

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

The Institute’s Member Engagement Committee, working with Institute staff, oversees key elements of PIBC’s membership outreach, engagement, and related activities, as well as engagement and liaison with Student members and academic planners at the accredited university planning programs in BC and the Yukon through a specific liaison sub-committee. Cleo Corbett RPP, MCIP stepped down from the Committee in 2025 and Andrew Yan RPP, FCIP continued to remain Chair of the Committee.

STATE & FUTURE OF THE PLANNING PROFESSION STUDY:

Stemming from discussions about the context and circumstances of the planning profession and future directions begun in 2024, the Committee, with Board support, developed and led a substantive research initiative in 2025 exploring the State and Future of the Planning Profession.

As background, when the slate of provincial housing legislation was enacted in 2023, there was a recognition that many communities may experience challenges complying with the new legislative requirements. Anecdotally, many were worried about the current shortage of planners affecting the ability for local governments to respond to new legislative requirements in addition to carrying out existing duties, such as development application reviews.

While the broader economy and housing development activities have softened in the last two years, it remains important to establish an evidence-based understanding of the state and future of the planning profession for long-term and strategic planning by the Institute and other interest holders, such as local governments, the provincial government, development sector, and academia.

To advance a State and Future of the Planning Profession study, the Member Engagement Committee developed and refined a scope of work and initiated an RFP in 2025. Through this process PIBC retained the services of Roslyn Kunin and Associates to undertake the State and Future of the Planning Profession Study. Work commenced in October 2025 and will be completed in early 2026.

STUDENT & ACADEMIC LIAISON:

Mark Holland RPP, FCIP stepped down from his role as a co-chair of the Academic Liaison Sub-Committee at the end of the 2024 academic year. Rylan Graham RPP, MCIP took on the faculty representative co-chair role, and was joined by Emma Loucks as the student representative. The sub-committee continued to work on key activities and guide initiatives in support of student members over the course of the year. This work focused on highlighting and communicating the work of both planning students and academic planners at the four accredited university planning programs at UBC, UNBC, SFU and VIU to the wider membership and profession.

Efforts in 2025 continued to focus on creating and publishing regular, rotating features and profiles highlighting accredited university planning programs and their people—both students and faculty – in *Planning West* magazine. Additional featured profiles and updates were also shared through the PIBC e-News and on the PIBC website. The Sub-Committee also undertook activities to support students by helping to inform and guide them through their career development and the transition from academic studies to professional practice, through the delivery of the “How to Get a Job in Planning” webinar, and a student-led Lunch & Learn on “Planning for rural, remote, and Indigenous communities”.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENT MEMBERS:

The Committee continued in 2025 collaborating with our Student Member Representatives, staff, and others to ensure PIBC funding opportunities and other supports for students were promoted and delivered to Student members. These opportunities include continued financial support for student events and activities (including social and networking activities with all four accredited university planning programs in 2025). Further support was provided through the Institute’s annual conference student funding program – facilitating the subsidized participation of several Student members as attendees at the conference and giving them full participation and access to the sessions, networking, and learning opportunities within the conference program.

OTHER MEMBER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Member Engagement Committee also worked to organize and activate in-person engagement with PIBC members attending the 2025 PIBC Annual Conference – through a ‘Let’s Chat’ outreach initiative at the conference. This involved Committee and other volunteer members staffing the PIBC exhibit table at the conference seeking input, answering questions, and assisting members with various inquiries. Additionally, engagement was undertaken on certain ongoing or emerging Institute activities and initiatives, to seek informal member feedback and input.

COMMITTEE THANKS:

Heartfelt thanks go to all the volunteer members who contributed to the Member Engagement Committee and its subcommittee over the past year. We also gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support and assistance provided by PIBC staff.