

Call for Proposals

*BOLD PLANS.
LOCAL ACTION.*

PLANNING INSTITUTE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE





BOLD PLANS. LOCAL ACTION.

The Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) is excited to announce the **Call for Proposals** for the 2026 PIBC Annual Conference, hosted in beautiful **Penticton, BC**.

This year's theme — Bold Plans. Local Action. — reflects the evolving landscape of planning in British Columbia and the Yukon and the urgent need for courageous thinking paired with grounded, community-driven adaptation.

WHY THIS THEME, WHY NOW?



We are living through a time of profound change. The very foundation of planning is shifting beneath our feet — driven by an **era of reconciliation**, sweeping **provincial housing initiatives**, **climate change**, **generational change** (hello, Gen Z!), and increasing **resource scarcity**. These challenges demand **bold, innovative responses** that push boundaries, embrace complexity, and rethink the status quo.

But it's not enough to create bold plans — we must act. Whether in small towns, rural regions, or urban neighbourhoods, communities are calling on planners to **move from vision to implementation**. This means working collaboratively across disciplines, engaging with Indigenous Nations, economic developers, cultural leaders, engineers, and citizens to turn plans into tangible outcomes.

- **Bold Plans** asks us to be brave and forward-thinking — to design strategies that challenge convention and reflect long-term, intergenerational thinking.
- **Local Action** calls on us to focus on place-based solutions, neighbourhood-level engagement, and the practical realities of making plans work on the ground.

WE INVITE YOUR PROPOSALS

This is your opportunity to inspire, teach, and connect with peers across the province and beyond. We are seeking proposals that:

- Showcase innovative planning approaches and projects that demonstrate bold thinking
- Share successful implementation stories — how did you move your plan off the shelf and into reality?
- Highlight collaborative models linking planning with other professions and sectors
- Explore community-led initiatives rooted in local values and aspirations
- Reflect on reconciliation, climate resilience, housing transformation, cultural planning and generational change
- Bring forward small community and rural planning perspectives



SUB-THEMES

To guide your submission, we have identified several sub-themes that reflect the diversity of planning practice in British Columbia and the Yukon today. Your proposal may address one or multiple areas.

SUB-THEME #1 THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF PLANNING

- Generational change and its impact on planning approaches
- Reconciliation, Indigenous self-determination, and evolving legal frameworks
- Climate change, water, and resource scarcity
- Provincial policy and legislative changes reshaping practice
- Emerging trends: emergency planning, cradle-to-grave planning
- Policy innovation: Alternative Approval Process (AAP), new engagement techniques
- Professional practice: the changing role of planners
- Census and sensibility! How our changing demographics are reshaping the landscape of planning



SUB-THEME #2 COLLABORATION & INTEGRATION

- Cross-jurisdictional collaboration (local government, Regional District, First Nations)
- Civic infrastructure planning, shared resource management
- Economic activity and downtown revitalization
- Disaster risk reduction and resilience partnerships
- Creative models for interdisciplinary and cross-sector work
- Local Okanagan perspectives on planning issues



SUB-THEME #3 CULTURAL PLANNING & PLACEMAKING

- Defining cultural planning and its role in shaping communities
- Integrating arts and culture into neighbourhood and area plans
- Indigenous cultural planning and land use integration
- Arts, heritage, and multiculturalism as drivers of revitalization
- Planning with and for cultural enclaves (e.g., Chinatowns, Little Italys)

SUB-THEME #4 MAKING THE PLANS HAPPEN!

- Tools and strategies for successful plan implementation
- Innovative monitoring, reporting, and storytelling approaches
- Lessons learned from translating vision into action

SUB-THEME #5 REGIONAL, RURAL & NORTHERN PERSPECTIVES

- Small town (under 10,000) challenges and solutions
- Northern community innovations and success stories
- Creative approaches to service delivery in tiny towns
- Economic development strategies and cross-regional collaboration

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We welcome a variety of formats, including:

- **Workshops** (interactive, skill-building)
- **Panels** (multiple perspectives on a common theme)
- **Case Studies** (deep dives into innovative projects)
- **Presentations** (engaging, idea-driven talks)

Proposals will be reviewed based on:

- **Relevance** to the conference theme and sub-themes
- **Innovation** and ability to push the conversation forward
- **Practical Takeaways** for attendees to apply in their own work
- **Diversity of Perspective** and inclusivity of voices

KEY DATES & SUBMISSION DETAILS

Proposal Submission Deadline:

Monday, November 17, 11:59 pm PT

Conference Dates:

June 2 - 5, 2026 – Penticton, BC

Notification of Acceptance:

Friday, December 19

Questions? Contact Sophie King at

Sophie.king@pibc.bc.ca

SUBMIT PROPOSAL



BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION

The 2026 PIBC Annual Conference is where big ideas meet practical action. Share your expertise, inspire your peers, and help shape the future of planning in British Columbia.

