

2023 PIBC AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING

Kelly Chan, *Manager of Member Programs & Services*

The PIBC Awards for Excellence in Planning honour the best in professional planning work undertaken by members in communities and regions across British Columbia and Yukon. Award winners were celebrated in Sun Peaks, B.C. on June 1, 2023, at the PIBC 2023 Annual Conference – *It Takes a Village*.

This year, the PIBC Awards & Recognition Committee launched the new “Award for Enduring Planning Performance,” which recognizes and celebrates exemplary long-term planning work and outcomes that have stood the test of time.



Awards for Enduring Planning Performance

GOLD WINNER

TITLE: Garrison Crossing

ORGANIZATIONS: Canada Lands Company, City of Chilliwack, MVH Urban Planning & Design, and Ankenman Associates Architects Inc.

Garrison Crossing is a 153.5-acre development, which was formerly a part of the Chilliwack Canadian Forces Base. It represents a fundamental paradigm shift back to traditional neighbourhood design that embraces mixed uses, compact housing, heritage-sensitive design, environmental integration, and a pedestrian-friendly orientation. As one of the first neighbourhood designs in North America recognized with the LEED-ND certification, it escaped “greenwashing” and demonstrated early success in lower-carbon development.

The jury found *Garrison Crossing* to have built an exemplary community of engagement. The development provides high transferability potential for other historically used or government-owned lands.



Awards for Enduring Planning Performance

SILVER WINNER

TITLE: Richmond City Centre Area Plan

ORGANIZATION: City of Richmond

PARTNER: Urban Futures Incorporated



The *Richmond City Centre Area Plan*, adopted in 2009, is an enduring long-range land use strategy. Prompted by Richmond’s vision for an inclusive, livable, and sustainable community, construction of the Canada Line, and the 2010 Olympic Games, the Plan establishes a capacity-based, transit-village framework to guide growth through the 21st century. Fourteen years on, the Plan continues to deliver on community objectives, support innovation, and effectively respond to emerging challenges. The Plan is not designed to accelerate growth, but rather to direct it to help facilitate Richmond’s vision for an inclusive, livable, and sustainable community.

The jury found the Richmond Plan to demonstrate enduring high performance, as Richmond’s downtown is one of the biggest success stories of growth in the region. The Plan contains many great examples that support the evolution of community growth in Richmond over time.



Awards for Excellence in Planning Practice – City & Urban Areas

GOLD WINNER

TITLE: Community Action Network – Transforming Planning Practice Through an Innovative Partnership to Engage People with Lived and Living Experience

ORGANIZATIONS: City of New Westminster and BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

PARTNERS: New Westminster Public Library, New West Homelessness Coalition Society, Douglas College – Changing the Conversation, Single Mothers' Alliance, and Tamarack Institute for Community Engagement

The *Community Action Network (CAN) Leadership Training Program* engages people with lived and living experiences of homelessness and poverty in planning and policy development processes. CAN participants learned about advocacy, committee functioning, community organizing, decision-making, and public speaking. Elected officials and planning staff acted as guest speakers, mentors, and

resources. CAN transformed the way the City conducts its engagement, creating a more equitable and inclusive framework. It is transformative as it represents an innovative partnership between a municipality and a non-profit.

The jury felt that this was ground-breaking and one of the few initiatives in public engagement that puts action to good words elsewhere spoken. They were impressed with such an innovative initiative to mentor persons with lived experience of poverty to enhance their engagement in planning, and excited to find that an assessment of the program has already been completed with generally positive results.



Awards for Excellence in Planning Practice – City & Urban Areas

SILVER WINNER

TITLE: Sea2City Design Challenge

ORGANIZATIONS: EcoPlan and City of Vancouver

PARTNERS: Host Nation participants (Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam), Design Teams (Mithun, ONE Architecture, PWL, MVRDV, Modern Formline), Technical Advisory Group (space2place, NHC, Ebbwater, KWL, BC Stewardship Centre, UBC, EXP, BC Hydro, Metro Vancouver, CMHC-Granville Island), CityHive (Youth Adaptation Lab), and Sea2City Community Advisory Group

Sea2City was an innovative, collaborative planning competition rethinking the future of Vancouver’s highly urbanized False Creek shoreline to adapt to rising sea levels while accommodating development, fostering ecological revitalization, and addressing reconciliation with Host Nations. The project generated a bold, positive future vision, dramatic, achievable site concepts, pilot projects designed to test new ideas, and a tactical adaptation pathway to guide the transformation of False Creek.

