

# 2020 PIBC Awards

/ Kelly Chan, Member Services Coordinator

As with many events this year, the PIBC Awards ceremony, which usually takes place during the Annual Conference, was postponed due to the pandemic. The PIBC Awards will be formally celebrated online through a special video celebration for World Town Planning Day on the PIBC YouTube channel in early November. Visit PIBC's Youtube channel to watch these celebrations!

## Award for Excellence in Policy Planning – Small Town & Rural Areas (GOLD Winner)

**Title:** *Our Sacred Land: Indigenous Peoples' Land Use Planning Handbook in B.C.*

**Authors:** Beringia Community Planning Inc. and Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council

**Partners:** Indigenous Advisory Committee: Pam Theodore of Canim Lake Band, Josephine Kelly of Sema:th (Sumas) First Nation, Tammy Dorward of Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, and Colleen Jacob of Xaxli'p Band

The *Our Sacred Land: Indigenous Peoples' Land Use Planning Handbook* is designed to support B.C. First Nations' efforts to strengthen their land governance system through community-based land use planning (LUP). Beringia Community Planning Inc. created this Handbook through collaboration with the Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council (NmTC), and under the guidance of a four-person Indigenous Advisory Committee.

The Handbook draws on content and participant feedback from 18 First Nations LUP workshops held between 2015 and 2018 in which 146 individuals participated, representing 108 First Nations throughout B.C. Participants identified the need for a user-friendly guide to help overcome the often-technical complexity of LUP to enable communities to take control of the process. This hands-on, practical guide documents the context for First Nations LUP in B.C. and describes an 11-step planning cycle with the theory, methods, examples, and tools to support a community-driven LUP process.

The jury felt this was an inspirational and educational project, created by and for Indigenous communities. It is culturally relevant, represents an educational approach that uses practical models and methods, and is visual and user-friendly. The Handbook covers many facets of planning and the complexity of First Nations governance, through excellent, detailed charts and checklists, all beautifully represented.

*Our Sacred Land: Indigenous Peoples' Land Use Planning Handbook in B.C.* is being distributed to all First Nations province-wide in hard copy and USB. All planners can utilize this inspiring and educational resource,

and it should be mandatory reading for all planning practitioners and students.

*"This Handbook would not have been possible without our team of contributors including an Indigenous Advisory Committee, Indigenous and non-Indigenous planners and thought leaders who shared their knowledge and insights, and our First Nations partners whose stories, illustrations and photographs helped this Handbook come alive."*



## Award for Excellence in Policy Planning – Small Town & Rural Areas (SILVER Winner)

**Title:** *Penticton 2045: Official Community Plan*

**Author:** City of Penticton

**Partners:** Penticton Official Community Plan Task Force; MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement; South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program; and C4Wise Design

In 2019, the City of Penticton, a city of 35,000 in the South Okanagan, adopted a new Official Community Plan (OCP), *Penticton 2045*, the first substantive reworking of their OCP since 2002. The OCP establishes goals and policies for a broad range of interrelated areas, a sustainable growth plan, and a range of Development Permit Area Guidelines.

The OCP creates a holistic vision for sustainable growth of the community. The process to create the new OCP was the largest engagement effort undertaken by the City, involving over 3,600 conversations and interactions in a diversity of innovative ways. The resulting plan is clear, approachable, richly illustrated and readily conveys the vision for the future of the city. The OCP was unanimously approved by City Council in July 2019.

The jury felt that the OCP is clear and direct, with a focus on being user-friendly. There is surprisingly no planner jargon in its 16-page summary. This is a superb OCP based upon extensive public consultation with illustrations and charts that provide a straightforward understanding of land use designations and where growth will occur. The OCP reflects the vision for Penticton: “A connected, vibrant, prosperous and healthy small city in a uniquely beautiful waterfront setting”.



