



MEMO

March 20, 2026

TO: PIBC Board of Directors (Meeting date: March 20, 2026)

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

RE: Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project – Q1 2026 Chair Update and Summary of Phase 1

PURPOSE

This memo presents the fifth quarterly update and summary of Phase 1 of the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project.

BACKGROUND

In December 2023, the PIBC Board approved direction to undertake outreach and education about the PGA and possible opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. 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, and to post on the project webpage. In addition, the Phase 1 Work Plan sets out a requirement to produce a summary report of Phase 1.

The results of the work undertaken for the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project are intended to achieve the Board direction.



WORK PLAN UPDATES

At its meeting on January 30, 2026, the Board received for information, the “Strategic Assessment of Professional Governance of the Planning Profession in British Columbia” report and appendices as prepared by The Regulator’s Practice. The Board subsequently directed the RPP Regulation Subcommittee to undertake a final round of engagement with members and other interest holders comprising a free webinar, engagement survey, and all PIBC committees meeting. These directions were successfully completed in February.

On February 12, 2026, PIBC hosted the “Strategic Assessment of Professional Governance” webinar. PIBC’s Board President provided opening remarks and representatives from The Regulator’s Practice presented the key findings of their report, with the Chair of the RPP Regulation Subcommittee moderating the session.,. A total of 158 attendees joined the webinar out of 220 registrants.

Panelists responded to audience questions during the webinar, and responses to questions not addressed during the webinar were subsequently posted on the project webpage and distributed to members and webinar registrants on February 20, 2026.

Also on February 12, 2026, PIBC launched the second engagement survey. To incentivize participation, PIBC offered survey participants a chance to be randomly selected for a complimentary registration to the 2026 PIBC Annual Conference. A total of 160 people completed the survey (the survey results are attached).

On February 26, 2026, PIBC convened an all PIBC committees meeting, including Chapter Chairs. The format of the meeting mirrored the February webinar, with The Regulator’s Practice presenting the key findings of the work and answering questions from the audience. The Chair of the RPP Regulation Subcommittee moderated the session. Of the over 100 people invited, a total of 36 people attended the session, including four Chapter Chairs, four committee Chairs, and two planners from the Yukon.

PHASE 1 SUMMARY

The Phase 1 objectives of the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project were to:

1. Educate and engage members and potential members about professional governance and the *Professional Governance Act* by offering information, resources, and varied opportunities to participate
2. Undertake and present research and analysis on the issues, potential opportunities and trade-offs with professional governance considerations.
3. Convey the Phase 1 engagement and research findings to the PIBC Board to inform its deliberations, and to share these findings with the membership.

In support of these objectives, the RPP Regulation Subcommittee convened at regular intervals over the past 15 months to provide strategic oversight of the project (August 2024, October 2024, November 2024, February 2025, March 2025, April 2025, May 2025, July 2025, August 2025, September 2025, October 2025, November 2025, January 2026, February 2026, and March 2026). In addition, a subset of the Subcommittee convened separately to support the design of the 2025 conference session and RFP proposals evaluation.

A number of activities were planned and delivered as per the approved Phase 1 Work Plan. An underlying principle established at the outset by the Subcommittee was to offer a variety of ways for members and other interest holders to engage and learn about the topic as they saw fit, and to ensure everyone had access to transparent and traceable documentation of the project's progress and deliverables.

Activity	Key Outputs
Engagement with the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG)	Initial engagement with the Deputy Superintendent on September 18, 2024. PIBC representatives: Co-Chairs of Policy & Public Affairs Committee and staff.
Engagement with PIBC committees	<p>Subcommittee Chair (or designated alternate) engaged standing committees, schedule permitting by introducing the project and welcoming feedback and questions from members:</p> <p>April 3: Code Review Working Group of Professional Conduct Review Committee</p> <p>April 28: Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee</p> <p>May 5: Professional Standards and Certification Committee</p> <p>May 6: Member Engagement Committee</p> <p>May 8: Governance and Nominating Committee</p> <p>May 9: Professional Conduct Review Committee</p> <p>May 15: Climate Action Subcommittee of Policy & Public Affairs Committee</p> <p>November 7, 2025: Policy & Public Affairs Committee</p> <p>February 26, 2026: All Committees and Chapter Chairs (36 attendees)</p>
Quarterly Chair Updates	<p>Project updates shared with Board and membership:</p> <p>Q1 2025</p> <p>Q2 2025</p> <p>Q3 2025</p> <p>Q4 2025</p> <p>Q1 2026</p>
Planning West articles	<p>Project updates:</p> <p>Fall 2024</p> <p>Spring 2025</p> <p>Summer 2025</p>

