



PIBC is excited to announce the winners of this year's Awards for Excellence in Planning & Individual Achievement, as well as the recipients of its annual Student Fellowship Award.

The Institute annually recognizes the professional work and individual accomplishments of members across British Columbia and Yukon through its awards and recognition program. The **Awards for Excellence in Planning & Individual Achievement** honour the best in professional planning work undertaken by members.

PIBC also celebrated the recipients of this year's **Annual Student Fellowship Awards** which provide funding to support selected university planning student members so that they may attend and present their academic work or research to professional colleagues as part of the program at PIBC's annual conference.

It is with great pleasure that PIBC announced the following 2022 award winners. Please read below for more details on the 2022 award winners and their projects and achievements.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN POLICY PLANNING CITY & URBAN AREAS

Gold: City of New Westminster
Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action



In 2019, New Westminster was the second municipality in Metro Vancouver and the third in the Province of BC to issue a Climate Emergency Declaration. In response, the City announced their Seven Bold Steps for Climate Action around which City staff, residents and businesses would rally, serving as a manifesto that translates the abstract notion of a climate emergency into clear actions and goals for the City and its citizens.

The Seven Bold Steps are:
1. Carbon-Free Corporation

2. Car-Light Community
3. Carbon-Free Homes and Buildings
4. Pollution-Free Vehicles
5. Carbon-Free Energy
6. Robust Urban Forest
7. People-Centred Public Realm

The jury felt that with this program, New Westminster has positioned itself at the forefront of applied climate action at the municipal level within Canada. The propositions are clear, vivid, practical, and compelling to the average citizen. It is an excellent example of ensuring climate action and social equity are at the forefront of all municipal decision-making, prioritizing capital projects, achieving climate action goals, and leading by example.

Silver: Township of Langley, MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement,
Solstice Sustainability Works, and Strandberg Consulting
Our Thriving Community: Township of Langley Social Sustainability Strategy



This Strategy is a visionary document with concrete priorities and actions for building a more sustainable Township. Informed by extensive research and inclusive community engagement, the Strategy will help sustain the positive qualities of the community through growth and change, harness the opportunities to tackle social challenges, and thrive in the face of uncertainty. The Strategy establishes a clear vision for the future — a connected, inclusive, and resilient community where everyone can enjoy and contribute to a great quality of life — and sets a course to get there in collaboration with community partners.

The jury appreciated such an exciting initiative in a smaller community and suburban context. The principles and policy directions are very progressive, and this community will be a more livable place for a wider spectrum of people because of this strategy. The jury felt that this direction can be replicated for other communities in similar circumstances.

Silver: City of Coquitlam
City of Coquitlam Child Care Partnership Strategy



As a fast-growing City with significant family and child population growth projected over the next decade, there is great and growing need in Coquitlam for equitable access to affordable, high quality child care. The Child Care Partnership Strategy provides clarity with respect to the City's role and establishes pathways for the City to support improvement of the local child care system.

It includes a child care needs assessment that provides background and baseline information; a vision statement; long- and short-term targets for new licensed child care spaces; evidence-based, concrete actions to improve child care in four strategic directions; and an implementation plan with clear timelines and defined roles and responsibilities. Since improvement of child care systems requires the cooperation, coordination, and support of all levels of government as well as private and non-profit actors, the Child Care Partnership Strategy emphasizes a partnership-based approach.

The jury found this submission tackled a topic that has been under the radar and under-resourced for years. Through its innovative use of impact assessment and targets for child care provision based on growth and needs, it sets a good reference of social planning for other Canadian suburbs.

Silver: District of Saanich
Saanich Housing Strategy



The Housing Strategy is a 10-year planning framework that provides a roadmap for action, with clear direction on how Saanich can achieve greater housing supply, affordability and diversity and accommodate a broad range of community housing needs. It builds on existing actions, supports partnerships, and focuses efforts on areas within municipal influence.

Through an expedited process, the strategy determines the most effective way forward to address complex housing issues that are vital to overall community health and well-being. Actions in the strategy focus on urban areas close to centers, villages and corridors, supporting broader Saanich goals of addressing climate change, preserving the natural environment, achieving transit-oriented development, and building walkable and healthy communities.

