

PLANNING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

# PLANNING WEST

Winter 2025

*FORWARD THINKING  
SHAPING COMMUNITIES*

**WORLD TOWN  
PLANNING DAY  
AND CELEBRATING  
THE PROFESSION**





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# PLANNING WEST

Volume 67 | Number 1

*Planning West* is published by the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC)

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Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of PIBC, its Board of Directors, or the *Planning West* Editorial Team

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Paid subscriptions to *Planning West* are available for \$65.00 (plus 5% GST). Send a request with a cheque to:  
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*Planning West* layout  
Luna Design

*Planning West* is printed  
by BondRepro, Vancouver, BC

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The Planning Institute of British Columbia recognizes, acknowledges, and appreciates that our head office operates on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and selilwətaʔ (Tsilil-waututh) Nations. We acknowledge the principles of truth and reconciliation and through our ongoing journey and work as an organization and profession, we continue to actively assist and advance the decolonization of the planning profession in BC and Yukon.



Guests, including Life Member Jagdev Dhillon FCIP Retired (left), celebrating at the PIBC 2024 WTPD Gala.

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#### ON THE COVER

World Urbanism Day, also known as World Town Planning Day, was founded in 1949 by the late Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires, to advance public and professional interest in planning. It is celebrated in more than 30 countries on four continents each November 8th.



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## President's Message



**S**tephen King once said we may hope for the best "but someone *really did* design the *Titanic* and then label it unsinkable." Let's not get ahead of ourselves.

As planners we need the optimism to believe we are doing more than rearranging deck chairs on the *Titanic* as it goes down. We need to feel we are making a difference. That means having the confidence to take the plunge and make recommendations to decision-makers, rather than being lured by the prospect of ever more research, and ever more consultation (assuming we've engaged in robust research and consultation to begin with, of course). We also need to withstand disappointment—*what!?!—they won't follow our advice?*

We're better able to withstand disappointment when we remind ourselves that it's not about us—it's about working together to find solutions that'll help fix the wrongs of our cities, our communities. It's like the cha-cha. Sometimes you need to take a step sideways or backwards in order to be able to move forwards again.

Confucius said, "Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance." Learning is iterative. Planning is iterative. The champagne is always best left on ice. We're not close to solving it all.

Take the many recent changes to Provincial legislation, in service to improving the supply and affordability of housing in BC. Well-meaning. Successful in part. But in some ways missing the mark. In some ways, needing more iteration.

The profession of planning is like that. Early in our careers, we're prone to thinking we understand the challenges we face, and the solutions to these problems. With experience we learn to trust our gut instincts, while also understanding there are no simple challenges or simple answers. Even the best laid plans lead to unintended consequences (and unintended benefits). We need to be ever ready to change course.

Bertrand Russell said, "The trouble with the world is that the ignorant are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt." Let's be full of doubt. But keep striving.

I welcome a new year for the Planning Institute of British Columbia and Yukon. I welcome new ventures and new collaborations. I appreciate that we've had success in several different areas of our Board's Strategic Plan. I also welcome passing the torch to our President-Elect, Kenna Jonkman RPP, MCIP, in June. The future awaits.

With this first issue of *Planning West* in 2025, I want to take the opportunity to thank a number of people. My deep thanks to our **new volunteer editor** of *Planning West*, Jared Kassel RPP, MCIP. We've had tremendous contributions from our *Planning West* editors over the years, and we know you will lead us with aplomb, Jared! Thanks as well to former *Planning West* editor Kristen Agnello RPP, MCIP for her two years of service in this role.

To planning students from across the Province: thank you for your fresh eyes, and your enthusiasm. Please help us to stay humble and keep us ever focused on fixing the errors of the past and present, while keeping one eye on the future.

Thanks to my Board and the Executive Committee for striving to be productive while taking the time to listen to differences in opinion, and finding moments for light-heartedness.

Finally, my thanks to you, members and candidates and subscribers; all of you who support the work of the institute. In personally thanking each of you in our holiday greetings cards, what struck me most (besides my propensity for carpal tunnel syndrome) is the sheer numbers of you who have volunteered over the past year. Impressive.

Canadian curling champion Sherry Anderson said it more eloquently than I ever could: "Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Thank you, PIBC volunteers. Let's make this ship unsinkable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Emilie K. Adin".

**Emilie K. Adin** RPP, MCIP

# OUTLINES

What's Trending?... Member in Focus...



215+ Memorial Garden in Beaconsfield Park.  
Photo: Indigenous Women Rise Society

## What's Trending?

by **Cindy Cheung** PIBC Communications & Marketing Specialist

In this issue, we take a closer look at a Lower Mainland society that is striving to make a lasting positive impact by creating safer gathering spaces for Indigenous women and youth. We also bring our lens back to nature where the Canadian arm of a global organization (focused on conservation innovation and investment) is sharing Canadian leadership and expertise in sustainability and resiliency with the world.

### Indigenous Women Rise Society

@IWR\_Society

<https://www.indigenouswomenrise.ca/>

<https://www.instagram.com/indigenouswomenrise>

### *Making Lasting Change, Together*

The Indigenous Women Rise (IWR) Society is a nonprofit organization based in Vancouver, BC, dedicated to cultivating safe spaces for Indigenous women and youth to gather, learn, and heal. Since launching in 2023, the Society serves over 4,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit women and girls across Turtle Island with in-person and virtual programs, events and training, including the Indigenous Women Rise drum group where participants can feel a strong sense of belonging, connection and unity. The Society also offers MMIWG2S support groups with

### Stay Updated with PIBC e-News!

Keep up-to-date regularly with current Institute & local planning news, events and job opportunities with PIBC e-News! The Institute's electronic newsletter is emailed to members every other Wednesday. Haven't seen your PIBC e-News? Check your spam/junk email folder and be sure to add [enews@pibc.bc.ca](mailto:enews@pibc.bc.ca) to your contacts.



the Arming Sisters and Healing Supports Program for prevention and healing.

With funding and sponsorship from First Nation's Health Authority, Urban and Away from Home, Real Estate Foundation of BC and Indigenous Services Canada, the Society strives to bring about profound, impactful and lasting change to empower Indigenous women and girls through providing safer gathering spaces in the Lower Mainland and beyond.

Learn more about the Indigenous Women Rise Society and consider volunteering; opportunities include assisting at upcoming events and lending a green thumb to the 215+ Memorial Garden in Beaconsfield Park.

## Nature United Canada

@natureunited\_ca

<https://www.natureunited.ca>

<https://www.instagram.com/natureunitedcanada/>

### Developing Solutions for People and Nature

Nature United Canada began its work ten years ago when its global affiliate, The Nature Conservancy (the world's largest conservation organization, with more than 600 scientists and 3,000 staff worldwide), joined in to conserve the Great Bear Rainforest. Nature United focuses on bringing global innovation and investment to Canada and, in turn, sharing Canadian leadership and expertise with the world.

Grounded in science and collaboration, Nature United prioritizes creating solutions for people and nature by building diverse partnerships to protect lands and waters, ensuring nature is the foundation of healthy communities, economies and future opportunities. Its vision is to build a sustainable Canada where "nature is the foundation of human well-being, prosperity and opportunity for future generations".

### Nature United Canada focuses on these priorities:

- Climate Change
- Indigenous-led Conservation
- Resilient Lands and Waters
- Policy and Practice

### Worth Checking Out...

Nature United's extensive collection of research and insights. A recent blog shares an "In The Spotlight" feature and the key take-aways from the recent COP16 Summit (November 2024): <https://www.natureunited.ca/what-we-do/insights/>.

## Planning West Call for Submissions

Spring 2025 Issue:

**The Planning Practitioner's Edition**

Submission deadline: March 15, 2025

Summer 2025 Issue:

**PIBC 2025 Annual Conference & PIBC Awards**

Submission deadline: June 27, 2025

Articles should be 1000-1200 words in length in an unformatted MS Word document. Please note: not all articles may be accommodated based on editorial decisions and the number of submissions received.

## What Membership Means to Me

Planners across British Columbia and Yukon join PIBC and value becoming Registered Professional Planners for a variety of reasons. We reached out to our members across BC, Yukon and beyond to learn why they value becoming an RPP and what membership means to them.



### Carl Funk RPP, MCIP

Director, Industrial Planning and Development at Beedie

*"When I stepped into private land development right after planning school, I was hooked. The complexity of balancing project management, cost-benefit analysis, and diverse opinions was exhilarating...and stressful. Over the years, I've worked on projects ranging from heritage conservation and affordable housing to industrial build-to-suits and public art. Each has deepened my appreciation for how planning and development shape our communities.*

*As my career evolved, my PIBC membership became essential. It connects me to the big conversations that shape our cities and helps me break down the "us versus them" mindset that can easily form between municipal planners and developers. Though we sit at the same table, working toward shared goals, it's easy to fall into the trap of seeing each other as adversaries.*

*This collaboration gap can also extend to our professional events. Private development seminars often miss the perspectives of planners, while planning events sometimes overlook private developers. Without all voices present, we risk creating echo chambers that limit meaningful dialogue.*

*PIBC bridges this divide, connecting me to diverse professionals and perspectives that make me a better developer. It keeps me informed about evolving planning issues and reminds me that the best outcomes happen when everyone is at the table. Membership isn't just about staying informed — it's about fostering the collaboration needed to create lasting, impactful projects.* ”

**Correction:** In the Fall 2024 issue, the article regarding professional regulation (page 38) appeared with the incorrect title and author information. The correct title and author information are: 'A Licence to Plan or Just Government Oversight? Considering British Columbia's Professional Governance Act' By Raymond Kan RPP, MCIP.

