

# POLICY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

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The Institute's Policy & Public Affairs Committee is responsible for overseeing and supporting the Institute's policy and public affairs related work, including relevant government outreach, external relations, and potential advocacy on issues or identified areas of interest to the Institute. The Committee also provides advice and assistance related to these matters to the Board. Board members Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP and Narissa Chadwick RPP, MCIP continued as the Co-Chairs of the Committee in 2024.

The Committee, and its subcommittees, met in 2024 to advance various key activities aligned with the Board's strategic priorities. The Committee's efforts continued to focus on a number of key areas of interest, including: overseeing the work of the Housing Task Force – responsible for guiding the implementation of the new provincially funded Peer Learning Network (PLN) related to housing legislation and policy; monitoring and considering professional regulation and legislation for Registered Professional Planners (RPPs) and the planning profession through the RPP Regulation Sub-Committee, and continued work on climate issues through the Climate Action Sub-Committee.

## HOUSING TASK FORCE & PEER LEARNING NETWORK (PLN):

A major area of work in 2024 was the roll-out and implementation of the provincially funded Peer Learning Network (PLN), under the guidance of the Housing Task Force of the Policy & Public Affairs Committee. This significant initiative is aimed at providing peer-oriented learning, resources, and information to support practitioners in navigating and implementing new provincial housing legislation and policies introduced and passed by the Province of BC in 2023.

Based on the PLN workplan developed by the Housing Task Force and endorsed by the Board, and with support from Institute staff, external consultants and volunteer members, key PLN activities developed and implemented in 2024 included:

- Five in-person (and one virtual) roundtable peer learning events held in regions across BC, including a virtual session focused on rural areas and regional districts.
- An online survey of planning practitioners and others on key questions and topics relevant to the PLN and housing.
- Four online PLN webinars on topics including: legal considerations, infrastructure and servicing, affordability, and housing needs requirements.
- Launching and curating a dedicated PLN webpage as a resource hub.
- Launching and curating an online PLN discussion forum to facilitate peer learning and share information and resources.

- Providing support for access to key relevant legal resources.
- Regular liaison with the BC Ministry of Housing & Municipal Affairs.

Following further workplan development, implementation and ongoing PLN activities (including additional learning events, further resource development, research, etc.) are continuing into 2025, with the PLN initiative expected to wrap up in early 2026.

## RPP REGULATION & PROFESSIONAL GOVERNANCE:

In late 2023, the PIBC Board approved direction to undertake outreach and education about the governance of the profession, the BC Professional Governance Act, and possible opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. The PIBC Board has not made any decisions on whether the planning profession should or should not be regulated under the Professional Governance Act. In 2024, the Policy & Public Affairs Committee assigned the RPP Regulation Sub-Committee to guide the work of engaging the membership about professional governance and the Professional Governance Act. The purpose of the work is to inform and engage the membership, without any pre-determined outcome, decision, or course of action.

In August 2024, the Sub-Committee convened an all-committee session to receive a presentation from PIBC's external legal counsel about the PGA. Subsequently, the RPP Regulation Subcommittee convened to create a work plan for the 'Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project' which sets out engagement and research activities. In November 2024, the Board endorsed the Phase 1 Work Plan and directed the Chair of the RPP Regulation Subcommittee to provide quarterly updates to the Policy & Public Affairs Committee and Board. The Board also directed staff to distribute these quarterly reports internally for information, and to post them on the project webpage as well.

In early December, an engagement survey was launched. Opened for two months, the survey garnered 323 responses and a response rate representing approximately 18 percent of Certified (RPP) and Candidate members. The RPP Regulation Sub-Committee will be busy throughout 2025 guiding the implementation of the Phase 1 Work Plan priorities such as focus groups, strategic assessment of professional governance options, and webinars. For more information about the project, please visit: <https://www.pibc.bc.ca/professionalgovernance>

## OTHER LEGISLATIVE MATTERS & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:

In January 2024, the Institute met with representatives from both the BC Ministry of Housing and the BC Ministry of



**ATTENDEES AT ONE OF SEVERAL PIBC PEER LEARNING NETWORK (PLN) EVENTS HELD IN 2024.**

Municipal Affairs for feedback and input to government from the planning profession. These meetings aimed to strengthen relationships between the Institute and planning profession and key government officials, while also providing a platform for feedback and input to government from the planning profession. The Institute remains committed to building on these outreach efforts and actively seeking further opportunities for engagement with government officials.

#### **CLIMATE ACTION:**

The Climate Action Sub-Committee continued its active work in 2024 in the areas of climate and climate action. Patricia Dehnel RPP, MCIP continued to serve as Chair of the Sub-Committee during the year, and Sara Muir RPP, MCIP also continued in a Board liaison role with the Sub-Committee. Key work undertaken this past year included implementing an internal climate assessment of the Institute and its operations to help move the Institute towards carbon neutrality, in line with goals outlined in the revised Climate Action Policy adopted in 2022 (the Policy is available on the Institute's website). This project was undertaken with the valuable work and contributions of two student interns (through the Institute's student internship program). And involved reviewing and assessing a range of Institute activities and operations in terms of carbon impact, with an aim to inform potential recommendations to update

operations and make the Institute's operations more carbon neutral. A draft report has been prepared and shared with the Sub-Committee and is being finalized. Based on the report, the Sub-Committee will consider and advance specific recommendations for the Institute.

The Sub-Committee continued through 2024 working to facilitate, support, or deliver ongoing climate related planning education and professional development for members through occasional CPL webinar offerings and climate focused articles in *Planning West* magazine. Additionally, the Sub-Committee continued to take advantage of opportunities to provide external input and feedback related to planning and climate issues to government or other external organizations.

#### **COMMITTEE THANKS:**

The Institute's policy advocacy and public affairs initiatives continue to advance thanks to the invaluable time and efforts of volunteer members serving on the Policy & Public Affairs Committee, its sub-committees, working groups, as well as its external representatives and liaisons. We gratefully acknowledge and thank all those who contributed in these roles throughout 2024. Appreciation is also extended to PIBC staff for their ongoing support of the Committee its sub-committees, working groups and activities.