

2026 PIBC Awards Program

Call for Submissions...

Introduction & Background

The Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) annually recognizes the professional work and individual accomplishments of members across British Columbia and the Yukon through its awards and recognition programs. The PIBC Awards & Recognition Committee has developed the various awards categories to reflect the diverse range of excellent planning work undertaken across British Columbia and the Yukon.

PIBC welcomes and encourages submissions for the...

Awards for Excellence in Planning (6 categories):

1. Enduring Planning Performance
2. Excellence in Policy Planning – *Small Community & Rural Areas*
3. Excellence in Policy Planning – *City & Urban Areas*
4. Excellence in Planning Practice – *Small Community & Rural Areas*
5. Excellence in Planning Practice – *City & Urban Areas*
6. Research and New Directions

Please review the information below carefully and utilize the appropriate online form to make a submission under one of these award categories.

These awards honour the best in professional planning work – policies, plans, projects, research etc. – undertaken by members in communities and regions across British Columbia and the Yukon in six categories.

Categories

PIBC wishes to encourage online nominations / submissions for excellence in planning in any one of the following six categories:

1. Enduring Planning Performance

The Enduring Planning Performance category seeks to recognize and celebrate exemplary long-term planning work and outcomes that remain successful over time (minimum 10 years from substantial completion). Entries may be centred on either outstanding planning policy or planning practice but, in each case, must draw the connections to show how that planning groundwork ultimately achieved the intended character and outcomes, transforming the subject community in ways that fully endure 10 years later or more. Submissions should define the boundaries of the community in question and the date from which this planning concept/ work was

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substantially complete. They should also outline the significant approaches, features or techniques that contributed to the work's enduring success.

This planning award category is not tied to population size. It may be of any scale (local neighbourhood, Small Community, rural, larger urban centre, regional, or even larger) but generally would not refer to single building or single infrastructure facility projects.

Excellence in Policy Planning

- 2. Excellence in Policy Planning – Small Community & Rural Areas, OR**
- 3. Excellence in Policy Planning – City & Urban Areas**

The Excellence in Policy Planning categories seek to honour the development of leading-edge and visionary planning policy work, completed in either:

- Small Community & Rural Areas context (typically outside larger urban centre or metropolitan area and have population under 80,000), **OR**
- City & Urban Areas context (typically within a larger urban centre or metropolitan area and have a population over 80,000).

Eligible submissions include Official Community Plans, Regional Growth Strategies, Comprehensive Community Plans, strategic plans, and other long-range policy-based plans. Typically without any design or technical focus, policy submissions in these categories would seek to envision planning solutions to enhance the social, economic, environmental and/or cultural wellbeing of communities.

Submitters should state if applying for Small Community & Rural OR City & Urban as well as identify the size of the population in the community/region for which the plan or policy initiative was developed as part of their submission.

Excellence in Planning Practice

- 4. Excellence in Planning Practice – Small Community & Rural Areas, OR**
- 5. Excellence in Planning Practice – City & Urban Areas**

The Excellence in Planning Practice categories recognize the efforts of planners to turn policy into reality. This category includes the implementation of existing plans, participatory planning processes, and the creation of tactical plans or regulations that guide the creation or renewal of urban or rural spaces and places, completed in either:

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- Small Community & Rural Areas context (typically outside larger urban centre or metropolitan area and have population under 80,000), **OR**
- City & Urban Areas context (typically within a larger urban centre or metropolitan area and have a population over 80,000).

Eligible submissions include neighbourhood plans, development master plans, zoning bylaws, park plans, site plans, and design guidelines. Submissions in this category should highlight the inventive ways that planners are creating transformative change through ground-breaking actions.

6. Research & New Directions in Planning

The Research & New Directions category includes original studies, reports, or papers that show thorough examination of a planning issue, policy or practice using analytical methods that support original findings that are of value to the profession. Submissions in this category may include investigations on a wide variety of planning topics from a local, regional, national or global perspective. Submissions should include a description of the research methodology, key findings and how the results are of importance to the profession.

These categories are reviewed each year by the Awards & Recognition Committee to ensure their relevance to current planning practice. On an annual basis the Committee may amend existing categories or develop new categories accordingly.

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Awards for Excellence in Planning – Evaluation Criteria:

These criteria apply to all submissions, but will receive different weighting depending on the submission/category.

- **Responsiveness** – Tackles a particularly relevant, current, or pressing challenge facing communities; demonstrates a high degree of creativity and innovation to address those challenges; demonstrates urgency and boldness in its approach that led to the success of the project/initiative.
- **Transferability** – Principles can be applied to many diverse planning scenarios and at several scales; offers timely ways in which approaches, processes or lessons can be transferred to other locales, scopes, and regulatory or legislative structures; and can be used by different elements of planning practice (e.g.: social planning, development planning, etc.).
- **Contribution to the profession** – Contributes to improving the standards of practice for the profession as a whole; brings attention and awareness of the Planning profession to new audiences by “capturing the moment” and addressing an issue receiving the attention of politicians, media and the general public; and demonstrates significant collaboration between planning and other disciplines.
- **Public process¹** – Engages stakeholders and/or the general public in meaningful ways; uses creative and appropriate engagement tools and techniques; and demonstrates the integration of the information gathered from the public process.
- **Implementation¹** – Has received the approval of relevant decision-making bodies (Council, Board, community group, etc.); and has a clear, thorough, and effective implementation strategy, including elements such as monitoring and evaluation, where applicable.
- **Sustainability** – Demonstrates a deliberate integration of all aspects of sustainability (economic, cultural, social, environmental), as applicable to the scope and breadth of each project; and evidences incorporation of sustainability in original ways.