The correct information is reflected in the updated digital version of the Fall issue available online.



# World Town Planning Day – Focusing on Members







## Planning Podcasts

In this issue, the podcast hosts and guests explore and discuss with passion two important urban issues – supporting and connecting Indigenous Peoples in urban areas and facing the impacts and building solutions for climate-induced migration. Get ready to dive deep into these thought-provoking podcasts.

**Got a podcast about planning you want to share? Contact us with your podcast summary at [editor@pibc.bc.ca](mailto:editor@pibc.bc.ca)**

*\*Podcast content and opinions are solely those of the podcast creators. PIBC does not endorse third party content and/or necessarily share the same views as expressed in these podcasts. Podcast links and content may change without notice and PIBC is not responsible for updates to content from podcast creators.*

**\* Podcast links are available on the PIBC Planning Podcasts web page at [www.pibc.bc.ca/planning-podcasts](http://www.pibc.bc.ca/planning-podcasts)**





## PODCAST SUMMARIES

**Steffi Sunny**

PIBC Candidate &amp; Communications Committee Member

## Climate Imaginary Podcast: Planning for Community Resilience

**Run time** 35:00 minutes**Host:** Am Johal**Guest:** Dr. Andréanne Doyon RPP, MCIP, Assistant Professor at the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University**Podcast link**

<https://www.sfu.ca/vancity-office-community-engagement/below-the-radar-podcast/series/the-climate-imaginary/195-andreanne-doyon.html>

**Podcast Summary**

In Below the Radar's The Climate Imaginary Series, hosts and guests touch on disinformation, links between the arts and climate activism, and the challenges in making real environmental change. To visualize a better future, Below the Radar invites guests from across artistic and academic disciplines to discuss ways of working in solidarity amidst the climate crisis. This podcast features conversations that range from the unique power of creative works to mobilize people, to the importance of collaboration and interdependence across fields.

The series is recorded on the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

**Why Planners Should Listen**

Dr. Andréanne Doyon is a Register Professional Planner (RPP) and explores the integration of social and technical aspects of sustainability. She discusses the overlap and difference between sustainability and resilience, particularly in the context of planning and the built environment. She further elaborates how both concepts aim for a better future and respond to climate change but they approach it differently. Doyon critiques a narrow focus on climate change mitigation, which often overlooks social and ecological dimensions, and advocates for a more inclusive and context-aware strategy that incorporates biodiversity conservation alongside climate adaptation.

This is a great podcast for planners, especially the ones leading climate research projects and those writing climate policies. Doyon emphasizes the critical role of academia in training the next generation of professionals who will lead climate adaptation efforts. She takes her role in educating future planners and policymakers seriously, aiming to instill values and critical thinking that will influence their work.

## AI for Social Good

**Run time** 9 minutes per episode, 7 episodes totalling to an hour**Host:** Acast

**Guests:** Dr. Graham Taylor (AI in Environment)  
Mike Branch (AI in Transportation)  
Dr. Golnoosh Farnadi (AI in Human Resource)  
Craig Alleva (AI in Business)  
Dr. Devin Singh (AI in Healthcare)  
Mariel Marshall (AI in Art)  
Navneet Alang (AI in Debate).

**Podcast link**

<https://shows.acast.com/ai-for-social-good>

**Podcast Summary**

AI for Social Good is a seven-episode podcast series where experts representing different industries discuss and explore the rapidly changing phenomenon of artificial intelligence (AI). The guests tackle questions with no easy answers and present listeners with the best social use case to face today's most pressing challenges.

**Why Planners Should Listen**

Planners may be particularly interested in these two episodes below:

In 'AI in Environment', Dr. Graham

Taylor, Professor and Canada Research Chair of Machine Learning at the School of Engineering at University of Guelph, Research Director at the Vector Institute and Canada CIFAR AI Chair, talks about the importance of protecting biological diversity, pushing boundaries with AI, driving future behaviours to improve life, and advanced machine learning challenges.

In 'AI in Transportation', Mike Branch, Vice President of Data and Analytics at Geotab, discusses how AI is helping reduce emissions in the global transportation sector, a major contributor to pollution. Branch visualizes a future where AI will enable fleet managers to ask questions about decarbonization and receive tailored, actionable plans in real-time, helping to achieve a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future.

Other episodes offer valuable insights and perspectives in areas already impacted by AI:

**AI in Human Resource** – Dr. Golnoosh Farnadi, an assistant professor at McGill University, shares her own experience of realizing the potential consequences of AI in hiring and highlights several examples where AI systems have perpetuated discrimination.

**AI in Business** – Craig Alleva, Director of Customer Engineering at Google Cloud, emphasizes the importance of using AI responsibly, highlighting Google's AI principles, which ensure social benefit, prevent bias, and implement safeguards against misuse.

**AI in Healthcare** – Dr. Devin Singh, an emergency physician and expert in clinical AI at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, discusses his vision to leverage AI to transform healthcare in Canada while ensuring technologies respect the cultural diversity and values of the country.

**AI in Art** – Mariel Marshall, an artist and entrepreneur, discusses how the pandemic has significantly impacted the arts community, and that the future of art will be shaped by bold, innovative uses of technology where artists must embrace experimentation to move forward.

**AI in Debate** – Navneet Alang, a tech columnist, critiques AI's current limitations, highlighting that it excels at pattern recognition rather than genuine intelligence. Alang concludes by stressing that while technology can drive change, it is ultimately up to humans to shape its impact.



# World Town Planning Day

## "Not Every Profession Gets Its Own Day"

Jared Kassel RPP, MCIP, PMP *Planning West* Editor

These were the guiding words spoken by emcee Pam Shaw (PhD, RPP, FCIP) at the World Town Planning Day (WTPD) gala event on November 2, 2024 as Planners from across BC and Yukon gathered at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver. As the evening's host, Pam spoke about the importance of this annual celebration that globally highlights how urban and regional planning shape our communities.

WTPD was originally established in 1949 by Professor Carlos María della Paolera from Argentina. He envisioned a day dedicated to increasing public awareness of the role of planning in improving the quality of life for people in cities, towns, and rural areas. Since then, it has grown into an event celebrated in over 30 countries, emphasizing the critical role of thoughtful and inclusive community planning in addressing contemporary issues such as climate change, population growth, and resource scarcity.

### Celebrating World Town Planning Day

Celebrations for WTPD vary globally, but they often include conferences, workshops, educational campaigns, and awards recognizing excellence in planning. Universities and

professional organizations host discussions on urban challenges and showcase innovative solutions. Events may also involve interactive activities, such as urban design competitions and guided tours of exemplary city planning projects.

Educational initiatives on this day aim to inspire the next generation of Planners. Students are encouraged to explore careers in planning and learn how their skills can contribute to building better communities.

### Membership Presentations

The gala included a welcoming presentation to those seasoned professionals celebrating 25+ years of PIBC membership, as well as congratulating the newest members on their full RPP certification. During these acknowledgements, I reflected on what I believe is the biggest strength of our profession; a diverse and collaborative group of professionals that shares information amongst colleagues in order to successfully navigate the immense challenges we face in our local communities. Being a member of PIBC allows us to exchange experiences through social connection, which provides each of us the opportunity to learn

different approaches to resolving challenging issue associated with community building projects we each work on. This work leaves an indelible impression on both the built and natural environment. Indeed our communities are constantly evolving, due to both internal and external pressures. But planning is more than designing streets, buildings, and green spaces. It is a multidisciplinary effort to ensure that communities function efficiently, equitably, and sustainably. One of the core principles celebrated on World Town Planning Day is the value of community participation in shaping urban spaces.

Our profession has been criticized for making decisions from a top-down perspective, with minimal input from citizens and residents upon which these decisions have significant impacts. In 2024, ensuring meaningful community participation on land use and development projects has become a point of contention for many residents across British Columbia. The planning profession is at the helm of addressing the provincial housing crisis, and Planners from all sectors (whether you work for a private, public or non-profit organization) had to contend with the inherent conflict between ensuring opportunities for effective community participation and ensuring that development proposals proceeded in a timely manner. With the introduction of the new provincial housing legislation (and corresponding regulations), the focus in 2024 has been for municipalities to bring local bylaws and policies into compliance. Through the implementation of this legislation, municipalities have had to further limit the opportunity to receive public input at important junctures of the planning and land use development process. Reducing opportunities for public engagement (particularly during rezonings) helps to overcome the "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) sentiment that can sometimes hinder development proposals such as affordable housing projects. In these situations, Planners are a crucial connection with local community groups, and we have a responsibility to ensure transparency in decision making, and have inclusive stakeholder participation that provides feedback on land use planning decisions. Planners must play attention to local priorities, cultural values and specific technical challenges associated







PIBC members in attendance and receiving recognition at the 2024 World Town Planning Day gala event. Congratulations to the many new and long serving RPPs







with a development site. Ensuring opportunities for effective public input can be difficult, but having it will build trust between governments and communities, reducing conflict and project delays. There is a growing recognition (both at the political and administrative levels) that inclusive and participatory planning leads to better outcomes. No-one should be left behind.

