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PLANNING WEST

Summer 2024

FORWARD THINKING
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**2024 BC LAND SUMMIT
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PIBC PLANNING INSTITUTE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FORWARD THINKING
SHAPING COMMUNITIES

The Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC) recognizes, acknowledges, and appreciates that we are able to live, work, and learn on the traditional territories of the First Nations and Indigenous peoples of BC and Yukon. Acknowledging the principles of truth and reconciliation, we recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all Indigenous peoples of Canada whose presence continues to enrich our lives and our country.



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ON THE COVER

The BC Land Summit was honoured to have Elder Lolly Good/Shxuyulwut of the Snuneymuxw First Nation and the Bayview Elementary School begin each morning with drumming and song.
Conference photos: Dirk Heydemann



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President's Message



Lately, I've been ramping up reading and re-reading my personal "urban planning library." One book I picked up again is *Cities Then and Now* by Jim Antoniou, an oldie-but-a-goodie first published in 1994. The book uses an old-school, pre-AI, pre-green screen, pre-CGI trick to good effect. Photographs of "present-day" (i.e., 1990s) New York, Paris, Hong Kong, Moscow etc., are bound together with plastic overlays—the kind used with overhead projectors in the 60s to 90s—depicting "back in the day" as imagined by an artist. Carved out from the overlays (think Eric Carle's *The Hungry Little Caterpillar*) are aspects of the scene that have continued to exist into the 1990s—buildings, landscaping features, road patterns. The time span between the "then" overlay and the "now" photo is anywhere from a hundred years (San Francisco) to two and a half thousand years (Athens). I can't get enough of it. It's eye candy for planners.

Change is exciting. Change is hard. I don't think our profession would exist if people didn't desire but also fear change. Planning by its very nature is all about change, even when it appears not to be. When seeking to protect heritage buildings, or the natural environment, or the temperature of the planet, we are pushing for new regulations, or more respect for existing ones. This, too, is change; from the status quo to a better future.

The changes—from processes and procedures, to infrastructure, to our urban tree canopy, to our built environment—needed to accommodate more housing units across BC and Yukon puts us in unprecedented territory. At least, it *feels like* unprecedented territory. But if you look at the Post-War Boom from the 1950s to 70s, or the Roaring Twenties Boom (the 1920s, that is), or indeed the rapid urban changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century, you are reminded that change is a key feature of life within human settlements.

The PIBC is working to effect positive change within the institute as well.

- We held a stunning BC Land Summit in Nanaimo (my favourite Land Summit to date—great thanks to the organizers!);
- We sought sage advice from former Presidents of the Institute at a recent Past Presidents Forum held in June 2024, in honour of our 65th anniversary of formally incorporating as a society in the province of British Columbia;
- We're speaking to you, our members, about your wants and needs for the Institute—PIBC's Member Engagement Committee has been kicked into high gear;
- With the assistance and guidance of our new Justice Equity Diversity Decolonization & Inclusion working group, we will soon embark on a JEDDI audit of our organization;
- We're working to implement a number of decolonization and reconciliation recommendations put forward by the PIBC's Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee;

- We're growing in number and capacity, with two new staff team members joining: Administrative and Governance Coordinator, Matthew Walshe, and Manager of Research and Policy, Raymond Kan RPP MCIP; a big welcome to them; and
- Finally, we continue to expand our efforts to support our members and other professionals in delivering on the high number of housing units targeted by senior governments through the Peer Learning Network (PLN). Bravo to the consultants, volunteers, members, and staff who are achieving great things on behalf of the Institute.

Speaking of great things, my partner just received a lovely book for Father's Day: *The Highly Selective Dictionary for the Extraordinarily Literate*. That's its own form of eye candy for me, but in considering my message for the Summer issue of *Planning West*, I realized very quickly that I don't need any big words to describe the state of the planning profession in BC and Yukon in 2024. Simple words will do.

It all boils down to "change" and "challenge." Both words have meanings that involve a sense of disruption, or a call to action. Indeed, you sometimes don't know if you'll be getting more of one or the other, when "change" and "challenge" come knocking on your door. This is daunting, but we're up to the challenge.

Cities then and now? Yes please. Bring it on.

Emilie K. Adin RPP, MCIP

OUTLINES

What's Trending?... Member in Focus...



Ginger Gosnell-Myers speaking at the the BC Land Summit Opening Keynote Panel: *Indigenizing Planning, Decolonizing Land Use*. (Jessie Hemphill on left).

What's Trending?

by **Cindy Cheung** PIBC Communications & Marketing Specialist

In this issue, we take an in-depth look at the important work led by two of the BC Land Summit opening keynote panelists – Ginger Gosnell-Myers and Tara Marsden/Naxginkw – and the resources available to planners to actively supporting the path forward in advancing UNDRIP and integrating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives in mitigating climate change and protecting watersheds in BC.

Ginger Gosnell-Myers
@Skusgluums

Connector, Educator, Bridging the Path Forward

It was an honour to have Ginger Gosnell-Myers join this year's BC Land Summit opening keynote panel *Indigenizing Planning, Decolonizing Land Use*. Alongside Jessie Hemphill and Tara Marsden/Naxginkw (who is currently the UNDRIP Fellow at the Real Estate Foundation of BC), the panel discussed and shared candidly the continuing challenges and inspirations for integrating Indigenous knowledge to decolonize systems in creating broader and more inclusive pathways in the planning process and profession.

Stay Updated with PIBC e-News!

Keep up-to-date regularly with current Institute & local planning news, events and job opportunities with PIBC e-News! The Institute's electronic newsletter is emailed to members every other Wednesday. Haven't seen your PIBC e-News? Check your spam/junk email folder and be sure to add enews@pibc.bc.ca to your contacts.

Her work and accomplishments build bridge over the gaps between Indigenous knowledge and urban planning, leading her to achieve many “firsts,” including leading the way to the City of Vancouver becoming the world’s first official City of Reconciliation. Her dedication has contributed to her becoming the first Indigenous Fellow with the Simon Fraser University Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, where she focuses on Decolonization and Urban Indigenous Planning and teaches Climate Justice courses as part of the SFU Climate Action program.

Aside from the recent BCLS keynote panel, Ginger generously shares her knowledge and time in numerous formats including a TedX talk, podcasts, and written works. Visit her on LinkedIn for these resources, including the chapter she wrote in *Sacred Civics* (2022), titled *Co-creating the Cities We Deserve through Indigenous Knowledge*.

Healthy Watershed Initiatives

<https://healthywatersheds.ca/>

Our water, our future.

The Healthy Watersheds Initiative (HWI), a program governed by the Real Estate Foundation of BC’s (REFBC) Board of Governors and guided by an Indigenous Leaders Advisory Circle, is supporting 60+ projects across BC that focus on restoring rivers and streams, building healthy watersheds, and conducting watershed mapping and sustainability planning.

Part of the BC Economic Recovery Plan, the HWI is also tasked with creating new jobs that are critical to helping communities adapt to the effects of climate change, as well as strengthening relationships with First Nations and Indigenous-led organizations.

Visit the HWI site for resources and project planning tools, including an interactive map showcasing 200+ projects across the province, including layers for major river basins and geographic regions (as categorized by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development).

Planning West Call for Submissions

Fall 2024 Issue:

Climate and the Environment

Submission deadline: Sept 15, 2024

Winter 2025 Issue:

2024 World Town Planning Day & Celebrating the Profession

Submission deadline: Dec 15, 2024

Articles should be 1000-1200 words in length in an unformatted MS Word document. Please note: not all articles may be accommodated based on editorial decisions and the number of submissions received.

What Membership Means to Me

Planners across British Columbia and Yukon join PIBC and value becoming Registered Professional Planners for a variety of reasons. We reached out to our members across the province and beyond to learn why they value becoming an RPP and what membership means to them.



Brian McLoughlin RPP, MCIP
Manager of Planning, City of Port Alberni

“What does membership mean to me? Well, it means a lot. I was recently admitted as a Certified Member, and I don’t mind saying it’s been a journey to get here.

I found planning midway through my career in local government. For several years, I worked technical roles in municipal operations and engineering but had a growing curiosity for planning. One day, I took a leap and switched to an entry-level planning position. Honestly, I didn’t know if planning was for me.

But something ‘clicked’ after attending my first PIBC event. I remember thinking it was “a conference full of people who love what they do” and it has stuck with me ever since. It sounds idealistic but it’s true. Meeting planners who love their work and offer mentorship set me on the path to becoming a member. Since then, I’ve returned to and completed graduate school, taken on progressively more complex planning roles, and went through the PIBC certification process.

No matter where I was working, or studying, there were PIBC members willing to share their experience – and they were passionate about it. Membership for me is about the on-going peer learning, mentorship, and the professional and personal growth that comes with it. I try to give back in the same way to my colleagues and aspiring planners I meet along the way.”

Member in Focus



Birte Decloux RPP, MCIP
Planner & Business Owner
Urban Options Planning Corp.

As the new housing legislation continues to be implemented across the province, we reached out to Birte Decloux, an established planner in the Okanagan region who worked as a municipal planner with the City of Kelowna before heading up her own full-service land development planning consultancy. She shares her insights on the opportunities and challenges for the Okanagan region, the importance of heritage conversation, and why, at the core of her work and her passion for the planning profession, it's all about helping others and building quality connections with individuals and communities.

What inspired you to become a planner? Was there a person or event that led you to explore planning as a profession?

Many planners are inspired by a variety of factors. Some are drawn to planning because they have a passion for creating better communities, solving urban challenges, or preserving natural environments. Others might have been influenced by significant events such as witnessing the impact of rapid urbanization, experiencing environmental degradation, or being inspired by influential figures in the field.

Often, exposure to urban design, architecture, environmental studies, or sociology can spark an interest in planning. I love working with land and enjoy problem-solving, strategic thinking, and have a knack for balancing competing interests. Planning is always changing which keeps the profession interesting and stimulating.

You worked as a planner for the City of Kelowna and now run your

own planning consultancy. How did you make this transition and how has having previously worked as a planner in a growing municipality informed and prepared you for running your own firm?

Making this change from working as a municipal planner to starting Urban Options was not an easy task. It is risky and takes a lot of determination. The first years were challenging. The connections I made through working at the City, along with the experience I garnered, helped immensely in the creation and operation of Urban Options. Both knowing the development community (who then became my clients) and the relationship with City staff were, and still are, vital to our success. Understanding the process completely and knowing who to go to when dealing with some of our complex problems is very valuable.

I enrolled in the Community Futures Entrepreneurial bootcamp before starting Urban Options to ensure that I have the training and ingredients for success. It was also very important to secure my RPP MCIP designation as part of my business planning.

What do you see as some of the potential short-term challenges and potential benefits brought on by the new housing legislation, specifically for the Okanagan-Interior region? What do you think will be one potential major long-term impact from this new legislative environment?