The jury recognized *Sea2City* as an exciting initiative, which fosters and applies Indigenous knowledge and planning expertise to a pressing global and local issue – rising sea levels and climate change. As forward-thinking initiatives, *Sea2City* initiatives will be needed at every shoreline in the world.



**Awards for Excellence in Planning Practice –
Small Town & Rural Areas**

GOLD WINNER

**TITLE: Grand Forks OCP Update + Implementation Projects:
The Three-in-One Plan**

ORGANIZATIONS: MVH Urban Planning & Design, City of Grand Forks, Bluerock Planning, Selkirk Planning & Design, Rynic, Amy Clarke Consulting, and LARCH Landscape Architecture



Grand Forks chose to complete its *Official Community Plan (OCP)* update in unison with the *Grand Forks Wayfinding Plan* and *North Ruckle Flood Park Concept Design*. The *Three-in-One Plan* combines analytic mapping innovation, progressive "Missing Middle" housing policy, visualization of compact housing, wayfinding, climate resilience planning, and progressive recreation design. Floodplain management regulations and Zoning Bylaw updates are being developed now to implement recommendations developed in the OCP process.

The jury found the multi-pronged approach unique, responsive, and implementable. The challenges being addressed by the planning process were very pressing and the final document is transferrable and user-friendly, taking policy to the next level.



**Awards for Excellence in Planning Practice –
Small Town & Rural Areas**

SILVER WINNER

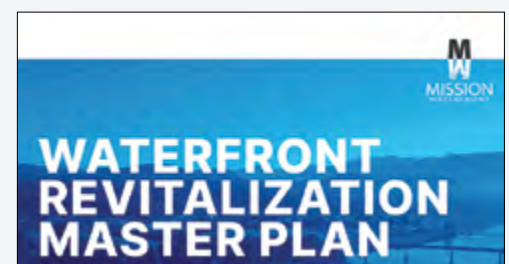
**TITLE: Mission Waterfront Revitalization
Master Plan**

**ORGANIZATIONS: O2 Planning & Design and
City of Mission**

PARTNERS: The Katzie, Kwantlen, Leq'a:mel, Matsqui (Mathexwi), Scowlitz (Sq'ewlets) and Sumas (Sema'th) First Nations, Mayor Horn and Council, Subconsultants Aplin & Martin, All-Span, Antiquus, BOP Architects, Brown Strachan, Bunt, CitySquared, GeoPacific, Gwen Bridge Consulting, Pinchin, Primary, Purpose Driven Development, and SFE Global

The *Mission Waterfront Revitalization Master Plan* is a comprehensive document that includes a development master plan, a parks and open space plan, a mobility and infrastructure strategy, and design guidelines for the City of Mission's 120-hectare waterfront. The Plan paints a compelling picture for the future redevelopment of over 3.5 km of Fraser riverfront, applies "Green Shores" principles in an innovative way to a unique inland shoreline context, and provides much-needed development land.

The jury thought highly of the online, interactive StoryMap, which drew 8,800 viewers ahead of the public hearing. The *Mission Waterfront Revitalization Master Plan* was a huge project to bring to completion. The resulting plans for a south-facing "Celebration Lawn" and waterfront restoration are excellent examples of shoreline revitalization.



Awards for Excellence in Planning Practice – Small Town & Rural Areas

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE: *Connecting to Our Roots Through c̓əlisələm*

ORGANIZATION: Tsawwassen First Nation

PARTNERS: Mac Brown (Implementation Farmer), Nicol Brown (Farm Coordinator), Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Chief and Executive Council, and community youth volunteers. Funded by the federal and provincial governments, ISPARC, and FNHA.

The *Tsawwassen First Nation Agricultural Plan*, adopted in 2013, sets out a robust vision. It took 10 years to realize this vision through the successful implementation of a pilot project to enhance local food security: c̓əlisələm (TFN Community Farm). Fresh produce grown at c̓əlisələm has been distributed to member families, Elders’ lunches, daycares, and youth programs.



Awards for Excellence in Planning Practice – Small Town & Rural Areas

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE: *Masset Main Street Vision & Action Plan: From Park to Pier*

ORGANIZATIONS: Village of Masset and Urban Systems Ltd.

