



**PROFESSIONAL
GOVERNANCE RESEARCH
AND ENGAGEMENT
PROJECT**

**ENGAGEMENT
SURVEY
PRESENTATION
REPORT (DRAFT)**

February 28, 2025



PIBC PLANNING
INSTITUTE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
*FORWARD THINKING
SHAPING COMMUNITIES*

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OVERVIEW OF THE PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

- In December 2023, the PIBC Board approved direction to undertake outreach and education about the *Professional Governance Act* and possible opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession.
- The Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project is designed to implement the Board's directions in a transparent and inclusive manner.
- The Policy & Public Affairs Committee and RPP Regulation Subcommittee are providing strategic oversight for this project. Other PIBC committees, members, and stakeholder are being engaged as well.
- In November 2024, the PIBC Board endorsed the Phase 1 Work Plan. Phase 1 began in Fall 2024 and will conclude in Summer/Fall 2025. Phase 1 will focus on:
 - Educating and engaging members and potential members about professional governance and the *Professional Governance Act* by offering information, resources, and varied opportunities to participate.
 - Undertaking and presenting research and analysis on the issues, potential opportunities and trade-offs with professional governance considerations
 - Conveying the Phase 1 engagement and research findings to the PIBC Board to inform its deliberations and to share with the membership.
- The engagement survey was one of the early actions identified in the Phase 1 Work Plan.

KEY SURVEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The Phase 1 Work Plan is providing a valuable framework by focusing on building up the baseline knowledge about the *Professional Governance Act* and considerations for the profession; and, offering stakeholders different ways to engage in the process.
2. A plurality of respondents is satisfied with the way the profession is regulated today. A large proportion of respondents is neutral or unsure. A relatively small proportion of respondents is dissatisfied with the status quo.
3. Most respondents had some prior knowledge of the *Professional Governance Act*.
4. Most respondents plan to stay engaged on the project.
5. Sufficient number of respondents are interested in engaging peers in an online discussion forum and in focus groups.
6. At this time, respondents are mainly interested in the big picture/strategic issues, namely the advantages and disadvantages of transitioning to the *Professional Governance Act* for the profession and PIBC, and defining reserved practices.

ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

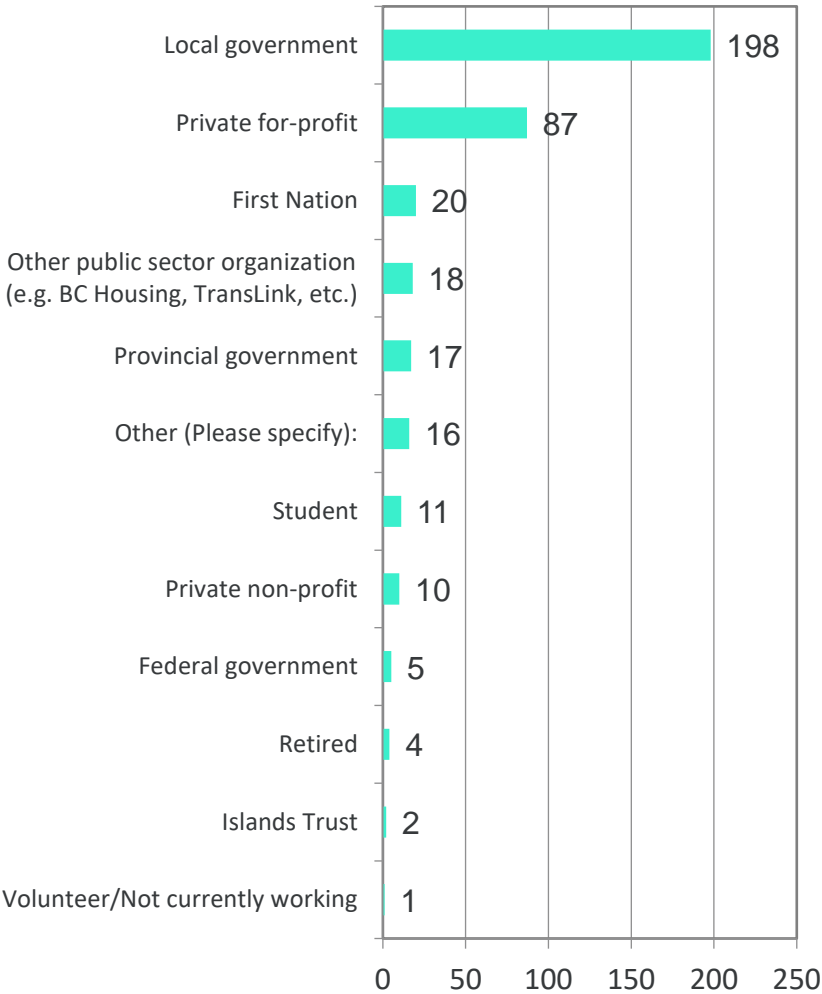
- Survey period: December 4, 2024 - February 5, 2025
- Total responses: 323
 - Amongst certified RPP and candidate members, response rate approximately 18%
- Outreach: Regular and special PIBC e-news bulletins, social media posts, Local Chapter Chairs, and professional networks (PIBC members or not)
- Incentives: registrants can opt in to a random draw for one of four complimentary registrations to the 2025 PIBC Annual Conference (225 respondents)

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

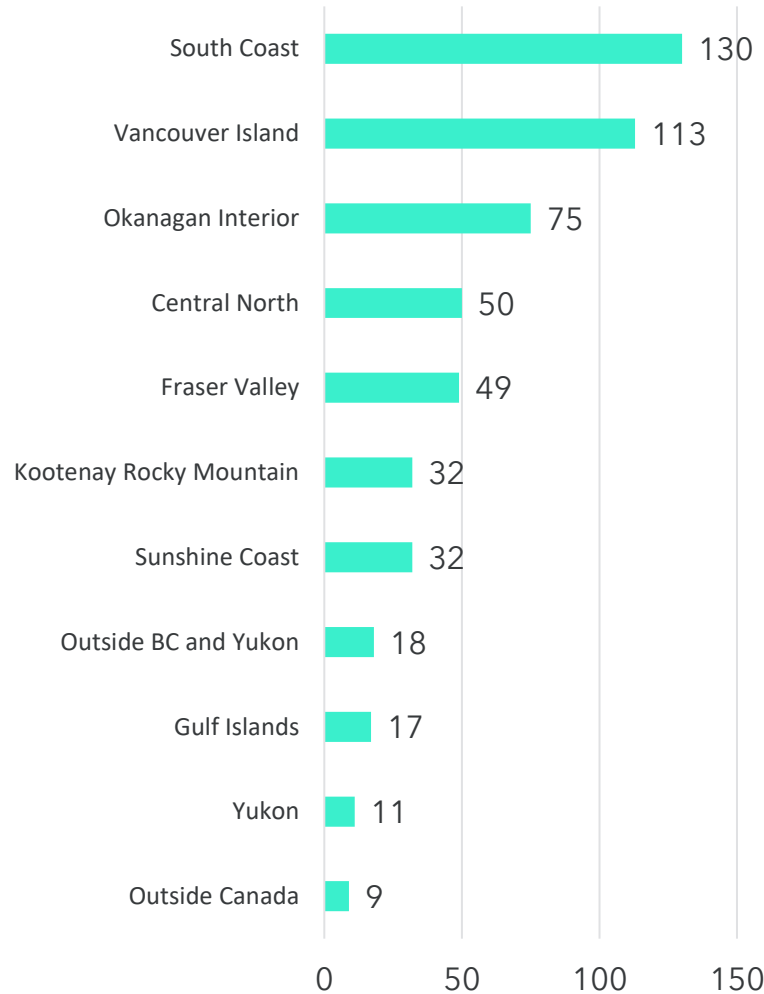
- Mainly certified RPP planners working in local government in the South Coast, Vancouver Island, or Okanagan Interior regions (see charts on next slide)

ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

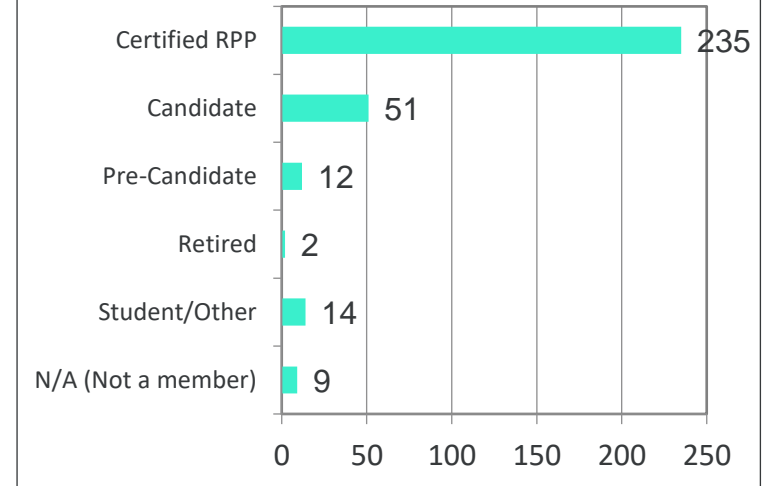
Employer Sector



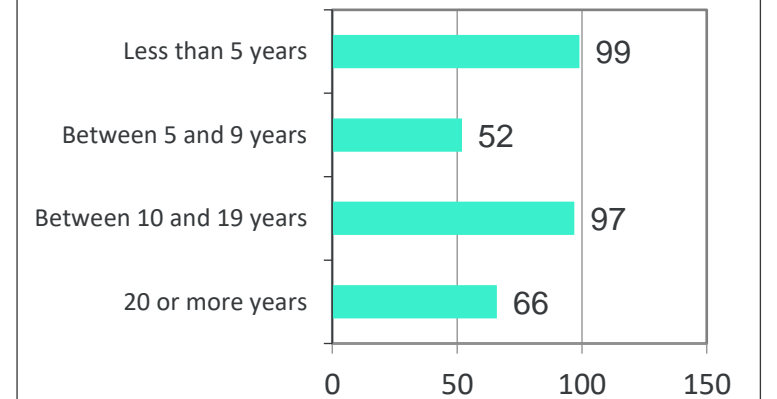
Places of Work



PIBC Membership Status



Number of Years as a PIBC Member

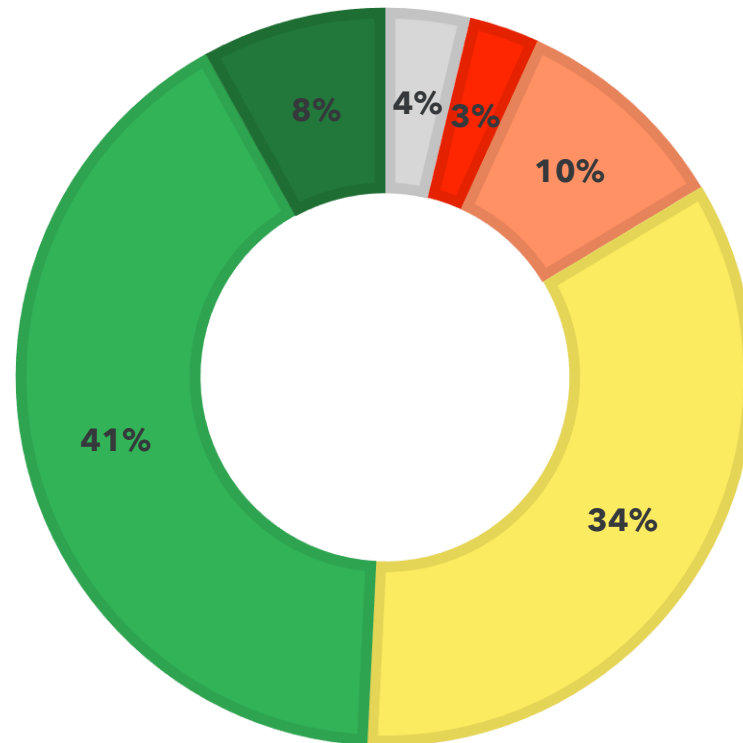


DETAILED FINDINGS

DEGREE OF SATISFACTION

How satisfied are you with how the planning profession is regulated today in British Columbia?

■ Unsure ■ Very dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied ■ Neutral ■ Satisfied ■ Very satisfied



‘VERY SATISFIED’ OR ‘SATISFIED’ (37 COMMENTS)

*How satisfied are you with how the planning profession is regulated today in British Columbia?
Please feel free to elaborate on your response to the previous question.*

Recurring Theme:

- The current regulatory approach strikes an appropriate balance between upholding professional standards and welcoming people from a diversity of backgrounds to practice the profession

[See slides 36-40 for detailed comments submitted by respondents](#)

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

*How satisfied are you with how the planning profession is regulated today in British Columbia?
Please feel free to elaborate on your response to the previous question.*

Recurring Themes:

- The planning profession lacks standing compared to other allied professions in terms of accountability and practice rights.
- Since anyone can practice planning, it diminishes those planners who were professionally trained and accredited.

[See slides 41-47 for detailed comments submitted by respondents](#)

‘NEUTRAL’ (37 COMMENTS)

*How satisfied are you with how the planning profession is regulated today in British Columbia?
Please feel free to elaborate on your response to the previous question.*

Recurring Themes:

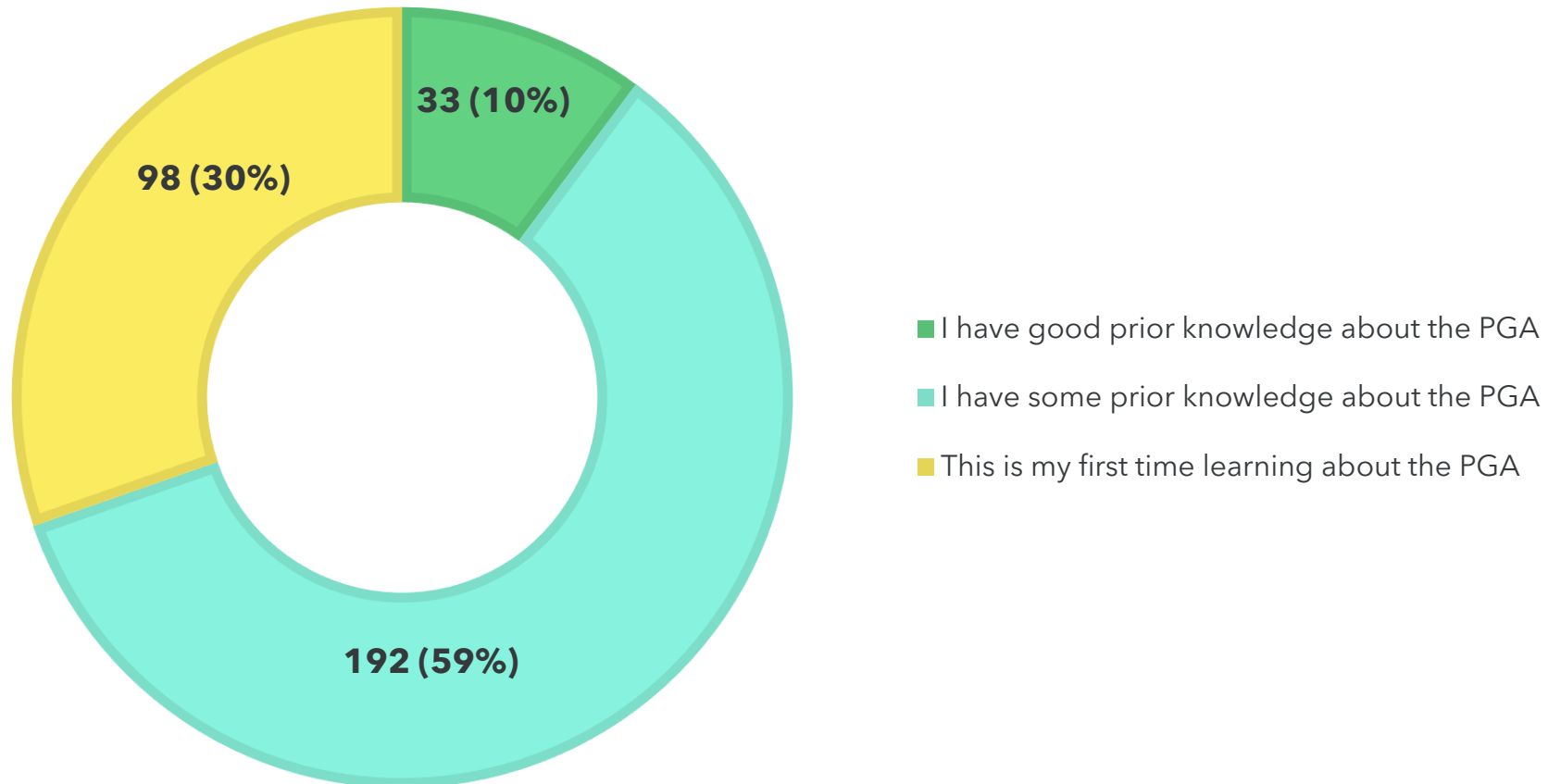
- More information is required to better understand the pros and cons of alternative regulatory approaches.
- Practitioners who practice planning but do not have a formal planning education and accreditation negatively affects the credibility of the profession, may harm the public interest, and diminishes the achievements of Registered Professional Planners.