I could see that this change in legislation was needed. Kelowna, although growing, has its limitations. Whether that be geographical or in sustainability, Kelowna has a limited land mass and is not going to grow outwards much more. The change in legislation will allow Kelowna to start filling in and building upwards.

I have always been a big proponent of infill housing and it is exciting to see so many opportunities. In the short term, we will likely see an influx of multiplex projects being proposed around the city's core area. In the long term, as the housing market adjusts, we will likely see the value of housing balance and Kelowna's population and economy grow until we reach the geographical and sustainability limits.

What is one recent planning project you're particularly proud of? Why?

This is a challenging question to answer. Urban Options will be 10 years old in January 2025 and we have been part of the development team for a range of projects including

infill housing, industrial and commercial ventures, and more recently multiple residential housing. There have been so many interesting projects each with their individual unique nuance.

We have been working with the Village of Lytton for over a year, lending planning expertise and working to recreate missing bylaws. It feels good to make a contribution and to share our knowledge in assisting with the rebuilding of the town.

We have the opportunity to work with great professional teams and create solutions that are good for the community and our clients. Recently, we rezoned land for a Gurdwara, which was rewarding as the congregation was so passionate to develop a new home. Throughout this project, we were able to navigate many challenges to successfully have it approved.

You were a former Board member of the Central Okanagan Heritage Society. What are your thoughts on any major or notable implications on heritage conservation?

Heritage sites give a sense of belonging. They allow us to reflect on the past and give us a sense of pride. I believe protecting these sites are important also for education and research as they provide valuable insights



Visiting Ketichikan, Alaska

into the evolution of our communities through the built form.

It would be ideal if the concept of heritage could be expanded and examples of the built form from the 1950s–1970s could be registered and preserved. It is great to see that heritage now not only encompasses the early built form but also significant natural sites that pre-date early settlers. Studying these sites gives us insight into human creativity and can inspire us to innovate moving forward with the projects we deal with today.

What is something new you've done recently that brought you joy or inspiration?

Recently I was able to experience what it is like to enjoy an Alaskan cruise. For two weeks I was able to take in the natural beauty of the West Coast as we cruised along the stunning landscapes. Ultimately, being able to connect with others alongside me on this trip and sharing those experiences really reminded me why I pursued this career in the beginning.

The quality connections and opportunities to help others bring their dreams to life inspire me to put forth my best in all the work I do here at Urban Options.



Skiing at Big White, BC
Below: Visiting Glacier Bay, Alaska



Planning Podcasts

In this issue, we are excited to bring you two older podcasts on topics that are very relevant today. In “Dense Roads – Road Allocation and Beyond”, we hear from Dr. Meghan Winters, an epidemiologist sharing her in-depth study on Covid-19 and street reallocation. This is especially relevant now with the recently released Bill 16. In the second podcast, we hear from Dr. Leela Viswanathan, CIP Fellow, planner and educator who shares her passion, experience and lessons learned from leading and guiding the planning process through an empathetic lens.

Got a podcast about planning you want to share? Contact us with your podcast summary at editor@pibc.bc.ca

**Please note: Podcast content and opinions are solely those of the podcast creators. PIBC does not endorse third party content and/or necessarily share the same views as expressed in these podcasts. Podcast links and content may change without notice and PIBC is not responsible for updates to content from podcast creators.*

★ Podcast links are available on the PIBC Planning Podcasts web page at www.pibc.bc.ca/planning-podcasts

Dense City – Road Reallocation and Beyond (Episode 9)

Run time 51:00 (April 2021)

Podcast summary by Steffi Sunny, Communications Committee Member

Host: Rebecca Mayers, Planner (Street Planning) at Translink & Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Planning, University of Waterloo

Guest: Dr. Meghan Winters, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University

Podcast link*

<https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/densecitypod/episodes/9-Road-Reallocation-and-Beyond-eun4qu>

Podcast Summary

In the Dense City podcast, host Rebecca Mayers chats with academics about their research on cities. In this episode, Rebecca chats with Dr. Meghan Winters, an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at SFU. She is an epidemiologist interested in the link between health, transportation, and city design. She is the founder and lead of the Cities, Health, and Active Transportation Lab at SFU (CHATR). This episode specifically focuses on her paper entitled “COVID-19 street reallocation in mid-sized Canadian Cities: socio-equity patterns,” published in the *Canadian Journal of Public Health* with her co-author Jaimy Fischer.

Paper: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.17269/s41997-020-00467-3>

CHATR Site: <https://chatr.ca/>

Room to Move Storymap: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6c8ee50c32e043a0b635426c366aac0c>

Why Planners Should Listen

Dr. Meghan Winters is well known for her research projects on pedestrian safety, school active travel, health equity and city policies, micro mobility, bike sharing, and more.

In this episode, she talks in depth about her paper, “COVID-19 street reallocation in mid-

sized Canadian Cities: socio-equity patterns.”

This podcast is recommended for anyone wanting to know more about this paper, especially the background literature studies and data analysis, and planners interested in transportation planning.

Street reallocation is defined as diverting street space away from cars and giving it to people who use active modes of transportation like walking and biking. This paper focuses on street allocation during the Covid-19 pandemic in three medium-sized Canadian cities - Victoria, Kelowna, and Halifax.

With the new provincial regulations, especially Bill 16, and the support for road allocation plans to support more sustainable forms of transportation, I think we have come a long way since the recording of this podcast. However, the topic of equity when considering road allocation is still a very relevant topic of discussion.

360 Degree City Podcast – Planning with Empathy (Episode 35)

Run time 49:00

Podcast summary by Steffi Sunny, Communications Committee Member

Host: John Lewis, President & Founder, Intelligent Futures

Guest: Dr. Leela Viswanathan, PhD, RPP, FCIP, Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at Queen's University and Associate Faculty at Royal Roads University

Podcast link*

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cuzv3R7Q43s>

Podcast Summary

Urban planners, designers, architects, and other city builders can often experience tension between acting as an expert and learning from the community. We are understanding more and more the importance of designing great places from a point of empathy and co-creation. John reached out to someone who is doing all sorts of great planning work with communities by putting empathy at the forefront of their work. Dr. Leela Viswanathan, PhD, RPP, FCIP is an Associate Professor at the School of Urban Planning at Queen's University. Her research explores the intersection of planning, equity, and diversity.

Why Planners Should Listen

Empathy in public engagement and planning practice in general has been a hot topic of discussion, especially when it comes to reconciliation work. In this episode, Dr. Leela Viswanathan shares the approaches she uses in her community development work and talks about the tension between the expert-based and community-based knowledge of a planner. She shares her personal challenges, lessons learned, and approaches to nurture empathy in planning practice.



2024 BC Land Summit: Collaborations & Connections

Kristin Agnello DSocSci, RPP, MCIP



Conference photos: Dirk Heydemann

A unique interdisciplinary conference that promotes collaboration amongst diverse land professionals

Hosted on the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw people, the 2024 PIBC Annual Conference – the interdisciplinary BC Land Summit – took place from May 8-10 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo.

The concept of the BC Land Summit emerged from discussions between several land use professions and, in 2002, planning began for BC's first innovative and unique joint land related conference – the BC Land Summit. The mutual benefits of collaborating on a joint conference were soon apparent and the decision was made to host a multidisciplinary conference every five years.

The BC Land Summit Society is a non-profit society, which includes five professional member organizations in fields of practice related to land and land-use. The current members of the BC Land Summit Society include:

- Appraisal Institute of Canada – BC
- British Columbia Institute of Agrologists
- British Columbia Society of Landscape Architects
- Planning Institute of British Columbia
- Real Estate Institute of British Columbia

Marking the 20th anniversary of its first joint conference, PIBC served as the host organization for this year's Land Summit. The BC Land Summit was conceived as a way to spark interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation, and conversation between land use professionals – and this year was no exception.

Keynotes and conversations

Nanaimo's Mayor, Leonard Krog, opened the conference with a quote from author Thomas King, stating: "The issue has always

been land." And he's right. From the health of our planet to the health of our relationships, the way we design and manage land plays a pivotal role in our efforts toward reconciliation, climate action, poverty reduction, and equity.

The conference provided the opportunity for attendees to take a three-hour "Deep Dive" into a variety of land use topics. There were also a number of mobile workshops in addition to more traditional breakout sessions on a diverse range of topics.

Summaries of a few of these sessions have been included in this issue, including the following:

Indigenizing Planning

Reflecting the theme of the conference, *Collaboration and Connections*, the opening keynote panel host and moderator Tara Marsden/Naxginkw reminded us that we are in a relationship with the land; it is not a commodity to be used – and used up. She challenged participants to reflect on our relationship with the land and what that relationship means to each of us.

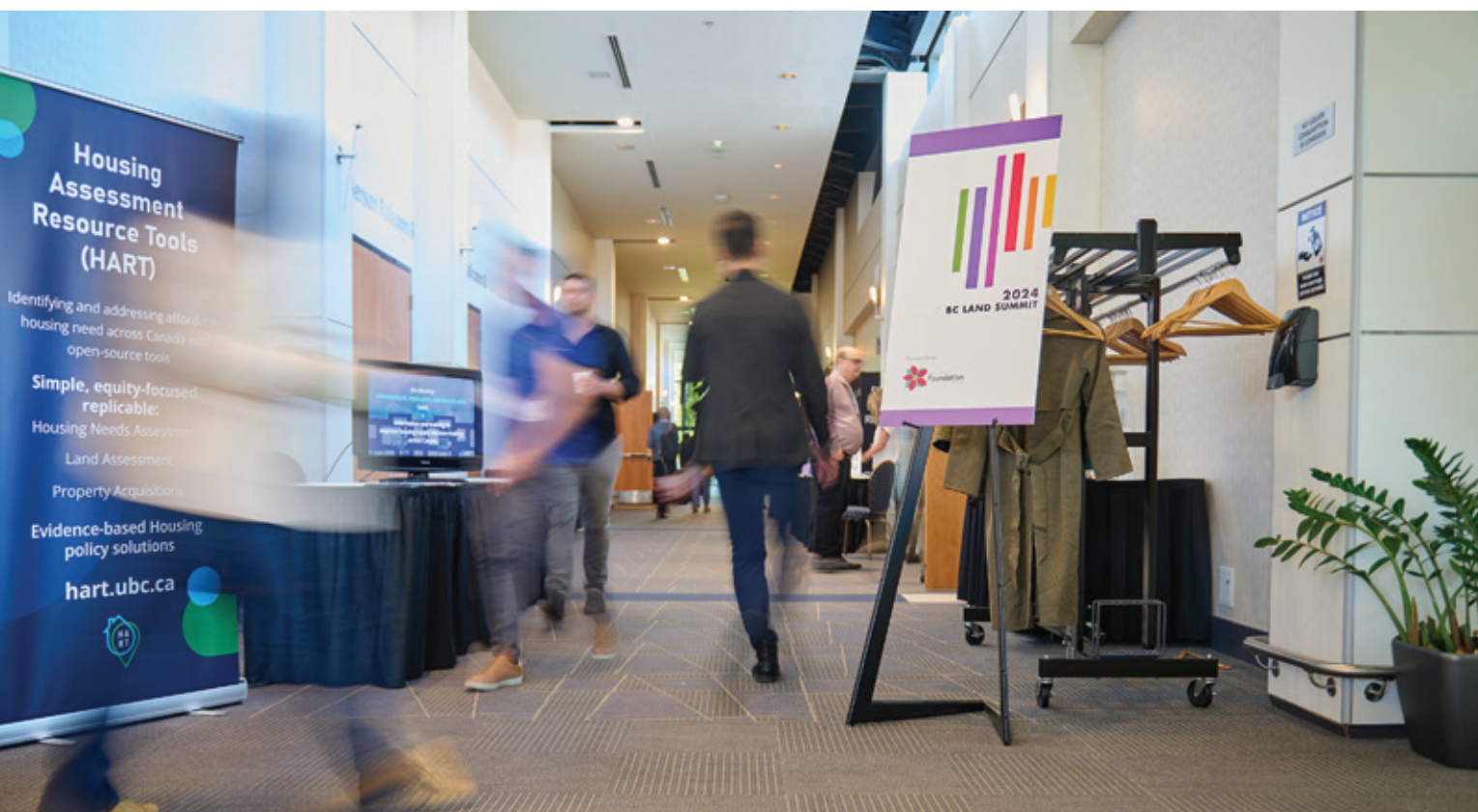
Tara was joined by Jessie Hemphill and Ginger Gosnell-Myers, who shared their

