

# 2017 PIBC Member Climate Survey Results

## Summary

An online survey of PIBC members was conducted between March 2 – March 10, 2017 to identify what action planners are taking on climate change, including what barriers they face and lessons learned; also, to identify how PIBC can best support its membership through knowledge sharing, mentorship and advocacy. The information gathered informed the PIBC Climate: Call to Action document (available on [www.pibc.bc.ca](http://www.pibc.bc.ca)), which has been forwarded to all three Provincial political parties, CIP affiliates and other agencies and organizations. The input will also inform future climate action webinars and PIBC webpage content. The analysis was completed by the members of the PIBC Climate Action Task Force.

### Who responded?

A total of 75 members completed the 2017 survey. Of those, 83% were RPP's, 9% Candidate members, 4% Pre-Candidate and 2.6% Students and 1.3% Retired Members/Other. The majority of respondents work in local or regional government and First Nations (52.3%) with 9% in federal or provincial government and 27.6% in private consulting. 30% of respondents were 36-45 years of age, 27.6% in the 46-55 age group, 18.4% were 56 – 64 years and 15.8% 25-35 years; 6.58% were 65 years and over while 1.32% were 18-24 years.

### Current Toolbox

Top tools to tackle climate change are Community Energy and Climate Planning, OCP's and Zoning Bylaws. Top three gaps blocking progress are seen as lack of political will, lack of knowledge and lack of public support. When asked what role the Province could best play to support efforts the top three responses included regulatory role (clear requirements), providing targeted funding and overall leadership (walk the talk). At the federal level funding, leadership (target setting and pursuit) and providing information resources (statistics, etc) were top mentions. Planners themselves cite top lessons learned as the need to engage and get buy in from the public and politicians, communicating carefully (focus on cobenefits) and education as key.

## **Breaking Down Barriers**

The top three barriers identified included lack of political will/leadership, funding and lack of awareness/education on issues. Key strategies to address were identified as: funding, education and communication and awareness efforts.

## **PIBC Membership Support**

The membership indicated strong support for the mandate of the Climate Action Task Force and support for the inclusion of climate action stream at future PIBC conferences. Topics for such include interest in success stories, education and engagement and energy efficiency/BC Step Code implementation. As for discussion forum threads, current case studies again emerged as a top mention, policies supporting walkable, transit oriented communities and general climate resilience and adaptation. CPL Webinar topics include planning tools, case studies and sealevel/hazards.

## **PIBC Collaboration**

87% of survey participants support collaborating with other organizations. Top ones identified include APEG, Universities/academia and BCSLA. Participants would like to see collaboration with those who can provide tools/analysis (PICS, CEA, Universities etc) and those involved in physical development (APEG, BCSLA, CIP, etc) and generally more collaboration all around. Support for lobbying the Province on climate action came in at 82% with top mentions focussed on funding for transit/active transportation, expansion of local government regulations and incentives for change (e.g. electric vehicles).

## **Magic Wand Solutions**

In the category of what might your magic wand solution to the issue of climate change be, members top selection was increased access to climate change data followed by access to evidence based research on the cost and consequences of inaction and, policy and legislation that encourages the incorporation of climate change into planning practise.

# 2017 PIBC Member Climate Survey – Results

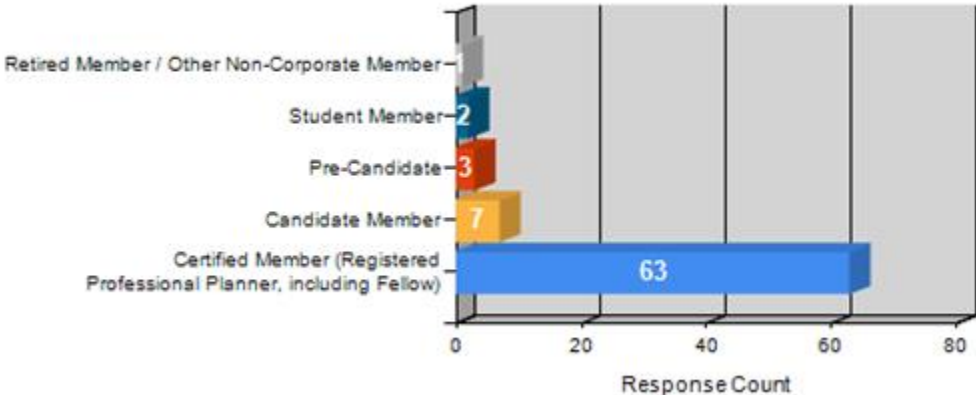
## GENERAL SURVEY STATISTICS

- 1491 surveys sent to members
- Total 75 respondents
- 28% response rate based on actual click-thrus (270)

## RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

### 1. Please indicate your current PIBC Membership Category. (76 respondents)

Of those, 83% were RPP's, 9% Candidate members, 4% Pre-Candidate and 2.6% Students and 1.3% Retired Members/Other.

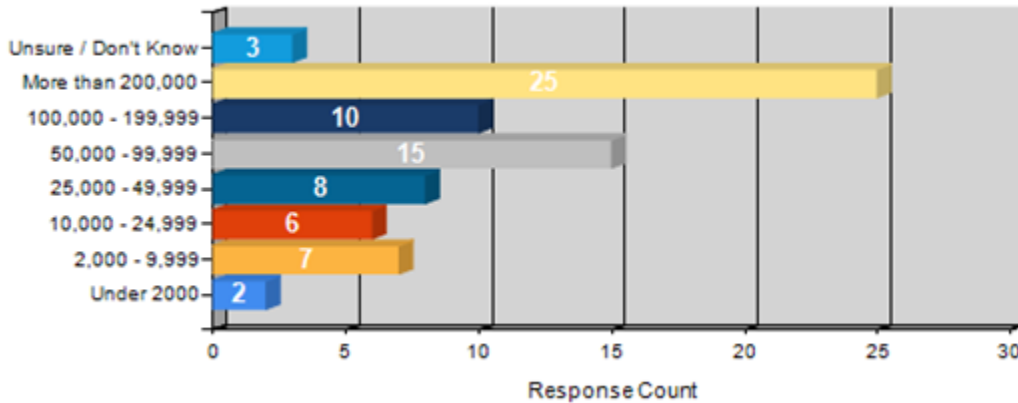


### 2. Please indicate which region best describes where you live and work. (76 respondents)

34% of respondents were from the South Coast (Metro Vancouver), 18% from Vancouver Island South, 17% from Vancouver Island North, 9% from the Okanagan Interior, 6.6% from the Central North (Cariboo, Prince George), 5.3% from the Kootenay Rocky Mountain region, 4% from the Yukon, 2.6% from the Fraser Valley and 2.6% from outside of Canada.

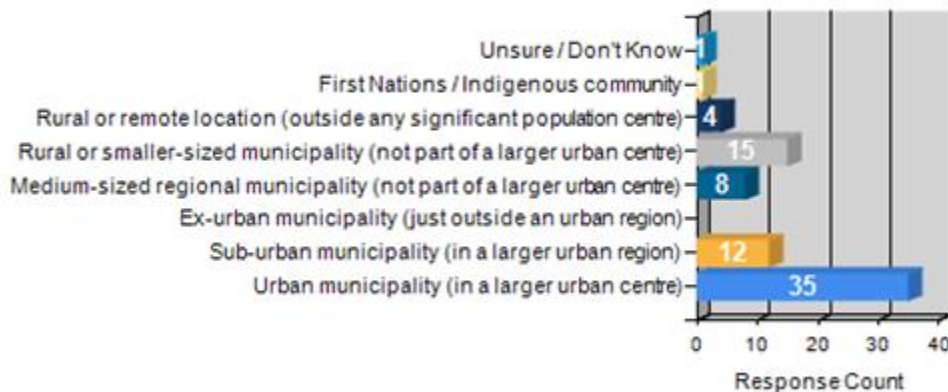
### 3. What size is your community? (76 respondents)

Of the members participating in the survey, 33% were from communities of more than 200,000, 19.7% from those 50,000-99,999, 13% from those 100,000 – 199,999 and 10.5% from those 25,000 – 49,999. 9.2% were from 2,000 – 9,999 size communities and 7.9% from 10,000 – 24,999 and 2.63% from under 2,000. 5% were unsure.