## Award for Excellence in Policy Planning – City & Urban Areas (GOLD Winner)

**Title:** *Rain City Strategy: A Green Rainwater Infrastructure and Rainwater Management Initiative*

**Author:** City of Vancouver

**Partners:** Rain City Strategy Staff Working Group and The Rain City Strategy Expert Panel

## Award for Excellence in Policy Planning - City & Urban Areas (SILVER Winner)

**Title:** *2020 Climate Plan: 100% Renewable & Resilient Saanich*

**Author:** District of Saanich

**Partners:** C2MP; Stantec; Claremont Secondary School; Institute for Global Solutions, ICLEI Canada; One Earth, Bioregional, School of Construction & the Built Environment at the BC Institute of Technology; Cora Hallsworth Consulting; Federation of Canadian Municipalities; Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program; KR Foundation; and Vancity

The District of Saanich's *2020 Climate Plan: 100% Renewable & Resilient Saanich* provides a framework and action plan for a comprehensive response to climate change in Saanich over the next ten years. The plan identifies goals focused on cutting greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to 100% renewable energy, and preparing for changing climate impacts. It addresses both climate mitigation and



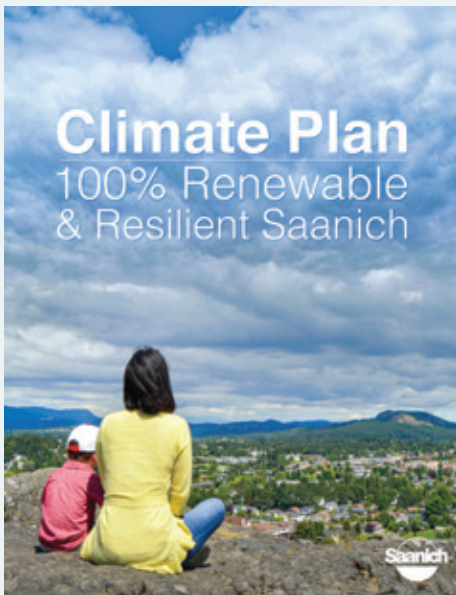
Vancouver's *Rain City Strategy* is a 30-year road map for advancing and evolving rainwater management services by integrating them into land use decisions, community plans, and urban design. Through the *Rain City Strategy*, Vancouver will advance 46 implementation objectives focused on streets, public spaces, civic facilities, buildings, parks, and beaches. These programs integrate green infrastructure across multiple City departments to help achieve City-wide goals related to climate resilience, equity, and servicing needs for population growth.

The jury felt that the Strategy offers a holistic, innovative and creative approach to rainwater infrastructure and management that is transferable to other municipalities in the province.



adaptation related to mobility, buildings & infrastructure, food & materials, ecosystems, community wellbeing, and leadership in District operations.

The jury felt that this clear and comprehensive plan, developed in consultation with many stakeholder groups in a meaningful and collaborative way, can be a template for other municipalities developing Climate Action Plans.



Back (left to right): Ting Pan, Rebecca Newlove RPP, MCIP, Deborah Herbert RPP, MCIP, Duncan Cavens RPP, MCIP Front (left to right): Maggie Baynham RPP, MCIP, Glenys Verhulst

**Award for Excellence in Planning Practice – Small Town & Rural Areas (GOLD Winner)**

**Title:** Quesnel Waterfront Plan

**Authors:** City of Quesnel and Urban Systems Ltd.

**Partners:** City of Quesnel Staff; City of Quesnel Mayor and Council; Quesnel Downtown Association; West Quesnel Business Association; Quesnel Search & Rescue; Big Canyon Rafting; Baker Creek Enhancement Society; Friends of Quesnel Museum; City of Quesnel Chamber of Commerce; Lhtako Dene First Nation; Nazko First Nation; Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance (as directed or via Lhtako or Nazko); and the Quesnel Tillicum Society/Native Friendship Centre

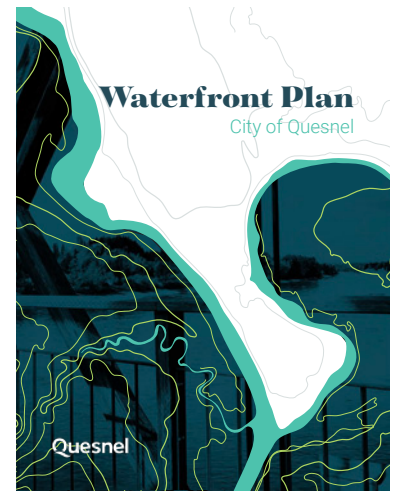
The City of Quesnel Waterfront Plan is a forward-looking document that not only focuses on the city’s waterways, but celebrates them by capitalizing on the community’s unique location at the confluence of rivers and creeks. The focus of the plan is eight kilometres of waterfront in Quesnel’s core. The final strategy identifies opportunities to improve public access to and create vibrant inclusive spaces along the waterfront. Building on market analysis, this project articulates a vision for the riverfront that is based on realistic economic development opportunities.