perspectives on how Indigenizing and decolonizing land-use planning promises to benefit us all as we "navigate our own era of collapse." The speakers noted how contemporary training for planners often omits Indigenous planning and land use management, sharing examples of Indigenous city design, architecture, environmental stewardship, and equity-based planning. We were reminded that the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP) and the principles of Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) are frameworks intended to support *minimum* standards for the dignity, survival, and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples. We were asked: How can planners and land use professionals move beyond the minimum and fully incorporate reconciliation and relationships with Indigenous communities into all of the work we do?

Natural Asset Management and the Agricultural Land Reserve

"A little goes a long way, but more is better." So we learned at the session on nature-based solutions for climate resilient cities. In a panel moderated by CIP Fellow Pat Maloney RPP,





BC Land Summit attendees, including PIBC Members, participating in conference sessions and workshops covering interdisciplinary land-use topics.



FCIP, Don Alexander PhD, Chris Osborne RPP, MCIP, Paul Chapman, and Roy Brooke presented a Coles Notes version of the emerging field of Natural Asset Management (NAM) and the biophilic city. Focused more on the thoughtful curation of complexity than on the preservation of vast swaths of green assets, the speakers demonstrated that the benefits of fostering and encouraging biodiversity can be exponential, even where physical space is limited.

Contrasting NAM discussions focused on greening the City were reflections on the successes and challenges of the Agricultural Land Reserve fifty years after its establishment. Intended to preserve active agricultural land, the ALR faces ongoing threats from low-density residential development. Claire Buchanan, Nicole Mak, Reed Bailey, and Jeff Weightman RPP, MCIP shared the successes and challenges of the ALR, including the pressure on the ALR from climate change impacts and a changing legislative – and demographic – landscape. These two sessions highlighted the importance of preserving what we have long fought for – and fighting to reintroduce what we have lost.

Housing Innovations

As planners work to preserve and reintroduce green infrastructure in our cities and communities, we must also address how people live and work in the city. CIP Fellow Michael Geller RPP, FCIP shared his thoughts on how planners can create more affordable housing in British Columbia. From rezoning arterial roads for higher densities to modifying retail

commercial zoning and creating more housing choices in single detached housing zones, this session added a historical context to many of the housing conversations that were taking place elsewhere across the conference.

Elsewhere at the conference, Eric Aderneck RPP, MCIP argued that, at the intersection of planning, real estate development, and related land use matters lies the concept of live/work. He notes: “It’s not working from home, nor is it a business alone.” With so much discussion of housing – how we can build more of it, what its impact is, and how we can make it more affordable and accessible – this session reimagined the housing conversation as a broader, more holistic conversation not just about where we live in cities, but also how we live in cities.

Peer Learning Network

The PIBC Peer Learning Network session included presentations from four practitioners and two lawyers relating to the new provincial housing legislation. Moderated by planning lawyer and PIBC Board Member, Lui Carvello RPP, MCIP the session provided an opportunity for learning, debate, and candid discussion about compliance requirements and strategies relating to a broad range of topics surrounding the new provincial housing legislation. Nafiseh Rashidianfar presented research and addressed questions relating to new short term rental rules. Chris Jarvie RPP, MCIP discussed the successes and challenges of Coquitlam’s pre-approved building design program, while Victor Ngo RPP, MCIP addressed transportation

demand management considerations. The session also included commentary from two planning lawyers: Michael Moll, who spoke about the procedural requirements for SSMUH compliance and CIP Fellow and lawyer Bill Buholzer RPP, FCIP, who addressed newly-updated density bonus and inclusionary zoning authorities, as outlined in Bill 16. The lawyers and practitioners were joined by Eric Nicholls from the Province’s Planning and Land Use Management Branch, who spoke about the history and relationship between the legislative pieces.

As the breadth of this session highlighted, planners across BC are chasing what sometimes seems to be a moving target of new legislative requirements, authorities, and responsibilities – balancing their responsibilities to the Province with their responsibilities to their communities. But although planners are facing unprecedented challenges, from navigating new legislation, to addressing climate change, to rectifying inequities that are the legacy of colonization, the spirit of the conference was clear: Talking to people outside of our planning bubble encourages us to question our beliefs, why we hold them, what we are missing, and – most importantly – who we might be missing.

Kristin Agnello, DSocSci, RPP, MCIP is the Founder and Director of Plassurban Consulting Inc. She is currently the Strategic Lead of the PIBC Peer Learning Network and is the Editor of *Planning West*.



Indigenizing Planning, Decolonizing Land Use — Keynote Panel

Moderator:

Tara Marsden/Naxginkw
Founder, Hlimoo Sustainable Solutions

Panelists:

Jessie Hemphill, CEO, Sanala Planning

Ginger Gosnell-Myers
Indigenous Fellow, Wosk Centre for Dialogue
Simon Fraser University

Watch this opening keynote presentation
available on the BC Land Summit
YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/bclandsummit>

Summary by Alison McNeil
Retired PIBC Member

This session was both informative and inspiring, with the panelists providing concrete ideas on how practitioners can help their organizations move forward on Indigenizing planning and decolonizing land use¹. Referencing the conference theme “Collaboration and Connection,” the panelists encouraged conference attendees to play an active role in bringing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Aboriginal Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada’s Calls to Action² to life.

In her introduction, Moderator Tara Marsden/Naxginkw noted that in the Indigenous worldview, “land is not a commodity, but is something we are in relationship with constantly”, a point that both panelists made clear through inspirational examples.

Panelist Jessie Hemphill described historic examples from Indigenous communities around the world of adaptive architecture, transportation and infrastructure planning, and environmental stewardship. These examples included terraforming in the Amazon rainforest, the vast Incan road networks in South America, an intricately planned 15th-century Aztec city, and BC First Nations villages that were built to literally put the most vulnerable people at the centre.

Jessie Hemphill encouraged planners to learn about traditional First Nations land management in their area, since “hyper-local”, e.g., Indigenous knowledge, is needed to address the multiple global crises, rather than looking

for global solutions. She marvelled at the many examples of Indigenous ingenuity to adapt to local conditions, including the camas plants found in Garry Oak Meadows traditionally maintained and harvested by First Nations, who used the bulbs as an important food source. She noted that supporting Indigenous land management benefits everyone, given that Indigenous communities have used traditional knowledge to adapt to environmental challenges over millennia.

Ginger Gosnell-Myers characterized UNDRIP and TRC as road maps to bringing and integrating Indigenous knowledge into all parts of society. We should all read and re-read these ground-breaking works, and think about how we can implement the articles and calls to action that apply to our organizations and to planning. For example, local governments and planners can work to use more Indigenous place names, connect First Nations communities to active transportation networks and create opportunities for growing plants important to traditional medicines. She

also encouraged local government planners to strengthen their relationship with First Nations in their area, learning about their cultures, languages and histories, and work towards partnerships and co-management opportunities. The latter reflects the current realities of the BC treaty process, through which extinguishment of rights is not the goal, and gaining certainty over Indigenous rights and title is³.

In the concluding remarks, we were reminded of the African proverb that to go farther, we need to work together. All three keynote speakers are very busy consultants helping organizations Indigenize and take action to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and rights. They emphasized that planners and other conference professionals have tremendous skill and experience to do this work themselves within their own organizations, and create the change envisioned by UNDRIP and the TRC. Special thanks to the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) for generously supporting this keynote panel.



Opening keynote panelists
Ginger Gosnell-Myers,
Tara Marsden/Naxginkw
and Jessie Hemphill.



Above: Elder Lolly Good/Shxuysulwut leading summit attendees in drumming and song

¹For helpful definitions and information on these two terms, see the BC based Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. website www.ictinc.ca

Decolonization – the long-term process involving the bureaucratic, cultural, linguistic and psychological divesting of colonial power.

Indigenization – A typical dictionary definition of Indigenize is "to alter something so as to make it fit in with the local culture".

Different Canadian institutions have made efforts to provide a more fulsome definition, including this one from the University of Saskatchewan: "Indigenization is an invitation to honour perspectives and contributions of Indigenous people who have occupied these lands since time immemorial. Indigenization opens space for the acceptance and affirmation of Indigenous knowledge". <https://teaching.usask.ca>

²For a PDF copy of UNDRIP (2007), see www.un.org and for the TRC's 2015 report, see www.nctr.ca Note that in November 2016, the Province of BC became the first jurisdiction in Canada to enshrine UNDRIP into law through the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

³For more information on the BC treaty process, see the BC Treaty Commission's website at www.bctreaty.ca



50 Years and Still Ticking – Challenges and Successes of the ALR

Speakers:

Claire Buchanan and Nicole Mak
Regional Planners, Agricultural Land Commission

Reed Bailey
Land Use Planner, Ministry of Agriculture & Food

Jeff Weightman RPP, MCIP
Acting Director for the Land Use and Geospatial Unit with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Summary by Alison McNeil
Retired PIBC Member

In reflecting on some of the successes and challenges of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) over the past 50 years, the presenters made one clear plea to planners: let's work together to protect agricultural land in BC. They spoke to how the ALR has done a good job of doing just that, but the challenges, including a constant push for subdivision, are persistent and intensifying. The speakers also emphasized how local governments play a key role in helping the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) and Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) fulfill their key objectives; in the ALC's case, to protect agricultural lands in perpetuity and, for MAF, to ensure lands can be used for farming into the future.