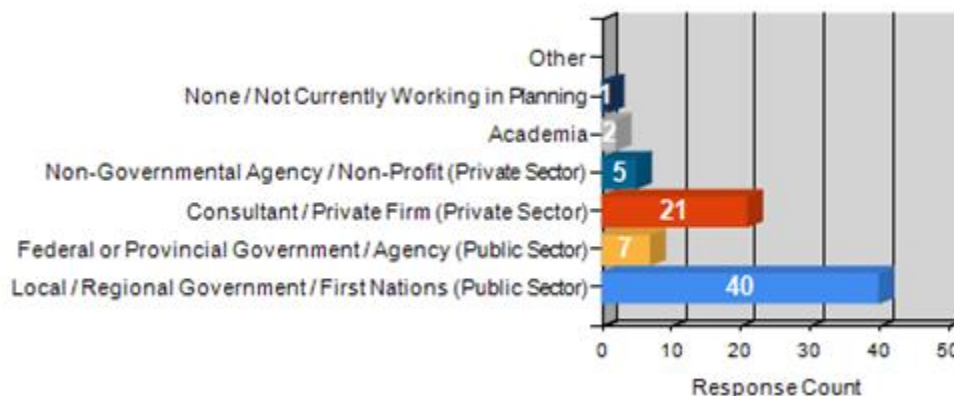
### 4. Please indicate which of the following best describes the type of community you live and work in. (76 respondents)

The majority of respondents live in urban municipalities (46%) while 19.7% live in rural or smaller sized communities, 15.8% in sub-urban municipalities, 10.5% in ex-urban municipalities, 5.3% in rural or remote locations and 1.32% in First Nations communities.



**5. Please indicate which sector of employment best describes your recent planning employment. (76 respondents)**

52.6% work in local/regional government, 27.6% in consulting/private, 9.2% in Federal or Provincial, 6.6% in non-governmental agencies and 2.6% in academia.

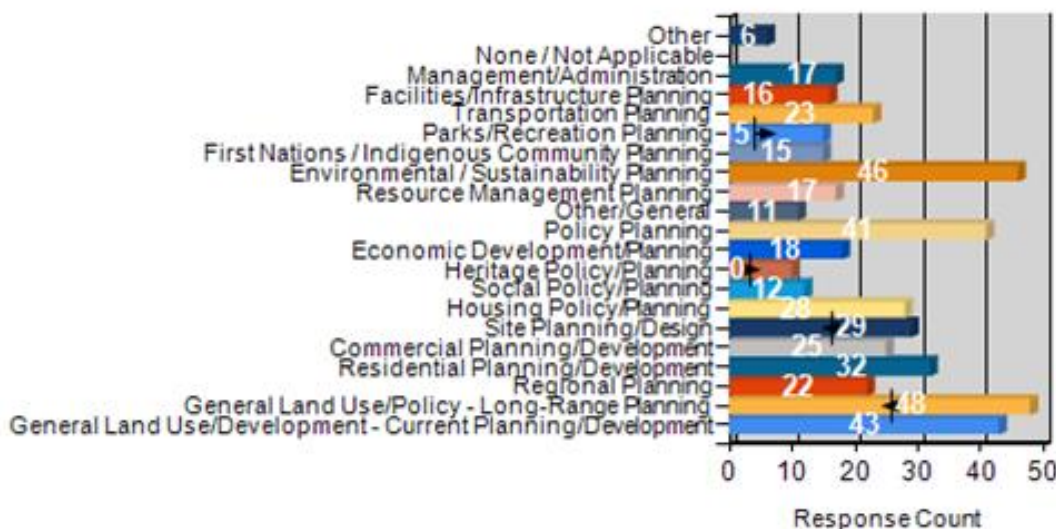


**6. Which of the following best describes your current planning position (76 respondents)**

22% of respondents are Senior Planners, 21% consultants, 14% identified as specialist planners and another 14% as generalists; 9.2% were Directors of Planning, 7.9% planning managers, 2.6% CAO's and 6.58% other.

