

2022 PIBC AWARDS

/ Kelly Chan *PIBC Member Services Coordinator*

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 Whistler, BC on July 6, 2022, at CIP & PIBC's joint national conference, Elevation 2.0.



Award for Excellence in Planning Practice, City & Urban Areas Gold Winner

TITLE: Community-led Approach to Neighbourhood Character

AUTHORS: The District of West Vancouver and Neighbourhood Character Working Group

The West Vancouver Neighbourhood Character Working Group was tasked with proposing regulations and policies that respect and sustain the character and heritage of West Vancouver single-family neighbourhoods. Through the dedication of the Working Group, their extensive community consultation over 26 months, interdepartmental collaboration between staff, and Council's commitment to implement workable solutions to a perennial community concern, regulations are now in place across 11,000 lots. These regulations ensure that new homes not only

Award for Excellence in Planning Practice, Small Town & Rural Areas Gold Winner

TITLE: Uptown District Revitalization Strategy

AUTHORS: City of Port Alberni, Vancouver Island University, and Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute

Amidst both a housing crisis and a sudden renewal of development interest, the Uptown District Revitalization Strategy provides recommendations for partnerships and policies intended to address the effects of historic economic decline on a downtown commercial core. This strategy recognizes the complexity of neighbourhood renewal and the need to take a multifaceted approach to address the needs of the small community in ways that are socially, environmentally, and economically viable through a lens that seeks justice, equity, and inclusion for the diversity of community members.

The strategy's recommendations are based on best practices and community input. The strategy will inform future policy goals and objectives in the Official

preserve but enhance West Vancouver's neighbourhood character.

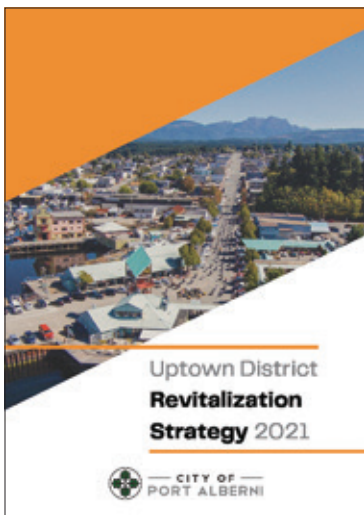
This community-led approach has led to coach houses being the norm rather than the exception for both new and existing homes in West Vancouver. Floor area can be transferred from main houses to coach houses, limits now exist for the size of new houses, and smaller homes on smaller lots can be achieved through subdivision. The District has delivered innovative solutions to address increasing building bulk, lack of housing diversity, and threats to neighbourhood vibrancy.

The jury appreciated the thoughtful strategy to intensify, diversify, and socially integrate housing by this initiative. While changes delivered were incremental, it is an impressive feat to successfully get approval through the politically fraught process of zoning amendments in a municipality that is not fond of change. This effort showed great creativity, forward thinking, and courage.



Community Plan, including Development Permit Areas, updates to the Zoning Bylaw, future neighbourhood plans, and other relevant policies and regulations.

The jury appreciated that the strategy addresses very real issues of crime prevention, poverty reduction, and economic development, especially in the wake of the pandemic. They were impressed that despite a small budget, it did not compromise on timeline and public engagement.



Award for Excellence in Planning Practice, Small Town & Rural Areas Silver Winner

TITLE: Prince Rupert OCP and Visioning Processes

AUTHORS: City of Prince Rupert, iPlan Planning and Development Services, Beasley & Associates, and CIVITAS Studio

The City of Prince Rupert Official Community Plan is intended to manage and guide anticipated growth from future Port development. As the final stage in a six-year planning process, it was heavily influenced by the Redesign Rupert visioning initiative. The visioning initiative featured extensive community engagement and collaboration with First Nations, industry,

local businesses, and grassroots organizations, which culminated in the Prince Rupert 2030 Vision document.

The final OCP addresses principles specific to Prince Rupert that grew out of the Vision 2030 process. Through extensive mapping, detailed guidelines, and progressive policies, including a chapter on food systems planning, it directs future development and policy planning in the City.