So, what's the ALR track record look like? Firstly, the presenters noted three key successes of the ALR since it was established in 1973: (1) public support for the ALR remains strong; (2) the overall ALR area has stayed relatively consistent over time; and (3) despite rapid population growth in major urban areas such as the City of Surrey, active agriculture is still occurring within them. In these areas, ALR land functions as an urban growth boundary. Today, 4.9 percent of land in the province - 4.6 million hectares - is in the ALR (it was a little over 4.7 percent in 1975 when first established). Most of the land is in the province's valley bottoms, with the Fraser Valley being some of the most productive agricultural land in North America. The ALR is 54% Crown land and 46% privately owned and is divided into 7 classes, among them prime and secondary agricultural lands and 7% unavailable for agriculture (e.g., wetlands).

Another notable recent success in preserving ALR land is found in their 2022-2023 ALC annual report, which shows a dramatic decrease in exclusion applications received by the ALC "following changes to the ALC Act that took effect September 20, 2020 to no longer permit private property owners to submit exclusion applications to the Commission."

In terms of challenges to preserving ALR land, subdivision was noted as the number one issue and has been described as the "nemesis of agriculture." Smaller agricultural parcels mean diminished agricultural potential, since operations like berries and dairy need lots of land. Air and land photos confirm Agriculture Land Use Inventory (ALUI) data showing that most 1- to 4-acre parcels are not being farmed. Kwantlen Polytechnic University has published

studies on the impacts of subdivisions that show that when subdivision and non-farm uses were approved, over half the parcels had their ownerships transferred within three years, and a higher percentage of those ceased to have farm class status. The desire for more housing, often in the form of low-density residential development, drives this push for subdivision in most cases.

The Ministry and ALC presenters told us that local government councils are referring subdivision applications to them in huge numbers, yet, of these, 80% have been assessed as not beneficial to agriculture. They emphasized that this is a huge drain on time and money and urged planners to not encourage "waste of time" referrals. Instead of subdivision, MAF staff encourage land owners to pursue other options, such as: (1) leasing out their land for farming; and (2) providing succession planning resources to farmers who want to transition – we were advised that the average age of a farmer today in BC is 58!

In addition to the pressure on the ALR from population growth and housing demand, the speakers noted two other significant challenges: climate change impacts leading to more flooding and drought and the changing legislative landscape. From the examples provided, it was apparent that an aging population among farmers and changing farming economics are also evolving challenges.

The session concluded with speakers from the ALC and Ministry encouraging local government planners to reach out to them for bylaw review and other assistance. It was clear that protecting agricultural land in BC is a collective effort and an essential one since, in their words, "this is a finite resource we must preserve."



12 Effective Ways to Create More Affordable Housing in British Columbia

Speaker:

Michael Geller RPP, FCIP, MLAI, Ret. AIBC

Summary by Heike Schmidt RPP, MCIP

In a captivating and insightful presentation, seasoned architect, developer, and urban planner Michael Geller RPP, FCIP explored effective strategies for creating more affordable housing. Drawing from his experience, Geller provided a comprehensive roadmap for addressing the pressing issue of housing affordability in British Columbia, with a particular focus on Metro Vancouver. His insights combined historical context with forward-thinking strategies, offering innovative approaches to tackle this challenge head-on.

Canada's affordable housing landscape has evolved significantly since the 1940s, a period marked by explosive urban growth. In the 1940s and 1950s, innovative housing designs emerged alongside low-rental housing programs and the establishment of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) facilitated the development of purpose-built rentals and social housing projects like Vancouver's Little Mountain Project. The 1960s saw the introduction of co-operative housing concepts, with multi-unit apartments surpassing single-detached homes for the first time in Canadian history, highlighted by notable projects like Habitat 67 which displayed modular construction. By the 1970s, concerns about the

concentration of low-income housing led to a shift in urban renewal attitudes, emphasizing non-profit and co-operative housing initiatives and the introduction of rent controls.

While Vancouver was proudly showcasing the new viaducts in the early 1970s, the CMHC introduced the Assisted Home Ownership Program to help low-income, first-time home buyers and stimulate the housing market. The redevelopment of underutilized city lands, such as the south shore of False Creek, resulted in significant new community development that was innovative in terms of funding programs and ownership mix. This included a combination of profit, non-profit, and co-op housing built for a variety of income levels, designed with public transit bus service in place when the first residents moved in.

The Multiple Unit Residential Program of the late '70s relied heavily on the critical legal nuance of strata condominiums, which could be individually sold in the private ownership market. In the early '80s, the Canada Rental Supply Program provided subsidies for rental housing units. The Inclusionary Zoning policy of the early '90s required that 20% of new developments be designated as non-market housing, with Coal Harbour in Vancouver being a notable example. In 1993, federal involvement in social housing development ended, halting new non-profit and private sector social housing projects. As a result of the *Social Union Framework Agreement* between the federal and provincial governments, housing responsibilities shifted to the provincial level.

In more recent history, the City of Vancouver has continued to implement more measures to address housing affordability. In 2004, Vancouver legalized basement suites,



followed by laneway homes in 2009. The same year saw the introduction of a controversial Short-Term Rental Incentive Program, aimed at increasing affordable housing through spot rezoning and increased density.

In 2012, the Mayor's Task Force on Housing Affordability proposed bold ideas to increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing. Recommendations included protecting existing social and affordable housing, exploring opportunities to renew and expand the stock, streamlining the regulatory process, and improving public engagement.

A report by the Geller Roundtable on Building Form and Design identified five priorities: rezoning arterial roads for higher



BC Land Summit attendees enjoying conference activities including the outdoor welcome reception and brain dates organized by McElhanney. Many thanks to all our BC Land Summit volunteers and staff!

densities and creating new transition zones for townhouses and higher density ground-oriented housing, modifying retail commercial zoning, creating more housing choices in single detached housing zones, and appointing an Affordability Ombudsperson.

Later initiatives included the 2013 Rental 100 Program, which focused on 100% rental housing, and the 2018 Moderate Income Rental Housing Pilot Program. Since then, various government taxation schemes have also been introduced to promote affordability.

In addition to a historical overview, Michael Geller provided insights into key cost components for housing developments, such as land, construction, soft costs, marketing, and financing. He emphasized that land is the most significant expense due to limited availability and restrictive zoning laws. Increasing housing

densities, leasing government land, and using land owned by charitable organizations can help mitigate these costs.

To reduce construction expenses, Geller suggested using cost-effective methods like wood frames over concrete, reducing underground parking requirements, using municipal financing for infrastructure, and employing prefabricated construction techniques. He also suggested that training more tradespeople can help stabilize labor costs by increasing the labor supply.

To significantly reduce soft costs, he suggested streamlining project approval processes and standardizing municipal approval procedures.

He pointed out that marketing, while essential, can be costly and that developers

can reduce these expenses by marketing during construction and pre-identifying buyers through co-housing or co-operative developments, thus avoiding reliance on presale targets.

Financing costs, influenced by factors such as the developer's reputation, equity, perceived risk, interest rates, approval timing, and construction completion, have risen to historic levels. Reducing planning and approval times, shortening construction periods, and accessing cheaper government financing can significantly cut these costs.

Innovative housing solutions further enhance affordability. For example, allowing gentle density increases on single-detached lots to create 6-plexes maximizes the use of land and creates more affordable



units within existing neighborhoods. Other solutions include:

- modular factory-built housing offering scalable solutions to the housing shortage;
- zero lot-line semi-detached housing;
- fee-simple housing to avoid strata fees, making them more affordable while maintaining community aesthetics;
- smaller rental and condominium apartment buildings with minimal required amenities;
- laneway housing in urban areas creating affordable living spaces without extensive new land purchases;
- retractable glass panels on balconies to make them usable year-round and allowing for smaller apartment sizes without sacrificing living space quality;
- mass timber buildings, now permitted up to 18 stories, that can offer a sustainable and cost-effective construction method;
- mixed-use development with industrial development, such as on parking lots or rooftops, that can create affordable living spaces in urban areas;
- inclusionary zoning;
- lock-off suites and flex housing;
- improved municipal approval systems that can reduce costs and streamline processes, transition zones behind arterial roads; and
- encouraging non-profit corporations and co-operatives to develop affordable housing that can provide stable, long-term affordable housing options.

In Vancouver, leasing government land and using modular construction has reduced high land and construction costs. Streamlined municipal approval systems have reduced soft costs, making projects more financially viable. Despite these advancements, challenges like funding constraints and resistance to change persist. Collaborative efforts between governments, businesses, and communities are essential. Government policies that support affordable housing through incentives, subsidies, and streamlined approval processes can create a more conducive environment for development.

Michael Geller's comprehensive strategy offers valuable insights and practical strategies to reduce costs and explore innovative housing models, and as a result create a more inclusive housing market. By combining cost reductions with innovative solutions, we can create a sustainable pathway toward more affordable housing. Collaborative efforts and supportive government policies are crucial in this work.

His insights highlight the importance of both historical context and forward-thinking housing strategies. By learning from past housing programs and adapting them to current challenges, we can make significant strides toward housing affordability.

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Live / Work—History, Policy, Development

Speakers:

Eric Aderneck RPP, MCIP, MPL, BCOM, DULE

**Senior Planner, Metro Vancouver
Regional District**

Michael Gordon RPP, MCIP

**Adjunct Professor, School of Community and
Regional Planning, UBC**

Greg Mitchell RPP, MCIP

**Senior Development Manager, Primex
Investments**

Summary by Eric Aderneck RPP, MCIP

The multi-disciplinary 2024 BC Land Summit included a range of conference sessions about community planning, real estate development,

and related land use matters. Arguably, at the intersection of all of these is the unique concept of live/work. It's not working from home, nor is it a business alone.

Session CS-20: Live/Work Concept – A Modern Revisit of its Promises and Perils provided three perspectives on the matter from Eric Aderneck RPP, MCIP, Michael Gordon RPP, MCIP, and Greg Mitchell RPP, MCIP.

What is Live/Work?

With the ongoing debate about returning to the office versus working from home, and associated considerations such as commute times, work-life balance, housing costs, and office vacancies, the promises of live/work may warrant a revisit.

Photo: John Steil





Live/work is not precisely defined, although it is some combination of living and working within a single premise. How it is regulated, where it is permitted, ratio of uses, and unit tenure vary by jurisdiction.