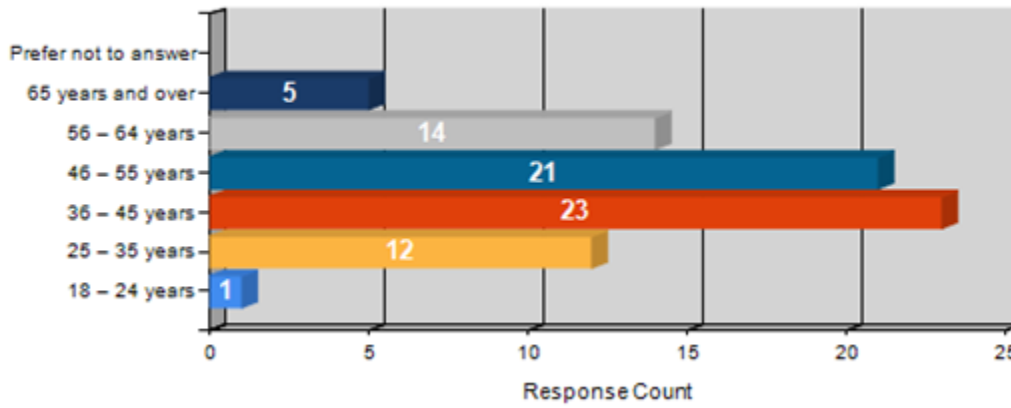
**7. Which of the following areas of planning do you regularly engage in as part of your professional work? (76 respondents)**

The most frequently cited areas of planning included general land use/long range policy, environmental/sustainability planning, Current planning/development and policy planning.



## 8. What is your age group (76 respondents)

30% of respondents were 36-45 years of age, 27.6% were 46-55, 18.4% were 56 – 64 years and 15.8% 25-35 years; 6.58% were 65 years and over while 1.32% were 18-24 years.



## CURRENT TOOLBOX

### 9. What do you consider to be the top three (3) most effective tools to address climate change? (91 responses)

- 1) Community Energy and Climate Planning (by various means).
- 2) Official Community Plan.
- 3) Zoning Regulation.

### 10. What do you consider to be the three top gaps (ie. knowledge, expertise, tools, political will, etc) impeding positive climate change action? (90 responses)

- 1) Political Will -Councils. Public preventing action.
- 2) Lack of Knowledge - specific technical challenges to misunderstand of climate by public and staff.
- 3) Public - not creating enough political pressure or unwilling to make personal changes to their lives.

### 11. What role/incentives should Provincial or Yukon government play to best assist local government planning for climate change? (88 responses)

- 1) Regulatory Role – clear, strong requirements with accountability; legislative reforms and new regulations with changes to some existing regulations.

- 2) Targeted Funding Role – prioritize funding for transit. Also funding for energy efficient retrofits, alternative transportation, green infrastructure and toward alternative energy to offset some cost to help foster behaviour change.
- 3) Leadership Role – walk the talk, avoid mixed messages, be progressive, be consistent.

**12. What role should the federal government play to best assist local government planning for climate change? (82 responses)**

- 1) Direct funding for local governments – for sustainable projects, green infrastructure and research on local impacts, as well as grants for retrofits (52% of mentions).
- 2) Take leadership, set targets and make necessary regulatory changes to meet targets (22% of mentions).
- 3) Provide information resources – local impacts, energy and emissions statistics, best practises, and engage the public to take action (21% of mentions).

**13. In your experience, what is the greatest lesson you have learned for achieving success toward positive climate change action? (84 responses)**

The most frequently cited lessons learned , garnering five mentions or more, included the following:

- 1) Engage, involve and get buy in from the public and politicians (21 mentions).
- 2) Communicate carefully by focussing on the many good outcomes (co-benefits) of taking action and also the risks/costs of inaction (20).
- 3) Education is key. Ensure to tie into the role individual actions play in outcomes (11).
- 4) Use measurables such as modelling and targets (7).
- 5) Start small and celebrate all small achievements (6).
- 6) Use examples of success (5).

## **BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS**

**14. What do you consider to be the top three (3) barriers impeding positive climate change action? (75 responses)**

- 1) Lack of political will/leadership – lack of elected official support or leadership.
- 2) Funding – high cost of implementation, lack of funding from senior governments and for alternative infrastructure.
- 3) Lack of awareness/education – on climate.