[See slides 48-53 for detailed ‘Neutral’ and ‘Unsure’ comments submitted by respondents](#)

DETAILED FINDINGS

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PGA

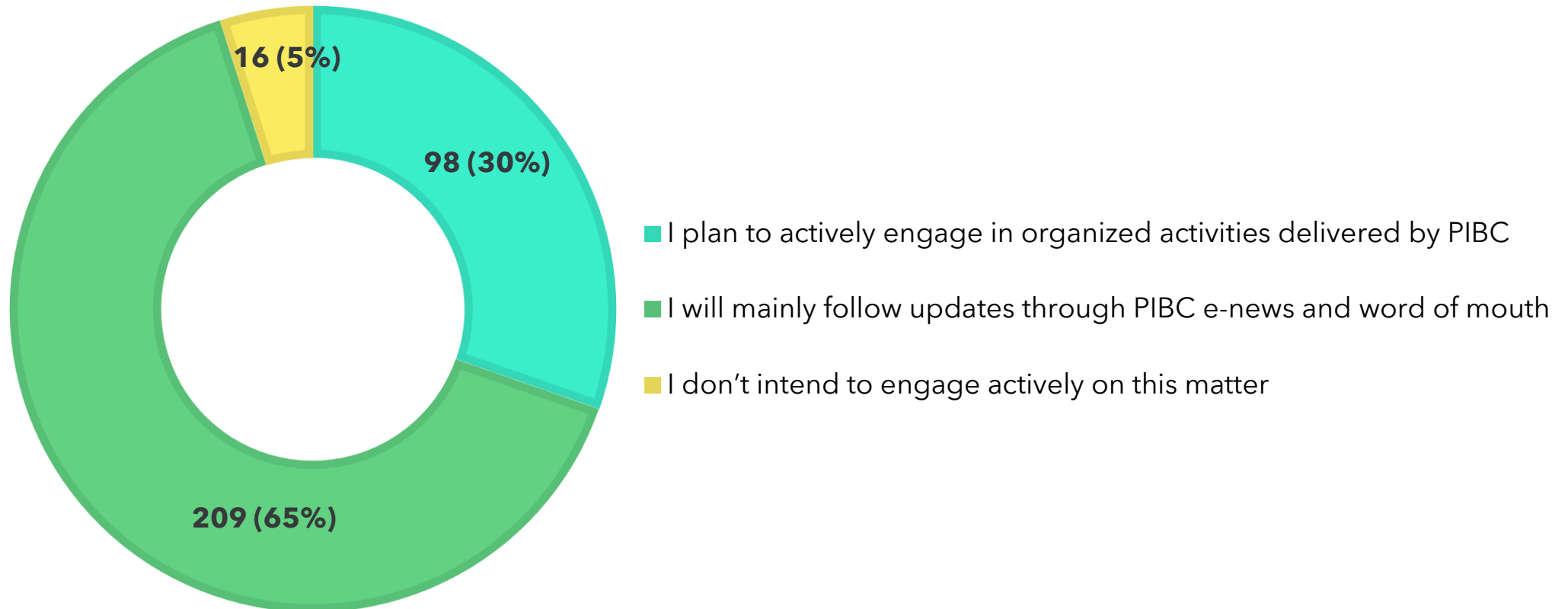
How would you describe your knowledge about the Professional Governance Act prior to taking this survey?



DETAILED FINDINGS

EXPECTED LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT

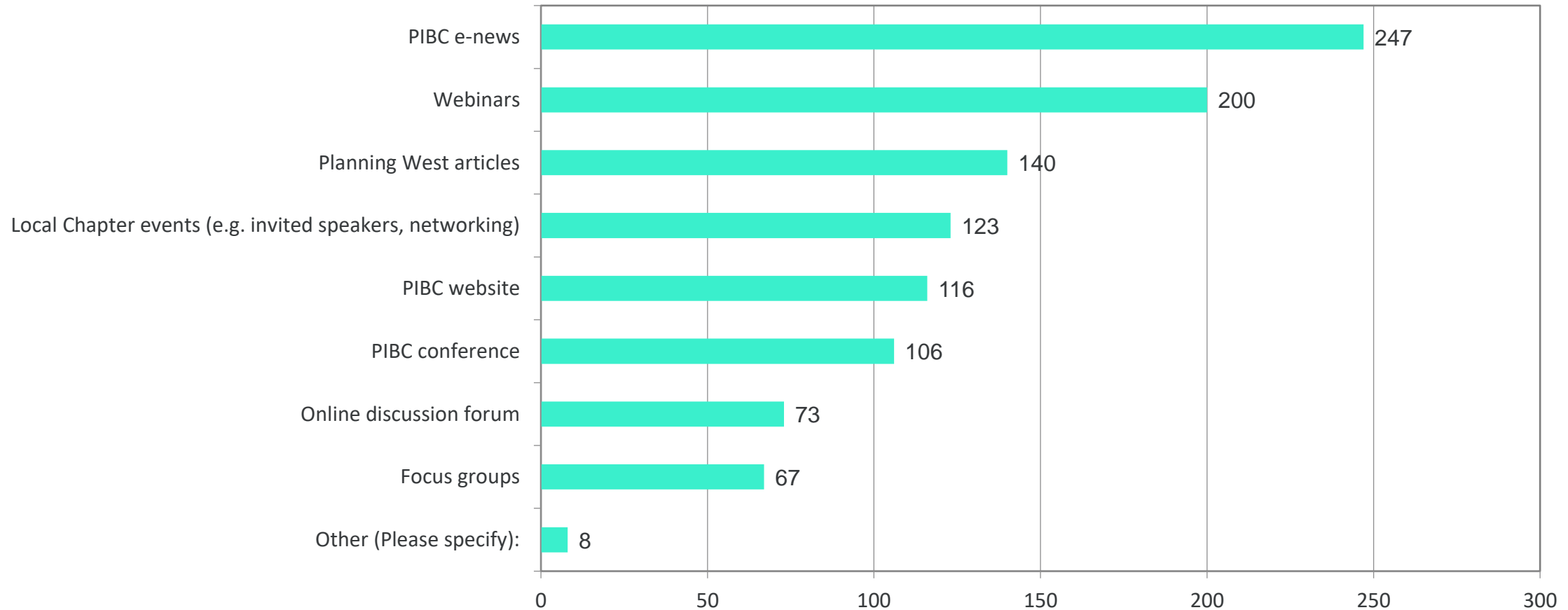
PIBC will be undertaking research and engagement about professional governance, and the opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. What is your expected level of engagement on this matter?



DETAILED FINDINGS

PREFERRED WAYS OF ENGAGEMENT

What is your preferred way of engaging with the Institute's work related to professional governance?



DETAILED FINDINGS PREFERRED WAYS OF ENGAGEMENT

What is your preferred way of engaging with the Institute's work related to professional governance?

Other suggestions:

- In-person workshop/event not connected to the annual conference
- Group interviews
- PIBC surveys

DETAILED FINDINGS

ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM

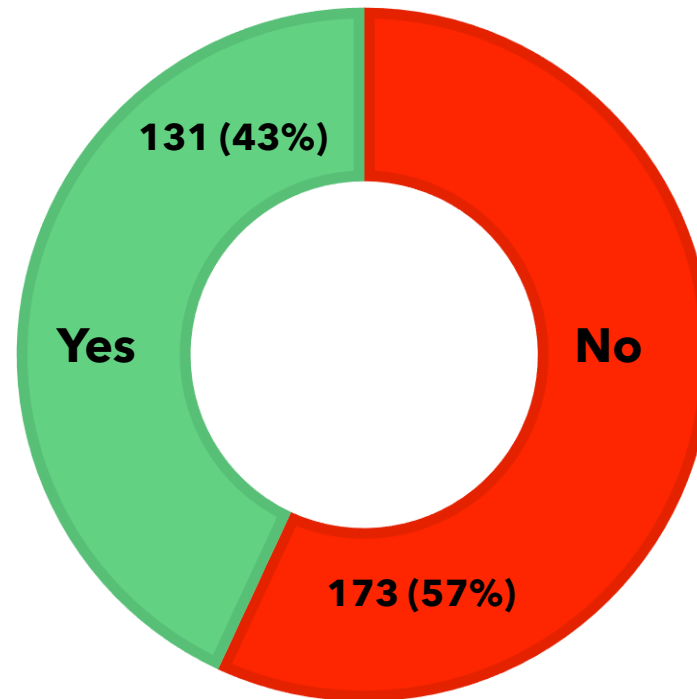
PIBC may establish an online discussion forum to allow members to freely exchange ideas and perspectives about professional governance and implications for the planning profession. Would you sign up and participate?



DETAILED FINDINGS

FOCUS GROUPS

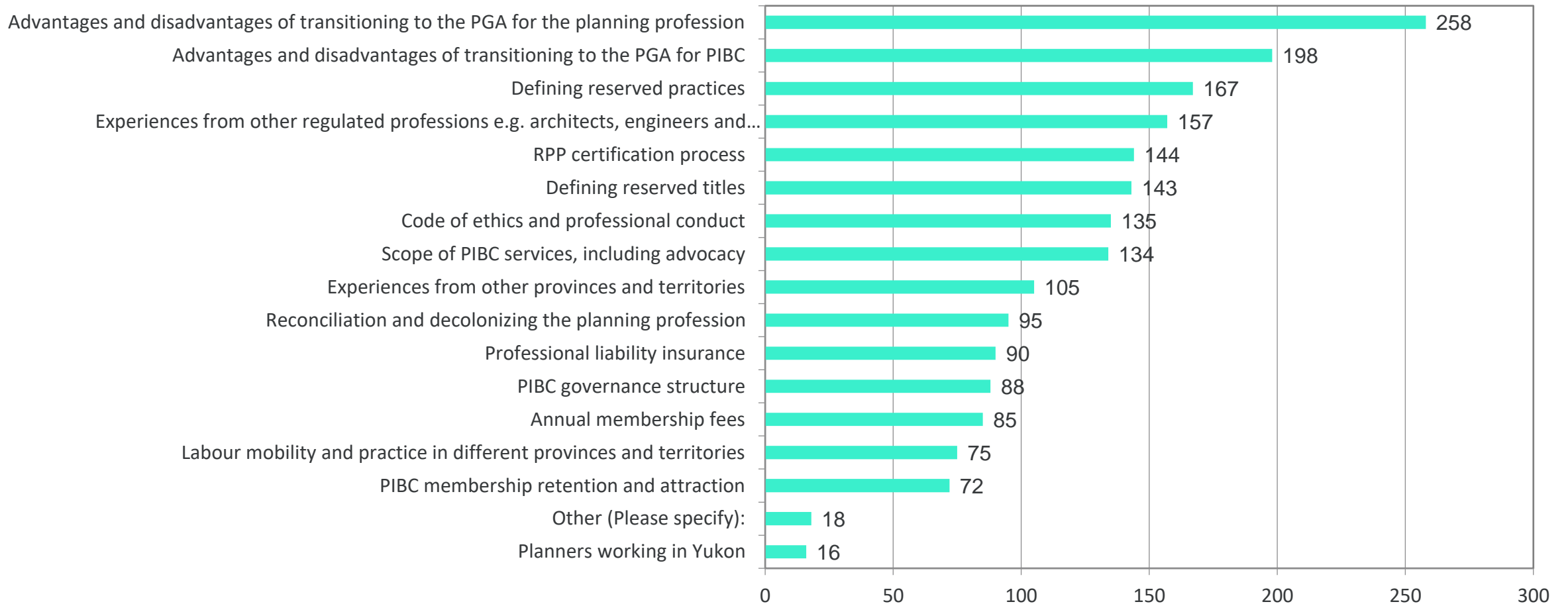
PIBC may conduct focus group sessions to engage members and non-members about professional governance. Would you be interested in participating in a focus group session?