### Featured Presentation

The evening featured a presentation by Eve Hou, RPP, MCIP, Senior Manager of Policy Development and Decision Analysis at Translink, who spoke about the unprecedented growth pressures that the Vancouver region is

experiencing, and how TransLink is adapting to this new reality. The regional growth trends draw attention to transit systems that are now required to support broader government policy goals, including climate, housing & affordability, immigration and economic productivity. Add to this that funding challenges are worsening due to external factors such as the capping of fare hikes, the popularity of low emissions electric vehicles (which in turn results in a reduction of gas tax revenue), as well as overcrowding on existing transit networks. Furthermore, inflation has increased all of TransLink's costs. With this as background, *Transport 2050* was developed as a 30-year strategy for regional transportation projects,

policies and programs. If you live in Metro Vancouver, *Transport 2050* will shape how you get around. The document identifies projects, services and policies for the next 30 years in order to create a fairer and more just and inclusive transportation system. The discussion on how technology is creating a dramatic revolution in transportation is particularly interesting. The transformation of electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles, urban aerial mobility and shared mobility are all promising technologies that will support – and not replace – the most sustainable modes of walking, biking, rolling, and transit. As Eve Hou explained during her presentation, the 10-year priorities plan (called the *Access for Everyone Plan* which







describes the priorities for the first 10 years of *Transport 2050*), contemplates building 170 kilometres of rapid transit, including up to 9 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors, a Burnaby Mountain Gondola, and the Millenium Line extension to UBC. This is a bold implementation blueprint to put TransLink on a path to achieving the goals set out in the region's 30-year transportation strategy.

### Reflecting on World Town Planning Day

By celebrating the founding principles of WTPD, we are reminded that communities are not haphazardly built—they are carefully planned to reflect the values, aspirations, and priorities of their residents. As urban areas

continue to grow and evolve, the principles of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient planning will be crucial in ensuring a high quality of life for all.

We recognize the vital role of Planners in addressing the challenges of today and shaping the communities of tomorrow. Let us use WTPD as an inspiration to collaborate, innovate, and build a future where everyone can thrive.

Jared Kassel, RPP, MCIP, PMP is the Editor of *Planning West* magazine. Jared has been a planning practitioner for 22 years, working in both B.C. and Alberta in both the private and public sectors. Currently he is the Manager of Planning at the District of Peachland.





# Building Resilience

## Supporting healthy communities with climate resilient health facilities

Robin Hawker RPP, MCIP Craig Dedels RPP, MCIP Hussein Hage & Michal Simhon P.ENG., ENV SP, IRP

This article was adapted from the article Building Resilience published in the Canadian Healthcare Facilities Magazine (Journal of Canadian Healthcare Engineering Society) Volume 44, Issue 4, Fall 2024 written by Robin Hawker, Craig Dedels & Maddy Laberge.

### Introduction

Climate resilient health facilities are essential for safeguarding community well-being and ensuring the delivery of critical services during extreme events. Planners must prioritize resilience as part of a comprehensive long-term strategy to address climate change impacts.

Climate change is increasingly having significant impacts on population health across Canadian communities, placing unprecedented pressure on healthcare facilities. Climate-related hazards such as wildfires, flooding, storms, and heat waves can impact access to services when they are needed most. It is crucial for health systems to be resilient to future conditions, ensuring that reliable and quality healthcare is accessible despite increasing demand and climate uncertainty.

Health facilities across BC, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, urgent primary care centres, and outpatient clinics, provide essential medical and social services to thousands of patients every week. Ensuring the climate-readiness of this critical infrastructure should be a priority for planners across disciplines, including emergency management, transportation, and land use.

This article was originally published in the Fall 2024 issue of *Canadian Healthcare Facilities Magazine*. Its intent is to showcase how resilience can be prioritized in the design and construction of health facilities, helping our communities better prepare for and respond to both current and future climate-related hazards.





**Southeast aerial view of  
new St. Paul's Hospital**  
Credit to Providence Health Care,  
Provincial Health Services Authority,  
Vancouver Coastal Health



## Climate Change & the Health System

The World Health Organization (WHO) has labeled climate change as the most significant health threat to humanity. Rising global temperatures, altered weather patterns, and more frequent extreme weather events are amplifying health risks, exacerbating vulnerabilities, and threatening to unravel decades of progress in global health systems. According to the WHO, these threats include increased vector-borne diseases, worsening respiratory conditions from air pollution, food and water insecurity, and mental health impacts caused by climate-related stressors (World Health Organization, 2023).

In Canada, the economic costs of climate change are staggering, with insurable losses estimated at \$3 billion in 2023, which is more than double the \$1.6 billion recorded just a decade earlier in 2012 (Insurance Bureau of Canada CatIQ, 2023). However, the financial implications only tell part of the story. In British Columbia (B.C.), 2021 serves as a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of climate and health. During that year alone, the province endured cascading extreme weather events, including:

1. An unprecedented heat dome resulted in 815 recorded sudden deaths, 570 of which were related to heat (Province of B.C. Coroner's Report, 2022).
2. Record-breaking wildfires burned the Village of Lytton and other communities, while significantly deteriorating air quality and straining emergency services across the province.
3. An atmospheric river caused catastrophic flooding, displacing thousands, disrupting health services, and isolating communities for weeks.

These events highlighted the vulnerability of B.C.'s health system to cascading hazards, overwhelming emergency departments, long-term care facilities, and staffing resources. Vulnerable populations, including those with pre-existing conditions, older adults, those without adequate housing, and outdoor workers, bore the brunt of these impacts, showcasing the importance of inclusive climate resilience planning.

The 2021 heat dome, in particular, marked a critical turning point for the province's health system. This catastrophe catalyzed efforts in climate change mitigation and adaptation aimed at reducing health impacts and improving resilience within healthcare delivery systems. Strategic investment in resilient design and emergency management within

the health sector today can not only save lives but also circumvent the soaring costs of future emergency response, service disruptions, and facility repairs.

## Resilient Healthcare in Action

Health authorities in B.C. are at the forefront of embedding climate resilience into health facility design, leveraging the need to expand hospital and long-term care capacity to serve a growing and aging population. In 2018, Vancouver Coastal Health conducted studies on future climate to guide new facility designs. This effort informed the creation of the first *Climate Resilience Guidelines for B.C. Health Facility Planning & Design in 2020*, which were updated in 2024. These guidelines have shaped resilient design across the province, embedding climate resilience as a core principle in the design and implementation of over 20 acute and long-term care capital projects.

Their efforts are supported by provincial initiatives such as the *Climate Preparedness & Adaptation Strategy*, the *Environmental, Social & Governance Framework for Capital*, and the *Climate Resilience Framework & Standards for Public Sector Buildings*. These policy documents emphasize the importance of climate resilience in all public sector buildings and provide a foundation for new baseline standards in resilient design.

The success of climate resilience in B.C.'s health system is due to commitment at all organizational levels, from senior leadership to project managers. Investments in training staff, recruiting industry experts, and developing tools have streamlined processes and advanced resilience outcomes.

A prime example of climate resilience in action is the new St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, slated to open in 2027. This state-of-the-art facility will be B.C.'s first acute care hospital with climate resilience embedded into every phase of its design and construction. To prepare for rising sea levels and potential coastal flooding, the hospital is being built five meters above the sea-level rise projected for 2100, with critical systems housed on the fifth floor. Emergency watertight floodgates will protect key entrances, while 900 reinforced concrete secant piles form a water-resistant perimeter. Extreme heat risks are addressed with systems calibrated for future climate conditions, green roofs, rainwater reuse for cooling, and over 200 shade-providing trees.

Emergency readiness further distinguishes the facility. Four generators with 30% surplus capacity can sustain operations for 72 hours during grid outages, while adaptable inpatient rooms can double as intensive care units. A

versatile ambulance garage will transform into a disaster response hub, and a deployable Mobile Medical Unit will enhance care capacity during crises. With these innovations, the new St. Paul's Hospital sets a benchmark for how healthcare facilities can adapt to a changing climate while ensuring uninterrupted patient care.

This deep integration of resilience into every aspect of the design process highlights the importance of anticipating future challenges and developing tailored solutions for each project. By focusing on incremental yet impactful enhancements, this approach minimizes the risk of costly retrofits or system failures caused by future climate disasters.

## Tools for Climate-Ready Care

With resilient design becoming a cornerstone of new health facilities, the B.C. health authorities are also integrating climate resilience into program planning and asset renewal for existing facilities. Tools like the *Portfolio-Level Climate Hazard Exposure Screen* and the *Climate Vulnerability Survey* are pivotal in these efforts.