**15. What key strategies could be used to overcome barriers to positive climate change action? (72 responses)**

- 1) Funding (17).
- 2) Education (18).
- 3) Communication and Awareness (12).

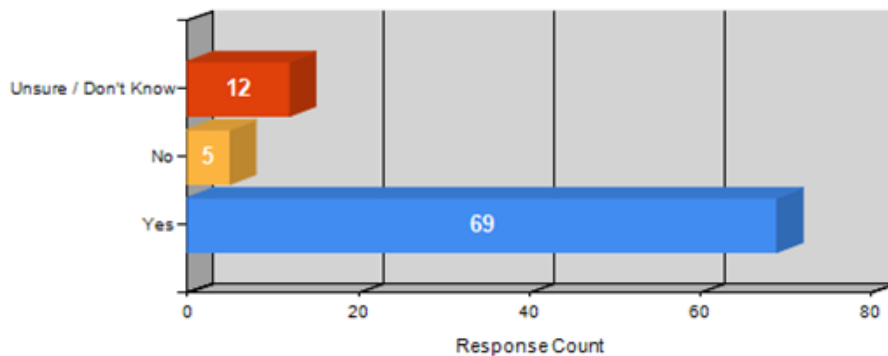
## **PIBC MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT**

**16. Comments on Climate Action Task Force deliverables (69 responses)**

Respondents indicated support for the mandate of the Climate Action Task Force, as explicitly stated by 33 respondents. Additional comments included an emphasis on the desire for access to current case studies, how to's and fact sheets (10 mentions). Of the members commenting on the potential discussion forum (9 mentions), five were in support and four suggested not pursuing or focussing on existing platforms (e.g. LinkedIn). Some emphasized the need for advocacy on climate, on education and the need to ensure rural, regional and land use based planning are covered. Other suggestions include PIBC Chapter events with a local climate focus and consideration of CPL mandate to include ongoing education for members on climate action.

**17. Should there be an ongoing climate change stream/focus at each PIBC conference? (86 responses)**

80% of respondents were in support. See chart below.





**18. Suggestions for climate change content at PIBC conferences (51 responses)**

The top themes for climate change content by respondents were:

- 1) Success stories of climate resilience – on the ground examples, draft bylaws and policies (20 mentions).
- 2) Education and engagement – connecting with public including next generation, politicians, industry, connect the dots of individual actions and lifestyle changes (9 mentions).
- 3) Energy efficiency/BCStep Code/ District Energy (8 mentions).

**19. What are your top three (3) most desired climate themed resources for a dedicated section on the PIBC website? (50 responses)**

- 1) First choice: Inventory of existing tools/data.
- 2) Second choice: Case studies.
- 3) Third choice: Communication resources.

**20. What are three (3) climate change focused discussion threads you would like to see started in a PIBC Website Discussion Forum? (45 responses)**

Of the comments received the following are the top three threads/topics identified both as top three in the first choice selection and as the top three mentions across the selections made in first, second and third choice sets:

- 1) Current case studies – other municipal examples, best practises, sample policies and bylaws in action on the ground.
- 2) Walkable, sustainable, transit-oriented communities and the planning policies that support them.
- 3) Climate resilience and adaptation.

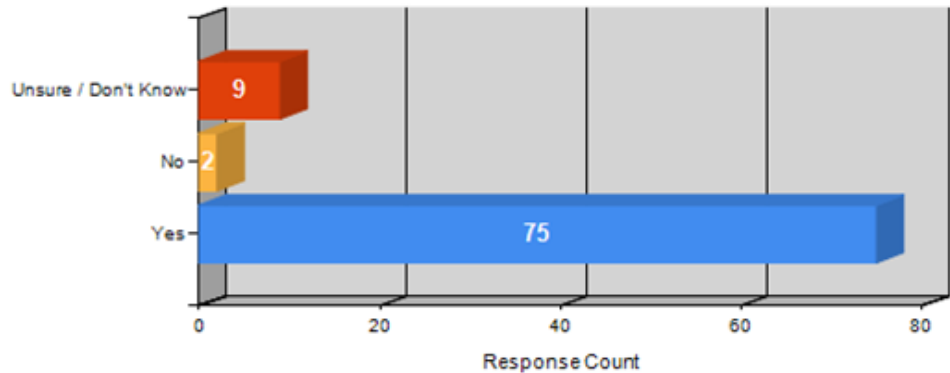
**21. What top three climate change related topics or learning content would you most like to see covered as part of a continuous professional learning webinar? (48 responses)**

- 1) Planning Tools (DPA's, Energy, StepCode, Transportation, Legislation).
- 2) Best Practises/Case Studies.
- 3) Sea Level Rise/Flood Construction Level/Water/Assessing Hazards.