The jury felt that this submission was progressive with tangible implementation strategies and were happy to see such close alignment with Task Force recommendations, which doesn't always happen.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING PRACTICE CITY & URBAN AREAS

Gold: District of West Vancouver and Neighbourhood Character Working Group
Community-led approach to Neighbourhood Character



The West Vancouver Neighbourhood Character Working Group was tasked with proposing regulations and policies that respect and sustain the character and heritage of West Vancouver single-family neighbourhoods. Through the dedication of the working group and their extensive community consultation over 26 months, the interdepartmental collaboration of staff, and Council's commitment to implement workable resolutions to a perennial community concern, regulations are now in place across 11,000 lots to ensure that new homes not only preserve but enhance West Vancouver's neighbourhood character.

This community-led approach has made coach houses the norm rather than the exception across both new and existing homes in West Vancouver. By reassigning floor area from homes to coach houses, limiting the size of new houses, and enabling smaller homes on smaller lots through subdivision, the District of West Vancouver has delivered innovative solutions to address increasing building bulk, lack of housing diversity, and threatened neighbourhood vibrancy.

The jury appreciated such a thoughtful strategy to intensify, diversify, and socially integrate housing as is illustrated by this initiative. While changes delivered were incremental, it is an impressive feat to successfully push that through the politically fraught process of zoning amendments in a municipality that is not fond of change. This effort showed great creativity, forward thinking, and courage.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN POLICY PLANNING SMALL TOWN & RURAL AREAS

Gold: City of Vernon *City of Vernon Climate Action Plan*



With active support from its Climate Action Advisory Committee, the City of Vernon prepared its first Climate Action Plan (CAP), which was endorsed by Council in 2021. Through eight focus areas, Vernon's CAP sets out a clear path to achieve net zero GHGs by 2050 in alignment with IPCC targets, as well as to community adaptation to anticipated climate impacts. Each focus area articulates specific calls to action for the City and for community members.

The City developed a Climate Ambassador program to reach community members in a wide range of groups.

These Ambassadors inspire and mobilize community members to work with the City to implement the Plan and become climate champions. Its success has led to a scaling of the program and it has become a model of great interest in the Okanagan Valley. The City is now mentoring neighboring communities on how to develop a successful Climate Ambassador volunteer engagement program.

The jury appreciated the focus on plain language public education and engagement designed for specific communities, such as through the Climate Storymap and Climate Workbook. Complex issues were made very easy to understand by the public. The training and development of Climate Ambassadors is an innovative and effective way for community mobilization.

Silver: City of Castlegar and Resilience Planning *City of Castlegar Housing Strategy*

The City of Castlegar Housing Strategy outlines a five-year plan for the municipality to respond to the City's unique housing needs, addressing a full range of housing options from supportive housing, rental housing, to home ownership. It outlines two guiding principles: housing as a human right and using an integrated systems approach.

The five strategies for the City to address housing needs are:

1. Create the conditions to support housing development and remove barriers
2. Embed wellness in housing
3. Municipal leadership
4. Innovation
5. Monitoring and evaluation



The jury were inspired to see a small community take the lead and coordinate with so many community groups and partners to tackle the pressing and complex issue of housing, especially with efforts to interview people with lived experience of homelessness and to recompense them for their time.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING PRACTICE SMALL TOWN & RURAL AREAS

Gold: City of Port Alberni, Vancouver Island University, and
Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute
Uptown District Revitalization Strategy



The Uptown District Revitalization Strategy provides recommendations for partnerships and policies based on best practices and the results of community input. It will be used to inform future policy goals and objectives in the Official Community Plan, including Development Permit Areas. The plan will also inform updates to the Zoning Bylaw, future neighbourhood plans, and other relevant policies and regulations.

The jury appreciated that the strategy addresses very real issues of crime prevention, poverty reduction & economic development, especially in the wake of the pandemic. Despite a small budget, it did not compromise on timeline and public engagement.