The *Masset Main Street Vision and Action Plan: From Park to Pier* was created to revitalize the main street, encourage investment, and enhance community pride and activity in the downtown. The vision and action plan builds on the unique context afforded by the site’s geography and history, draws on best practices in placemaking to activate the downtown, and creates spaces where people can gather and celebrate.



Awards for Excellence in Policy Planning – City & Urban Areas

GOLD WINNER

TITLE: *City Plan – Nanaimo Reimagined*

ORGANIZATIONS: City of Nanaimo and LANARC

PARTNERS: Licker Geospatial Consulting Co., Discovery Research Canada, C2MP Consulting Ltd., Drdul Community Transportation Planning, and CitySpaces Consulting

City Plan – Nanaimo Reimagined is an “OCP Plus.” It fulfills the need for a forward-looking official community plan that enhances Nanaimo’s land use to fulfill future housing needs, address climate change mitigation, and enhance equity and inclusion. The process started with a commitment from all City departments to work together. *City Plan* sets the stage for a truly interdisciplinary future, bringing together siloed plans to achieve one aligned path forward.

City Plan’s cornerstone is the “Nanaimo Doughnut,” a municipal-scale version of the “Doughnut Economics” theory, which challenges us to find our “sweet spot” where we are meeting the needs of all, while respecting the limits of the environment. The Nanaimo Doughnut comes to life through innovative policy, integrated land use and networks, and clear next steps.

The jury appreciated the introduction to doughnut economics and the integrated nature of this plan. *City Plan* is very comprehensive and covers all the contemporary city issues.



Awards for Excellence in Policy Planning – City & Urban Areas

SILVER WINNER

TITLE: HOME: Burnaby's Housing + Homelessness Strategy

ORGANIZATION: City of Burnaby

PARTNERS: Eberle Planning and Research and Urban Matters



HOME: Burnaby's Housing + Homelessness Strategy is a 10-year strategic plan with a framework of goals, strategies, actions, and an implementation timeline. Building on the transformative work of the 2019 Mayor's Task Force on Community Housing, and innovative new rental use zoning and tenant assistance policies, the *HOME Strategy* provides a framework of 5 goals, 15 strategies, and 90 actions addressing all parts of the housing system, including rental homes, owned homes, homes with supports, and homelessness. Reflecting the input of hundreds of residents and stakeholders who participated in workshops, surveys, and focus groups – and with guiding themes of reconciliation, diversity, sustainability, affordability, and suitability – the strategy seeks to create a Burnaby that everyone is happy to call home.

The jury felt that the *HOME Strategy* offers an outstandingly clear, comprehensive, and compassionate approach to tackling the wicked problem of housing and homelessness facing our communities today. In addition to taking measures to ensure inclusive and livable housing, achieve more rentals, and stimulate additional supply of missing middle housing forms, the jury was particularly impressed with the attention devoted to how the City intends to encourage a healthy supply of non-market housing, more options for secure housing tenure, and how to make Burnaby a place where homelessness is rare, brief, and a one-time experience.

Awards for Excellence in Policy Planning – Small Town & Rural Areas

GOLD WINNER

TITLE: Whistler Accessibility Action Plan

ORGANIZATION: Resort Municipality of Whistler

PARTNER: WCS Engagement + Planning



The *Whistler Accessibility Action Plan (AAP)* provides actions that identify, remove, and prevent barriers to individuals living in, visiting, or interacting with the Resort Municipality of Whistler. The AAP presents a total of 59 actions distributed across six action areas: Improve Inclusive Service Design and Delivery, Enhance Built Environment Accessibility, Continue Equitable Employment Practices, Foster Accessible Communications and Engagement, Reduce Transportation Barriers, and Support Accessible Procurement.

The AAP was based on the principles of inclusion, adaptability, diversity, collaboration, self-determination, and universal design, and was created with the involvement of residents, community partners, and municipal departments. By collecting small ideas to address barriers to accessibility and implementing them together, this plan aims to deliver big impacts by strengthening community and improving quality of life.

The jury particularly appreciated the broad definition of accessibility, the motto and approach of "Nothing For Us, Without Us" and that, in the implementation of this plan, Whistler is looking to participate in the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ program. There was thoughtful consideration of a variety of aspects to support accessibility, including the assignment of departments responsible.