Respecting the dynamic nature of the river environment, the plan strategies include: trail renewal and connectivity, river access, riparian restoration, water celebration, Indigenous visibility, public art, places to rest, brand identity, and social media presence. Ambitious elements in the plan include an RV park, white-water feature enhancements, viewing towers, and an augmented reality app. The Waterfront Plan was adopted by Quesnel City Council in December of 2019.

The jury felt that this plan is forward-thinking and captures the importance of recognizing and valuing the incredible nature that surrounds the community of Quesnel. The Quesnel Waterfront Plan provides clear direction for monitoring

implementation throughout the life of the plan. The final document is fun, well-branded and versatile. It clearly identifies long- and short-term goals that can be measured and attained, and although the document included a high-level of engineering and technical components, it was easily read by many audiences, thanks to the clear maps, graphics and formatting.

*“Water as an element has the potential to heal people and connect communities in a profound way. We want to extend our gratitude to the members of the community who brought their vision, passion and knowledge to this project, pushing our team to aim for excellence and a waterfront for everyone.”*  
– Urban Systems





**Award for Excellence in Planning Practice – Small Town & Rural Areas (SILVER Winner)**

**Title:** District of Lantzville Zoning Bylaw

**Authors:** Master of Community Planning Program, Vancouver Island University and Planning Department, District of Lantzville

**Partners:** Mark Swain, Mayor of Lantzville; Ronald Campbell, Chief Administrative Officer of Lantzville; and Vancouver Island University

The District of Lantzville partnered with Vancouver Island University’s Master of Community Planning program to improve the legibility and accessibility of the District’s zoning bylaw. More than 30 illustrations were designed for this project which explain complex definitions and regulations. The work was challenging, but ultimately resulted in a document that is interesting, informative, and attractive – something that cannot often be said for a regulatory bylaw.

The project created an opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning and principles behind bylaw development. Complicated regulations such as setbacks from the “top of bank” sent the students on a rabbit hole of research, tracing the path through the rationale behind setbacks. The District of Lantzville was a supportive mentor to the students, first in offering this work opportunity, and second by remaining a steadfast and positive resource for students throughout the project. The District is commended for their willingness to invest in student success, and their innovative approach to creating planning documents that are legible and interesting.

The jury felt that this unique partnership provided the District with a zoning bylaw that is interesting, informative and attractive. The method of developing the bylaw with the support and partnership of planning students can be transferred to other small communities.

The concept of providing graphics and illustrations throughout increases the accessibility of a document that is often difficult

to understand for property owners, residents and developers. The partnership was a great example of providing students with practical experience, while keeping budget costs for small communities within a reasonable amount. The document was well presented, with methods of implementation provided in short- and long-term attainable goals.

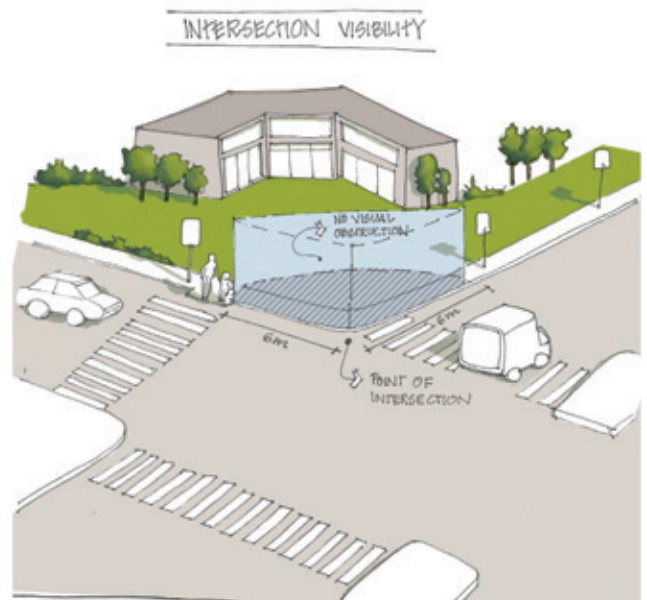
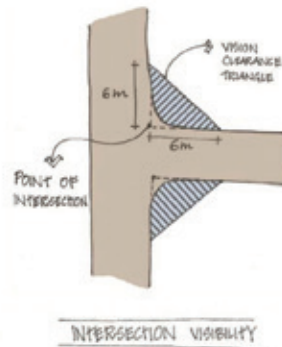