Activity	Key Outputs
	Fall 2025 Winter 2026 Spring 2026 (in progress)
Project webpage, including FAQ	Launched in December 2024. Initial resources posted on the project webpage included the FAQ document and introductory letter to the OSPG.
PIBC e-news	Members were regularly notified about updates to the project, such as new Quarterly Update Memos.
Engagement Surveys	<p>Engagement Survey #1 was conducted December 4, 2024 – February 5, 2025. The survey received 323 responses.</p> <p>Engagement Survey #2 was conducted February 12, 2026 – February 28, 2026. The survey received 160 responses.</p>
Discussion Paper	The Regulator’s Practice was retained to undertake a strategic assessment report . The report was received by the Board on January 30, 2026.
Webinars	<p>Webinar #1 was conducted on May 21, 2025. A total of 209 people attended the webinar. The panel comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Superintendent of OSPG • CEO of Forest Professionals British Columbia • Regulatory Lead at the BC Society of Landscape Architects • Members of the Subcommittee <p>Webinar #2 was conducted on February 12, 2026. A total of 158 people attended the webinar. The Regulator’s Practice presented the key findings of the Strategic Assessment Report. Responses to the Q/A were posted to the project website and shared with webinar registrants.</p>
Focus Groups	<p>The focus groups were a component of the work undertaken to prepare the Strategic Assessment Report.</p> <p>Nine focus groups, comprising 69 participants, were conducted by the consultant.</p>
PIBC Conference session	PIBC convened a session at the 2025 conference on June 13, 2025. The panelists included representatives from Forest Professionals British Columbia, BC Society of Landscape Architects, BC Institute of Agrologists, and members of the Subcommittee.

Activity	Key Outputs
Online Discussion Forum	<p>Originally conceived as an additional way for interest holders to exchange thoughts and ideas about the topic, this activity was not implemented in Phase 1 due to the project schedule.</p> <p>This engagement tactic could be considered in future phases.</p>

Project Performance

The Engagement Survey #2 provides useful information about the performance of the project and lessons for future consideration. A detailed analysis is included in Attachment A. It should be noted that neither the Engagement Survey #1 or Survey #2 controlled for various forms of biases, and, therefore, the results may or may not represent the views of the entire membership.

Some of the topline findings of Engagement Survey #2 are:

- Ways of engaging: PIBC e-news, the May 2025 webinar, and Planning West articles were the top three ways that people learned about or kept up-to-date on the project
- Communications: 68% of respondents were satisfied/very satisfied with how PIBC communicated the progress of the project
- Resources: 63% of respondents were satisfied/very satisfied with the resources that PIBC provided, such as the FAQ, Quarterly Chair Update memos, etc.
- Opportunities to Engage: 59% of respondents were satisfied/very satisfied with the opportunities offered to engage in the project.

In addition, Engagement #2 provided evidence that the tactics for communications, resource provision, and engagement opportunities did make a difference. Between Engagement #1 (conducted December 2024-February 2025) and Engagement #2:

- +20 point increase in percent of respondents having good knowledge about the PGA prior to completing the survey

This second survey also showed an apparent +10 point increase in percent of respondents who were satisfied/very satisfied with how the planning profession is regulated today in BC (49% in Survey #1 v. 59% in Survey #2).

Survey respondents also offered ideas for PIBC to improve its engagement with both members and non-members. These suggestions included:

- Engaging members via the Local Chapters
- Engaging non-member planners through their employers
- Communicating information through social media videos and podcasts

Next Steps

As Phase 1 draws to a close, the RPP Regulation Subcommittee is advancing a recommendation for the Board's consideration in relation to whether PIBC should or should not apply to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance for a PGA designation assessment. This recommendation is provided in a separate report on this Board agenda. In addition, the Board will be considering in a separate report the public release of the legal memo prepared by PIBC's legal counsel in 2023 that offered an initial analysis of the PGA and considerations for the Institute.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2024, the Board authorized up to \$60,000 for consultant-related services and other expenses for the conduct of Phase 1. The total value of the contract with The Regulator's Practice was \$58,000 (excluding taxes). There are no new financial implications associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receive this report for information.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Phase 1 of the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project was undertaken to achieve the Board's direction to undertake outreach and education about the PGA and possible opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. As the steering committee for the project, the RPP Regulation Subcommittee was intentional in offering a variety of ways for members and other interest holders to engage and learn about the topic as their desired pace, and to ensure everyone had access to transparent and traceable documentation of the project's progress and deliverables. A significant amount of research was completed, including The Regulator's Practice's strategic assessment report.

In summary, the Subcommittee wishes to thank all PIBC members and external participants who took the time to engage and provide input into this project. As Chair, I would like to specifically thank PIBC staff for their extraordinary efforts on this project, and to the Subcommittee members for their valuable contributions and input:

David Block RPP, MCIP
Danielle Noble-Brandt RPP, MCIP
Tim Shaw RPP, MCIP
Erica Tiffany RPP, MCIP
Jared Kassel RPP, MCIP (former member of the Subcommittee)
Gloria Venczel, RPP, MCIP (former member of the Subcommittee)

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Jensen RPP, MCIP
Chair of RPP Regulation Subcommittee

ATTACHMENT

Engagement Survey #2 Presentation Report

REFERENCE

Project Website (including FAQ, *Planning West* articles, and prior quarterly updates, etc.)
www.pibc.bc.ca/professionalgovernance