Awards for Excellence in Policy Planning – Small Town & Rural Areas

SILVER WINNER

TITLE: Connect Salmon Arm: City of Salmon Arm’s Active Transportation Network Plan

ORGANIZATIONS: City of Salmon Arm and Urban Systems

PARTNERS: City of Salmon Arm Active Transportation Task Force: Adams Lake Indian Band, Neskonlith Indian Band, Shuswap Trails Alliance, Salmon Arm Economic Development Society, Downtown Salmon Arm, School District #83, Interior Health, Shuswap Cycle Club, Greenways Liaison Committee, Social Impact Advisory Committee, and four citizens-at-large.

Connect Salmon Arm, the City’s first Active Transportation Network Plan (ATNP), was developed through a robust community and stakeholder engagement process. The resulting ATNP is inclusive, forward-thinking, and reflects the needs and desires of the community. Critically, a clear implementation plan was developed, grounded in a GIS-based spatial analysis and confirmed through community and stakeholder input. The City has a clear path toward achieving its commitment to making it safer, easier, and more enjoyable to walk, bicycle, and use other forms of active transportation.

The jury appreciated the focus in *Connect Salmon Arm* on quick-build/rapid implementation techniques, and the use of SWOT and AAA approaches. The demonstrable solidity of this work is reaping rewards in the worlds of capital planning and grants.



Awards for Research & New Directions in Planning

GOLD WINNER

TITLE: Rapid Implementation Design Guide for Bikeways in Metro Vancouver

ORGANIZATIONS: TransLink and Urban Systems

The *Rapid Implementation Design Guide* delivers an innovative new approach for governments to deliver cycling infrastructure across Metro Vancouver and beyond. The Guide moves from research and policy to inspire and enable action through easy-to-reference information on the rapid implementation of bikeways. The Guide also addresses a critical gap in knowledge by providing an evidence-based review of national and international research, along with best-practice rapid implementation precedents from local communities.

The jury appreciated the innovative nature of the *Rapid Implementation Design Guide*. The Guide is timely and focuses on a rapid implementation concept of “try first, then consult, then adapt.” The low capital, speedy, and reversible proposals encourage and support local governments to take fast action, while cutting the political risk to experiment.



Awards for Research & New Directions in Planning

SILVER WINNER

TITLE: Cowichan Lake – Forecasting Future Regulatory Boundaries in Light of Climate Change

ORGANIZATIONS: Cowichan Valley Regional District and Kerr Wood Leidal

PARTNERS: Cowichan Tribes, Cowichan Watershed Board, BC Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund, and Province of BC



The *Cowichan Lake – Forecasting* project developed a Shoreline Impacts Calculator for Changing Climates (SICCC) as a tool to assess both immediate and long-term projected changes. The approach supports difficult discussions and thus empowers decisions on climate-related problems. This research supports long-term community water planning, as well as laying a foundation for ongoing rights and titles discussions with Cowichan Tribes and others.

The jury found the *Cowichan Lake – Forecasting* project to be very well-conceived and completed, though highly technical with some limits to broader applicability.

Award for Individual Achievement Young Professional Leadership

Malcolm MacLean RPP, MCIP

Malcolm completed his master's degree in planning with an Indigenous community planning specialization at the University of British Columbia's School of Community and Regional Planning (UBC SCARP). He has worked as a community planner for the City of Victoria and was recently appointed Senior Planner. One of his most significant achievements includes leading the City's Missing Middle Housing Initiative, where he demonstrated a high level of integrity and built trust both internally and externally to lead the creation of innovative city-wide policies and process changes that will help the City provide additional housing choices for residents. His professionalism and passion are felt by his colleagues and Malcolm continues to demonstrate leadership and dedication to advancing the profession through his contributions.



Awards for Research & New Directions in Planning

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE: Data Collection Framework and Recommendations for a BC Strategy for Indigenous Peoples Experiencing Homelessness

ORGANIZATIONS: Resilience Planning Ltd. (Jessica Hum, Alix Krahn, Lisa Moffatt, Wendy Simon) and Aboriginal Housing Management Association (Celeste Howard, Stephanie Lowe, Bailey Waukey)