The Portfolio-Level Climate Hazard Exposure Screen, launched in 2022, compiles detailed climate projection data for more than 100 health facilities in the Lower Mainland and almost 60 health facilities in the Interior Health region. Initially created to guide facility upgrades, this tool has since been used in emergency management planning and wildfire preparedness. For example, facilities in wildfire-prone zones have implemented FireSmart practices based on the tool's data, mitigating fire risks and improving safety for staff and patients.

The Climate Vulnerability Survey for Existing Buildings, a new tool still in development, provides space for facility managers to document how past climate hazards have impacted their facilities. This user-friendly platform generates summaries of key vulnerabilities and recommended resilience strategies, making it easier to align planned system renewals with climate-ready standards. Both tools demonstrate the importance of proactive planning in reducing costs and minimizing risks while fostering more adaptive health systems.

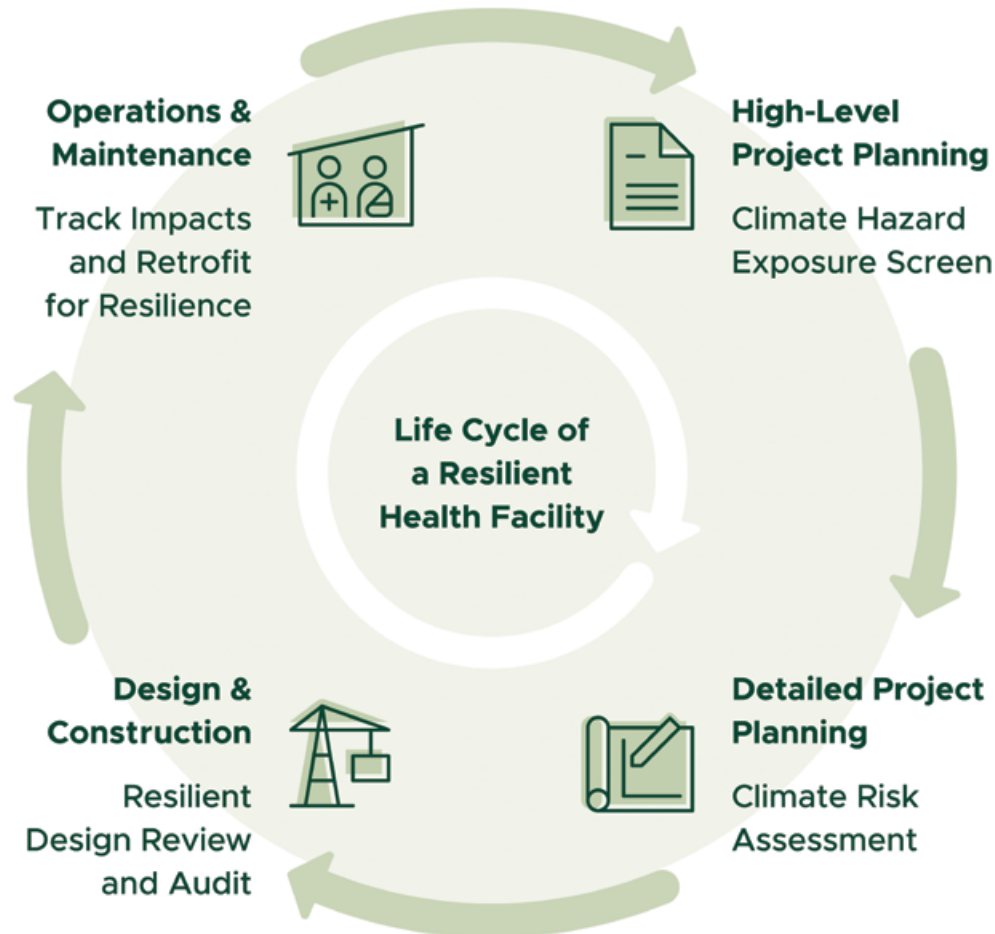
## Moving Forward Together

Integrating climate resilience into healthcare is more than an industry goal—it's a moral obligation. Health facilities serve as the cornerstone of our communities, and their ability to withstand climate-related hazards directly impacts public health and safety. With extreme



## Climate resilience planning process for health care facilities

Credit to Providence Health Care,  
Provincial Health Services Authority,  
Vancouver Coastal Health



weather events becoming more frequent and severe, the need for robust mitigation and adaptation strategies has never been more urgent. Achieving this requires collaboration across disciplines—bringing together health-care providers, emergency planners, climate experts, and policymakers to ensure that no facility or patient is left vulnerable.

B.C.'s leadership in this field highlights what is possible through innovation, determination, and collective action. As other regions look to these achievements for inspiration, the message is clear: investing in climate resilience today lays the foundation for healthier, stronger, and more sustainable communities for generations to come.

This article was submitted on behalf of the PIBC Climate Action Sub-Committee, of which Robin, Craig and Hussein are members.

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# Cities in the Lead on Climate Action: A Cross-Border Comparison (Part 2)

Don Alexander, PIBC Retired Member

In “Cities in the Lead on Climate Action: A Cross-Border Comparison (Part 1),” I examined the record of the City of Portland in its work on climate action, as seen through the lenses of ‘doughnut economics’ and ‘biophilic cities.’ In this second part, I’ll examine the record of a much smaller city – my hometown of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island.

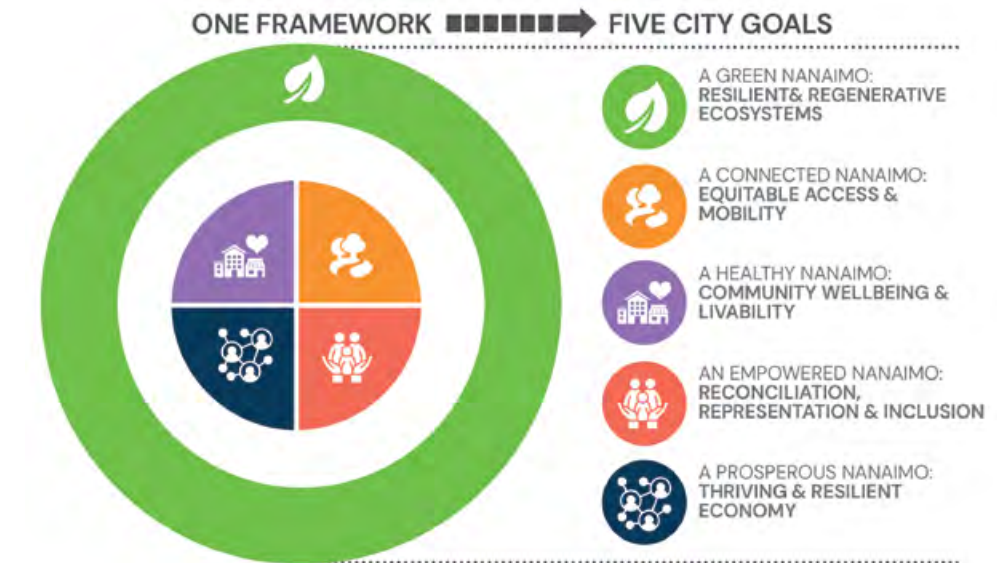
## Background on Climate Action

Portland developed its first climate action plan in 1993. Nanaimo advanced “Emissions and Energy Management Policies” in its plan-Nanaimo of 2008. In 2010, it added explicit GHG reduction targets for 2020 and 2050, and in its 2012 *Community Sustainability Action Plan* it elaborated on a variety of policies aimed at curbing climate change and enhancing sustainability (City of Nanaimo, 2012). In April 2019, recognizing the concern raised by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) related to limiting global warming to 1.5°C, Nanaimo City Council declared a Climate Emergency and set new community-wide emission reduction targets.<sup>1</sup> Supporting this further, Council adopted the Doughnut Economics framework as the guiding model “to build a city... that operates within... planetary boundaries.”

In the next year, it issued its first Climate Change Resilience Strategy (City of Nanaimo, 2020). Both Portland and Nanaimo have been exploring using sectoral *and* consumption-based measures of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (C40, 2021).<sup>2</sup> In 2024, Nanaimo published its first consumption-based carbon inventory and made available a carbon calculator tool that allows residents to calculate their personal carbon footprints.<sup>3</sup> One of the most significant changes was implementation of the highest tier of the BC Zero Carbon Step Code – meaning all new buildings have to meet the most stringent GHG emissions requirements.<sup>4</sup>

## Doughnut Economics

All of Nanaimo’s climate action and environmental sustainability work has been intimately bound up with Doughnut Economy, and the city has also made it the guide for re-drafting a new *Community Plan, Nanaimo ReImagined*, adopted in July 2022. The Community Plan succinctly summarizes the ‘Doughnut’ as involving “strengthening our



Source: City Plan: Nanaimo Re-Imagined (2022)

social foundations so that all community members can live well without falling short on life’s essentials, while at the same time staying within our ecological ceiling by making choices that protect and enhance our environment...” (City of Nanaimo, 2022, p. 14).

Out of the doughnut comes five goals [see above] – the first representing respecting the ecological ceiling, and the other four representing community members living well. Another manifestation of the city’s work that it is a part of a network of municipal economic development officers called Vancouver Island Coast Economic Development Association (VICEDA). VICEDA hired a non-profit organization, the Synergy Foundation, to research the possibilities for businesses to adopt the ‘circular economy’ model whereby they minimize production of waste and use inputs that are as local and low-impact as possible (Synergy Foundation, 2023).