DETAILED FINDINGS

TOPICS OF INTEREST

What aspects of professional governance and the Professional Governance Act as they pertain to PIBC and the planning profession would you like to learn about and/or engage regarding?



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

1	I think it's definitely a worthwhile investigation. One of my personal / "professional" pet peeves is when a non-registered planner, often working as a private consultant, is permitted to speak with the same level of professional authority on planning matters.
2	I fail to see what is wrong with the current arrangements. Looks like DEI activists want to be the Red Guards of the planning profession.
3	When are PIBC committees going to be engaged?
4	I'm pleased that PIBC is examining professional governance
5	It is not needed. It is intended for architectural and engineering design professionals to ensure public health and safety. Planning is not that kind of profession. it is just theory and statistics. Anyone can call themselves a planner. Architects and engineers are design professionals who must work under a registered professional for a number of years, then take a series of intense expertise specific examinations prior to becoming registered professionals. They need to be regulated by the government to ensure adequate competency within their realm of expertise. Who thought this should apply to the Planning Profession? To what end?
6	Its great to be consulted and informed but we also need to move forward (don't make the process too long with endless consultation).
7	My interest in attending a focus group is there, but my availability is quite limited at the moment so it would depend on timing and how long the workshop is.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

8	The beauty of planning is that it is a trans-disciplinary practice and that people from many backgrounds can practice in the profession and offer value to the communities they are working in. I also appreciate that there is no real definition of what a planner does. I see the PGA as putting unnecessary limits on what planners do. I also do not trust the PIBC to engage in this process effectively and to represent the broad range of types of planners.
9	Not at this time, thanks.
10	I am not aware of current issues with our governance system and wonder, "if it's not broken, don't fix it." There are many important current planning issues and initiatives where efforts might be most productively focussed.
11	Thank you for continuing to explore this important topic, I hope that we can come to a conclusion and decision point in 2025.
12	I am not very familiar and I feel like I need some more information.
13	We need to take this very seriously and build a detailed set of practice standards, training programs to support them, a regulatory entity in/outside of PIBC (which is an advocacy org) like most all other professions have, and build the profession into the level of competency, effectiveness, and respect that our communities need us to be. It is entirely unethical for our profession to continue exercising the significant powers that we have without much more detailed practice standards and the institutional reflection, regular review and updates, etc... that other professions have.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

14	I think the RPP certification process needs to be revisited regardless of intentions around the PGA. I expect this change would make it harder to achieve membership and there are already significant barrier for those with high levels of planning expertise if they did not take specific post-secondary programs. I've only met one person who has completed the PLAR process, and many who have given up despite having senior planning roles at the federal or provincial level. When deciding where to go to school, every professional planner I asked for advice told me to take a technical applied planning program instead of an accredited master's program, noting it would make achieving the designation very challenging but would give me more useful skills and expertise for working in planning. I believe they were correct and I made the right choice, but it seems like a problem the programs giving access to professional status are considered to not prepare students as well for the actual profession
15	Initially, I am opposed to planners falling under the professional governance act due to the broad scope of the field and the profession being generally less technical than other regulated professions. Becoming a regulated profession introduces unnecessary bureaucracy and regulatory overreach, stifling creativity and innovation in the field of planning. Ethics in the profession are already handled appropriately.
16	Getting Liability insurance is not difficult and not very expensive for planners - I have had it for several years. I know that there are some that have said that it will bankrupt planners to have to get insurance - it will not. It is more dangerous not to have it. And as our society becomes more litigious, insurance will be more important.
17	There needs to be a recognition of the broad scope of practice for planning professionals. This will not be a one size fits all process or framework.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

18	<p>The recent article in the magazine was useful, thank you. Do we need to navel gaze for ages on this move to enhance legitimization of the profession? As it is, so many people like to think they're engineers and that's a regulated body. Even more think they are planners. The fewer people that think they are planners, perhaps the stronger the profession will be.</p>
19	<p>I believe this will be a difficult but necessary task. While I fear that codifying current practices as reserved practices will continue to perpetuate the current mode of Planning (that has plenty of issues), I believe that it provides a foundation for reflecting on practice to improve it.</p>
20	<p>Not recognizing the need for various reserve titles and formal communities of practice illustrates the Board and Executive are uniformed on this issue and have no strategy to support the employment of planners. Unfortunately there are many people using the title "planner" who aren't qualified.</p> <p>It also illustrates that the CIP needs to provide greater leadership on this issue since its doing nothing around training and national standards and doesn't appear to care about it.</p> <p>The PSB needs to hold CIP and provincial associations responsible for a designation with limited value for money. The PIBC has embarrassed itself and its membership on this issue.</p>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

21	<p>I think there are many aspects of this job that should not require RPP designation. Drafting Policy is built on engagement and writing skills, both of which can be acquired by non-planners. Being an approving officer is often done at the Director level who may have a background in engineering, economic development, building or other professions. And Planning techs are capable of performing the same functions as an RPP in most cases. Locking this profession behind degrees and titles is not the correct approach if we want to invigorate housing development and ensure small municipalities have access to a workforce within their means.</p>
22	<p>This discussion is long overdue, although I can see the benefits of waiting to see how the PGA unrolled . When you are looking at the experiences of other regulated professionals agrologists and biologists are more relevant than engineers and geoscientists because bios and ags did not already have reserved practice. PIBC has long been an advocate for members and not for the public, and the transition to PGA would be difficult for PIBC. This has been a concern of mine for years so I am glad to see it listed as a topic. Labour mobility shouldn't be an issue as most of the other professions under the PGA are across Canada. The experiences of other professions under the PGA are more relevant than other provinces experiences.</p>
23	<p>I have already gone through this process with the AIBC, where I am also registered.</p>
24	<p>Ultimately, which way would improve the planning profession from the perspective of the public interest?</p>
25	<p>I think this is an appropriate time for planners to reflect on how they are governed</p>
26	<p>would like focus in planning education which i find limited and dominated by a few old guard individuals in BC and not innovative or reflective of the community and existential challenges the profession needs to reckon with. As well as attraction and retention of people of colour to the field is very marginal and needs to be addressed</p>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

27	If a new system is considered, it should be able to deliver like services, supports, standards, educational opportunities, insurance coverage / not increase costs exorbitantly / consider the existing value of the autonomy of our independent governance structure as well as any provincially based differentials
28	There appear to be major labour shortages in planning, which I have heard as an argument for not seeking protected titles but I would argue that we may be able to attract and retain more people if they know their profession has these protections. I have serious concerns about indigenous planning and planners not being fully and properly considered. I think any role for professional governance needs to have special considerations for those with the background or expertise to do indigenous community planning who may not meet all of the other requirements. I see this often occurs in the K-12 system with language instructors who speak a language but do not have a teaching degree. I am not familiar with the process though.
29	I think Nova Scotia has LPPAN, so it would be good to learn from them.
30	I am uneasy with professions that are self-regulated and question whether this is in the public interest. I don't really feel comfortable with the idea that someone needs to join a guild in order to practice this profession -- planning is so broad and encompasses so many competencies. What public sector planners think are core competencies can be very different from planning in the for-profit or non-profit sector, and since the profession tends to be dominated by civil servants I question whether my perspective will be valued.
31	I have been frustrated with some of the questions in this survey. For example, I don't know yet how actively I will engage on this issue. It will depend on which opportunities become available, and how they are framed. I didn't have the opportunity to provide an answer such as "it depends."