The jury felt that the focus on food security and resilience added an aspect of sustainability that would not normally be a focus for a downtown visioning process or an OCP in a small northern community. They appreciated such an ambitious plan for growth and requirements for development, including policies for all aspects of community development.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, City & Urban Areas Gold Winner

TITLE: Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action

AUTHOR: City of New Westminster

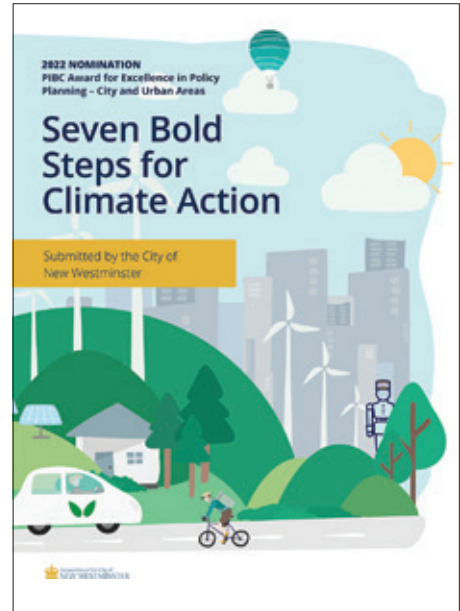
In 2019, New Westminster was the second municipality in Metro Vancouver and the third in the Province of BC to issue a Climate Emergency Declaration. In response, the City announced their **Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action** around which City staff, residents and businesses would rally, serving as a manifesto that translates the abstract notion of a climate emergency into clear actions and goals for the City and its citizens.

The Seven Bold Steps are:

1. Carbon-Free Corporation
2. Car-Light Community
3. Carbon-Free Homes and Buildings
4. Pollution-Free Vehicles
5. Carbon-Free Energy
6. Robust Urban Forest
7. People-Centred Public Realm

The jury felt that with this program, New Westminster has positioned itself at the forefront of applied climate action at the municipal level within Canada. The propositions are clear, vivid, practical, and compelling to the average citizen. It is an excellent example of ensuring climate action and social equity are at the forefront of all municipal decision-making, prioritizing capital projects, achieving climate action goals, and leading by example.





The jury granted three Silver Awards for Excellence in Policy Planning, City & Urban Areas. These submissions all tackled big issues which are often given little priority, especially in communities of their size. Working with very modest budgets, these policies all punch above their weight.

Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, City & Urban Areas Silver Winner

TITLE: Our Thriving Community: Township of Langley Social Sustainability Strategy

AUTHORS: Township of Langley, MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement, Solstice Sustainability Works, and Strandberg Consulting

Our Thriving Community: Township of Langley Social Sustainability Strategy is a visionary document with concrete priorities and actions for building a more sustainable Township. Informed by extensive research and inclusive community engagement, the strategy will help sustain the positive qualities of the community through growth and change, harness the opportunities to tackle social challenges, and thrive in the face of uncertainty. The strategy establishes a clear vision for the future — a connected, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life — and sets a course to get there in collaboration with community partners.



The jury appreciated such an exciting initiative in a smaller community and suburban context. The principles and policy directions are progressive, and this community will be a more liveable place for a wider spectrum of people because of this strategy. The jury felt that this direction can be replicated for other communities in similar circumstances.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, City & Urban Areas Silver Winner

TITLE: City of Coquitlam Child Care Partnership Strategy

AUTHOR: City of Coquitlam

As a fast-growing city with significant family and child population growth projected over the next decade, there is great and growing need in Coquitlam for equitable access to affordable, high quality child care. The Child Care Partnership Strategy provides clarity with respect to the City's role and establishes pathways for the City to support improvement of the local child care system.

The strategy includes a child care needs assessment that provides background and baseline information; a vision statement; long and short-term targets for new licensed child care spaces; evidence-based, concrete actions to improve child care in four strategic directions; and an implementation plan with clear timelines and defined roles and responsibilities. Since improvement of child care systems requires the cooperation, coordination, and support of all





levels of government as well as private and non-profit actors, the strategy emphasizes a partnership-based approach.

The jury found this submission tackled a topic that has been under-resourced for years. Through its innovative use of impact assessment and targets for child care provision based on growth and needs, it sets a good reference of social planning for other Canadian suburbs.

Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, City & Urban Areas Silver Winner

TITLE: Saanich Housing Strategy

AUTHOR: District of Saanich

The Saanich Housing Strategy is a 10-year planning framework that provides a roadmap for action, with clear direction on how Saanich can achieve greater housing supply, affordability and diversity, accommodating a broad range of community housing needs. The strategy builds on existing actions, supports partnerships, and focuses efforts on areas within municipal influence.