## Biophilic Cities Initiatives

Nanaimo does not use the ‘biophilic cities’ term. However, a number of its initiatives can be considered biophilic in content. Under its new Community Plan, Nanaimo outlines a number of focus areas under the theme of a

“Green Nanaimo.” These include:

- Greenhouse gas emissions reduction
- Climate adaptation and hazard mitigation
- Urban tree canopy, natural areas and greenways
- Healthy watersheds
- Water, sewer and stormwater services
- Solid waste management
- Brownfield sites, and;
- Artificial lighting & dark skies

In addition to these focus areas, Nanaimo has produced two crucial documents to accompany the community plan – an *Integrated Action Plan*, approved by Council in June 2023 (City of Nanaimo, 2023), and a draft *Monitoring Strategy* (City of Nanaimo, 2024). Of the 1000 possible actions flowing from the Community Plan, City Council has identified 203 as being of higher priority. The Draft Monitoring Strategy will enable the city to track its ongoing performance in implementing priority actions against desired performance. To date, 10 of the 23 key indicators identified have been developed (Pan, 2024). Portland has developed indicator and monitoring systems



(Diesner, 2024), but they are not all in one place like Nanaimo's.

The City Plan is less than three years old, and much of its content has yet to be transferred into the older Zoning Bylaw. Initiatives past and present include working with community groups on establishing food forests<sup>5</sup>, Indigenous plant gardens, and conducting tree-planting. The city also provides grants to community groups for sustainability and watershed projects (Pan & Stewart, 2024).

Like Portland, Nanaimo is committed to increasing its tree canopy, but has a head start with an average of 33% coverage against Portland's just under 30%. Like Portland, it is mapping tree-deficient neighbourhoods as a prelude to equalizing canopy coverage. It also has a tree voucher program to reduce the cost of purchasing trees for homeowners (Pan & Stewart, 2024).

Other initiatives include establishing a 50-metre setback for streams and environmentally sensitive areas in new projects, restoration work on two streams, and facilitating a 'Green Shores' project on one private coastal property, which involves replacing hard armoring to protect against storm surges and sea-level rise with natural shore treatments. Its work on streams has also involved recruiting the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRI) to conduct an Ecological Accounting Process analysis of two creeks in the city to facilitate the city and adjacent homeowners to invest in the upkeep of the creeks and their adjacent riparian areas (MABRRI, 2024).

Finally, the city is exploring possible greenway links between existing city parks. One type would primarily be for their wildlife corridor and habitat value and the other would mainly be for recreational purposes (City of Nanaimo, 2022, C1.3.18). This ties in with the city's commitment to promoting more active transportation, which it has been doing through the construction of bike lanes in different parts of the city. A final initiative is the Parks and Recreation Department exploring the potential for having more 'dark sky' areas, with attention currently focusing on one park as a potential test site (City of Nanaimo, 2022).

## Conclusions

Portland is one of the most advanced jurisdictions in North America in terms of

leading on climate action and promoting a 'green' economy. For a city a fraction of its size, Nanaimo is punching well above its weight and has been a leading jurisdiction in the adoption and application of the framework of 'Doughnut Economics.' Of especial note is the development of specific identified actions flowing from its Official Plan, and the ongoing development of an indicator and monitoring framework to measure progress in achieving these. The goal, once the indicators are fully developed and approved by Council, is to report to the community on progress achieved on an annual basis, the first instalment of which has already occurred. I have only been able to lay out a few of the city's initiatives. I would encourage readers to check out *Community Plan: Nanaimo ReImagined*, especially section C1, and the city's *Integrated Action Plan*.

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Don Alexander, PhD, is an adjunct professor in Geography at Vancouver Island University, a retired RPP, and the author of numerous articles and book reviews on planning-related matters.

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<sup>1</sup>See <https://www.nanaimo.ca/green-initiatives>.

<sup>2</sup>A consumption-based approach looks at a given population's emissions based on the products they produce, use, and consume, regardless of where they originate, using life-cycle analysis. A sectoral approach looks merely at CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by local transportation, building activity, industry and agriculture, etc. without looking at the full life-cycle (City of Portland, 2021).

<sup>3</sup>For information on the carbon calculator, see <https://www.nanaimo.ca/green-initiatives/climate-action/green-together/carbon-calculator>. For more on Nanaimo's climate reporting, see <https://www.nanaimo.ca/green-initiatives/climate-action/climate-reporting>.

<sup>4</sup>For more on the BC Zero Carbon Step Code, see [https://energystepcode.ca/app/uploads/sites/257/2024/06/StepCodes\\_Guidebook\\_v3.pdf](https://energystepcode.ca/app/uploads/sites/257/2024/06/StepCodes_Guidebook_v3.pdf).

<sup>5</sup>For more on food forests, see <https://projectfood-forest.org/what-is-a-food-forest/>.

# Preserving Heritage in Densifying Times – Innovative Approaches in Kelowna and Burnaby

Lauren Sanbrooks RPP, MCIP, CAHP and Lisa Codd



Like many cities across the country, Kelowna and Burnaby are facing the challenge of managing rapid growth while preserving their heritage in the context of urban development pressures. In Kelowna, rapid population growth in addition to the new provincial housing policies have prompted immediate updates to the zoning bylaw and additional changes to the Heritage Conservation Area (HCA) Development Guidelines, raising questions about how to balance heritage conservation

with the need for increased housing density. Similarly, Burnaby is working to preserve its heritage sites while accommodating growth, including adding heritage provisions to the new Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Zoning District (SSMUH) in its zoning bylaw. Both cities are exploring a range of incentives and regulatory frameworks to sustain their commitment to heritage conservation while supporting the provincial goal of increasing housing supply.

## Example #1: Kelowna, B.C.\*

As one of Canada's fastest-growing metro areas, Kelowna is grappling with the challenges of balancing rapid population growth and heritage conservation. As highlighted in the most recent census, this growth has increased the demand for housing in the city, sparking significant changes in how and where development happens. The City of Kelowna has been proactive in planning for this growth, increasing housing density through initiatives like the





**Kelowna HCA 4 –**  
Two heritage houses  
along Abbott Street,  
featuring traditional and  
unique styles, typical  
property sitting, and  
mature landscaping.

Infill Fast Track program, which encourages housing development in urban centres and along major transit routes.

The provincial government recently introduced new housing policies that set ambitious targets for cities across British Columbia, including Kelowna. In response, Kelowna updated its Zoning Bylaw and Official Community Plan (OCP) to align with the new regulations, specifically the Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH) and the Transit-Oriented Area (TOA). While these legislative updates are designed to expedite housing development, they often conflict with the slower, more cautious approach that heritage conservation requires. This balancing act is especially challenging in Kelowna's two Heritage Conservation Areas (HCA), the Abbott Street and Marshall Street HCAs, which hold unique historical value and are increasingly impacted by the drive for higher-density development.

Residents in these areas are understandably protective of the unique, historic character of their neighbourhoods. The pressure for more high-density housing brings up important questions about how new development will fit into these established neighbourhoods without undermining the historic aesthetic. A primary concern for the community is that infill projects, if not carefully managed, could compromise the heritage value of these areas. Kelowna's planning department recognizes these concerns and understands that while housing is crucial, preserving the distinct identity of heritage neighbourhoods is equally important.

The City's 1997 Development Guidelines for the HCAs are currently under review to adapt to the changing landscape of housing



and heritage needs. This update, now in its third phase, aims to modernize the guidelines by aligning them with national standards and best practices for heritage conservation. However, the recent legislative changes have broadened the scope of this review. Although Kelowna's HCAs are not formally protected by heritage designation, the City is committed to managing them thoughtfully to balance growth with preservation.

Only a small fraction—8 out of 377 properties—within Kelowna's HCAs are formally protected through Heritage Revitalization Agreements or heritage designation bylaws. This limited level of protection highlights the

**Kelowna HCA 3 –**  
The Murchison House  
(left) at 1781 Abbott  
Street, protected by a  
Heritage Revitalization  
Agreement, stands  
alongside a new,  
modern build (right),  
looking towards  
downtown Kelowna.

need for more robust guidelines to ensure that development aligns with the historic character of these areas. Currently, approximately 25% of the Abbott Street HCA overlaps with the TOA boundary, where zoning changes now allow for buildings up to six storeys high, a significant shift from the one- and two-storey homes that characterize this neighbourhood.

Other cities have managed to increase density in their heritage areas by adopting creative solutions, such as multi-dwelling conversions, without sacrificing the unique qualities of these neighbourhoods. Inspired by such examples, Kelowna's updated draft guidelines now feature Statements of Significance and Desired Future Character. These statements outline what makes these areas special, providing a framework for new development to complement, rather than overpower, the neighbourhood's heritage elements. The guidelines also prioritize the conservation of key properties and trees that contribute to the area's historical value.