Notably, the work-from-home (WFH) experiment resulting from the pandemic is not the same as intentional live/work units. Hybrid WFH is an employee working at their home a few days a week for an external business employer, whereas a live/work unit is occupied by one party for both residential and commercial purposes.

What does this mean for residential and employment land use planning and development?

History and Evolution

From cottage industries to mom-and-pop convenience stores, living at work has been around for a long time. The occupant is both the resident and the worker. There can be some overlap between activities, with the boundary changing depending on needs.

Eventually, separation of uses was established through municipal zoning to prevent conflicts and nuisances between industrial and residential users. This separation remains much the same in North American cities to this day.

While places and spaces for living, working, and other activities are all required within a city, some can be put together, however others are best kept apart.

Artist Studios

Originally advanced as artist studios, live/work units were presented as an opportunity

to combine both home and work activities into one functionally-designed premise. Some such buildings also have a communal workshop for music rehearsals, woodworking, metal fabrication, and meeting rooms.

Examples in the late 20th century were permitted through policy objectives to accommodate artists, who typically have lower incomes and want the ability to live and work in their studios.

However, over time, other groups became interested, such as freelancers who own their business, have varied work hours, and benefit from home-office tax deductions.

Vancouver Experience

Various types of live/work premises have been allowed in the City of Vancouver for decades, with permitted uses expanded and refined over time. The initial policy objective was to allow artists to have an affordable and practical studio to accommodate some light industrial-type activities while also satisfying safety codes.

Most of these studios were in older industrial areas on the immediate periphery of the downtown, some in heritage buildings and others in new projects. Eventually, there were growing concerns about units becoming exclusively residential, which put pressure on surrounding industrial land uses and values, particularly in the case of studio condo/strata ownership as opposed to rental tenure.

Planning Policies

There is an important distinction between adding residences to industrial areas and adding industry to residential areas, both of

which could lead to conflicts and complaints.

In some cases, a city proactively designates an area for live/work (or mixed-use) to spur housing and commercial investment. In other cases, a developer presses to introduce a residential component into an industrial or commercial district.

While combining some uses together may have merit, buyers and occupants will generally pay more for a home place than a work space. As an example, live/work units in historic industrial buildings close to urban amenities are often marketed for their livability, not their workability. Residential use becomes the primary activity and may change and destabilize the surrounding area.

Development Designs

Developers want to build what occupants want. The optimum use, mix, design, tenure, features, and other attributes vary by site. Market preferences may or may not coincide with policy requirements.

In one market, a developer advances residential into a commercial or industrial district via a live/work or mixed-use building, which may fuel land speculation. In another jurisdiction, a developer is required by municipal plans to provide a use that is not in demand, such as office or retail in a weak location, or artist studios with limited rents.

For live/work units, the right context varies. A home with an office or workshop component could be a place for an entrepreneur to incubate a business. Whereas, in other places retail at grade and residential above in the form of a mixed-use building may be best. And yet elsewhere, a residential neighbourhood that is well-connected for commuting to an employment district is ideal. The linkages between living and working vary.

Conclusion

First envisioned for artists requiring an affordable arts production space, some 'live/work' units have become housing for white-collar workers. Enforcement after occupancy is nearly impossible.

Where it's adding housing into an industrial area, live/work units can introduce residents who are prone to NIMBYism, leading to businesses and jobs being pushed out. Instead, increased housing supply should be built on residential lands.

Some degree of combination may be prescribed or desired, but with close consideration of policy intent, development patterns, implications, precedents, and perils. Past experiences from Vancouver and other cities – both good and bad – should inform future live/work plans and developments.

Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilient Cities

Faciliator:

Patricia Maloney RPP, FCIP

Speakers:

Chris Osborne RPP, MCIP, MPhys (Hons), MA
Planning Manager,
Municipality of North Cowichan

Don Alexander PhD
Semi-retired professor
Vancouver Island University

Paul Chapman
Executive Director
Nanaimo and Area Land Trust

Roy Brooke
Executive Director
Natural Assets Initiative

Summary by Chris Osborne RPP, MCIP
and Don Alexander, Retired PIBC Member

This article is based on a session at the recent BC Land Summit that Don organized, where both Don and Chris presented – along with Paul Chapman, ED of the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust, and Roy Brooke, ED of the Natural Assets Initiative. The panelists also extend their gratitude to Patricia Maloney RPP, FCIP, who capably facilitated the session.

The small town of Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast in BC has, in local government circles at least, become synonymous with the phrase “natural assets.” Beginning with a single initiative in 2016 to start considering nature as a central part of its infrastructure system, this municipality’s pioneering work has since spread across Canada and beyond. Put simply, all municipalities have built or ‘grey’ assets such as roads, bridges, sanitary and stormwater systems. And, whether they recognize it or not, they also own and rely on natural assets such as creeks, wetlands, coastlines, and floodplains that, like their engineered counterparts, perform a wide range of functions benefitting humans. These services may include flood risk reduction, stormwater management and infiltration, and buffering against coastal erosion, to name a few. It is estimated that a third of existing grey municipal infrastructure is in a

state ranging from “fair” to “very poor”¹ and always in a state of decline, decreasing in function and value over time. In contrast, properly protected natural assets *appreciate* over time. Moreover, the exact nature of this appreciation can flexibly adapt to the circumstances. For example, it is possible for a wetland to evolve adaptively to cope with increasing volumes of stormwater, whereas the equivalent function of grey assets tends to be rigid. Furthermore, natural assets also provide a wide array of other services and benefits.

From the initial example in Gibsons, an entire field known as Natural Asset Management (NAM) has emerged. It is built on standard asset management systems that all public sector entities must adopt in Canada and is thus inherently scalable. Aspects of a standard NAM process include compiling inventories of natural assets and capital by mapping different ecosystem areas and ascribing attributes such as condition, area, length of trail network, etc. Functions such as water filtration can be identified along with goods and services that directly benefit humans, such as drinking water and pollination. Management options can then be implemented to preserve both the natural assets and the services they provide, for the long-term.



Biophilic Cities

Credit: Michael Bassili

If NAM recognizes the useful, practical functions of ecosystems in doing naturally what engineered systems are designed to do artificially, the “biophilic city” takes this concept further. “Biophilia,” coined by Erich Fromm in 1964, was originally defined as, “a passionate love of life, and all that is alive.” Biologist E.O. Wilson later expanded it with, “the connections that human beings subconsciously seek with the rest of life” (if you doubt this, think on how virtually all young children are particularly fascinated by animals, even before they can speak).

By extension, biophilic cities are places that provide an abundance of nature with which their residents can interact. Biophilic cities recognize and embrace the intangible and unquantifiable value of plants and animals, and their intrinsic right to exist and thrive on planet Earth alongside humans. In other words, naturalized areas in cities should not just be viewed as worth preserving for the sake of human enjoyment, but also so other species can exist and flourish undisturbed.

Whether taking a NAM approach, or a broader biophilic cities one, the underlying philosophy remains the same – that the more natural ecosystems are recruited into the fabric of our cities, the more the benefits pile up, combine and multiply.

Why is it though that grey assets are subject to laws of decline whereas natural assets flourish over time? How do natural assets appreciate rather than depreciate? The answer lies in the sun and rain, exposure to which ‘ages’ engineered systems. Not so for natural systems – the sun is a continuous energy source, and organisms harness this energy to grow, repair, and evolve in place. As they mature, they increase in complexity, and in complexity lies resilience. One may usefully borrow the mantra “a little goes a long way, but more is better” to describe how this works. In other words, when it comes to natural features in urban areas, anything we can do immediately brings benefits, but those benefits scale up exponentially the more we add.

A single large tree in an urban setting provides aesthetic appeal, a small amount of shade, and a place for insects and birds. Multiple such trees throughout the city are additive: ten such trees provide these benefits tenfold. However, co-locate ten trees (such as street trees on either side of a residential road) and the magic starts to happen. Individual benefits are multiplicative and start creating new benefits. Canopy coverage shades an area throughout the entire day, preventing roads and sidewalks from heating. Rainwater is attenuated and the runoff peak smoothed. Together, the trees



provide enough habitat for nesting birds, small mammals and more invertebrates. Scaling further up to urban greenways and forested parks, an increasingly complex understory provides yet more habitat for different animals, the area has recreational value, the urban heat island effect is mitigated. The same number of trees in a dispersed configuration could not achieve the same benefits.

Even if physical space is limited, “more” can be achieved by curating greater complexity. The Miyawaki method for “small forests” seeks to create microcosms of the predevelopment biodiversity spectrum by planting in a way that assumes the characteristics of maturity in tens of years rather than hundreds. It does so by defining the “ecological potential” of land, studying soil type, hydrology, microclimate, and indigenous vegetation. Planting is then planned to realize the full ecological potential, using techniques such as increased planting density to stimulate competition and upward growth, and mulching that reproduces forest floor conditions.

The Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) provides a BC example of putting these principles into action. It is a broad-based natural assets initiative that has a core mission of “raising the ecological ceiling.” It celebrates and promotes complexity in natural systems and works with the grain of the land and microclimate. NALT’s Paul Chapman states: “Instead of mimicking the flash floods of the desert arroyo, we design to mimic the natural water balance of a coastal temperate rainforest.”

While not specifically citing the Miyawaki method, NALT nevertheless mirrors the approach – that of identifying and restoring the original ecosystem function as quickly as possible by curating the right initial conditions, and at a highly granular scale. For example, NALT has not only identified taller stands of Douglas Fir throughout the area, but goes further by mapping out hotter, drier sub-ecosystems within the Douglas Fir zone, which require subtly different planting choices and techniques to have the best shot at success.

From NAM through urban greenways and small forests to biophilic cities – these concepts share similar characteristics: working with the grain of nature, recognizing that resilience lies in complexity, and that (unlike with depreciating engineered systems) time is your friend. Allied to these practical considerations is also a fundamental reverence for nature’s intrinsic worth. A dollar value might reflect the equivalent cost of treating stormwater, but no amount of money can truly compensate for the loss of natural areas. It’s high time to recognize that plants and animals are also upstanding, rightful residents of our cities, and the more we include them the more we all become richer, healthier, happier, and resilient.

Chris Osborne RPP, MCIP is Manager of Planning, Municipality of North Cowichan and Don Alexander, PhD is an adjunct professor, Department of Geography, Vancouver Island University.

¹<https://fcm.ca/en/news-media/news-release/canada-public-infrastructure-risk-new-report-finds>



2024 PIBC AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING

Kelly Chan, PIBC Manager of Member Programs & Services

The PIBC Awards for Excellence in Planning honour the best in professional planning work undertaken by members in communities and regions across British Columbia and Yukon. Award winners were celebrated in Nanaimo, BC on May 8, 2024, following PIBC's Annual General Meeting.

