

# 2021 Planning Institute of British Columbia Annual Conference **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**



The 2021 Annual Conference of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) will be held June 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> at the Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre in Whitehorse Yukon. We are pleased to invite submissions of qualified proposals for inclusion in the conference program.

The tagline for this year's conference is planning **North of Normal**.

### **PLANNING NORTH OF NORMAL**

*Physical distancing, the closure of public buildings and local businesses, the climate crisis and Black Lives Matter protests; people's ability to operate, communicate, and go about their daily lives have been disrupted in 2020. The evolving response to this new reality has significantly changed most of our relationships within Yukon and BC communities and with our neighbours.*

*To mitigate social, environmental, and economic fallout, it is more important now than ever for industry, communities, First Nations, and governments to come together to ensure that planning and community-building continue to protect the land, support livelihoods, and strengthen our connections to one another and the places we live.*

*This conference is about planning North of Normal; it's about planning in wilderness communities, storytelling, First Nations-led planning, and building healthy communities.*

Typically, professionals from across BC, the Yukon and beyond attend the annual PIBC conference. Attendees work in many diverse fields of planning including land use, policy, development, housing, agriculture, urban design, environment, GIS and technology, natural resources, small towns and big cities.

## **Planning for COVID-19**

While we are hoping to host you in person in Whitehorse next year, we need to plan with the ever-changing COVID-19 situation in mind. If there are ongoing travel restrictions or restrictions on gathering size, we may need to move the conference online or use a hybrid model where some people attend in person and some join online. We need to be flexible in our planning of this conference. In spring 2021, we will assess the situation and decide if the conference will be online, a hybrid or in-person. We will let speakers and attendees know as soon as possible if they will be able to travel to Whitehorse to attend in person.

## Planning North of Normal

Presenters are asked to submit proposals for presentations or workshops about planning North of Normal. 2020 was a year that brought a global pandemic, record wildfires in California and the Arctic Circle, and renewed calls to address systemic racism. We are living in a strange “new normal” and as planners we know that we need to adapt in order to survive/thrive under these new conditions. **The evolving response to COVID-19 has significantly changed how people are interacting on a neighbourhood, community, territorial, provincial, and national scale.** As northerners, we have often found unusual ways to tackle our problems and at this conference we want to focus on planning that is North of Normal.

### Theme #1 - Planning for the New Normal

We want to explore planning North of Normal. This could include pandemic-related planning, climate change, disaster-preparedness, innovation; anything that touches on navigating uncertainty and the rapidly evolving world. Possible topics are:

- Managing natural disasters, floods and fires
- Post-pandemic planning
- Climate change
- Innovation and new ways of planning

### Theme #2 - Living with Nature

We want to explore topics that reflect issues related to human impacts on nature. The connection to nature is a cultural value that is shared between those of settler origins and the indigenous groups. This includes:

- Regional, rural and small-town planning
- Living with wildlife
- Green infrastructure, technology and design
- Planning for parks and trails and understanding the impacts of recreation
- Protecting and restoring ecosystem values
- Land development and neighbourhood planning in the north

### Theme #3 - Planning Stories

Tell us a story; we want to know about creativity, success and failure. We want to know about the interesting characters, the nail-biting, the high-fives and the train wrecks. Some ideas are:

- Success, failure and lessons learned
- Planning and relationships
- Innovative and creative plans and processes
- Public engagement done right, done wrong, done online, or done in new ways

### Theme #4 - First Nations Planning

Yukon has eleven self-governing First Nations and each one has been undertaking different types of planning at different scales. We want this conference to showcase the types of planning projects and processes that First Nations in Yukon, British Columbia and across the north are working on. Topics could include:

- Connection to the land
- Non-western land management and pre-colonial practices

- Planning for modern subsistence harvesting
- Comprehensive Community Plans
- Planning under Yukon Final Land Claims Agreements – Local Area Plans and Regional Planning
- Land Claim Implementation in BC and Yukon
- First Nations-led development in small and medium sized communities
- Indigenous planning processes and practices

### **Theme #5 - Building Healthy Communities**

This is a subject area that crosses a variety of boundaries and there is a need to make sure that it is appropriately addressed in terms of our responsibilities as professional planners. Ideas could be:

- Approaches to reinforce a common and sustain civic engagement to address inequities in the outreach process during an unprecedented period of physical and social distancing
- Reconciliation and social justice
- Reflections on the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
- Creative solutions to housing and homelessness
- Where are the gaps and who is really being left behind in our planning processes and policies when the plan is implemented?
- Neighbourhood gentrification/displacement
- Aging in place and planning for kids and youth

### **Program Sessions**

Our organizing team is looking for the best content possible delivering value for attendees and advancing the planning profession in British Columbia and the Yukon. Presenters should consider the following key criteria:

- **Be Bold...** Emphasize how your program element will consider the complexities of planning realities or how it will tackle a familiar topic in a new way. Don't be afraid to explore ideas and topics that might seem unorthodox at first glance.
- **Be Engaging...** Describe how your program element will give attendees an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Demonstrate how the conversation will offer practical solutions to challenges facing planners today.
- **Be Brief...** Submit a clear and concise proposal that highlights top learning outcomes for participants. Be sure to adhere to the maximum word lengths outlined below.
- **Be Comprehensive...** Provide a fully developed proposal for an entire program element. Connect with colleagues and others in related professions to put together a proposal for a complete and valuable conference session or element.