To further encourage preservation, the City is exploring various incentives, including zoning adjustments, such as allowing more units per lot or relaxing parking requirements. However, the real challenge with incentives lies in balancing the goal of retaining heritage character with the financial and regulatory constraints faced by municipalities. Limited funding, competing priorities, and the complexity of creating effective, enforceable incentives often diminish the impact of these measures. In response to resident feedback, the City is also evaluating whether current guidelines provide adequate protection and may consider implementing stricter regulations through a custom zone to ensure consistency. For example, directing increased building height to the rear of properties could help preserve the existing historic, lower-height streetscapes.

Although provincial housing legislation lacks specific provisions for HCAs, the City has received provincial guidance permitting preservation-focused measures, provided they do not prevent higher-density development. This offers Kelowna a chance to lead by example, showing that heritage and housing goals can coexist. With thoughtful planning, Kelowna aims to preserve historic charm while accommodating growth, creating a vibrant, livable urban environment.

*\*This text was authored by the former planner who managed the heritage portfolio at the City of Kelowna and contributed significantly to the update of the HCA Development Guidelines. It provides insight into the project as it stood at*

*the time, though some aspects may have since changed. The perspectives shared are those of someone directly engaged in the project and may not reflect the current views of the City. For the most up-to-date information on the update, see [Heritage Conservation Area Guideline Review | Get Involved Kelowna](#)*

## Example #2: Burnaby, B.C.

Like Kelowna, Burnaby is a rapidly growing community with a long-standing heritage program. The city has been proactively working to increase housing supply while encouraging heritage conservation. The implementation of new provincial government housing policies is expected to require additional tools to support the retention of heritage resources.

Before developing new tools, an analysis was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs. Using the 2007 heritage inventory as a baseline, the City conducted an analysis. There were 173 heritage resources listed in the 2007 inventory, including those protected by a heritage designation bylaw or other form of legal protection, and those listed as inventory resources with no formal protection. Today, the inventory includes 158 resources (resulting in a net loss of 15 resources over 17 years). The 158 resources include:

- 40 resources owned by the City of Burnaby
- 90 *privately-owned*\*\* resources on the heritage inventory with no formal protection
- 28 *privately-owned* resources with formal protection

More than half of the privately-owned heritage resources listed on the City's heritage inventory are located in residential zoning districts. The majority were formerly located in single and two family neighbourhoods, which are now part of our Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing Zoning District (SSMUH). Of the 28 privately-owned resources that were permanently protected, 14 of them were protected using a HRA. The remaining 14 were protected outside of a HRA through another mechanism (such as a covenant).

## WHAT WAS LEARNED

**Additional density was a significant incentive for heritage retention:** most projects that resulted in the permanent protection of a heritage resource were part of large-scale development projects where additional density was provided as an incentive.

**Non-standard subdivision was a significant incentive for heritage retention:** in lower density neighbourhoods, permitting non-standard subdivisions through an HRA

(Heritage Revitalization Agreement) was the most-accessed incentive to secure permanent protection.

**Many heritage resources remained intact without incentives:** most of the resources located in low density residential neighbourhoods remained intact without having accessed any incentives for retention. Redevelopment may not have been attractive to the owners of these properties. With additional development potential now permitted in the SSMUH district, redevelopment may become more attractive.

**Very few heritage resources were retained using an HRA:** over the last 28 years, only 14 HRAs have been negotiated, averaging one every two years.

## HERITAGE PROVISIONS IN THE ZONING BYLAW

In mid-2024, the City of Burnaby introduced a new Zoning District in response to provincial housing legislation. This update includes heritage provisions in the new SSMUH district, offering additional density and flexibility for infill development around existing heritage resources, without requiring an HRA. These provisions are designed to streamline the approval process and provide clarity, as they are subject to approval by the General Manager of Planning and Development. However, they are available only for resources listed on the Community Heritage Register and require a covenant for protection.

Like Kelowna, Burnaby is a rapidly growing community with a long-standing heritage program. The city has been proactively working to increase housing supply while encouraging heritage conservation. The implementation of new provincial government housing policies is expected to require additional tools to support the retention of heritage resources.

*\*\* Privately-owned resources are those that are not owned by the City of Burnaby. Some of them are owned by other levels of government, not-for-profit organizations, and by the Burnaby School District.*

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Lisa Codd is the Heritage Planner for the City of Burnaby. She holds an M.A. (History) from SFU, and a Diploma in Cultural Resource Management from UVic.



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# Shout out to RPPs Research Participation Sought:

**Communities can proactively advance climate resilience with deliberate connections between land use and community planning + disaster risk reduction + asset management planning => a 3-practitioner nexus**

Christine Callihoo MSc NREM, RPP, MCIP

Climate science tells us that global temperatures are on track to rise above 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels as early as 2030 (IPCC). This shift poses serious challenges that touch all aspects of our lives, underscoring the urgent need for collaboration across professional fields to enable and support communities adapting and thriving in the face of change. As we are all aware, human activity has significantly impacted the Earth's climate and ecosystems, leading to widespread changes that Registered Professional

Planners (RPPs) are having to adjust to when serving their local communities.

The work RPPs undertake is the precursor to community development projects by way of the numerous planning manifestations (policy, bylaw, legislation, etc.) required prior to the development permits being issued. Furthermore, the decisions made by planning professionals enable development by way of the required plans, bylaws and policies at the various levels of government. To that end, RPPs are uniquely





positioned to impact and influence the level of climate resiliency developed in a community.

The benefit of initiating this research project is knowing that land use and community planners will benefit from expanding our professional community to deliberately include two specific professions: asset management planning and disaster risk reduction / emergency planning.

Having served in asset management planning, community safety and preparedness, and land use and community planning throughout western and northern Canada, I have noted the ongoing challenges that communities incur when endeavouring to address the changing climate at the local level and while enabling increased resilience. With limited resources (including money, capacity, specialized knowledge, etc.), communities across Canada require professional innovation to be more strategic versus reactive to support community resiliency in a changing climate.

*“Resilience is not just about robust infrastructure but about fostering strong, adaptable communities. Social cohesion, trust in governance, and empowering local groups are foundational to resilience. Investing in these areas complements physical and operational efforts, creating a holistic approach to managing risks and uncertainties.” (quote from an anonymous research interviewee)*

More specifically, community-focused climate adaptation and resilience requires a multifaceted approach that integrates asset management, community engagement, land use strategies, preparedness, strategic policy advancement, and innovative funding mechanisms. Climate risks must be addressed while fostering social cohesion, optimizing land use, leveraging natural assets, and ensuring sustainable infrastructure to enable resilient communities. To that end, the three professional areas of focus are briefly articulated as follows, with the concluding section explaining the request to you, my fellow RPP members.

My research set out to articulate the requirement for the formal development of a professional nexus (connection) between land use and community planning (the work of RPPs) + disaster risk reduction (DRR) + asset management planning (AMP) => a 3-practitioner nexus. These three professions are typically isolated from each other at the local level, which impedes a comprehensive, locally focused community resilience development.

*“Community resiliency is about combining proactive planning, asset management, nature-based solutions, and rapid response*

*measures to enhance a community's ability to withstand and adapt to disasters. Social cohesion is about building connections through mutual aid, collaborative projects, and public consultation strengthens the community fabric, making it easier to weather crises together. Both aspects are mutually reinforcing in creating resilient and thriving communities” (quote from an anonymous research interviewee).*

Asset management is critical to building and maintaining resilient communities. It provides the tools to evaluate, prioritize, and manage infrastructure (natural and built) over its lifecycle with a focus on the provision of services while considering the evolving risks posed by the changing climate. The image (on page 24) is familiar to many and will no doubt be familiar to all RPPs in that the process being detailed reflects the general planning process.

Aligning disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness with asset management ensures essential community systems are resilient, integrating redundancy, contingencies, and emergency response measures to address disruptions in asset performance, support recovery aligned with long-term adaptation goals, while continuing to provide essential services.

Further to the above, and in concert with asset management and disaster risk reduction, land use and community planning strengthens resilience by aligning planning and development with environmental realities, such as avoiding risk-prone areas and integrating natural infrastructure like wetlands and forests to manage climate risks. Designing community spaces to foster social cohesion, such as parks and hubs for interaction, builds social capital, which enhances resilience through collaboration, mutual support, and shared responsibility.

The following image (on page 26) illustrates how the general planning process can accommodate asset management planning and disaster preparedness planning, which is the basis of the research. The illustration serves as an example as to how these three professional practices can come together as an operating team to strategically and fulsomely enable and support community resilience while addressing ongoing local government resource challenges.

One of the main components of the process (Step 2) includes assessing applicable data and information to inform the identification of potential risks and opportunities, as well as the typical data layers an RPP would bring into each planning process. The engagement and consultation of the community is intended to be conducted at the outset and throughout the process.

By integrating asset management, land use and community planning, and disaster risk reduction, communities can create and maintain systems that are adaptable, equitable, and sustainable. Asset

## Asset Management Planning + Land Use & Community Planning Disaster Risk Reduction + Climate Projections

- Step 1:** Initiate the process / project
- Step 2:** Articulate and assess the baseline (*incl. climate projections + natural assets, community-built assets*)
- Step 3:** Identify and prioritize hazards, risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities  
*Incorporate natural and built assets and climate change implications*
- Step 4:** Develop and prioritize strategies
- Step 5:** Finalize and share the plan
- Step 6:** Implement the plan
- Step 7:** Monitor, evaluate and adjust (ongoing)

**= Community Resilience & Sustainability!**

management serves as the backbone, providing the structure to address risks, provide essential services, while optimizing investments. Combined with community-centric planning and engagement, this approach ensures a future where communities are not only prepared for climate impacts but are also empowered to thrive.