Award for Excellence in Planning Practice City & Urban Areas

GOLD WINNER

Title: Home suite Home: Guidelines on How to Add and Manage a Secondary Suite or Accessory Dwelling Unit in British Columbia

Organizations: Plassurban Consulting Inc., Province of British Columbia – Ministry of Housing, and BC Housing

Partners: Building Officials' Association of British Columbia, Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC, Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre, LandlordBC, and Union of BC Municipalities

New provincial legislation means that secondary suites are now permitted in most single detached and some side-by-side attached homes across British Columbia. With these legislative changes, people can build homes for their aging parents or growing children, as a mortgage helper, or as an investment in their existing property, while contributing to more long-term rental housing in BC communities. "Home suite Home" was developed as a guide to help local governments and property owners understand what is required to plan, build, and rent a secondary suite or accessory dwelling unit in BC.

The jury found this guide a commendable effort to spread the message of 'gentle densification' and offer the tools for local governments (particularly in the suburbs) and homeowners to implement secondary suites without difficulty or fear – making the new incentive accessible.





Award for Excellence in Planning Practice City & Urban Areas

SILVER WINNER

Title: University of Victoria – Student Housing and Dining Project

Organization: University of Victoria

Partners: Province of British Columbia – Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills and University of Victoria Ancillary Services: Residence Services, Food Services, Parking Services

The University of Victoria's (UVic) Student Housing and Dining project (SHD) encompasses two new buildings on campus, and is the largest capital project in UVic's history, at over 32,000 m² of gross floor area. Meeting LEED V4 Gold and Passive House standards, the new buildings provide 783 total student spaces, a new 600-seat dining hall, two 225-seat classrooms, an Indigenous student lounge, a conference centre, and meeting rooms. It also includes a new plaza between the buildings, connected to the Campus Greenway, a stormwater retention pond, seating areas, and Indigenous plantings.

The jury was impressed with the high level of sustainability, engagement process, and the project team's commitment to incorporating the public's feedback. It addresses the housing and climate crisis and is transferable to other jurisdictions and institutions.



Award for Excellence in Planning Practice Small Town & Rural Areas

GOLD WINNER

Title: Rossland Yards - Net Zero ready, Mixed-use Affordable Workforce Housing and City Hall

Organizations: City of Rossland, CitySpaces Consulting Ltd, and Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society

Partners: BC Housing, Columbia Basin Trust, and Federation of Canadian Municipalities

The City of Rossland acquired a former highway works yard in 2005. Recent growth posed challenges to the town's historic affordability, and City staff were rapidly outgrowing the space in the old City Hall building. A unique opportunity arose through a partnership with the non-profit organization, the Lower Columbia Affordable Housing Society, to create a mixed-use, Net-Zero ready building featuring affordable housing units and a new City Hall on the ground floor. Project support also came from BC Housing, Columbia Basin Trust, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the City. Despite challenges, including construction during the COVID-19 pandemic, labour and material shortages, and meeting the needs of multiple funding partners, the project still came in within budget.

The jury appreciated such a thoughtful and integrated development and partnership. It is an excellent example of planning practice on the ground which demonstrated responsiveness to the community and achieved a better overall project as a result.



Award for Excellence in Planning Practice Small Town & Rural Areas

SILVER WINNER

Title: Chet wa í7sun “We Pull Together”: Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw Elder’s Program Plan

Organizations: Xwi7ski (representing Squamish Nation Elders), Squamish Nation, and Beringia Community Planning

Partners: First Nations Health Authority, First Nations Public Service Secretariat, BC Healthy Communities, and City of North Vancouver

In recent years, Squamish Elders and staff identified the existing Elder’s Program as a priority area for improvement, as Elders provided feedback that they were not feeling appropriately included and safe in the existing Program due to social isolation and challenging relationships, as well as a lack of program structure, plan, and policies.

In response to this need, the 2-year Elder’s Program Engagement Project was initiated. This Elder-led, community-driven process involved over 400 Elders (including those living

away from home) and 50 Youth and other planning participants that came together to create Chet wa í7sun “We Pull Together.” Sk̓wxwú7mesh Úxwumíxw Elder’s Program Plan.

The jury found this an exciting project with an important focus, with a very strong engagement process which integrates Elder and youth voices both in plan development and ongoing implementation efforts. It is a lovely example of decolonization efforts with clear and meaningful goals – something that we need more of in planning.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning City & Urban Areas

GOLD WINNER

Title: Municipal Equity Kickstart Guide

Organizations: Resilience Planning and YWCA Vancouver

Partners: Policy subcommittee members (Amina Yasin, Fancy C. Poitras, Katie Fitzmaurice, Mandy Bhullar, Miley Leong, Rebekah Mahaffey and Renee de St. Croix) and Community Advisory Council members (Beatriz Salinas, Kaiya Jacob, Kimberley Wong, Sara Sagai and Thivya Shanmuganathan)



The Municipal Equity Kickstart Guide includes the importance of defining equity, the dimensions of equity, ways cities can do this work, shares information for how to measure success, provides three different operationalization tools, discusses the importance of seeking input from a variety of diverse community audiences, and provides direction on how to sustain the work over the long term. It also outlines things to be mindful of, including: internal work for the organization and staff, and external facing work. Supported by case studies, an illustrative story, an overview of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it also includes sample council motions and staff report templates to support embedding equity in local government work.

The jury found this to be an exemplary guide, daylighting issues that have been identified for a long time but not taken seriously. It is a true quick-start guide which is highly transferrable, as evidenced through adoption by several municipalities.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning City & Urban Areas

SILVER WINNER

Title: Richmond Circular City Strategy

Organization: City of Richmond

The Richmond Circular City Strategy (RCCS), articulates six strategies and eighty-four policies and actions that are built on two decades of City initiatives. These strategies include Maximizing Ecosystem Services, Regenerative Food System, Resilient and Innovative Economy, Shared Mobility, Adaptive Built Environment, and Consumer Materials Management, involving the flow of materials, nutrients, products, and energy in the complex Richmond urban mesh. Adopted in 2023 and the first of its kind in Canada, the RCCS is an ambitious plan to transform Richmond into a 100% zero-emission, circular city by 2050, covering areas such as consumer materials, food systems, ecosystems, and the built environment. The strategy's key focus, which differentiates it from other plans, is reducing the impacts of material and energy flows throughout the community. The result is a range of actions the City can pursue to

transition from a linear to a circular economy by 2050, providing environmental, social and economic benefits for all.

The jury appreciated that the Strategy introduces circular economy principles into urban development – a concept which has been largely ignored in western planning paradigms thus far.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning Small Town & Rural Areas

GOLD WINNER

Title: Grown in Pitt Meadows: Our Agricultural Viability Strategy

Organizations: City of Pitt Meadows, Upland Agricultural Consulting, and Urban Food Strategies

Farming has a long history in Pitt Meadows, beginning with ᑭᑭᑭᑭ (Katzie) First Nation's land and water-based food practices. It continues to be a vital part of the social fabric, as well as an important economic driver. Management of agricultural land is important, not only to ensure the continued business viability of producers, but to address food security and climate change on a broader scale. The Strategy provides local context regarding the agricultural sector, emerging trends, and opportunities for growth. The Strategy includes 17 recommendations that are presented

within 5 goals. Rather than assigning implementation to other organizations, the City is identified as the key leader throughout. This approach ensures that the community can hold the City accountable to moving the Strategy into direct action.

The jury found the Strategy to be forward-thinking, with an impressive degree of integration between ecological, social, economic, and regulatory recommendations in ways that address the role of First Nations, all residents, and City-owned lands in achieving the goal of preserving agricultural viability.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning Small Town & Rural Areas

SILVER WINNER

Title: Ladysmith Unparalleled

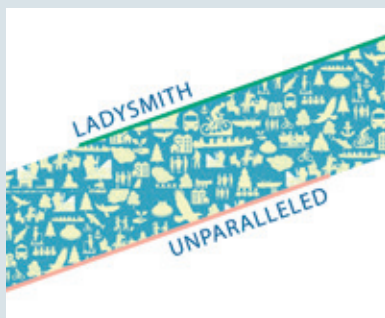
Organization: Town of Ladysmith, Ahne Studios, Sustainability Solutions Group, and WATT Consulting Group

Partners: Union of BC Municipalities (funding support for active Transportation Planning), Matthew Thomson Design, Licker Geospatial, Colliers International, and subconsultant Sanala Planning (formerly Alderhill Planning)



Ladysmith Unparalleled is the culmination of one and a half years of community visioning. It is a roadmap to an “unparalleled” Ladysmith in 2049, detailing practical, actionable and ambitious steps to, among other things: adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change, support reconciliation, concentrate Ladysmith’s growth in core growth areas, support and accelerate sustainable modes of transportation, and be a place people from all walks of life can call home, with access to affordable and appropriate housing.

The jury appreciated how comprehensive and creative this plan was and were impressed with the range of meaningful and spontaneous opportunities for public engagement.



Award for Excellence in Policy Planning Small Town & Rural Areas

HONOURABLE MENTION

Title: Uchucklesaht Tribe Government Active & Alternative Transportation Plan

Organization: Barefoot Planning + Design and the Uchucklesaht Tribe Government

Partners: UTG Citizen Working Group, Urban Systems, and LARCH Landscape Architecture

The Uchucklesaht Tribe Government (UTG) Active and Alternative Transportation Plan (AATP) sought to develop a policy framework and action plan to support active (e.g., walking, cycling) and alternative (e.g., shared mobility, watercraft, UTVs/ATVs) transportation on UTG Treaty Lands with a focus on the traditional village of Ehtlhtese. The unique challenge of the AATP was achieving UTG’s key priorities in a rugged, remote territory, including seasonal and permanent resettlement of the village, accessibility and connectivity of key infrastructure (pathways, docks, roads, etc.), facilitating commuting and recreation, economic development, and preservation of cultural and environmental values. The final plan offers a practical set of strategies to achieve incremental growth of UTG’s active and alternative transportation network.



Award for Research & New Directions

GOLD WINNER

Title: Building the Case for Removing Minimum Off-Street Parking Requirements

Organization: City of Vancouver

Partners: Coriolis Consulting Corp. with sub-consultants Step One Mobility and BTY, Licker Geospatial Consulting, and Sustainability Scholar Thais Ayres Rebello

The City of Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan aims to eliminate minimum vehicle parking requirements citywide. As part of this work, environmental and economic analyses were undertaken to study the potential impacts of an expanding the removal of minimums to the West End of Downtown and Broadway Plan Area.

It was found that avoiding parking stall

construction could significantly reduce the amount of embodied emissions and somewhat reduce vehicle ownership. As well, it was determined that removing minimums would increase the number of financially attractive projects, improve certainty of requirements for developers, and support reductions in construction costs to enable increased affordability at non-market rental projects. This work will assist other Canadian municipalities looking to reduce environmental impact from both construction and vehicle use.