Through an expedited process, the strategy determines the most effective way forward to address complex housing issues that are vital to overall community health and well-being. Actions in the strategy focus on urban areas in close proximity to centers, villages and corridors, supporting broader Saanich goals of addressing climate change, preserving the natural environment, achieving transit-oriented development, and building walkable and healthy communities.

The jury felt that this submission was progressive with tangible implementation strategies and were happy to see the final Strategy’s close alignment with Task Force recommendations.





Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, Small Town & Rural Areas Gold Winner

TITLE: City of Vernon Climate Action Plan

AUTHOR: City of Vernon

With active support from its Climate Action Advisory Committee, the City of Vernon prepared its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), which was endorsed by Council in 2021. Through eight focus areas, Vernon's CAP sets out a clear path to achieve net zero GHGs by 2050. Each focus area articulates specific calls to action

for the City and for community members. The plan is in alignment with the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) targets, and includes community adaptation needed for anticipated climate impacts.

The City developed a Climate Ambassador program to reach a wide range of community members. These Ambassadors inspired and mobilized community members to work with the City to implement the Plan and become climate champions. Its success has led to a scaling up of the program, and has become a model of great interest in the Okanagan Valley. The City is now mentoring neighbouring communities on how to develop a successful Climate Ambassador volunteer engagement program.

The jury appreciated the focus on plain language public education and engagement designed for specific communities, such as through the Climate Storymap and Climate Workbook. Complex issues were made easy to understand for the general public. The training and development of Climate Ambassadors is an innovative and effective way for community mobilization.

Award for Excellence in Policy Planning, Small Town & Rural Areas Silver Winner

TITLE: City of Castlegar Housing Strategy

AUTHOR: City of Castlegar and Resilience Planning

The City of Castlegar Housing Strategy outlines a five-year plan for the municipality to respond to the City's unique housing needs, addressing a full range of housing options from supportive housing, rental housing, to home ownership. It outlines two guiding principles: housing as a human right, and

an integrated systems approach. The Housing Strategy is also supplemented by an Implementation Plan that the City and its Housing Advisory Committee are actively working to apply.

The five strategies for the City to address housing needs are:

1. Create the conditions to support housing development and remove barriers
2. Embed wellness in housing
3. Municipal leadership
4. Innovation
5. Monitoring and evaluation

The jury were inspired to see a small community take the lead and coordinate with so many community groups and partners to tackle the pressing and complex issue of housing, especially with efforts to interview people with lived experience of homelessness and to compensate them for their time.



Award for Research & New Directions Gold Winner

TITLE: A Path to Partnership: A Guide to Navigating Non-Profit Partnerships with Developers in Mixed-Tenure Developments

AUTHORS: CitySpaces Consulting Ltd. and BC Non-Profit Housing Association

The Mixed Tenure Partnership Guide is intended for non-profit housing providers that are exploring the idea of obtaining ownership or a long-term lease in a privately-led new development project. It was developed through a combination of research, key informant interviews, and a focus group with non-profit sector leaders. Partnerships between non-profits and developers are becoming more commonplace in British Columbia, building on the availability and increasing use of local government tools that require non-market units in multi-unit development projects.

This Guide provides clarity and direction to non-profits who are exploring new partnerships and addresses key questions such as:

- What does a non-profit need to know about the development process and their role in it?
- What kind of stake can a non-profit have in a private development?
- What questions does the non-profit need to ask when exploring a partnership?
- What are the financial commitments and risks of partnership in a mixed-tenure building?

The jury felt that this guide fills a gap that planners may not even realize exists. It is easy to read, summarizes what can be a very complex process, and provides a new level of understanding for municipal planners with respect to the risks non-profits consider prior to entering into agreements with developers. The jury hopes that this tool will accelerate the development of more non-market housing.



Award for Research & New Directions Silver Winner

Title: Local Government Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit

Authors: Origin Sustainable Design + Planning and AES Engineering

Many local governments have developed climate plans with ambitious GHG emission reduction targets, declared climate emergencies, and adopted the BC Energy Step Code as a means of addressing GHG emissions reduction in the building sector. Concurrently, many of these local governments also have policies and bylaws that do not support, and in some cases inhibit, construction of low carbon, high performance buildings. The BC Hydro Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit is a new resource for local governments seeking to address barriers and make it easier to build low carbon, high performance buildings in their communities.

