

POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Overseeing and assisting with the institute's policy and public affairs matters, including relevant external relations, government outreach, and potential advocacy on issues or identified areas of interest to the Institute, and providing related advice and assistance to the Board, is the responsibility of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee. Following a period of transition, Sara Muir RPP, MCIP was appointed as the new chair and led the Committee in 2022.

The Committee met regularly throughout 2022 to coordinate and follow up on various key activities, including relevant strategic objectives and tasks identified and delegated through new Strategic Plan revised and adopted by the Board in 2021. This work included monitoring and considering professional regulation and legislation, government relations related to development approvals and other public policy matters, and continued work on climate issues through the Climate Action Sub-Committee. The Committee also pleased to welcome several new volunteer members who were appointed to the Committee at the end of 2022.

RPP REGULATION & PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATION:

A small sub-committee of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee is responsible for monitoring matters related to the potential regulation of professional planners and regulation or legislation related to the Registered Professional Planner (RPP) designation. A continued focus of this work in 2022 was ongoing monitoring and consideration of the continued implementation of the BC *'Professional Governance Act'*.

As previously reported, following the implementation of the Act with the five professions originally mandated under the legislation (Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC); Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFP); British Columbia Institute of Agrologists (BCIA); College of Applied Biology (CAB); and Engineers and Geoscientists British Columbia (EGBC)), the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) continued to move ahead in 2022 with the incorporation of architects (the Architectural Institute of British Columbia), and landscape architects (the BC Society of Landscape Architects) under the Act as well. The Superintendent has the authority to both consider requests from professional bodies to become regulated under the Act, and to compel professional bodies to become regulated under the Act.

Considering the legislative and regulatory context, the revised Strategic Plan adopted in 2021 by the Board mandates that the Committee (and sub-committee) investigate and analyze the opportunities, challenges, and implications of potential 'right to practice' regulation for RPPs in BC and Yukon under the Act. Currently, the Registered Professional Planner (RPP) title and designation continue to remain protected exclusively for PIBC under the Occupational Titles Protection provisions of the *'Societies Act'*.

Based on the initial work of the Committee, and information gathered and presented by the Institute's legal counsel on the new Act and its ongoing implementation, the Committee put forward a recommendation to the Board in early 2023 to further engage the services of legal counsel to specifically

undertake an analysis and report on how the new Act might apply to PIBC (should PIBC become subject to it at some point in the future), how PIBC's current organization and operations might align (or not) with the requirements of the Act, and what some of the opportunities, advantages, risks and challenges of operating under the Act might be for PIBC. The Board endorsed this proposed work, which is now being undertaken in 2023. It is anticipated that, following completion of the work, information on the results and outcomes will be reported and shared with members through potential information sessions and articles in *Planning West*, among other information channels.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

Through 2022 the Committee continued to monitor the previous BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs' Development Approvals Process Review (DAPR) process – though significant new activity in this area was limited during 2022, and responsibility for this work shifted in late 2022 with the establishment of a new Ministry of Housing by the BC Government. However, the Committee continues to monitor and work to stay engaged on this public policy work.

In late 2022 the Institute reached out and engaged with both the new BC Ministry of Housing, as well as the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs, to set up meetings between PIBC and Ministry officials for early 2023. The purpose of these meetings is to maintain and build ongoing relationships between the profession and key government officials and to provide opportunities for feedback and input to government from the planning profession. We were pleased to successfully organize and hold these key meetings in Victoria in January 2023, along with a presentation and discussion with the PIBC Board by representatives from the Planning and Land Use Management Branch of the Ministry of Housing. Looking ahead, we will continue to build upon these outreach opportunities and continue to seek opportunities to engage with key government officials.

CORE PLANNING ISSUES:

As part of its ongoing role supporting and advising the Board on potential advocacy, the Committee works to



identify possible broad topic or issue areas of relevant interest or concern for PIBC and the planning profession from time to time. Continued focus on the areas of climate action (through the Climate Action Sub-Committee) and Indigenous reconciliation and planning practice (through the new Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee) carried forward through 2022, as tasked and prioritized in the revised Strategic Plan. No new or additional broad issue areas were identified in 2022.

CLIMATE ACTION:

The Climate Action Sub-Committee continued its active work in the core advocacy area of climate and climate action throughout 2022. Patricia Dehnel RPP, MCIP and Clarissa Huffman RPP, MCIP served as co-chairs of the Sub-Committee during the year. Sara Muir RPP, MCIP also continued to serve on the Sub-Committee in a Board liaison role. Key work undertaken this past year included: finalization and publication of the revised Climate Action Policy (intended as an update to the Institute's previous 'Climate: A Call for Action' piece originally developed and adopted by PIBC in 2017). This updated initiative was completed this past year, with the revised policy piece receiving approval from the Board in 2022, and a final published version being subsequently completed and published.

Members are encouraged to visit the PIBC website and review this updated policy document. The Sub-Committee also continued to monitor and respond to opportunities for stakeholder feedback and input to government on climate related matters, as well as continued ongoing external engagement, outreach and liaison with relevant external organizations, bodies, and processes in the climate action space. The Sub-Committee also continues working to deliver ongoing climate related planning education and professional development for members through occasional CPL webinar offerings and climate focused articles in *Planning West* magazine.

COMMITTEE THANKS:

The Institute's policy advocacy and public affairs work continues to be supported and advanced by the time and contributions of the many volunteer members of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee, its sub-committees, and working groups, as well as the various volunteer members who serve as external representatives and liaisons. Our thanks are extended to all the members who volunteered and served in these roles in 2022. Finally, thanks are extended to PIBC staff for their work supporting the work of the Committee, its sub-committees and working groups. Thank you all!