The jury found this project to be well-researched, covering all major perspectives, and addressing a key issue as we transition away from auto dominance. Having tangible numbers will be very useful for other cities and towns.



Award for Research & New Directions

SILVER WINNER

Title: City of Kelowna Housing Needs Assessment 2021-2031

Organizations: City of Kelowna, CitySpaces Consulting, and rennie group

Kelowna's Housing Needs Assessment 2021-2031 (HNA) recognizes the vital role that needs assessments play in improving the housing system and sets out to take a leading-edge approach that can serve as a blueprint for communities across the country. The HNA provides a detailed investigation of the housing system in Kelowna and estimates the current and future housing need using in-depth quantitative and qualitative analytical methods.

The jury appreciated that this project takes into consideration more aspects than typically seen in HNAs, as well as projecting implementation. It will be very useful as a model and adds to our tools for housing planning as a profession.



Congratulations to this year's winners!

Make a submission for next year's awards program to help us recognize and celebrate the places, plans, projects, and people across our membership contributing to communities and regions across BC and Yukon.

Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee Update: Unsettling our Profession

Isha Matous-Gibbs, Candidate Member, on behalf of the PIBC Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee.

The Planning Practice & Reconciliation Committee is a standing committee of the Board responsible for acting as representatives of the Institute and the planning profession in BC and Yukon to seek truth, to assist in the active decolonization of planning practices in BC and Yukon, and to support members in advancing this work. Since its inception, the PPRC has sought to understand the hard truths of how planning practice has been an active agent of colonization. Along our learning journey, we have heard from Indigenous people about the impacts of colonization and the role that planning has played. What we have learned has led us to believe that simply applying recommendations that have arisen from truth telling in other areas, such as government (Truth and Reconciliation Commission), RCMP (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Report), or health (In Plain Sight), will not result in meaningful reconciliation within planning practice. We as a profession need to understand and learn from the unique ways in which planning in Canada has been built from a colonial agenda and continues to be complicit in its enactment.

“Recognizing and naming the historical and contemporary colonial harms perpetrated by professional planning is a prerequisite to respectfully engaging in this (reconciliation) exploration and moving forward on this journey. To honour Indigenous peoples and planning principles is to first acknowledge these truths and actively work towards unsettling the planning profession in meaningful ways.”¹ (Sanala Planning and the PIBC Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee, p.7)

One of the many ways that planning practice has harmed Indigenous peoples and communities is by participating in removing their agency to plan and care for their own lands and people. We need to undo this harm. Today, as for millennia, Indigenous peoples are planning for their communities. There is an

immeasurable amount of knowledge and experience in planning for land, people, communities, and wellness amongst Indigenous planners that our institutions have failed to recognize and understand. By not doing so, we have missed an immense opportunity to learn and improve our practice. Settler colonial governments and their supporting institutions have planned over Indigenous peoples and lands, while simultaneously removing them from said lands and denying their agency. Reconciliation will require that we begin to uplift the voices of Indigenous planners by valuing their knowledge and advocating for Indigenous planning for Indigenous lands.

In order to prevent repeating mistakes, we need Indigenous planners to lead the way in unsettling the planning profession and, in order for that to happen, we need Indigenous planners involved in our institutions.

Learning from Indigenous Planners

Currently, PIBC is sorely lacking in Indigenous membership. It has become clear to us as a Committee that a critical step toward undoing harms is to make PIBC a more welcoming place for Indigenous planners to participate. To address this, the PPRC has been working with Sanala Planning to understand how PIBC can be a more attractive place for Indigenous planners to be. The ultimate goal, if it is determined to be of value to Indigenous planners, is to develop inclusive pathways for professional membership within PIBC that acknowledge and honour the deep knowledge and experience Indigenous planners hold.

As Sanala’s report on the project to date says, we seek to “raise up Indigenous planners and planning practices within and throughout PIBC, recognizing the colonial harms perpetrated by the Western planning paradigm, to explore the creation of new relationships and pathways to accreditation for Indigenous planners that provide meaningful benefit and recognition of their knowledge and experience.”²

The first step in this work has been to convene an Indigenous Advisory Committee made up of eight Indigenous planners whose work in planning spans over practices in social

planning, comprehensive community planning, health planning, governance planning, housing, data mapping, data sovereignty, environmental planning, community engagement and facilitation, and more. This committee met to discuss the concept of an Indigenous Planner membership within PIBC and its implications. Critical to the success of this work is that the process for exploring our questions and developing recommendations are Indigenous-led. Working with Sanala and convening an Indigenous Advisory Committee has meant that the work was completed by Indigenous people without interference from the PPRC. Ensuring that this process was Indigenous-led is one way in which the PPRC is committed to advocating for and uplifting Indigenous knowledge and protocols.

What emerged from this work was a fascinating dialogue about the benefits, challenges, and potential drawbacks of such a pathway being created. Indigenous planners are not always calling their work “planning.” “Contemporary Indigenous planning practices are built upon thousands of years of knowledge passed down from the Elders and ancestors, woven in with certain Western modalities that are in alignment with a trauma-informed, community-based approach.” (p.8). They are doing the work of leading in ‘engaging, healing and empowering their communities, often-times without even considering themselves a ‘planner.’” Indigenous planning is an active practice that does not require PIBC or any other institution to validate or recognize it. In fact, there is a significant risk of harm if an alternative pathway to membership becomes tokenistic, paternalistic, or extractive. The onus is on PIBC to decolonize and unsettle rather than on Indigenous people to Indigenize our organization. All planners and PIBC members have an immense amount to benefit from their knowledge and skills. PIBC holds power and has access to spaces that could help empower the work of Indigenous planners. However, in order to increase Indigenous participation, we must first address that PIBC is not currently a space in which Indigenous people feel seen, validated and safe.

“Contemporary Indigenous planning practices are built upon thousands of years of knowledge passed down from the Elders and ancestors, woven in with certain Western modalities that are in alignment with a trauma-informed, community-based approach.” (Sanala Planning and the PIBC Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee, p.8).

Next Steps

Phase one of this project is now complete and has resulted in 23 recommendations to PIBC. The PPRC has reviewed these actions and is working to establish a workplan for implementation. The recommendations fall into three categories: strengthen PIBC as a place where Indigenous planners are respected, represented and empowered; improve the accreditation process; and continue to explore creating an alternative pathway to membership. The full report and plan can be found at <https://www.pibc.bc.ca/committees/pprc>.

Our action plan includes:

- Beginning Phase 2 of this project, in partnership with Sanala, in which we will continue to build recommendations for PIBC to support the creation of an Alternative Pathway for Indigenous Planning Membership. The Indigenous Advisory Committee will continue to convene and explore what that pathway could look like.
- Sanala Planning and the PPRC hosted a panel-style discussion at the CIP Connections Conference in Edmonton to share findings and lessons learned from Phase 1 and encourage planners' self-reflection on the role of planning in colonization, and toward reconciliation.
- Working with Christopher Lamb on a Mitacs-funded post-doctoral research project to investigate how planners in British Columbia are educated about Indigenous land use and planning principles, reconciliation, and decolonization.
- Acting on Phase 1 recommendations, such as auditing PIBC documents to identify areas where references to Indigenous planning and reconciliation should be added.
- Designing a tier of membership for Indigenous planners who are not accredited to attend PIBC events.
- Other projects include investigating an Indigenous-led mentorship program to pair newer and experienced Indigenous planners to support their continued growth

and wellbeing. PPRC is also looking at a requirement for Candidates to submit a reflective submission to express their recognition and understanding of the Indigenous territories they live on and their commitment to active reconciliatory action through their planning work.

A Shared Journey

The changes needed to make PIBC a place that is welcoming to Indigenous planners are a shared responsibility of all our members. While the PPRC is acting on recommendations to make the Institute's support for Indigenous planning and reconciliation explicit, all members have work to do as individuals.

“Upholding Indigenous self-determination in planning requires non-Indigenous planners to pause, listen, and reflect on their own biases, privilege, and unlearning journeys when engaging in this work.”³

A foundational piece of this work is that we, members of PIBC, must adjust to a “paradigm shift in the way professional planning understands its connection to colonial land theft and Indigenous erasure, and the responsibilities of rebuilding relationships with Indigenous peoples, communities, and planners.”⁴ As we move along this journey, it is imperative that we understand and respect the longstanding and sacred connection Indigenous peoples have to their lands, languages, medicines, teachings, and ceremonies; knowledge which is imbued into Indigenous planning. Non-Indigenous planners must also be aware of the concerns of Indigenous planners such as appropriation, commodification, misinterpretation, power dynamics, and paternalistic approaches. We must prepare ourselves to unlearn our assumptions about what Indigenous planning is and how it is done in order to better listen and learn from Indigenous peoples.

There is an element of ‘we don't know what we don't know’ that has to be placed at the forefront of this work. As non-Indigenous planners, we must carefully evaluate our own sources of knowledge and credibility. Whose knowledge do we act on? Who do we consult and engage with during our projects? How do

we measure outcomes and evaluate our work? How do we collect that information and how is it shared? By whose metrics do we determine our success?

To move towards reconciliation, planning practitioners must examine how we learn, value, and apply knowledge. In order to make meaningful change, we need to seek to unsettle the planning profession.

The PPRC is seeking additional members. If you are interested in this work and wish to learn more, please write kelly.chan@pibc.bc.ca.

Thank You

The PPRC wants to send sincere thanks and acknowledgement for the wealth of knowledge and experience that was shared by participants. We value their time and efforts. Thank you to Rachel Wuttunee, Samantha Gush, Cara Basil, Jalissa Moody, Steven DeRoy, Gwen Phillips, Addison Fosbery, and Jessie Hemphill.

Isha Matous-Gibbs is a Social Health and Wellness Planner with Urban Matters CCC and a Candidate Member of PIBC

¹Planning Institute of British Columbia Exploring Pathways for Indigenous Planning Membership: Reflections and Recommendations. Sanala Planning and the PIBC Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee. 2023. Page 7.

²Planning Institute of British Columbia Exploring Pathways for Indigenous Planning Membership: Reflections and Recommendations. Sanala Planning and the PIBC Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee. 2023. Page 3.

³Planning Institute of British Columbia Exploring Pathways for Indigenous Planning Membership: Reflections and Recommendations. Sanala Planning and the PIBC Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee. 2023. Page 3.

⁴Planning Institute of British Columbia Exploring Pathways for Indigenous Planning Membership: Reflections and Recommendations. Sanala Planning and the PIBC Planning Practice and Reconciliation Committee. 2023. Page 7.

