



MEMORANDUM

June 10th, 2025

TO: PIBC Board of Directors and Policy & Public Affairs Committee (Board meeting date: June 10, 2025)

FROM: Deborah Jensen RPP, MCIP (Chair of RPP Regulation Subcommittee)

RE: Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project – Q2 2025 Chair Update

PURPOSE

This memo presents the second quarterly update on the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project (the Project).

BACKGROUND

In December 2023, the PIBC Board approved direction to undertake outreach and education about the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) and possible opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. The Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project is intended to achieve the Board direction. The information that is gathered through this Project – through engagement and research – will be presented to the Board through both quarterly reports and a final report. The Board has not made any decisions on whether the planning profession should or should not be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*.

In November 2024, the PIBC Board endorsed the Phase 1 Work Plan and directed the Chair of the RPP Regulation Subcommittee to provide quarterly updates to the Policy & Public Affairs Committee (PPAC) and the Board. The Board also directed staff to distribute these quarterly reports for information to all PIBC standing and operational committees, PPAC Housing Task Force, JEDDI working group, and Chapter Chairs, and to post on the project webpage. The PIBC Board received the first quarterly update in March 2025.

WORK PLAN UPDATES

Phase 1 focuses on building up the baseline knowledge of members, and offering varied ways for members to engage with the Project. Since the start of the year, the RPP Regulation Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) has convened on a near-monthly basis (February, March, April, and May) to complete a significant amount of work, as noted below.

PIBC Committees Engagement

The Phase 1 Work Plan identified regular engagement with PIBC committees as a core activity. PIBC committees have specific missions that serve the Board's strategic priorities. Given the

cross-cutting nature of professional governance, it is crucial that all PIBC committees are engaged regularly and in a strategic manner to harness synergies. To date, the Chair, or another member of the Subcommittee, has appeared as a delegation to the following committees and working groups. At these meetings, the status of the Project was presented and feedback was received. It is expected that these committees will be engaged at key milestones.¹

- April 3: **Code Review Working Group of Professional Conduct Review Committee**
- April 28: **Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee**
- May 5: **Professional Standards and Certification Committee**
- May 6: **Member Engagement Committee**
- May 8: **Governance and Nominating Committee**
- May 9: **Professional Conduct Review Committee**
- May 15: **Climate Action Subcommittee of Policy & Public Affairs Committee**
- June 9: **Executive Committee**

Some of the recurring comments received include a desire by some members and committees to have a deeper level of engagement in the Project; that the Board's strategic priorities for reconciliation and decolonization are carefully considered in the engagement and research; and, that the implications for PIBC members in Yukon and the relationship with the Canadian Institute of Planners are also carefully considered.

In addition to appearing as delegations at other PIBC committee meetings, the Subcommittee endorsed two recommendations to encourage greater coordination and integration with other committees' work. First, the Subcommittee has offered the Member Engagement Committee and Professional Conduct Review Committee to each nominate one member to participate in the evaluation of the consultation proposals for the strategic assessment RFP, discussed later in this report. These two committees are undertaking work that have strong interdependencies with the Project. The Member Engagement Committee is responsible for the oversight, coordination, and maintenance of the Institute's internal membership outreach, engagement, and support activities. The committee is also preparing a scope of work to gauge the future demand for planners. The Professional Conduct Review Committee is currently undertaking a review of the 'Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct' which is a key feature of professional governance in general.

Second, the Subcommittee endorsed a recommendation to offer the Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee and Justice, Equity, Diversity, Decolonization and Inclusion (JEDDI) Working Group the opportunity to nominate members to participate in focus group sessions – a key component of the strategic assessment work (see next page) – subject to the formulation of the focus group methodology that will be undertaken between PIBC and the consultant. Reconciliation and decolonization of the profession are strategic priorities of the Board. Therefore, the Subcommittee has a desire to be intentional in creating space in this Project to accommodate dialogue and learning about these strategic priorities.

Special Webinar and Conference Session

PIBC convened a special webinar on May 21, 2025 open to all members and non-members. The Chair of the Subcommittee presented an overview of the Project, followed by presentations

¹ The JEDDI Working Group will be engaged pending scheduling availability.

from the Deputy Superintendent of the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance, CEO of Forest Professionals British Columbia (a regulator under the PGA), and the Regulatory Lead at the BC Society of Landscape Architects (in the process of transitioning to the PGA). Three hundred people registered for the webinar and 209 people attended. Among the attendees, 63 percent were certified RPP and 21 percent candidate members.

To continue the dialogue from this webinar, PIBC will be convening a panel dialogue session at the annual conference on June 13, 2025. The panelists are representatives from Forest Professionals British Columbia, BC Society of Landscape Architects, and BC Institute of Agrologists. Members of the Subcommittee will host and moderate the session.