### The Ask to You (the Reader)

This article serves to inform fellow RPPs of this project and to solicit your interest in being part of this research. More specifically, the research for a dissertation is exploring the unrealized connection between disaster risk reduction, asset management planning, and land use and community planning – and **this research requires your voice**. The data from this study will be used to:

1. Articulate the nexus / connection between disaster risk reduction, asset management planning, and land use and community planning.
2. Define the term ‘community resilience’ drawing upon current applications and literature within the practitioner fields of disaster risk reduction, asset management planning, and land use and community planning.

3. Establish a baseline understanding regarding the suggested approaches to extend the theoretical research outcomes (understanding to execute / implement in communities) to relevant practitioners.

The planning profession is integral to building and managing our communities built and natural assets, incorporating a range of values and goals that are important to the community. As a professional planner participating in this research, you will be contributing to a greater understanding regarding how local governments across Canada can proactively advance community resilience in a changing climate.

The research seeks those who self-identify as someone who can contribute to this study. Please reach out to me with your interest in participating. The results from the research will be shared with the profession by way of our various publications, webinar, and possibly workshops.

I gratefully acknowledge that I reside on unceded Coast Salish Territory; the traditional territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Christine Callihoo, MSC NREM, RPP, MCIP, is a PhD Candidate in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program at UNBC. Interested research participants can reach Christine via email: [callihoc@unbc.ca](mailto:callihoc@unbc.ca)



# What's Next for the PIBC Peer Learning Network: A Powerful Tool for Urban Planners

Kristin Agnello DSocSci, RPP, MCIP

In response to the rapidly evolving context of planning legislation in BC, PIBC launched the Peer Learning Network (PLN) to foster connections between planning and built environment professionals across British Columbia. Whether you are a seasoned planner, a local government official, or an allied professional, the PLN provides a space to engage in valuable discussions, exchange experiences, and tap into the collective knowledge of your peers.

One of the standout features of the PLN is its diverse membership. Participants come from a wide range of specialties, and include planners, transportation engineers, developers, building officials, homebuilders, and housing providers, allowing insights into a variety of approaches – and potential issues – related to the new provincial housing legislation. It's also an excellent opportunity for smaller communities to tap into the experience and guidance of local government planners who have faced similar challenges.

The PLN wrapped its 2024 webinar series in October with PLN Webinar #4: Housing Needs Reports, featuring Heather Kauer MPA, RPP, MCIP, AICP, Director of Community Planning with the City of Abbotsford, and Jens von Bergmann, Founder and President of MountainMath. This webinar explored the value and opportunity of HNRs as part of a broader housing and community planning policy discussion<sup>1</sup>.

PLN was also present at the 2024 Asset Management BC Conference, "Today's Decisions – Tomorrow's Future," which took place in-person from November 6 - 7, 2024. It was an opportunity to network with allied professionals and share ideas with asset management champions, sustainability experts, CAO's, Local Government Delegates, and many others. Eric Aderneck RPP, MCIP presented as part of the PIBC Peer Learning Network, sharing

his research about the relationship between Infrastructure Servicing Costs and Residential Development Forms<sup>2</sup>.

## What's Coming in 2025

As the focus of planning activities begins to shift from compliance to implementation, the PLN has started to broaden the scope of its planned offerings.

Three webinars have been confirmed (and some completed) for 2025, including:

- January 15, 2025: *Ask a Lawyer #2*: For the second year in a row, a panel of lawyers will address the implementation of the provincial housing legislation. Topics include proactive planning requirements (OCP and zoning updates), inclusionary zoning, density bonusing, SSMUH and covenant considerations, and ACC/DCC considerations.
- February 26, 2025: *Proactive Planning for Big Needs in Small and Medium-Size Communities*: Practitioners from Delta,

Maple Ridge, North Cowichan, and Prince George will share insights on proactive planning for housing and infrastructure in their communities. A 'Lawyer-in-Residence' will provide legal perspectives.

- April 30, 2025: *The Cold Hard Truths about Housing Development and the Art of the Possible*: Three practitioners will discuss the economics of housing development, including challenges and opportunities. A 'Lawyer-in-Residence' will provide legal perspectives.

Additional webinars will be added for 2025, depending on feedback from network participants.

The PLN also continues to offer other opportunities to engage and interact with other practitioners. The online forum is a great place to share lessons learned and ask questions to your peers. You can also use the forum to follow up on Peer Learning Network (PLN) sessions or webinars, or participate in region or topic specific discussions. PLN will also be seeking input for peer-driven case studies and PIBC-led research in 2025. Stay tuned for more information on these exciting resources!

If you prefer to host your own event, PIBC is still offering funding support of up to \$1,000 for small groups of practitioners





working in or with local and regional governments (including planners who are both PIBC members and non-members), across BC who are interested and willing to self-organize and host a small peer learning event(s) in their local area. These events are intended to be hyper-local, self-directed, and peer-focused, and are intended to facilitate collaboration and practical information-sharing between practitioners as they work to implement newly created policies, practices, and tools.

The Peer Learning Network aligns with PIBC's commitment to fostering ongoing professional development for planners. As part of the professional designation process, PIBC

offers Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) credits for those who participate in sessions, making it an appealing option for PIBC members looking to maintain or advance their credentials.

The PIBC Peer Learning Network is more than just a learning platform—it is a community of professionals who understand the challenges of urban planning and are dedicated to improving the built environment. Whether it's exploring innovative housing solutions or finding ways to improve planning processes, the PLN offers a chance to be part of a vibrant, supportive community dedicated to ongoing learning and professional growth.

Kristin Agnello, DSocSci, RPP, MCIP, is the Strategic Lead of the PIBC Peer Learning Network and the Director of Plassurban Consulting Inc.



<sup>1</sup><https://www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-pln-past-events>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal\\_pages\\_pdfs/resources/PLN/AMBC-AC-Presentation-InfrastructureCostsDevelopmentForms-EAderneck-Nov2024.pdf](https://www.pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal_pages_pdfs/resources/PLN/AMBC-AC-Presentation-InfrastructureCostsDevelopmentForms-EAderneck-Nov2024.pdf)

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## PIBC BOARD NOTES

On **June 28th, 2024**, the PIBC Board of Directors met in Whitehorse, Yukon.

It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün and Ta'an Kwäch'än First Nations.

### PRESIDENT

Emilie K Adin RPP, MCIP provided an update on various activities, including the discussions and feedback from the Past Presidents forum held in June 2024.

### BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Board discussed the Past Presidents forum update memo, noting the diverse views and common themes raised by those who participated and provided feedback. The Board also discussed the potential to hold additional Past Presidents forums in the future.

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Executive Director Dave Crossley reported on the ongoing and key projects, initiatives, and activities at the PIBC office. The Board discussed the potential benefit of utilizing external resources to assist with operational activities and provide potential efficiencies.

The Board reviewed the 2024 unaudited financial statements to May 31, 2024, for information.

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Board noted the update on the ongoing work at the national level related to the transition to the new Standards Advisory Committee under the Professional Standards Board.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS & BUSINESS

**Policy & Public Affairs:** The Board discussed the considerations arising from the PLN workshop held the day prior to the Board meeting, including PIBC and its role, its relationship with the Province and potential goals beyond the PLN. It was agreed that the updated PLN action plan would be shared with the Housing Task Force and further circulated and finalized prior to the next Board meeting. The Board also discussed future plans and considerations of the initiative including potential training, advocacy and building and enhancing relationships with stakeholders.

**JEDDI Working Group:** The Board discussed an update on the work of the JEDDI working group, including noting the potential for additional engagement between the JEDDI working group, and other Institute Committees and the Board.

**Member Engagement:** The Board discussed the feedback provided by members at the Committee's Let's Chat engagement held at the BC Land Summit conference including potential improvement areas within membership entry processes and communications. There was some further discussion in relation to considerations should PIBC come under the Professional Governance Act (PGA) and it was noted that there will be additional engagement with members and other stakeholders on this matter.

**Professional Standards & Certification:** The Board approved the admission of a number of new members including 2 Certified, 6 Candidate, 6 Pre-Candidate and 10 Students. The Board also noted a number of membership transfers and other changes.

Additionally, the Board confirmed the revocation of 8 memberships due non-compliance with Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) reporting, subject to the

failure of those members to complete their outstanding CPL reporting.

### INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS & BUSINESS

A brief update on the activities of the university planning program at UBC was provided by the Student member representative from the UBC program.

### OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed the logistics and planning of Board meetings and it was agreed that meetings will be held at central locations, and that catering and other suppliers should be sourced taking into consideration sustainability and diversity, including the use of Indigenous suppliers where possible.

### NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next regular meeting would take place on October 4th, 2024, in Vancouver.

On **October 4th, 2024**, the PIBC Board of Directors met in Vancouver, BC.