Silver: City of Prince Rupert, iPlan Planning and Development Services,
Beasley & Associates, and CIVITAS Studio
Prince Rupert OCP and Visioning Processes



The City of Prince Rupert Official Community Plan is intended to manage and guide anticipated growth from Port development, and the final stage in a 6-year planning process. It was heavily influenced by the Redesign Rupert visioning initiative, which featured extensive community engagement and collaboration with First Nations, industry, local businesses, and grassroots organizations and culminated in the Prince Rupert 2030 Vision document.

The final OCP document addresses principles specific to Prince Rupert that grew out of the Vision 2030 process.

Through extensive maps, detailed guidelines, and progressive policies, including a chapter on food systems planning, it directs future development and policy planning in the City.

The jury felt that the focus on food security and resilience added an aspect of sustainability that wouldn't normally be a focus for a downtown visioning process; nor even an OCP in a small northern city community. They appreciated such an ambitious plan for growth and requirements for development, including policies for all aspects of community development.

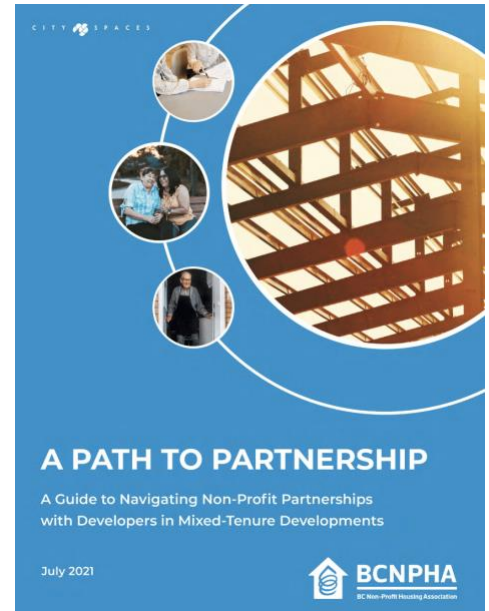
AWARDS FOR RESEARCH & NEW DIRECTIONS IN PLANNING

Gold: CitySpaces Consulting Ltd. and BC Non-Profit Housing Association
A Path to Partnership: A Guide to Navigating Non-Profit Partnerships with Developers in Mixed-Tenure Developments

The Mixed Tenure Partnership Guide is intended for non-profit housing providers that are exploring the idea of obtaining ownership or a long-term lease in a privately led new development project. It was developed through a combination of research, key informant interviews, and a focus group with non-profit sector leaders, and reflect current best practices. Partnerships between non-profits and developers are becoming more commonplace in British Columbia building on the availability and increasing use of local government tools that require non-market units in multi-unit development projects.

This Guide provides clarity and direction to non-profits who are exploring new partnerships and addresses key questions such as:

- What does a non-profit need to know about the development process and their role in it?
- What kind of stake can a non-profit have in a private development?
- What questions does the non-profit need to ask when exploring a partnership?
- What are the financial commitments and risks of partnership in a mixed-tenure building?



The jury felt that this guide fills a gap that planners may not even realize exist. It is easy to read, summarizes what can be a very complex process, and provides a new level of understanding even for municipal planners with respect to the risks non-profits consider prior to entering into agreements with developers. The jury hopes that this tool will accelerate the development of more non-market housing.

Silver: Origin Sustainable Design + Planning and AES Engineering
Local Government Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit



Many local governments have developed climate plans with ambitious GHG emission reduction targets, declared climate emergencies, and adopted the BC Energy Step Code to address GHG emissions reduction in the building sector. Concurrently, many of these local governments also have policies and bylaws that do not support, and in some cases inhibit, construction of low carbon, high performance buildings. The BC Hydro Low Carbon Building Policy Toolkit is a new resource for local government seeking to address these barriers and make it easier to build such buildings in their communities.

The jury found this toolkit to be relevant and timely and expect that it will create benefits across the province, in municipalities small and large. Written and illustrated simply and with plain language, the approaches taken to the work are sound. The relationship between building and planning is always a challenge and this document allows for creation of better planning policies and guidelines.