The jury found this toolkit to be relevant and timely, and expect that it will create benefits in municipalities small and large. Written and illustrated simply and in plain language, the approaches taken to the work are sound. The relationship between building and planning is always a challenge and this document allows for creation of better planning policies and guidelines.





Awards for Individual Achievement
Award for Leadership in Advocacy & Innovation:
Kim A. Fowler RPP, MCIP

Kim received her Master of Science in Planning degree from the University of Toronto and has had an exemplary career as a practicing planner over the last 30 years. She is the Manager of Long-Range Planning, Energy & Sustainability at the Regional District of Nanaimo and has a rich history of working in a variety of jurisdictions focusing on a diversity of planning topics. As an innovator and advocate for constructive change, four of the areas where she has excelled include:

- Providing sustainability leadership at a local and regional level;
- Helping initiate and carry out climate action;
- Introducing a Triple Bottom Line approach to development planning; and
- Being involved in social, affordable, and integrative housing.

Kim has also worked on a Lifecycle Infrastructure Cost Tool, assisted with adding a sustainability component to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Local Asset Management program, and represented PIBC on Asset Management BC for over a decade. Kim is an innovator who refuses to accept conventional wisdom and ways of doing things and strives to push the envelope and take planning to a higher level.

Annual Student Fellowship
Award Winners



AUTHOR: Jasmin Senghera. UBC, School of Community & Regional Planning

PRESENTATION: The 15-Minute Suburb: Determining the Accessibility of Amenities in the City of Surrey

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the 15-minute city concept back to the forefront. While there has been considerable discussion on the potential of the 15-minute city in many cities around the world, there is a lack of research on the feasibility of this concept in the Canadian suburban context. This research study hones in on the City of Surrey as a case study to address this gap and explore the feasibility of the 15-minute suburb, specifically for the seniors in the city.



AUTHOR: Chris (Crystal) Oberg, Vancouver Island University, Master of Community Planning

PRESENTATION: Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas Certificate – Building Capacity for Professional Planners in BC

The IISAAK OLAM Foundation and Vancouver Island University have the first post-secondary program specializing in lands, natural resources, and conservation: Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). The IPCA Planning Certificate will help educate a new generation of planners with the skills, knowledge, and capacity to support the establishment and stewardship of IPCAs and other Indigenous-led conservation initiatives in the BC context. This research shared how the certificate was developed and how it can enrich planners' practice.



AUTHOR: Mailyn Lai, Vancouver Island University, Master of Community Planning

PRESENTATION: "Natural" Disasters and Natural Assets: The Path to Climate Change Resiliency

Natural assets are environmental features that provide vital services for our communities. However, they are largely undervalued and unrecognized as valued assets. This research explores how natural assets can serve as a change element for municipalities to bridge the gap between case study results and policy implementation.



AUTHOR: Kristina Bell, Vancouver Island University, Master of Community Planning

Presentation: Unpacking Form-based Codes in a British Columbia Planning Context

Form-based codes (FBCs) have been advertised as the answer to our planning problems, but where are BC's FBCs? Kristina's research examines the applicability of FBCs to planning under the Local Government Act in BC and explores the implications of trying to approximate them in practice with a case study on Whistler. This work shared key lessons learned and recommendations for local government planning.

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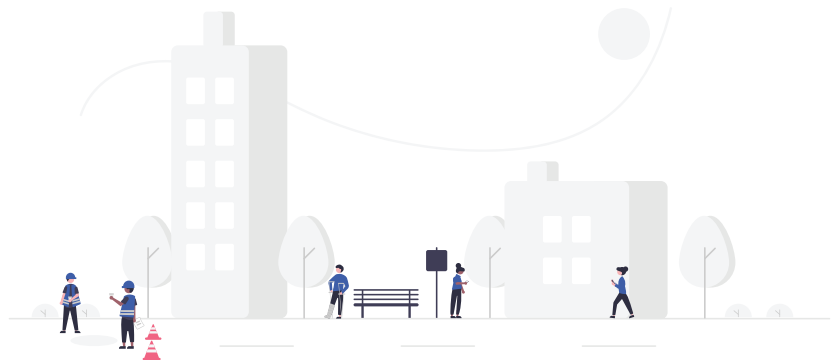


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