Steffi Sunni and Brian McLoughlin (Master of Community Planning Program, Vancouver Island University)



**INTERSECTION VISIBILITY**

Where two highways intersect, there must not be any visual obstruction, either by buildings, structures or vegetation, to the line of vision in an area bounded by the centreline of intersecting parcel lines and a line adjoining each of the parcel lines 6 m from their point of intersection.





## Award for Excellence in Planning Practice – City & Urban Areas (GOLD Winner)

**Title:** *Nicomekl Riverfront Park Management Plan*

**Authors:** City of Surrey and PFS Studio

**Partners:** Diamond Head Consulting; Denise Cook Design; and Lynne Werker Architect

The *Nicomekl Riverfront Park Management Plan* is a bold, adaptive management plan for a unique 3km stretch of riverfront parkland in Surrey. Building on a creative and engaging public consultation process, the plan puts into action key themes and priorities from the City's *Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan*. It sets the vision for a resilient, diverse and collaborative gem in the City's park network.

The plan integrates ecological protection and enhancement with public access, heritage, recreation, education, public art, and Indigenous stories throughout. The *Management Plan* is designed to be a living document throughout all phases of the riverfront park planning, design, construction and management.

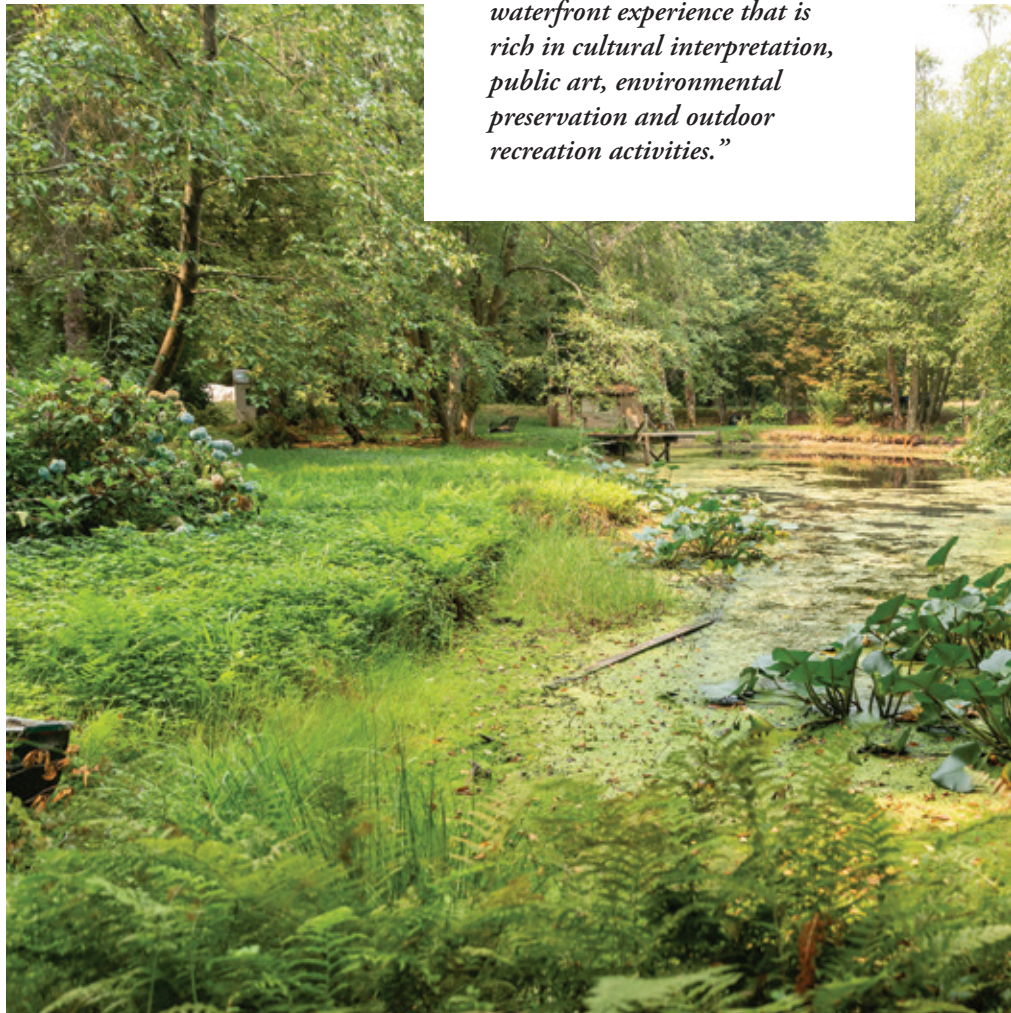
The jury was impressed with this project's holistic vision for the park, the sophistication of its ecological design, and the clarity of its presentation. The colourful document has clear diagrams and graphics, and the summary of design and management strategies provides an accessible 'plan at a glance.' The *Nicomekl Riverfront Park Management Plan* stands out for addressing flooding issues through an innovative adaptive management approach by emphasizing 'soft' engineering through landscape design and ecological resilience. This innovative approach also qualifies the City for additional Federal grants and research initiatives.