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

32	I think more discussions in a public setting and also education/outreach is required to help educate the public on planner's roles and responsibilities.
33	Again I'm 50/50 about it. I see some benefit to potentially having a higher level of regulation, however I also see the current challenges we face with limited professionals becoming RPPs.
34	The main thing that has held me back from starting the RPP process is that it is so focused on urban planning. As a conservation planner, I mostly work on regional level planning initiatives (for example, the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan in Yukon). I think that the code of ethics applies, but would love to see the planning profession expand its scope to include broader planning initiatives.
35	no
36	I am against being regulated by the Province. We will just be subject to the political leanings of which ever party is in power. What is happening with the counseling profession is terrifying. Also, as an aside, I think it's inappropriate that you are asking for names and emails of members wishing to participate in focus groups or to enter the draw in this survey. I want to remain anonymous but also want to to participate.
37	Not at this time.
38	I support moving to a narrowly defined reserved practice, but have concerns that it will exacerbate issues we're already experiencing with attracting qualified planners to work smaller cities.
39	Just understanding the changes under the new legislation, our professional requirements from it, and the "shoulds" of it as well

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

40	I am curious about pros and cons, perhaps a future engagement can list this
41	PIBC is currently in violation of the societies act, and has been for years, by not making agendas and minutes of the board available to members.
42	This survey is not very well written. Several confusing questions.
43	This is an important question that deserves a fulsome discussion and resolution.
44	I am also a landscape architect and have been very involved in PGA with that group.
45	I'm glad that PIBC is investigating the pros and cons of regulation
46	Importance to consider regulatory issues with planners that hold both RPP, and P.Ag. registration.
47	I don't support creating an environment where only RPPs practice "planning". I don't believe such restrictions to be in the public interest. It is a difficult-to-justify barrier to entering the industry that serves the interests of planners who currently work and the status quo in planning.
48	The excellent article in Planning West raised many important questions. I will need to be able to have a better understanding of the issues/options/solutions before I can make a judgement.
49	Yes, I am really concerned about the dictation from the Province regarding advocacy => stifling a working democracy + message management (1984) + not putting the membership first instead it will be the Province dictating and doing damage control at all times => PIBC will be rendered less purposeful ... not that PIBC has ever really taken a stand on anything....

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

50	<p>Presently, I think I am hesitant as to PIBC applying for recognition by the PGA, but I hope that I can form a clearer opinion through further engagement.</p> <p>Part of my hesitation is shaped by my awareness of how varied the certifications and credentials are amongst my colleagues. For example, I have colleagues who are practicing planners in the public, private, and non-profit sectors with and without RPP certification, and with and without planning degrees...this makes me question whether the right to practice is necessary, given such variation within the planning field.</p> <p>I recognize that it can be cost prohibitive for some to obtain an RPP, and wonder what whether further barriers (financial and other) would exist if the PIBC and/or planning profession transitioned to the PGA.</p>
51	I was involved with AIBC on this matter.
52	This has been talked about for many years. It will be a worthwhile exercise.
53	I see advantages and disadvantages. My main concern of transitioning under the PGA is that it can already be difficult to attract and retain planners across BC, particularly in rural areas. If reserved practice is defined too broadly, it could make it harder to find qualified planners to complete necessary work.
54	<p>Professional Governance Structure needs to be fair, inclusive and follow best industry practices</p> <p>Perhaps some existing case studies would be helpful to understand pros and cons</p>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (55)

55 This really feels like the answer to a question that no one asked.

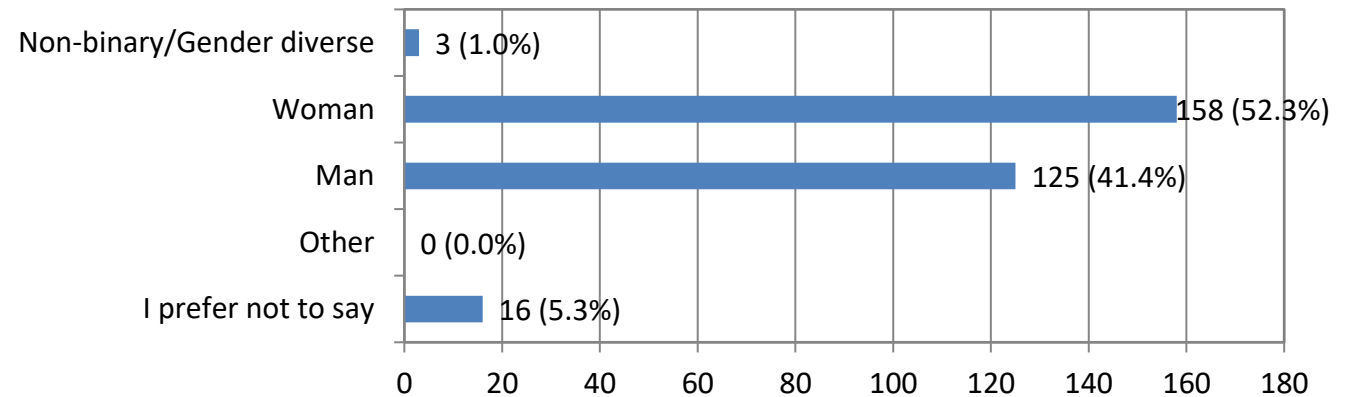
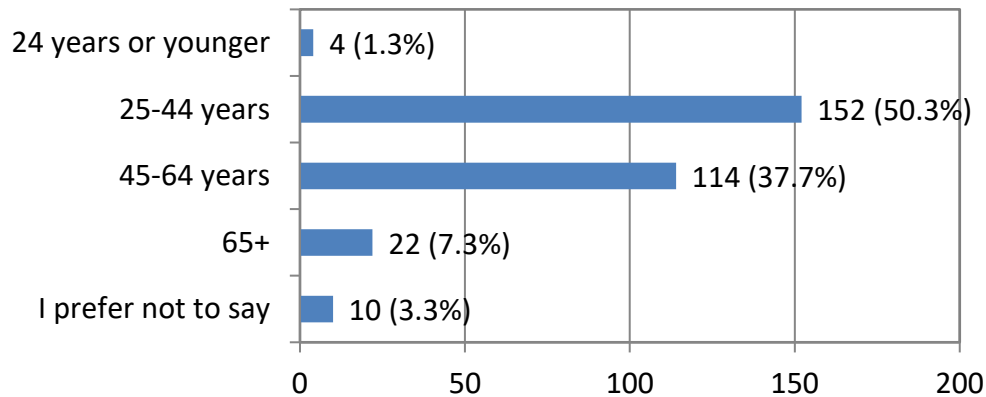
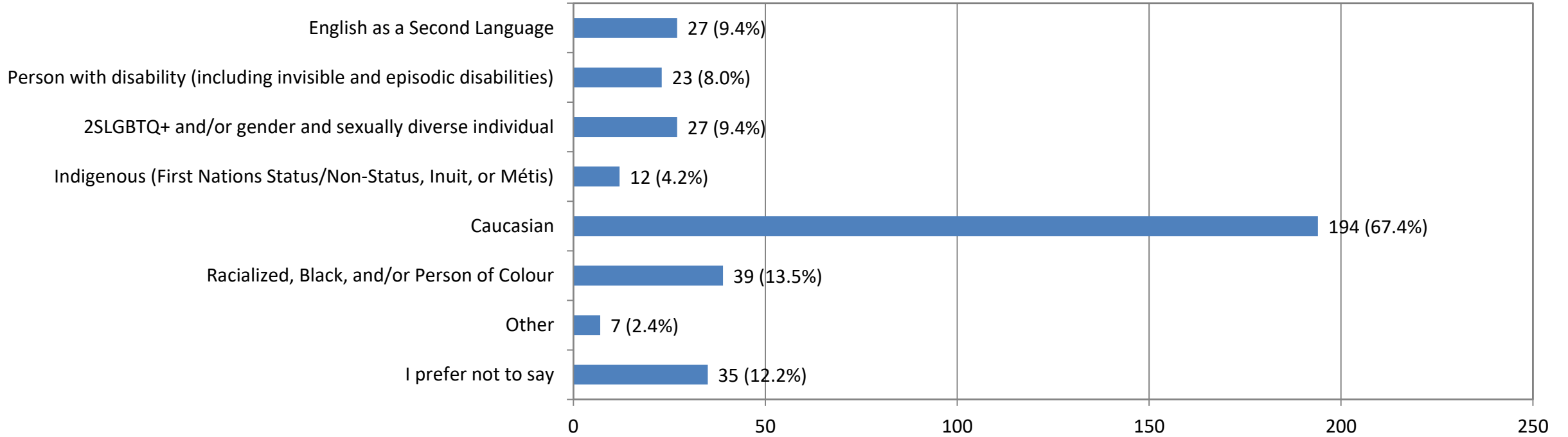
In an era of massive housing shortages where planners are increasingly being scapegoated and blamed, often rightly, for delivering piss poor service, the association seems to be focusing on internal governance matters rather than delivering tools and training to front line staff trying to alleviate housing issues.

This is why guys like Skippy Poilievre are looking to gut our profession - and if this is what we focus on, we probably deserve to be gutted.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND IDENTITY

- **Rationale:** Provides some information about demographic and identity amongst a subset of the membership; can potentially allow for some cross-tabulation analysis
- **Limitation:** Survey data cannot be presumed to be representative of the entire membership
- **Future Considerations:** (outside current scope)
 - Undertake membership census of demographic, identity, and other relevant information
 - Use membership census information to inform PIBC's member services and Board Strategic Plan; and, explore opportunities to expand the diversity of Board and committees

DEMOGRAPHICS AND IDENTITY



SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE



Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project - Engagement Survey #1

Note: All questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required to be completed before answers can be submitted. If you cannot submit your answers, please verify whether an answer is missing or incomplete. Errors, if any, will show up in red text under the question after pressing 'Submit'.