PARTNERS: Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society, Aboriginal Homelessness Steering Committee for Greater Vancouver, Aboriginal Housing Management Association, All Nations Outreach, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, BC Housing, Cariboo Friendship Centre, First Nations Health Authority, First Nations Housing & Infrastructure Council, Fraser Region Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association, Ktunaxa Nation Social Sector, Lu'ma Native Housing Society, Métis Nation BC, Metro Vancouver Aboriginal Executive Council, Ministry of the Attorney General and Ministry Responsible for Housing, Nisga'a Nation, Northwest Regional Housing Committee, Surrey Urban Indigenous Leadership Committee, and Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society

The process to collect evidence (data, stories, knowledge) of experiences of homelessness was rooted in multiple Indigenous values and wise practices. The project team engaged directly with Indigenous, in-community co-researchers, and trusted in the wisdom of Indigenous Peoples with Lived Experience of housing insecurity and homelessness. The process centred Indigenous Peoples' past (lived) and present-day (living) experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity in B.C. The guiding principle was to deliver this work "by, for, and with Indigenous communities." The goals for the project were two-fold: to create a replicable data collection framework based on lessons learned; and to provide recommendations to help address, alleviate, and eradicate experiences of homelessness and housing insecurity in B.C. Indigenous communities.

"We raise our hands to the in-community co-researchers: Wayne David, Justene Dion-Glowa, Gretchen Lewandowski, Marla Feniuk, John MacLellan, Raven Ann Potscha, and Bernice Thompson."



Annual Student Fellowship Awards

Madelaine Parent
University of British Columbia
School of Community & Regional Planning

Presentation: **Tenant Protections in Redevelopment**

Many Metro Vancouver municipalities have recently implemented municipal tenant relocation protection policies (TRPs), which build upon the protections provided by the British Columbia *Residential Tenancy Act* (RTA). However, TRPs have been largely understudied – there is little guiding literature surrounding such policies. This research fills this gap by creating tools for advocates and planners to evaluate TRPs. The project offers three components: (1) a comparative study of all active TRPs within British Columbia; (2) an evaluation framework for assessing TRPs in terms of tenant outcomes; and (3) a proposal for tenant tracking infrastructure to monitor relocation outcomes. Using a tenant-justice lens, this research follows a robust engagement process via surveying tenants across Metro Vancouver and interviewing diverse stakeholders, illustrating possible roadmaps for the future of tenant protections in British Columbia.



Mikhaila Carr
University of Northern British Columbia
School of Sustainability and Planning

Presentation: **Parks, Accessible Spaces and Storytelling**

While the health and well-being benefits that nature provides for our communities are well known, access to nature-based tourism and outdoor recreation spaces is inequitable, as planning processes often fail to prioritize access and inclusion. Drawing on the knowledge and lived experiences of a small and diverse group of people living with diverse impairments, this research explores (in)accessibility in nature spaces in two B.C. Parks regions. Findings from the project demonstrate how B.C. provincial parks might be experienced by an individual with a range of impairments through the development of place-based narratives that present objective accessibility standards (e.g., infrastructure measurements) that centre the experiences of persons with disabilities (PwD). This research highlights information gaps and can provide a pathway for researchers in exploring the ethical development of consumable accessibility information.



Courtenay Miller
Vancouver Island University
Master of Community Planning

Presentation: **Planning for Longstanding Sustainability: Addressing the Downfalls of Green Infrastructure Planning**

Nature-based solutions have significant opportunities for increasing communities' resilience to climate change. The presentation, *Planning for Longstanding Sustainability: Addressing the Downfalls of Green Infrastructure Planning*, looks at the benefits and challenges of green infrastructure, and proposes potential solutions to improve green infrastructure implementation, monitoring, and maintenance across Canada. This presentation explores solutions to improve green infrastructure practices across the country.





Nathan Zemp
Simon Fraser University, Resource and Environmental Management

Presentation: Quantifying the Effect of Single-Family Zoning on Housing Prices in Metro Vancouver, BC

Single-family zoning is one of the most hotly debated proximate causes of Metro Vancouver’s housing affordability crisis. However, its role in inflating home prices has not yet been quantified. Drawing on methods used in a 2018 Australian study, this research project aims to calculate the marginal value of additional land in Metro Vancouver neighbourhoods, and from there determine the “zoning premium” imposed by restrictions on subdivision and densification of lots. This presentation explores the equity impacts of municipal land regulations and the relative merits of single-family zoning.



Congratulations to this year’s winners!

Make a submission for next year’s awards program to help us recognize and celebrate the places, plans, projects, and people across our membership contributing to communities and regions across BC and Yukon.

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