBC would seek to use information and lessons learned from other allied professional bodies.

**45. How are the PGA-regulated professional regulatory bodies articulating their mandates?**

A high-level review of the websites of the PGA-regulated professional bodies shows a consistent acknowledgement of the regulatory role and public protection objective of the professional regulatory bodies under the PGA.

AIBC (<https://aibc.ca>): “In the interest of the public, the Architectural Institute of British Columbia regulates the profession of architecture through a responsive regulatory framework.”

ASTTBC (<https://asttbc.org>): “Regulating technology professionals to safeguard the public.”

BCIA (<https://www.bcia.com>): “The BC Institute of Agrologists regulates the profession of agrology in British Columbia to protect the public by ensuring its safe, competent, and ethical practice.”

CAB (<https://cab-bc.org>): “As a regulator, the College does not engage in issue-oriented advocacy, nor does it advocate for registrants. It maintains an apolitical stance, meeting the public interest requirement of the Act through holding its registrants accountable for their actions.”

EGBC (<https://www.egbc.ca>): “Modern Regulation for a Resilient World: We protect the public by regulating the professions of engineering and geoscience in British Columbia.”

FPBC (<https://www.fpbc.ca>): “Responsible for registering and regulating British Columbia’s professional foresters and forest technologists.”

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## Reconciliation and Decolonizing Planning Practice

### 46. How does the PGA address reconciliation with Indigenous peoples?

The PGA requires regulatory bodies to make bylaws that establish education programs for their professionals to support informed engagement and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The Superintendent has a duty to promote awareness among the regulatory bodies to support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, including supporting implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

### 47. How is the traditional knowledge of Indigenous peoples recognized in the PGA?

The PGA's reserved practice provisions do not apply to a person exercising the rights of an Indigenous person (as referred to in UNDRIP), including the right to maintain, control, protect or develop any of the following with respect to the Indigenous person:

- (a) cultural heritage;
- (b) traditional knowledge;
- (c) traditional cultural expressions;
- (d) manifestations of sciences, technologies, or cultures.

### 48. How might transitioning to the PGA affect reconciliation and decolonizing planning practice?

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan.

### 49. Would transitioning to the PGA advance, hinder, or have no effect on the current Board strategic priority to decolonize the planning profession?

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, the Institute's strategic priorities and work on reconciliation and decolonization would be further explored in collaboration with the OSPG.

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## Becoming a Registered Professional Planner

### 50. Would the pathways to becoming a registered professional planner in BC affected by the PGA?

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential changes to PIBC's certification process for RPPs would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

### 51. What would happen to professional planners in Yukon?

Yukon membership could continue, but any statements that the PIBC is a professional planning regulator for Yukon would have to be revised as the PGA has no specific Yukon jurisdiction.

### 52. Would registrant renewal fees increase?

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential financial impacts would be further explored and considered.

### 53. What would happen to the automatic joint Canadian Institute of Planners membership and associated fees included in the PIBC membership and annual fees?

Membership and associated fees for PIBC certified members, candidate members, retired members, student members, and life members automatically include concurrent, equivalent CIP membership and associated fees. This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, this arrangement may change, and any such potential changes to fees to the Canadian Institute of Planners would be further explored and considered.

### 54. Would professional liability insurance premiums increase?

Annual membership fees for PIBC certified members and candidate members include a mandatory professional liability insurance premium. Currently, a group professional liability insurance program for members is arranged by the Canadian Institute of Planners. This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential changes to professional liability insurance premiums would be further explored and considered.

### 55. For planners who are not currently members of PIBC, what are the potential impacts?

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any impacts on planners who are not current PIBC members would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

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### **56. For planners who are not currently eligible for membership in PIBC, what are the potential impacts?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any impacts on planners who are not current PIBC members would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

### **57. What are the potential impacts on the mobility of planners practicing in different provinces?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any impacts to labour mobility for planners would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

### **58. How would designation under the PGA affect professional planners across Canada?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential impacts on out-of-province planners would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

### **59. What is the International Credentials Recognition Act (ICRA)?**

The OSPG is also the entity managing ICRA. The ICRA reduces barriers for internationally trained professionals seeking jobs in British Columbia. The ICRA received Royal Assent in 2023, and came into effect in 2024. Provisions include removing unfair Canadian work experience requirements, prohibiting the need for applicants to provide new English language test results if they have already submitted valid results, and charging similar fees to international and domestic applicants. The specific regulations defining prohibited Canadian work experience and outlining exemptions will be issued in 2025. The ICRA covers 18 professional regulatory authorities, including the six currently covered by the *Professional Governance Act*. The planning profession is not currently covered by ICRA.

Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential impacts on planners and the planning profession would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.