* 1. What sector do you work in?

Select all that apply.

- Private for-profit
- Private non-profit
- First Nation
- Local government
- Islands Trust
- Provincial government
- Federal government
- Other public sector organization (e.g. BC Housing, TransLink, etc.)
- Student
- Volunteer/Not currently working
- Retired
- Other (Please specify):

* 2. In which geographic area does your work take place?

Select all that apply.

- Central North (including north coast and northeast BC)
- Okanagan Interior
- Kootenay Rocky Mountain
- Fraser Valley
- South Coast
- Sunshine Coast
- Vancouver Island
- Gulf Islands
- Yukon
- Outside BC and Yukon
- Outside Canada

* 3. Please identify your current PIBC membership status

- Certified RPP
- Candidate
- Pre-Candidate
- Retired
- Student/Other
- N/A (Not a member)

↳ Sub-Question

* 3.1 How many years have you been a member of PIBC?

- Less than 5 years
- Between 5 and 9 years
- Between 10 and 19 years
- 20 or more years

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

• 4. How satisfied are you with how the planning profession is regulated today in British Columbia?

Very satisfied

Satisfied

Neutral

Dissatisfied

Very dissatisfied

Unsure

↳ Sub-Question

4.1 Please feel free to elaborate on your response to the previous question.

• 5. How would you describe your knowledge about the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)* prior to taking this survey?

This is my first time learning about the PGA

I have some prior knowledge about the PGA

I have good prior knowledge about the PGA

• 6. PIBC will be undertaking research and engagement about professional governance, and the opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. What is your expected level of engagement on this matter?

I don't intend to engage actively on this matter

I will mainly follow updates through PIBC e-news and word of mouth

I plan to actively engage in organized activities delivered by PIBC

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

• 7. PIBC may establish an online discussion forum to allow members to freely exchange ideas and perspectives about professional governance and implications for the planning profession. Would you sign up and participate?

Yes, I will sign up and actively engage in discussion with my peers

Yes, I will sign up and mainly read what my peers have to say

No

Don't know

• 8. PIBC may conduct focus group sessions to engage members and non-members about professional governance. Would you be interested in participating in a focus group session?

Yes

No

↳ Sub-Question

• 8.1 Full Name:

↳ Sub-Question

• 8.2 E-mail address:

• 9. What is your preferred way of engaging with the Institute's work related to professional governance?
Select all that apply.

PIBC e-news

PIBC website

Webinars

Local Chapter events (e.g. invited speakers, networking)

PIBC conference

Planning West articles

Online discussion forum

Focus groups

Other (Please specify):

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

* 10. What aspects of professional governance and the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)* as they pertain to PIBC and the planning profession would you like to learn about and/or engage regarding?

Select all that apply.

Advantages and disadvantages of transitioning to the PGA for the planning profession

Advantages and disadvantages of transitioning to the PGA for PIBC

Defining reserved practices

Defining reserved titles

Code of ethics and professional conduct

Scope of PIBC services, including advocacy

PIBC governance structure

Annual membership fees

PIBC membership retention and attraction

Reconciliation and decolonizing the planning profession

RPP certification process

Labour mobility and practice in different provinces and territories

Planners working in Yukon

Professional liability insurance

Experiences from other regulated professions e.g. architects, engineers and geoscientists

Experiences from other provinces and territories

Other (Please specify):

11. Do you have any additional comments about professional governance that you would like to share at this time?

* 12. Do you wish to be entered into a random draw for one of four complimentary registrations to the 2025 PIBC Annual Conference in Vancouver?

Yes

No

↳ Sub-Question

* 12.1 Full Name:

↳ Sub-Question

* 12.2 E-mail address:

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

13. Age

- 24 years or younger
- 25-44 years
- 45-64 years
- 65+
- I prefer not to say

14. Gender Identity

- Non-binary/Gender diverse
- Woman
- Man
- Other
- I prefer not to say

15. Identity and appreciation

Select all that apply.

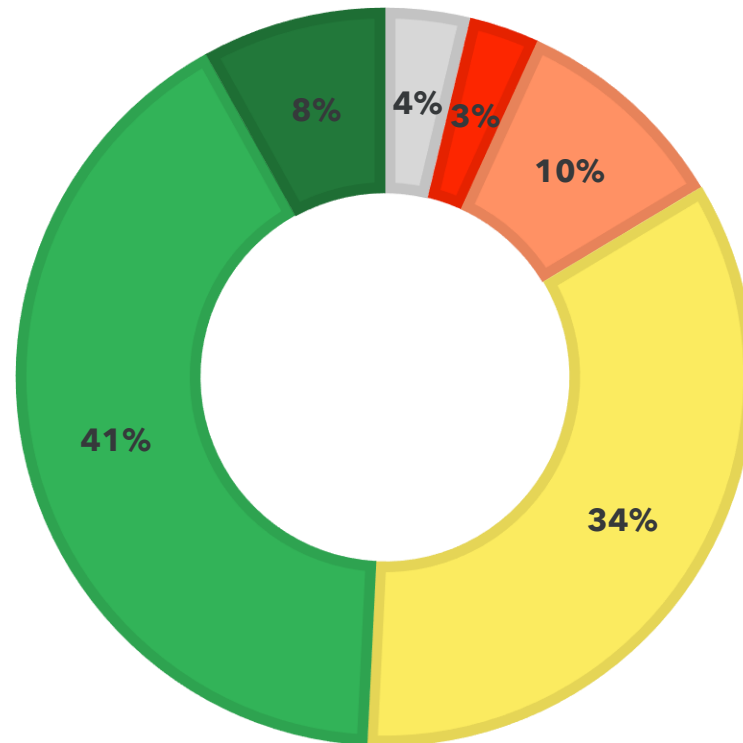
- English as a Second Language
- Person with disability (including invisible and episodic disabilities)
- 2SLGBTQ+ and/or gender and sexually diverse individual
- Indigenous (First Nations Status/Non-Status, Inuit, or Métis)
- Caucasian
- Racialized, Black, and/or Person of Colour
- Other
- I prefer not to say

DETAILED COMMENTS

DEGREE OF SATISFACTION

How satisfied are you with how the planning profession is regulated today in British Columbia?

■ Unsure ■ Very dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied ■ Neutral ■ Satisfied ■ Very satisfied



‘VERY SATISFIED’ OR ‘SATISFIED’ (37 COMMENTS)

1	There is sufficient general respect for PIBC membership and RPP status to motivate planners to join and participate, but there is also room for those with diverse backgrounds to participate in the field, and a route for them to ultimately obtain professional status. I wouldn't want to see that dynamic lost.
2	I am still determining how satisfied I am with the current approach and how it could be approved.
3	I have colleagues in my department (both that I report to, and who report to me) that have chosen not to become members and receive the benefits of membership, but are still able to participate in conferences and other industry activities. I don't feel they would need to become an RPP for them to skillfully and responsibly practice planning in a local government setting. I also think that planning encompasses a much more diverse range of practice than, for example, architecture or another of the PGA regulated bodies, and having a reserved practice does not really make sense in my opinion.
4	I don't have any particular issues with how it is regulated/not regulated today, but sometimes I do wonder what the "point" of being an RPP is when I am paying the fee, when many other practicing non-RPP planners don't seem to feel like they're missing out. As someone who is in early career stages though, I don't regret pursuing the designation due to the added credibility it brings (as I'm technically working in a local government Engineering Dept right now).
5	I would be interested in having support to planners through clear directions to process applications which deals with like a few policies contradicting local bylaws.
6	The value of certifying our members is unquestioned, but it is unfortunate that currently we cannot protect our certifications or our areas of responsibility. Too often do I see people without planning education or credentials undertake "planning" work and be called "planners" without any recourse.

‘VERY SATISFIED’ OR ‘SATISFIED’ (37 COMMENTS)

7	I dont have any personal issues or concerns with the current planning profession regulation in BC.
8	I feel one of planning's strengths is that it brings together people from a variety of backgrounds. So while I would like to see more knowledge/skill/etc. requirements for planners, I also think that would hinder who would apply and try to undertake planning work. So I generally feel as a profession we're at a good balance between those two.
9	Uncertain about the competence of the British Columbia Provincial Government.
10	We absolutely should not be regulated any further given the variety of work we are called on to do.
11	My understanding is that planners often choose their profession based on a want to help others and make the place they work and live in better for everyone. I feel that with self regulation in the province, planning will continue to improve.
12	Once you're an RPP, the regulation of the planning profession in BC is fine. However, the candidacy process is antiquated and out-dated, with materials that are not representative of the current political climate, planning theories and work, or modern issues. For candidates who have graduated from an accredited degree, there is not added benefit to the Ethics & Professionalism course as the ideas (e.g., ethical theories, public interest, etc.) have been discussed in their degrees. They would be better served by modern ideas that are relevant to the work they are preforming. The material is also very geared towards land-use planners (e.g., community, development) which is not representative of how planning has grown into other fields including transportation, parks, climate, economics, and social studies.