Doug Merry RPP, MCIP, and Mickella Sjoquist



*“This Plan recognizes the important role that the Nicomekl River has played in the history of Indigenous peoples and what Surrey is today. It sets the stage for the development of a natural waterfront experience that is rich in cultural interpretation, public art, environmental preservation and outdoor recreation activities.”*







## Award for Excellence in Planning Practice – City & Urban Areas (SILVER Winner)

**Title:** *What Works: Securing Affordable and Special Needs Housing through Housing Agreements*

**Authors:** Metro Vancouver and CitySpaces Consulting Ltd.

**Partners:** BC Housing and Young Anderson Barristers and Solicitors



*What Works: Securing Affordable and Special Needs Housing through Housing Agreements* was initiated in November 2018, and concluded with the release of a comprehensive resource guide in the spring of 2020. Working collaboratively with housing planners, the housing development sector and non-profit housing providers across British Columbia, the project identifies key factors that contribute to the successful creation and implementation of housing agreements.

This project is intended to help local governments by identifying key considerations for entering into, administering, monitoring, and enforcing a housing agreement. It highlights common challenges and proposed solutions for local governments, and presents illustrative scenarios of best practices for a diversity of housing types. The outcome is practical guidance to support local governments across British Columbia as they develop housing agreements to

secure affordable and special needs housing in their communities.

The jury found this project to be an important resource in how to draft, administer and monitor housing agreements – a key tool to securing affordable and special needs housing in a region with high demand for such projects. The final document is relatively simple and straightforward, and the jury recognized its clarity and its importance. The jury appreciated the focus on implementation and the utility for local governments in the region and beyond. In addition, the project builds on the experience of stakeholders and applied practice, and extends the learning through workshops and conference presentation.



Attendees at the Housing Agreements Implementation Workshop



## Award for Research & New Directions in Planning (GOLD Winner)

**Title:** *City Without Art? No Net Loss, Plus!*

**Authors:** Eastside Culture Crawl Society (ECCS)

**Partners:** ECCS Space Committee; Vancouver Economic Commission; and Licker Geospatial Consulting

The Eastside Culture Crawl Society's *City Without Art? No Net Loss, Plus!* was created to fill a significant data gap and to inform public planning policy. It was composed of several parts:

(1) documentation of the loss of Vancouver's Eastside visual art production space based on artist surveys, field work, and other data sources — a total of almost 400,000 ft<sup>2</sup> lost over a decade

(2) identification of causal factors such as planning policies, lack of tenure, shifting real estate markets, redevelopment, the growth of the high-tech sector, land assessment processes, etc.

(3) recommendation of a suite of potential strategies, such as new policies and incentives, to counteract the displacement of artists by protecting, enhancing and growing the supply of quality artist spaces (summarized by the phrase "No Net Loss, Plus!")

(4) presentation and discussion through a two-day forum in conjunction with an art exhibition called "Displacement." It has had an almost immediate impact on municipal policy direction through the City of Vancouver's support of an Eastside Arts District.