Your bold idea could be the spark that leads to real and lasting change. Submit your proposal today — and help us turn Bold Plans into Local Action.



* Please note that while we are hoping to host the entirety of this conference in-person in Penticton next year, the PIBC 2026 Annual Conference may also include some program components that are streamed online for remote attendance, or have some components that are delivered either partly or wholly online. Information regarding anticipated online components will be provided early in the new year.

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

All submissions must be submitted through the [online portal](#) and include the following:

LEAD PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY	50 word maximum per presenter
SHORT DESCRIPTION	50 word maximum Provide a brief and captivating overview of your topic, to be used in promoting your presentation during the conference.
LONG DESCRIPTION	250 word maximum Provide a more in-depth description of your presentation to help the PIBC Annual Conference Committee understand your topic.
LEARNING OUTCOMES	Select 3 outcomes.
MEETING THE VISION	50 word maximum What makes your proposal unique and how does it support the conference theme.
DESCRIPTIVE TAGS	Provide 5 key tag words that describe the themes covered in your proposal; this is intended to help the PIBC Annual Conference Committee review, consider, and group proposals.
PROGRAM ELEMENT	Select one of the elements below:
Speed Sessions	10 minutes To be combined with other speed sessions, these short presentations are intended to provide a 'fast, furious, and/or fun' overview of your topic.
Learning Sessions	75 minutes Learning sessions are a more typical presentation taking the form of a talk with visual aids followed by a Q&A period. To increase interest and variability between learning sessions, presenters are encouraged to include innovative, interactive formats into their presentations.
Active Workshops	2.5 hours Active workshops provide attendees with hands-on, interactive skill development through a training session or class. These workshops may take place at the conference location or include an outing to a nearby area.
Mobile Workshops	3-4 hours Mobile workshops are bus, bike, or other tours that take attendees somewhere they can interact with unique planning projects in the region.

Note: Workshops are not intended to be solely social events, which will be organized outside of the formal proposal process.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Call for Program Proposals for PIBC 2026 Annual Conference | Penticton | “Bold Plans. Local Action.” and all proposals submitted in response to it, are subject to the following terms and conditions:

- All proposals submitted are subject to review and consideration by the PIBC Annual Conference Committee.
- Receipt of a proposal does not constitute the acceptance or approval of such a proposal for inclusion in the program of the PIBC 2026 Annual Conference.
- Proposals submitted, including any supporting materials or information, are the property of PIBC and will not be returned to proponents.
- All proposals for consideration must be received no later than 11:59 PM (Pacific) Monday, November 17, 2025. Successful proponents of selected proposals will be contacted by the PIBC Annual Conference Committee by Friday, December 19, 2025.
- The PIBC Annual Conference Committee will give strong preference and priority consideration to qualified proposals that best meet the criteria and overall program goals and objectives as outlined in the Call for Program Proposals.
- The PIBC Annual Conference Committee reserves the right to reject any proposal for any reason, at any time. Due to levels of interest, space, and schedule limitations, it is expected that only a limited selection of all proposals submitted will be selected.
- Normal set-up and audio-visual support for regular conference sessions will include: a meeting room at the conference venue with a podium and a microphone, a laptop computer, a digital projector, and a projection screen. The PIBC Annual Conference Committee cannot guarantee that all requests or suggestions for additional logistical support or set-up requirements (e.g. audio-visual equipment, room set-up, etc.) can be accommodated for any proposal selected for inclusion in the PIBC 2026 Annual Conference Program.
- In order to ensure the highest quality of program content, the PIBC Annual Conference Committee reserves the right to amend the proposed format of any proposal, or otherwise amend or adjust the nature, content, or requirements for any proposal selected for inclusion in the annual conference program as may be required from time to time.
- Successful proponents of selected proposals and associated conference presenters will, subject to reasonable limitation by PIBC, be entitled to a substantially reduced registration rate for the PIBC 2026 Annual Conference. Proponents and presenters are otherwise responsible for all their own independently arranged travel, accommodation, and other incidental expenses related to participating in the annual conference.
- PIBC reserves the right to record (through audio, video, transcription, or other means), publish, reproduce and distribute (in whole or in part) all submissions and subsequent conference elements, presentations, materials and related content as part of any conference proceedings or legacy materials.