Strategic Assessment of Professional Governance

The Request for Proposals (RFP) to undertake a strategic assessment of professional governance and the planning profession in British Columbia was posted on April 16, 2025. A component of the scope includes the design and delivery of focus group sessions (131 respondents in the first engagement survey indicated an interest in participating in a focus group session). At closing on May 16, PIBC had received six proposals.

The Subcommittee has established an evaluation working group to review and make recommendations on a preferred consultant to the Subcommittee. To encourage integration and coordination, the Subcommittee directed that the evaluation working group comprise:

- 3 designated RPP Regulation Subcommittee members
- 1 designated Member Engagement Committee member
- 1 designated Professional Conduct Review Committee member

PIBC staff will convene and facilitate the evaluation working group, and will report the recommendations to the Subcommittee for consideration. Scheduling is underway to convene the evaluation working group in June. The RPP Regulation Subcommittee will then consider the recommendation from the working group. If the recommendation is endorsed by the Subcommittee, then the Executive Director will review and execute the contract process. Onboarding the consultant could take place in July.

Staff will be updating the Work Plan to reflect the consultant work plan. The original Work Plan anticipated completion of Phase 1 by Fall 2025. It is now likely that Phase 1 will be completed in early 2026.

Project Webpage and FAQ Resource Document

The project webpage was launched in December 2024 to serve as the central hub for information about the Project (<https://www.pibc.bc.ca/professionalgovernance>). The project webpage contains links to the Work Plan and an introductory *Planning West* article. In addition, an FAQ resource document has been prepared that will be updated from time to time as new and relevant information emerges. The document was last updated in April to add clarity that the decision to transition to the PGA rests with either the Province mandating a transition to the PGA or the planning profession voluntarily seeking to be regulated under the PGA. The Spring Issue of *Planning West* includes an article authored by the Chair about the status of the Project.

OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE BUSINESS

Recruitment is underway to attract up to two additional members to join the Subcommittee from PPAC as Jared Kassel stepped down from the Subcommittee in March. The Subcommittee thanked Jared for his contribution to the Subcommittee, and Erica Tiffany from PPAC joined the Subcommittee in May.

The Subcommittee was created by PPAC several years ago. Over the years, the Subcommittee has convened on an ad hoc basis working under the general terms and directions of PPAC. Given the increased role and responsibility that the Subcommittee has in steering the Project, it is an appropriate time to formalize the terms of the Subcommittee. To this end, the Subcommittee initiated the preparation of a Terms of Reference at its meeting in May. The intention is to set out the regular operational provisions that all other PIBC committees work under and to formalize the relationship with PPAC, role of staff and Subcommittee members, and decision-making approaches. The Terms of Reference will be made consistent with any directions arising from the work of the Governance and Nominating Committee and any new directions from the new Board following its election in June. Once the Subcommittee has finalized the Terms of Reference, it will be advanced to the Board for ratification.

RISK REGISTER

The risk register is an internal project management tool that the Subcommittee is using to continuously monitor and adjust for potential uncertainties that may affect the conduct of the Project. Encouraging awareness, coordination, and collaboration as appropriate between PIBC committees and the Project is accounted for in the register and it is being addressed through these quarterly Chair Updates, delegations to PIBC committees, and involving members of other committees in the RFP evaluation process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no new financial implications associated with this Q2 2025 Chair Update.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project is proceeding in accordance to the Work Plan endorsed by the Board in Fall 2024. The Chair of the RPP Regulation Subcommittee, or a designated member, is engaging with PIBC committees on a regular basis. PIBC convened a successful special webinar on May 21, 2025 about the Project, and will be convening a session at the annual conference on June 13, 2025. The RFP for the strategic assessment of professional governance closed on May 16, 2025 with the receipt of six proposals. An evaluation working group, comprising designated members of the Subcommittee, Member Engagement Committee, and Professional Conduct Review Committee will review the proposals and identify a preferred consultant. The next meeting of the Subcommittee is anticipated in July. The Subcommittee is also preparing a Terms of Reference to formalize its role and responsibilities in respect of the professional governance work. The next update for the PIBC Board is anticipated in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Jensen RPP, MCIP
Chair of RPP Regulation Subcommittee

REFERENCES:

Q1 2025 Chair Update

https://www.pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal_pages_pdfs/resources/PLN/PPAC-RPP-Reg-SubCttee-PGA-Engage-Update-Report-DJ-Mar2025-Updated-2.pdf

Phase 1 Work Plan

https://www.pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal_pages_pdfs/resources/PG/20241204_Integrated_Research_and_Engagement_Work_Plan.pdf