## PIBC COLLABORATION

### 22. Do you think PIBC members can benefit from PIBC Council collaboration with other organizations on addressing climate change? (86 responses)

87% of members were in support, 10.5% were unsure and less than 3 % said no.



### 23. Do you have any other comments on potential PIBC collaboration with other organizations on issues related to climate change? (44 responses)

Comments on PIBC collaboration included:

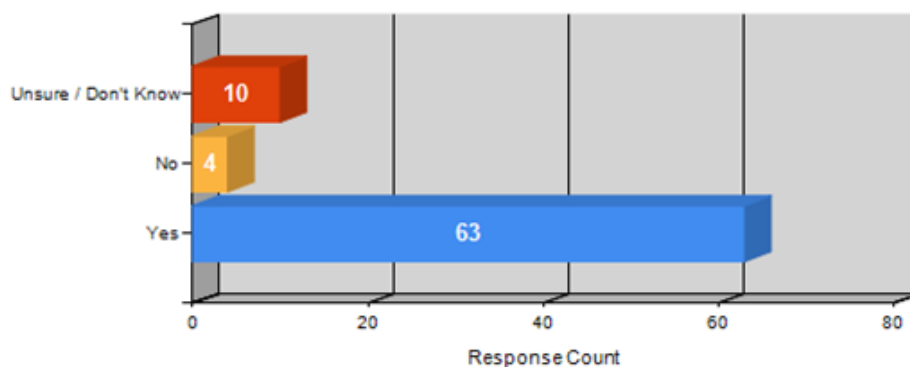
- 1) Collaboration with those with tools, analysis, science info – e.g. PICS, Pembina, CEA, ICLEI, Health, Universities, BCIT (12 mentions).
- 2) Collaboration with those in physical development profession – e.g. APEG, BCSLA, CIP, Biologists (10).
- 3) Collaborate more (4).
- 4) Take a global/international approach (3).
- 5) This is a fundamental mission of PIBC (2).
- 6) Educate ourselves, public, officials (2).

### 24. What top three other organizations do you believe the Institute should consider collaborating with on issues related to climate change? (60 responses)

- 1) Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC.
- 2) Universities/academia.
- 3) BC Society of Landscape Architects.

**25. Thinking about the climate action related tools and gaps identified earlier, do you feel it would be beneficial or important for the Institute to reach out to or lobby the provincial / territorial government(s) regarding climate change and climate action? (77 responses)**

The majority of members said yes (81.8%), 13% were unsure and 5% said no.



**26. What top three climate change related policy areas do you believe the Institute should reach out to or lobby government on? (47 responses)**

- 1) Funding for transit (12+) also for cycling and infrastructure, affordable housing, research, funding generally.
- 2) Expand local government powers/regulation (road pricing, distance based insurance, DCC's, tools to advance, own ministry, less silos across ministries, simplify LGA).
- 3) Incentives for change (smart projects, electric vehicle, alternative energy, energy efficiency, fund area plans near transit, LIC's for financing).

## MAGIC WAND SOLUTION

**19. Inspired by Twitter, in 140 characters (or less) briefly describe one thing that would most help you to contribute to effective, positive action on climate change in BC or the Yukon? (45 responses)**

- 1) Increased access to current climate change data and information (including centralized data) specific to each region / locale to engage communities with – include costs/economic data associated with projected impacts and framing around lifestyle and health benefits.
- 2) PIBC to share information and evidence-based research on costs and consequences of inaction in concrete terms in order to enable communities to own the future.
- 3) Encourage, guide and direct policy and legislation that supports the incorporation of climate change into planning practice.