It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

### PRESIDENT

President elect Kenna Jonkman RPP, MCIP chaired the meeting in the absence President Emilie K Adin RPP, MCIP.

### BOARD AND GOVERNANCE

The Board discussed the Governance & Nominating Committee Policy Work update including the review of committee terms of reference and the potential value of consulting Committee Chairs as part of the review process.

### ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The Board reviewed the 2024 unaudited financial statements to August 31st, 2024, for information.

The Board approved the schedule of membership fees for 2025, with a slight increase in PIBC fees in 2025. The Board reviewed and approved the continued collection and remittance of applicable CIP membership fees and insurance premiums for members, in accordance with existing agreements with CIP.





The Board also approved and adopted the Institute's 2025 operating budget as developed, discussed and revised at an in-depth budget workshop held earlier in the day, prior to the regular Board meeting. The budget as approved reflected anticipated revenues of about \$1,393,000 (including provincial government funds) and expected costs and expenditures of around \$1,188,000 (reflecting allocations for key special projects and initiatives, and an expected modest deficit for 2025).

Executive Director Dave Crossley reported on the ongoing and key projects, initiatives, and activities at the PIBC office.

#### MEMBER PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The Board approved Institute's continued membership and participation in the BC Land Summit Society and the next conference planned for 2029.

#### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Board noted the ongoing work at the national level related to the transition to the new Standards Advisory Committee under the Professional Standards Board. The Board discussed the feedback received on the current process to obtain membership. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Professional

Standards and Certification Committee for further consideration.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS & BUSINESS

**Policy & Public Affairs:** The Board discussed the update on the Peer Learning Network (PLN) including the success of the first phase of the PLN, engagement with the Province and potential next steps and associated actions as set out in the PLN action plan. The Board also discussed the update on the work of the Committee relating to government outreach including research and relationship building. It was agreed that the consultant support will assist future work in these areas.

The Board also reviewed and discussed an update on the work of the RPP Regulation Subcommittee regarding the Professional Governance Act, noting that meetings with Institute Committee members and the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) were held in the summer.

**Climate Action:** The Board discussed the ongoing work of the Climate Action Subcommittee including the recent meeting held with the Climate Partnerships and Engagement Branch (CEPB).

The Board endorsed the continued work of the subcommittee.

**JEDDI Working Group:** The Board discussed the update on the work of the JEDDI Working Group, noting that the group is now operational. The Board approved the JEDDI Working Group's revised Terms of Reference.

**Professional Standards & Certification:** The Board approved the admission of a number of new members including 14 Candidate, 2 Pre-Candidate and 26 Students. The Board also noted a number of membership transfers and other changes.

**Member Engagement:** The Board discussed the Institute's participation at the 2024 UBCM tradeshow and approved its participation in future UBCM tradeshows and other opportunities.

#### INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS & BUSINESS

A brief update on the activities of the university planning programs at VIU, SFU and UBC was provided by the Student member representative from the each program.

#### NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next regular meeting would take place on November 29th, 2024, in Kelowna.

**PIBC Board members  
at the 2024 WTPD Gala**



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### OCTOBER 4, 2024

#### Welcome New Members!

Congratulations and welcome to all the new PIBC Members!

At its meeting of October 4, 2024, it was recommended to and approved by the Board to admit the following 14 Candidates, 26 Students, and 2 Pre-Candidates to membership in the Institute as noted:

#### CANDIDATE:

Trisa Atwood  
Caroline Dunaux  
Alisha Feser  
Alexandra Gascon  
Daniel Graham  
Stephanie Grondin  
Kara Gross  
Maureen Long  
Emily Macdonald  
Kyle McStravick  
Adrian Myszk  
Olusegun Ogunleye  
Sam Tateishi  
Songsong Wu

#### PRE-CANDIDATE:

Aubree Jeffrey  
Shaun O'Dea

#### STUDENT:

Francisco Alonso  
(Joint with APPI – Alberta)  
Charlotte Biagini (UBC)  
Isabelle Bjonness-Jacobsen (UBC)  
Peter Carwana (UBC)  
Grady Chalmers (UBC)  
Avery Chan (UBC)  
Grace Chen (UBC)  
Hui Lam Shannon Chow (UBC)  
Preetinder Dhillom (UBC)  
Holly Faithfull (VIU)  
Brett Glover (UBC)  
Kieran KC (VIU)  
Bohmee Kim (UBC)  
John Kitoko (VIU)  
Alexandra Lakie (UBC)

Jack Lam (UBC)  
Desiree Louis (UBC)  
Nathan Manhas (UBC)  
Ana Mendez (UBC)  
Simonne Mikolay (SFU)  
Kristina Shubert (UBC)  
Abbi Stevenson (SFU)  
Amanda Van Hulsen (VIU)  
Cody Wang (UBC)  
Alexandra Welch (SFU)  
Rachael Wootton (SFU)

#### Member Changes

It was further recommended to and approved by the Board to approve or acknowledge the following status changes for 2 Certified and 1 Candidate members as noted:

#### FROM CERTIFIED TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

Jocelyn Black  
Lea Hastie

#### FROM CANDIDATE TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

Alicia McLean

It was also noted by the Board that the following 6 Certified and 1 Candidate members had returned to active practice, and active membership as noted:

#### FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CERTIFIED:

Jessi Fry Jackman  
Hannah McDonald  
Julia Bahen  
Teresa Mahikwa  
Jennifer MacIntyre  
Meghan Murray

#### FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE TO CANDIDATE

Stephani McPhee

SAVE THE  
DATES!

## UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

PIBC's Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) webinars are eligible for 1.5 CPL units each.

For Peer Learning Network (PLN) webinars, visit the PIBC PLN webpage at [www.pibc.bc.ca/pln](http://www.pibc.bc.ca/pln).

**PIBC CPL Webinar #2**  
**AI Applications in the Planning Profession**  
**March 26, 2025**

**PIBC CPL Webinar #3**  
**Social Resiliency in Climate Dialogues**  
**May 14, 2025**

**PIBC Peer Learning Network (PLN) Webinar #7**  
**The Cold Hard Truths About Housing Development and the Art of the Possible**  
**April 30, 2025**

**PIBC 2025 Annual Conference – Next Chapter**  
**June 10 to 13, 2025**



Visit the PIBC Webinars webpage [www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars](http://www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars) for information on current webinars, registrations, and the latest webinar recordings.



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 VOLUNTEERS

Eric Aderneck RPP, MCIP  
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Kristin Agnello RPP, MCIP  
Karin Albert RPP, MCIP  
Andrew Allen RPP, MCIP  
Lindsay Allman RPP, MCIP  
Anmol Anand RPP, MCIP  
Spencer Andres RPP, MCIP  
Sébastien Arcand RPP, MCIP  
Philip Armstrong RPP, MCIP  
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Anne Berry RPP, MCIP  
Robin Beukens RPP, MCIP  
Sawngjai (Dear) Bhokanandh RPP, MCIP  
Lisa Ann Bhopalsingh RPP, MCIP  
Gavin Blackstock RPP, MCIP  
Ross Blackwell RPP, MCIP  
David Block RPP, MCIP  
Mieke Boecker  
Mairi Bosomworth  
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Narissa Chadwick RPP, MCIP  
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Deepa Chandran RPP, MCIP  
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Robyn Holme RPP, MCIP  
Peter Holton RPP, MCIP  
Alexander Hook  
Michael Hooper RPP, MCIP  
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## THE ICEFJORD CENTER – ILULISSAT, GREENLAND

Located on the west coast of Greenland at Disco Bay (250 km north of the Arctic Circle), the Ilulissat Icefjord Center overlooks a remote UNESCO-protected area that has been studied for over 250 years, helping scientists gain a better understanding of icecap glaciology and climate change.

The remote visitor and education centre was completed in July 2019 and is open year-round. It houses a permanent exhibition, “Sermeq pillugu Oqaluttuaq - The Story of the Ice”, that showcases the history of Greenland’s ice sheet and Inuit who have lived in this harsh environment for thousands of years.

The founding idea behind the Icefjord Centre was to design a building that was interwoven with the surrounding extraordinary and fragile nature. Designed by Dorte Mandrup, a Danish architect, her inspiration of the twisty structure is meant to mimic the wingspan of a snow owl and the fragile landscape on which the center is built on. A boardwalk leads to various areas where visitors can view the Ilulissat ice fjord and experience one of the world’s most actively calving glaciers, showcasing the undeniable presence of the climate changes.

By visiting this Center, visitors will witness the harsh wilderness and the dangers of a warming world. It’s the hope of the Center that visitors take back with them a deeper understanding of how and why climate change in remote wilderness is critically vital to the survival of the whole planet. The Center provides an online Learning Platform, complete with resources for all levels of education (including adults) and a teacher’s curriculum.

Listen to “Narratives from Ilulissat” and watch the videos for an immersive educational experience on some key aspects of life in Ilulissat and the impacts of climate change in the Arctic wilderness.

<https://isfjordscentret.gl/en/teachers/>



### Sources:

<https://time.com/collection/worlds-greatest-places-2022/6194494/ilulissat-greenland/>

<https://isfjordscentret.gl/en/ilulissat-icefjord-centre/>



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