‘VERY SATISFIED’ OR ‘SATISFIED’ (37 COMMENTS)

13	There is a good sense of understanding and respect for professional planners, probably more so in the public sector. However there is no reference to professional planners in any legislation or planning processes which tends to diminish the relevance of RPP.
14	I don't believe it is necessary to pursue regulation under the PGA.
15	The institute and its members are best suited to regulate the planning profession in BC and discipline its members
16	It would be nice to be considered as professional / taken as seriously as the engineering community is.
17	I feel there are some fundamental shifts around the role of a planner is development approvals. There is an increasing emphasis of servicing and infrastructure and less of traditional planning process and public involvement.
18	The current structure allows for diversity of professional and educational backgrounds to participate in the field and qualify as a RPP.
19	I am originally from Saskatchewan. Working as a planner in BC has been a very good experience. I find that there are better job prospects as there is generally more development happening in this province, even without having certain work only an RPP can conduct.
20	Required CPLs, standardized membership requirements with mentoring and sponsorship, ethics practice, insurance coverage, etc.
21	I found that many new planners know the importance of becoming certified. However, the public does not know the distinction between an RPP and an uncertified planner.

‘VERY SATISFIED’ OR ‘SATISFIED’ (37 COMMENTS)

22	I often feel that it has a stronger focus on public sector planners, need to bring the public, private and consulting planners together.
23	support planners with professional development and advocacy
24	See no particular issues.
25	I think one of the benefits of planning as a profession is bringing together people of different backgrounds. To regulate it too strictly as a right to practice might limit the addition of people with different backgrounds. I do think planning programs need a bit more of a centralized purpose/courses/curriculum the way other professional degrees do though.
26	Do to the broad nature of the planning profession, it seems unnecessary to have any stricter regulation leading to limiting the scope of our work. Current regulations are fine. In many ways following the lead of other professional associations makes more sense, like the American Water Works Association, where membership is open to people in a wide range of positions with no general exams required. Only specific positions require examinations - this could be the case for Approving Officers.
27	It is not regulated, so this question makes no sense.
28	I have not had any problems dealing with PIBC related to membership issues and have been satisfied with the outcome of the Professional Conduct Review Committee for member conduct issues I have been part of or aware of.
29	Generally, I think the current approach balances upholding professional responsibility while not being too restrictive.
30	The updating of certification requirement in 2012 have strengthened the profession.

‘VERY SATISFIED’ OR ‘SATISFIED’ (37 COMMENTS)

31	I feel that planners working for developers or private landowners often do not seem to be working in the public interest but rather in the interest of their clients, regardless of the planning policy implications
32	Avenues exist for affected parties to challenge violations of professional standards but the process is not too formal or onerous on any of the parties.
33	Would be great to require planners for some Planning projects, such as Zoning Bylaws and Official Community Plans.
34	I believe there is a sufficient level of government oversight on the planning profession as-is. Furthermore, there is already a shortage of Planners in this Province, so the concept of further regulation pushing unregistered planners out of the industry is concerning.
35	I appreciate the Continuous Professional Learning credit requirements. I have lots of feedback on the certification process (ex. initial application to become a candidate, ethics exam, professional exam content as well as lack of transparency on scoring/ evaluation, etc.)
36	Planning profession is respected and has the ability to bring about a change, use existing challenges as opportunities and being engaged through education and mentoring. PIBC and CIP Conferences are my favourite and an opportunity to present, to share learnings is awesome!
37	Planning is such a diverse field that regulating it through a government agency could prove challenging.

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

1	Planners need to be recognized legally as a professional in the same way architects and engineers are recognized and this includes requiring sub disciplines. IE a policy planner is not the same as site planner the same way a mechanical engineer is not a traffic engineer.
2	We are still not a fully regulated profession - i.e. non-planners are allowed to do a planner's job. We need to be taken more seriously like architects.
3	Other than ethics there are no formal regulations for professional planners outside of PIBC / CIP. There is a large degree of variability across the profession making regulation tricky. However, with the on-set of AI I feel this is an area our profession should explore further.
4	There is very little oversight or accountability in the profession. Public sector planners are not restricted to the true public interest and often promote their own values and judgements over the Bylaws that they are tasked to administer.
5	Not a fan of the PSB process because it is arms length away from the profession
6	All other professions have detailed terms of practice for what they do (architects, engineers, medical, biology, archaeology, accountants, lawyers, etc...) and we do not have a single practice guideline. And yet, much of what we do is formulated by individual jurisdictions formally or informally, so it can be structured. As a result, it's a continual wild-west of practice, with no ability to hold anyone accountable for bad planning practice.
7	Development planning is a specific subfield in the planning world that is not adequately recognized. Knowledge of statutes, engineering, and servicing as well as best practices for sustainable land use is needed to enable efficient development approvals.
8	I believe there should be a right to practice and required minimum training and ethical standards.

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

9	<p>Not sure if it is even regulated. It would appear that there is also no consequences for bad Planning either. At this point, we should just accept that either Planning has failed and produced the housing crisis, or that the housing crisis is a planned consequence of Planning practice.</p> <p>To me, regulating the practice (especially under the PIBC code of conduct and code of ethics) means looking into accountability measures for those who either engaged in Planning without being competent in their area, or straight up did not have the integrity to serve a public that was more than land owners and Capital.</p> <p>Its pathetic that we let lots sit vacant, watch as people become homeless, and still think about the aesthetics of a place. And when confronted with this reality, Planners retreat and claim that ultimately elected officials have the final say. Where is the competency in Planners unable to get elected officials to make good decisions?</p>
10	<p>A degree doesn't make a person a planner. Experience and ongoing learning does.</p> <p>I have a 2 year diploma in planning and 14 years applied practical experience as well as ongoing education. I am well versed in planning and it is my passion, yet I am unable to obtain RPP or MCIP status because I do not have a relevant degree, nor do I live anywhere that I am able to obtain one. Online options are virtual, not self directed, meaning held at the same time I am working, so I have not been able to pursue the degree option.</p> <p>There should be an examination avenue for persons that do not have the option, for whatever reasons, to obtain a degree. It's eliminating some serious talent in the field.</p>

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

11	<p>1. The RPP designation is so poorly marketed, its pigeon holed planners, offering limited value for money with little credibility, unless you want to work for a municipal government.</p> <p>2. There is an incredible bias in the PIBC against anyone who doesn't work for local government and on local planning issues. If the PIBC is only for local government planners, then state that instead of misleading the public.</p> <p>3. The PIBC/Board has done a terrible job of informing its members on this issue for years.</p> <p>4. Planners are out of touch with professional governance and its long term implications.</p> <p>5. The PIBC does not want to recognize the skills of its membership beyond working for government. 6. This idea of blending planning communities of practice for training purposes into one perceived skillset of planners has been a disaster and has allowed other professionals to usurp planning jobs.</p> <p>7. Right-to-title/practice go hand in hand and shouldn't be separated to appease municipal planners.</p>
12	<p>Planners provide recommendations that impact how cities are designed, future land use is managed, and how communities are benefited or unfortunately displaced. I think there should be requirements similar to the P.Eng process in order to become a registered planner..</p>
13	<p>Planners are not regulated professionals under and act so it isn't really regulated at all when compared to biologists, agrologists, engineers, foresters, architects etc</p>
14	<p>I have American accreditation and I find PIBC to be challenging and i have little support from my organization for credentialing</p>

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

15	PIBC/CIP require education, pd, membership fees, courses, exams, mentorship, sponsorship, and all the responsibility of being a competent planner, as it should. But I keep working with "planners" who haven't are not PIBC/CIP members and don't do this. They call themselves planners and usually receive the same wages without the same standards and may openly criticize the work of PIBC members, enter into employment contracts that create personal or professional conflict, don't complete rigorous research, etc. I am proud of being a PIBC member and proudly follow the requirements but when anyone can call themselves a planner, I think it creates confusion and a lack of respect for the profession. I worked with a "planner" who told me that they intentionally didn't seek out PIBC membership because the "constraints" they would face in their work and they can get the pay and title without it. At the same time, any changes to regulations need to be inclusive of Indigenous planning needs.
16	Brand awareness is required. RPP should be recognized like a aPEng.
17	I don't find much value in PIBC or CIP. I believe it is a politically captured organization that does not promote viewpoint diversity. I worry that the planning profession does more harm than good and often wonder if joining is worth it. I value learning but I know I can learn more about my profession without pibc or cip. In fact, I see many RPP and even fellows of the organization that seem to have forgotten their ethical obligations. It's disheartening. I don't know that more regulation is the answer either.
18	The reserved title RPP has little meaning without reserved practice.
19	Anyone can be hired as a planner, or call themselves a planner without certification. The profession has been diluted with untrained and uneducated "planners" which reduces the credibility of the profession and those who have been appropriately educated and have completed the certification process to become an RPP.