# FAQ Resource

## Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project

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## PIBC Governance

### 60. What is the current governance structure of PIBC?

PIBC is legally incorporated under the *Societies Act* of British Columbia, and governed by its Constitution and Bylaws. Under the Act and the Bylaws, the PIBC Board of Directors is responsible for the overall governance of PIBC's activities, including appointing officer positions and certain committee chairs, setting the annual budget, determining policy, setting PIBC's strategic direction, and providing overall governance leadership. The Board also oversees the Institute's membership standards and admissions, and set out in the Bylaws.

The Board comprises 11 voting volunteer members and is elected every two years. The Board includes the President, President-Elect, eight Certified Members, and one Candidate member representative. The Board may also appoint non-voting guest participants including representatives of the Institute's Student members.

PIBC has a number of standing committees, operational committees, and time-limited task forces and working groups to assist in carrying out the various activities of the Institute.

#### Standing Committees of the Board:

- Executive Committee
- Governance & Nominating Committee
- Member Engagement Committee
- Policy & Public Affairs Committee, Climate Action Subcommittee, and RPP Regulation Subcommittee
- Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee
- Professional Conduct Review Committee
- Professional Standards & Certification Committee

#### Operational Committees:

- Awards & Recognition Committee
- Communications Committee
- Continuous Professional Learning Committee
- Student Internship Program Committee
- Annual Conference Committee

#### Task Forces and Working Groups:

- Housing Task Force
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, Decolonization, and Inclusion Working Group

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### 61. What are PIBC's Official Documents?

PIBC's governance and administration are guided by a Constitution, Bylaws (which includes the Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct). The Board sets and maintains a Strategic Plan, which is normally updated every two years. PIBC also produces an Annual Report that summarizes the Institute's activities over the preceding year and audited financial statements from the most recent fiscal year. The Annual Report is posted, distributed, and presented to the Annual General Meeting each year. All of these documents can be downloaded from the PIBC website.

### 62. What is PIBC's Constitution?

PIBC's Constitution states:

1. The name of the Society is the 'PLANNING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'.
2. The purposes of the Society are:
  - a) To promote through community and regional planning the orderly disposition and use of land, natural resources, buildings, and services with a view to the social and economic efficiency, health and well-being of urban and rural communities and regions;
  - b) To advance the study and practice of community and regional planning and kindred subjects and of arts and sciences as applied to them;
  - c) To promote high standards of professional competence and conduct in the practice of community and regional planning;
  - d) To promote the association and professional interests of those engaged in the practice of community and regional planning.
3. The Society is a member-funded society. It is funded primarily by its members to carry on activities for the benefit of its members. On its liquidation or dissolution, this Society may distribute its money and other property to its members.

### 63. What changes would be made to the PIBC Board should PIBC transition to the PGA?

Under the PGA, regulatory bodies are required to have:

- a) 7 registrant board members, including the board chair and board vice chair, who are registrants and elected or temporarily appointed
- b) 4 lay board members who are not registrants and who are appointed by the provincial government
- c) The immediate past board chair, who is a non-voting registrant board member

Lay board members bring an external perspective from registrant board members and contribute to the board's duty to represent the public interest in the governance of the profession.

### 64. What changes would be made to the committee structure?

Under the PGA, five statutory committees are required to support the work of the board:

- a) nominating committee,
- b) credentials committee,
- c) audit and practice review committee,

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- d) investigation committee, and
- e) discipline committee.

The board may establish additional committees for a purpose consistent with the PGA.

Board members may not serve on their committees. At least one lay committee member must be present at every committee for decisions to be made at the meeting. Lay committee members will be actively recruited by regulatory bodies with the support of the OSPG and the Crown Agencies and Board Resource Office.

### **65. What are the potential impacts to PIBC's strategic plan, vision, mission, and values?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential impacts to PIBC's strategic plan, mission, values, etc. would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

### **66. Can PIBC still carry out policy research under the PGA?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential impacts on policy research would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

### **67. Does PIBC have a mandate to provide continuing professional learning programming?**

Within PIBC's existing voluntary self-regulated framework, the Institute's Bylaws require continuous professional learning (CPL) for all professional members and set the minimum CPL standards and annual requirements for members. As part of its member services, PIBC also provides a range of member professional learning events and activities (e.g. conferences webinars, local chapter learning events, etc.)

### **68. Does the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) have any role in this matter?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any impacts to PIBC's relationship with CIP would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

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### PIBC Member Services

#### **69. Would there be any changes to complaints, discipline, and professional conduct review processes under the PGA?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any impacts on PIBC's complaints and disciplinary processes would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

#### **70. Would there be changes to the requirements for continuing professional learning (CPL) under the PGA?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any impacts to PIBC's CPL standards and programs would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

#### **71. Would the PIBC continue to host conferences and events for registrants under the PGA?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any impacts to PIBC's conferences and events would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.

#### **72. Would the PIBC continue to give awards and other forms of recognition under the PGA?**

This question will be explored within the scope of the integrated research and engagement work plan. Should the planning profession ultimately seek to be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*, any potential impacts to PIBC's awards and recognition activities would be further explored and determined in collaboration with the OSPG.