¹ **NOTE:** For the category, *Research & New Directions in Planning*, Research Dissemination and Research Methods will be additional criteria against which project submissions will be evaluated. Where appropriate, these criteria will be considered in lieu of Implementation and Public process.

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Awards for Excellence in Planning – Eligibility Criteria:

Online entries are encouraged from PIBC members with the following stipulations:

- The project must have been prepared by or under the direction of a Certified (RPP), Fellow, or Candidate Member in good standing of PIBC.
- The submission must represent a completed plan, design, policy or research study.
- The project must have been completed during the preceding two² years. Completion shall mean:
 1. All required final approvals have been received in the form of resolutions, bylaw 4th readings and/or other applicable legislation by the relevant Board, Council, or Planning Authority.
 2. In the case of projects that would not require bylaw or legislative approvals, all other forms of final approvals or endorsement by relevant departments, authorities, educational institution, or firm must have been received, and evidence of approvals provided.
 3. Capital projects have been completed through physical construction.
 4. Publications or research have been published by a recognized publisher or public agency.
 5. Projects that do not fall into any of the approval or completion definitions above, may check with the PIBC Awards & Recognition Committee to discuss what would otherwise constitute a 'completed project'.
- Nominators must select the most appropriate category for their submission.
- Nominators must provide basic budget³ information for their submission. Additional information may be requested for clarification purposes.
- Letters of endorsement may be included, but are not mandatory.
- No amendments to a nomination will be allowed after the submission deadline.
- An individual project may be submitted only once. However, nominating organizations and individuals may be associated with award submissions for multiple projects.

² Planning Excellence - Enduring Planning Performance Award timeline is minimum 10 years from substantial completion, notwithstanding the ever present turnover and change underway in any growing community.

³ Planning Excellence - Enduring Planning Performance Award does not require budget information.

Awards for Excellence in Planning – Submission Requirements:

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All submissions must be completed online through PIBC's online submission portal, and include the following additional documents/materials:

1. An award submission summary document (maximum 5 pages) describing in writing the merits of the entry and how it meets the award criteria, plus appended letters of support. This document must be in PDF format only, and clearly labeled as "**Summary Document – <Project Title>**".
2. Additional relevant supporting or descriptive document(s) – e.g. official plan(s), project document(s), plan(s), policy document(s), report(s), or similar, in PDF format only.

Other display materials for presentation purposes may be requested from nominator(s) for successful entries prior to the awards presentation.

All entry material(s) submitted shall become the property of the Planning Institute of British Columbia and shall be available to PIBC for reproduction, posting or distribution as part of the Institute's promotion of the awards program.

Please Note: See and review the attached Nomination Submission Checklist carefully, prior to making a submission.

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Awards for Excellence in Planning – Submission Checklist

Review the following checklist below **before** making an online submission to ensure a smooth and complete nomination submission. Nominators of incomplete submissions will be asked to re-apply in the following year with a complete submission package. You will need the following information and documents ready when completing the online submission form:

- Nominator**
PIBC member who primarily prepared or supervised the project/plan being nominated.
 - First and last name of the nominator
 - PIBC membership type (i.e., Certified (RPP), Fellow, or Candidate)
 - Organization / company name associated with the nominated project / plan
 - Mailing address
 - Email address
- Project / Plan Title**
- Award Category & Rationale**
Short rationale for how project qualifies for selected award category, should not exceed 150 words.
- Organization(s)**
Primary organization(s) which produced the project / plan. For any winning entry, accompanying award certificates will only list those organizations listed in this section.
- Project / Plan Description**
Short description, should not exceed 150 words.
- Project / Plan Budget**
Approximate budget for the project, in Canadian dollars; not required for the Enduring Planning Performance Award.
- Project / Plan Partners**
Other partners who were integral to the project or contributed significantly and should be mentioned in the case of an award.
- Award Submission Summary Document**
A summary document (maximum 5 pages) describing in writing the merits of the entry and how it meets the award criteria, plus appended letters of support. This document must be in PDF format only, and clearly labeled as “Summary Document – <Project Title>”.
- Additional Supporting / Descriptive Document(s)**
Including project documents, plans, reports, supporting materials, etc. and be in PDF format only

Note: Each file must be no greater than **50 megabytes** in size.

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Jury & Submissions:

Jury: The Awards Jury for all PIBC awards is composed of a Committee of several experienced Institute members, appointed by the PIBC Board of Directors, representing a variety of planning backgrounds from across British Columbia and the Yukon. A Sub-Committee acts as the jury for each type of award.

Jury members cannot evaluate or vote on nominations for projects in which they directly participated or those submitted by the department or firm in which they are currently employed.

The Awards Jury, by unanimous vote, may move a submission from one category to another. A Jury Selection Award may be granted to recognize submissions that reflect excellence in planning without fitting into one of the existing nomination categories. The Awards Jury may choose to not present awards or to present more than one award in each category, as deemed appropriate. Complete online nominations / submissions must be received on or before

4:00 pm (Pacific Time)
Monday, February 23, 2026

Submissions: Presentation of awards is based on submissions received. The Awards Jury may choose to not present awards or to present more than one award in each category, as deemed appropriate.

Questions?

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