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

20	<p>It feels as though the RPP designation does not hold much weight. I would argue that this is because there is not a huge incentive to get your RPP (i.e., it is often not a requirement, at least in the region I work in).</p> <p>Additionally, it is not clear to me that RPPs are actually being held accountable for their actions. While I recognize that there is an avenue to submit complaints regarding the ethics/professionalism of RPPs, the planning world is incredibly small, particularly if you are located in more rural areas and intend to stay in those areas. There are certainly concerns about retaliation if one were to complain, and I would say that discourages individuals from making complaints.</p> <p>I believe there needs to be more regulation of the profession and a much stronger disciplinary system which protects complainants.</p>
21	<p>Members should be required to have a Masters degree - I do not support simply accredited undergraduate program graduates being granted equal opportunity to those with advanced degrees. This does not happen in most other certified professions so why are we watering down the planning profession?</p>
22	<p>Somewhat dissatisfied since there are land-use “planners” in my region who are NOT registered professional planners. Other professional associations like the AIBC have the legal right to stop anyone from using the term architect if they are not a registered member.</p>
23	<p>With respect to my field of practice in rural, regional and indigenous planning, I do not consider there to be sufficient attention or balance regarding professional practice standards and development given the confusing overlap with other registered bodies involved in this sector.</p>

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

24	I've always felt that the profession has been a poor cousin to those that have specific recognition in their own Acts or under the PGA. Having recognition in an Act would be a major step forward towards full legitimacy as a profession.
25	the lack of legislation continues to impact the profession - in reality, anyone can call themselves a planner and do whatever work they can book
26	Under the current state of planning/planners, anyone can be a "planner". We are now seeing many non-planning individuals unaffiliated with PIBC being hired for key positions in local governments without any planning education or background. We are seeing this across BC.
27	Too many people claim to be planners who are not, or who claim to act in the 'public interest' without actual obligations.
28	Dissatisfied that there are lots of practicing planners who aren't all accountable to the same set of ethics.
29	Other provinces have right to practice legislation or planning review bodies like the Ontario Land Tribunal. This helps to limit bad actors and ensure our profession is contributing positively to our province. In BC it appears some planners don't see a reason to become certified or ensure they are acting ethically as the only recourse is the courts.
30	Few substantive standards. Reporting of peers to disciplinary committee can have personal and professional repercussions.
31	Membership is too high and there is not enough value

‘VERY DISSATISFIED’ OR ‘DISSATISFIED’ (33 COMMENTS)

32	It's over regulated, with increasingly silly requirements for membership funneling potential members through a limited number of schools/programs, which is gradually reducing the diversity of viewpoints within the profession.
33	Ethics are not easily required to be enforced or upheld. People are getting into the Plannign profession and becoming Planners without having an education from an accedited program. What is the purpose of competing for a place in an accredited program if you can get the same job without it?

'NEUTRAL' (37 COMMENTS)

1	I feel like there should be a right to practice and a more strict definition of public good.
2	I feel it is regulated but not as highly regarded as other professions that are regulated (pharmacy, engineering, law etc...)
3	I understand the reasoning for considering a reg change, I'm not sure it's required under current circumstances, but as extreme situations come about it appears we may need to shift more towards at some point. The question is whether we do it early or wait until there is an overwhelming need.
4	I think the new system that was implemented is ridiculous. Prior to 2016 you could just have a fire side chat and get RPP now you have all these hoops to jump through. I picked my degree based off accreditation, how is it fair that I had to do all these tests and others did not.
5	It doesn't appear to be very regulated at all.
6	I am a member of another professional association with right to practice. I wish PIBC was more proactive when all the professional reliance regime conversations were happening in BC.
7	I feel its not very strong representing the profession with Government and very different to the RTPI in the UK
8	There is no oversight as a profession. Only in individual workplaces. It's hard to see longtime RPP's I have worked with, do shabby things, and have no oversight. It reduces my faith in the RPP process, which is more complicated than it should be.
9	I think there are many reasons to pursue inclusion within the PGA but would like to better understand what this might mean for not only myself but also for new entrants to the profession
10	There are too many consultants calling themselves "planners".
11	The information received is good, but I don't feel I have enough experience to provide an in depth comment at this time.

‘NEUTRAL’ (37 COMMENTS)

12	One aspect is a lack of understanding of the extent and content of current regulation versus of the future - looking forward to hearing more about that. Another aspect is better differentiation/communication/outreach of the value of RPP. The key piece in the article for me was "Reserved practices help to ensure unregistered, unaccountable, and potentially incompetent individuals are not providing service that requires the knowledge and skills of a registered professional, and who would escape accountability to standards of ethics, competence, and professional conduct set by the regulatory body." There are a lot of uncertified "planners" promoting themselves like registered professionals.
13	There doesn't seem to be much of any regulation which is positive in some ways (flexibility) and negative in others (increase in unqualified professionals).
14	I think there needs to be more attention to members who abuse power and whose behaviours don't fall cleanly into professional standards.
15	I feel there is a lot of talk about ethics in planning but in the end if a planner is faced with an ethical dilemma in the workplace there is absolutely no support from PIBC.
16	I am a strong believer in stronger regulation of the profession. Right now I find it to be a bit too loose. People are practicing planning without membership or any background.
17	We should place a higher importance on private sector employees receiving their designation
18	I have an issue with employees of Local Gov'ts doing work that is related to land use and community planning, but having no formal training in this knowledge area. If you don't have any training or expertise in planning, it becomes very challenging to understand the implications/consequences of the decisions you are making. However I appreciate and enjoy the advocacy work that PIBC does. I think that is very important.

'NEUTRAL' (37 COMMENTS)

19	Other non planners can provide planning work without being required to follow ethical and professional standards.
20	more information needed (membershio statistics (members with actual planning degrees, etc). and how is PIBC is viewed/consulted by others (ie. does the Provincial Government, consult with PIBC regardign legislation, similarly as with to engineers, lawyers, and other profesional bodies etc.)
21	The planning profession needs to have more clout especially among the public - give more credibility to the profession and garner more respect.
22	While I appreciate the right to use RPP and have professional liability insurance, I feel pretty alienated from the planning industry and public sector planners in general.
23	There are many people who practice planning without an RPP or proper planning training. I have encountered a number of these people who market themselves as planners but provide inadequate or even harmful planning advice. These people are not RPP's and don't market themselves as such, but they should still have some measure of oversight.
24	I have seen some really poor "planning" work over the years and do not feel the current PSB process is adequate in determining whether or not someone is qualified to be a professional planner in BC. There is also the matter of people who do not have a degree but have been working in the field for many years and can never become an RPP. So I'm 50/50 right now about the PGA, I see both sides.
25	Although I'm not dissatisfied, I do wish we were taken more seriously as a profession.
26	I am a Conservation Planner in Yukon and am considering becoming an RPP. I am from BC originally, but am only interested in regulation of the BC planning profession as it pertains to Yukon members of PIBC.

'NEUTRAL' (37 COMMENTS)

27	I think there are pros and cons to the current way of regulating the planning profession in BC and what joining the PGA would mean. I look forward to learning more about the pros and cons, and what is the best direction, through this process.
28	Similar to PMP certification, it would be great if more previous work experience was included prior to the application to become a candidate member.
29	On one hand, i do not think there are enough RPPs to adequately serve BC in remote and rural areas. On the other hand, it is frustrating hearing about people with no planning background getting a planning job "because they knew someone" in the organization.
30	I feel that the profession is not moving quickly enough to change on-going learning requirements to include decolonization, equity, and justice.
31	The tradeoffs identified by Raymond are important considerations that point to the conundrum facing the profession. As a result I am conflicted in my response: first we seem well served through our current structure but secondly in that structure we may be undeserving society.
32	Need more background on other ways of governance
33	I would like the RPP, MCIP designation to be more recognized while applying for jobs in BC. Lot of places overlook this due to acquaintances etc. The value doesn't seem to be there in holding the designation if not recognized.
34	I have liked the idea of establishing an exclusive right to practice, or something akin to that, but was unaware of some of the implications of our profession joining something like the PGA. I think I'd need more information about what PIBC/CIP would be limited in doing. What kinds of advocacy efforts would they have to stop?
35	Licensing is onerous with 2 tests and inflexible writing times. Evidence of practice employment and education are far more important than a testing regime.

'NEUTRAL' (37 COMMENTS)

36	I have served as a member of our professional practice review committee and as an appointee member of a B.C. College medical board committee so have familiarity with a legislated process and the less rigorous PIBC system.
37	Self regulation is not really regulation

‘UNSURE’ (6 COMMENTS)

1	In my experience, the profession has been self-protecting and a 'club' for those with history, connections, and, well, privilege (that sometimes feels like power). Those "in" the club see themselves somewhat righteously and don't seem to have a sense of those not "in" in the club. Those "out" of the club may be equally qualified members but do not fit the culture of PIBC in some way that I can't quite figure out how to define. It's disconcerting. PIBC is a well-structured organisation with strong systems and leaders. But what about those who are not in the unspoken, informal club that defines PIBC? More importantly, how does the exclusive club honestly relate or comprehend a vast and diverse public interest?
2	I have never thought about it.
3	The profession is not regulated at all now; I'm unsure what regulation will mean for an RPP, and what obligations would come with provincial regulation and oversight.
4	This is an important opportunity to deep dive on how the profession is regulated. I don't think there has been adequate focus on this topic in the last decade so this engagement program is excellent. I look forward to seeing the engagement workplan unfold, esp the analyses and discussion papers, and learnings from allied professionals. It would be helpful to have proper chance to review these before jumping into a focus group. Would like to explore public interest and professional practice areas and risk management aspects related to potential reserved practice. The implications for employers and labour recruitment and retention will be significant challenges I expect. Is there a plan to engage with employers (public and private) to explore HR+perspectives?
5	Not sure how it is regulated currently.
6	I am not informed enough to be able to answer the question. I need to know the alternatives and evaluate each of them in light of the current system.