In addition to more common program concepts, the PIBC 2021 organizing team is looking for something a little different. We are seeking diverse, original, practical and insightful proposals for the following program elements:

Program Element	Length of Time	Approx. Number of Sessions	Description
Learning Sessions	1 hour	36	The more typical presentation sessions with Q&A periods afterwards. Presenters are encouraged to include innovative, interactive formats.
	1.5 hours	6	
Active Sessions	1.5 hours	6	Walking or bike tours that go out into the field in close proximity to the conference centre.
	2.25 hours	18	
Mobile Workshops	3-4 hours	6	Bus or bike tours to interact with unique planning projects in the Yukon.

### Submit a Proposal

The PIBC 2021 organizing team invites proposals from all interested proponents. Potential presenters should:

- Review this *Call for Program Proposals* carefully, including the criteria listed above and the *Terms and Conditions* appended to this document.
- Be sure to coordinate and collaborate with colleagues, including related professionals and those that represent different stakeholders, specialties and perspectives. We will select *the best* ideas and submissions.

To submit a proposal:

- Fully complete the ON LINE Program Proposal Submission Form: [CLICK HERE](#)
- All submissions must include the following:
  - Presenter (and Co-Presenter if applicable) Biography (50 word maximum per presenter)
  - Short Description (50 word maximum)
  - Long Description (250 word maximum)
  - Learning Outcomes (3 outcomes)
  - Meeting the Vision: What makes your proposal unique and how does support Planning North of Normal? (50 word maximum)

**The deadline for receipt of all proposals is: 4:00 PM Friday, December 4, 2020 (PST).**

Please note: Successful proponents will be contacted regarding selected proposals by Friday, January 22, 2021.

## Terms and Conditions

The *Call for Program Proposals* for *PIBC 2021 | Whitehorse | Planning North of Normal* and all proposals submitted in response to it, are subject to the following terms and conditions:

- Given the COVID-related uncertainty, we need to be flexible in our planning of this conference. In spring 2021, we will assess the situation and decide if the conference will be online, a hybrid or in person. We will let speakers know as soon as possible if they will be able to travel to Whitehorse to attend in person.
- All proposals submitted are subject to review and consideration by the PIBC annual conference committee.
- Receipt of a proposal does not constitute the acceptance or approval of such a proposal for inclusion in the program of the PIBC 2021 annual conference.
- Proposals submitted, including any supporting materials or information, are the property of PIBC and will not be returned to proponents.
- All proposals for consideration must be received no later than 4:00 PM (Pacific) Friday, December 4, 2020. Successful proponents of selected proposals will be contacted by the PIBC annual conference organizing team by Friday, January 22, 2021.
- The annual conference committee will give strong preference and priority consideration to qualified proposals that *best meet* the criteria and overall program goals and objectives as outlined in the *Call for Program Proposals*.
- The PIBC annual conference committee reserves the right to reject any proposal for any reason, at any time. Due to levels of interest, space, and schedule limitations, it is expected that only a limited selection of all proposals submitted will be selected.
- Normal set-up and audio-visual support for regular conference sessions will include: a meeting room at the conference venue with a podium and a microphone, a laptop computer, a digital projector, and a projection screen. The PIBC annual conference committee cannot guarantee that all requests or suggestions for additional logistical support or set-up requirements (e.g. audio-visual equipment, room set-up, etc.) can be accommodated for any proposal selected for inclusion in the annual conference program.
- In order to ensure the highest quality of program content, the PIBC annual conference committee reserves the right to amend the proposed format of any proposal, or otherwise amend or adjust the nature, content, or requirements for any proposal selected for inclusion in the annual conference program as may be required from time to time.
- Successful proponents of selected proposals and associated conference presenters will, subject to reasonable limitation by PIBC, be entitled to a substantially reduced registration rate for the annual conference. Proponents and presenters are otherwise responsible for all their own independently arranged travel, accommodation, and other incidental expenses related to participating in the annual conference.
- PIBC reserves the right to record (through audio, video, transcription, or other means), publish, reproduce and distribute (in whole or in part) all submissions and subsequent conference

elements, presentations, materials and related content as part of any conference proceedings or legacy materials.