The jury found this project to be an outstanding and highly innovative joint effort between a not-for-profit society and the artistic community. The emphasis on protecting and sustaining an important arts ecosystem is greatly inspirational to planners. The jury felt that the research process utilized is fully transferable as a model for collecting data on artist production spaces, and for collaboratively developing policy related to the protection and enhancement of arts and cultural spaces.



*"...an outstanding and highly innovative joint effort between a not-for-profit society and the artistic community. The emphasis on protecting and sustaining an important arts ecosystem will be greatly inspirational to planners."*



Left to Right: John Steil RPP, FCIP, Ammar Mahimwalla (McGill U Planning School) and Esther Rausenberg



## Award for Research & New Directions in Planning (SILVER Winner)

**Title:** *Benchmarking the State of Cycling in Metro Vancouver 2019*

**Authors:** HUB Cycling and TransLink

**Partners:** The Real Estate Foundation of BC; the BC Ministry of Social Development; and private sector firms including Bunt and Associates, Binnie, McElhanney and Urban Racks

HUB Cycling and TransLink partnered to release the first ever *State of Cycling Report* for Metro Vancouver. The report assesses the quality and quantity of bikeways in Metro Vancouver, the number of residents regularly cycling, the safety of the cycling network, and details existing cycling supportive policies and practices.

By reporting on the bikeway network and related data, this report offers an up-to-date picture of cycling across the region, and serves as a benchmark against which future progress can be measured. The data compiled through this study will be shared with municipalities, TransLink and the Province of British Columbia, and will be available to the public through an open data portal on TransLink's website.

The jury felt that this inclusive, impactful model for assessing Metro Vancouver's bikeways will set the region up for success for its progress with cycling infrastructure and cycling supportive policies. The jury

was impressed by the comprehensiveness of the study, and by the methodology that was utilized in the research project.

Transportation and land use planners in the region will benefit from the timely and user-friendly "State of Cycling" data that was produced in this project, while planners outside the region will benefit from the transferability of the research model. This benchmarking project has long-term benefits as it lays the groundwork for tracking success for a long time to come.

*"Transportation and land use planners in the region will benefit from the timely and user-friendly "State of Cycling" data that was produced in this research project."*



## Award for Young Professional Leadership: Kristy McConnell

Sustainability Consultant,  
Mott MacDonald



Kristy is a PIBC Candidate Member and Planner at Mott MacDonald. She holds a Master of Community and Regional Planning degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of British Columbia. She is also a certified Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP).

Kristy has worked on many transportation planning and climate resilience projects both locally and across North America, including the award-winning Safestroll app, the Arbutus Greenway Project, various Port of Vancouver projects, and several planning projects in California. She has also been instrumental in delivering strategic advice on sustainability policies for various transportation agencies.

Kristy has not hesitated to provide mentorship to other young professionals and has consistently sought opportunities to innovate and get creative in serving her community and society; with a colleague she developed a workshop at the UBC SCARP Symposium on gender mainstreaming and applying the Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) toolkit to public infrastructure projects.

*"When I became aware I had been put forward by my colleagues for this award, I felt extremely honoured both by the award and to work with colleagues who thought of me and nominated me; it is humbling."*

## Award for Research & New Directions in Planning (Honourable Mention)

**Title:** *Sparwood Livability Study*

**Author:** Intelligent Futures

**Partners:** District of Sparwood

The District of Sparwood engaged Intelligent Futures to complete a *Livability Study*. The consultants involved the residents in guiding the document, building on the community's strengths, and managing some of the challenges in this resource-rich area. *The Livability Study* was managed by the District of Sparwood, with support by Teck Resources, the largest employer in the area. The process was undertaken to respond to quality of life and planning

issues in the community as related to Teck's application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate in 2014.

The jury was impressed that a small community with many unique challenges was able to partner with a private company to produce a robust set of 'wellbeing' indicators. The jury felt that this study would assist the community well into the future. In particular, the jury valued the District's description of how the *Sparwood Livability Study* would enable them to track and measure the impact of mining in their community over time. Given the larger context of PIBC's mandate for British Columbia and the Yukon, the jury appreciated the innovative direction of this study as livability studies are not generally a focus in more rural communities.