The Future of Planning: Insights from UBC's Planning School

Michael Hooper RPP, MCIP

Planning is ultimately concerned with creating a better future. At the best of times, this is a complex task. In our present era, defined by a host of crises and by declining confidence in public institutions and in professions like planning, the challenge of planning for the future becomes even harder. To get a sense of where planning is and might be headed, this article presents forward-looking insights from students in UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP). After all, who better to speak to our field's future than the graduate students who will be our future planners? These insights seek to provide a bit of the "foresight" that philosopher Auguste Comte argued is the aim of knowledge.

In conversations with UBC planning students, one topic whose importance stands out is housing. As we all know, likely from both professional and personal experience, BC faces a multi-dimensional housing crisis. As one of the many SCARP graduate students focused on improving housing conditions, Elizabeth Ballantyne is notable for the way her studies and professional background converge. Ballantyne currently serves on the boards of Exchange Inner City and the Vancouver Downtown Eastside Community Economic Development Network and previously spent eight years as Executive Director of the Vancouver City Planning Commission. Her PhD research tackles a question many are wrestling with: What would it take to successfully address our lack of affordable housing?

Ballantyne states that her research so far suggests that substantially increased provision of non-market housing will be key to creating a future where all are housed to the CMHC standard: affordably, suitably, and adequately. When asked what is needed to ramp up non-market housing provision, she says: "this is really the question at the heart of my dissertation and one I am posing to interviewees from across the spectrum of planning in BC. My research, which focuses on four municipalities, suggests so far that two ingredients that will be vital to improving housing delivery are a planner's leadership and their willingness to innovate with respect to policies." Ballantyne captures a sentiment shared by many SCARP

students, that charting a new course for planning in the future will require us to be creative leaders willing to depart from established practice.

Another SCARP student at the forefront of thinking about planning's future is Nathan Hawkins, a student in the master's program in community and regional planning (MCRP). Hawkins has played a founding role in multiple organizations that challenge status quo approaches to planning. Hawkins' commitment to future-oriented action, a hallmark of many SCARP students, has been demonstrated as a founding member of Vision Zero Vancouver, the Vancouver Area Neighbours Association (a pro-housing advocacy group), and Movement: Metro Vancouver Transit Riders.

Hawkins' work with Vision Zero Vancouver, which advocates for transportation systems that put safety ahead of driver convenience, highlights the kinds of ground-breaking changes that many students feel planning must embrace. As Hawkins notes, "we're entrenched in established ways of thinking and it's essential that we change the norms that have shaped our cities in unsustainable ways." Hawkins describes a promising model for effecting such changes when he describes how Vision Zero Vancouver has sought to identify easy wins that radically increase pedestrian safety. These include relatively simple physical interventions – like separating cars from other road users, raising crosswalks, adding intersection safety cameras, and increasing crosswalk times – that can serve as a foundation for changing deeper norms, practices and, ultimately, the policies that shape our built environment.

Asked what bigger changes will be needed for planners to effectively tackle future challenges, Hawkins argues we will need to revisit some of our most foundational assumptions and tools. For example, he states "we should rethink zoning and building codes from the ground up." Hawkins, like Ballantyne, concedes that taking on future planning challenges will require both creativity and bravery on the part of young planners. As Hawkins puts it: "Tenacity and willingness to go against the current will be essential skills."

While many students interviewed for this

article emphasized the importance of going against the grain, one group specifically highlighted how such pathbreaking work might be undertaken. This group – composed of Willow Cabral, Christopher Chan, Audrey Choong, and Fumika Noguchi – examined ways to increase car-lite living in New Westminster for their MCRP studio project. Describing the project, Noguchi states: "The city is highlighting densification as a way of responding to sustainability and housing affordability, but it's important to think about what that density looks like and how such transformations can be used as an opportunity for creatively challenging established paradigms, such as around car ownership."

Cabral notes that "there are huge opportunities to enable more car-lite lifestyles, including by incorporating simple innovations within densifying neighbourhoods." Chan adds that "such innovations could include simple but transformative ideas like providing better connections to car sharing networks and expanding access to bike rooms in new buildings." The team spent time interviewing stakeholders in the development process, including developers. From these interviews they realized that communication channels between planners and developers were not always as open as they had assumed and that they, as young planners, could serve as mediators.

Prompted by the developers they interviewed, the studio team found that renters are often less invested in car ownership and in having a parking spot for current or future use. For this reason, the team argues that it will be easier in rental buildings to promote changes like encouraging biking and breaking free from car-centric lifestyles. Cabral notes that "it was only by talking with the widest possible range of people, including developers, and considering a truly diverse range of perspectives that we were able to fully understand what actions could have greatest impact."

Infrastructure stands out as a second planning theme that will be vital to shaping our future. As Paul Goldberger, the New Yorker's architecture critic, writes: "Infrastructure creates the form of a city and enables life to go on." While we all recognize that infrastructure

is important, it's less clear what future infrastructure will look like and how it should be provided. Fortuitously, Julia Kidder, a PhD student in SCARP, is focusing her research on just this question and is doing so in thought provoking ways.

Kidder, an artist and researcher, was drawn to thinking about the future of coastal infrastructure by the observation that traditional hard infrastructure, like dykes, often has a limited lifespan and is poorly suited to changing conditions. This prompted her to broaden her understanding of the land-water interface, drawing on her practice as an artist. Kidder remarks that “the intertidal and coastal zone can be seen as a metaphor for planning – a site of dynamism, sensory experience, connectivity and volatility – and we need to learn

from these natural sites of creativity and vitality.” Rather than thinking of our communities as static, Kidder argues it's vital to understand them as dynamic systems and to plan accordingly.

Discussing her research, Kidder states: “I don't have the answer to what future infrastructure should look like, but my research shows me that it's important not to leap to pre-existing solutions. Instead, we need to explore the full range of what is possible. This is where creativity and the arts can help planners expand our appreciation for what is feasible, especially when this is done in partnership with others.” Kidder acknowledges that broadening planners' toolkits and being open to a wider range of possibilities will be messy, but says that our increasingly unstable

context means this is something planners will need to embrace.

The work of students in SCARP has highlighted a number of themes that will be important for planners' work in the future. These include creativity, fearlessness, thinking outside the box and confronting taken for granted expectations. While SCARP students are already embedding these approaches in their studies and work, they are also themes that planners more advanced in their careers can adopt as we all confront a rapidly changing and increasingly turbulent future.

Michael Hooper RPP, MCIP is an Associate Professor at the School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP) at UBC and faculty liaison to PIBC.



As a window onto one of planners' sources of future uncertainty, the rise of AI, this image was created using Adobe's Firefly based on the prompt “show me an image depicting a group of UBC planners from the future demonstrating the talents, skills and tools needed to plan sustainable, prosperous and just cities for BC's changing demographic, social and environmental context.”

Place-based Planning Practices for Student Retention: Findings from Southern Alberta

Charles McArthur MFRE, Taylor Manns, and Perry Stein RPP, MCIP

If you've never been to Lethbridge, Alberta, we forgive you. You're certainly not alone.

Located near, but not on, the main highway between Calgary and the recreation hotspots in Southeastern BC, Lethbridge just barely missed out on the tourism jackpot. Instead, Lethbridge is out of sight and out of mind for many, which is too bad since it's a truly beautiful city with lots to offer.

While Lethbridge may be geographically challenged, it did hit the jackpot in another way – it's a college town. You may not have been to Lethbridge, but there's a good chance you know someone who went to school there. The city is home to two post-secondary institutions (PSIs) – Lethbridge College and the University of Lethbridge – that draw a large proportion of their 15,000 students from outside Southwest Alberta.

In a region that has traditionally had low unemployment and labour shortages, this student base is an immense economic and social opportunity. A natural question is: How do we keep more of these vibrant and well-educated people in our region after they graduate?

This was a question that a partnership of regional stakeholders set out to better understand through research for the recently completed *Southwest Alberta Graduate Retention Strategy* (SAGRS). Conducted by a local consulting firm, Curve Strategic Research (CSR), the study helps shed light on the student experience in Lethbridge what can be done to encourage them to stay.

With the support of two Lethbridge PSIs, CSR conducted a major student survey to understand student perceptions of the region and how to make it more livable. 2,200 students completed the survey, and the results are a treasure trove of planning and policy intel, useful well beyond the confines of a post-secondary campus.

CSR identified five key themes from the feedback, including **public safety, transportation, employment, community activities, and community atmosphere**, which were subsequently explored in a series of focus groups. The survey and focus groups provided potential solutions that are addressable through good urban planning, enhanced engagement, and collaborative civic action.

The Problem

The key themes outlined by the SAGRS do

not exist in a vacuum, but are intrinsically tied to the inertia of social, political, and economic processes and decision-making. For example, the predominant 1950s and '60s planning paradigm favoured suburban development and car dependency. This played a role when the decision was made to locate the University of Lethbridge on the city's formerly undeveloped "West Side," creating geographic and cultural detachment from the rest of the city, including its downtown.

Not only is this disconnect a disservice to students, but it also poses a problem for the growth and development of Lethbridge's economic, social, and cultural sectors. Many students lack a sense of belonging in Lethbridge and are therefore more likely to leave the city upon graduation. Although these barriers pose a significant challenge, they are not

insurmountable. Students have justifiable concerns with the city, but many indicated a willingness to stay if Lethbridge could tick more of their boxes.

The topic of inadequate public transit in the SAGRS produced considerable passion from students. In a car-centric city like Lethbridge, public transit is an afterthought for most residents. But for many students, it can be a crucial component to a positive experience and connection to the city beyond the campus.

The data also points to other intersections between the themes as well. Many students perceive Lethbridge – particularly the downtown – to be unsafe. This, in turn, impacts their willingness to venture to the city's core and enjoy its many events, shopping, and attractions. While students indicated feelings of discomfort downtown, many of their



recommendations for a safer downtown revolved around social initiatives and support for Lethbridge's houseless population.

While the themes pointed out by students in the SAGRS may be difficult to address, they are at least partly addressable through adequate social housing programs, policies, and funding. The students provided a roadmap to do so in their feedback, which is a call to action for the community and its planners, showcasing the necessity to involve students in planning and civic action.

What Can We Do About It?

So, what is the role of planners in student retention? As we've already identified, the themes outlined in the SAGRS can be addressed in large part by the day-to-day work of planners, including strong community and

stakeholder engagement. The question is *how*.

One potential opportunity that can support both enhanced planning outcomes and graduate retention is Work-Integrated Learning (WIL). The SAGRS demonstrated that WIL increases the likelihood that graduates will consider remaining in the community where they previously participated in an experiential learning opportunity, such as a co-op or internship. Not only do WIL programs present a novel approach to retention, but they also yield multiple benefits for the various participants in the program.

Harnessing student talent and creating stronger pathways for graduate and knowledge retention is a perennial challenge for small and medium-sized cities that compete with larger centers – which are seen to offer more opportunities for employment, culture, and inclusion. Studies such as the SAGRS can provide clues about what can be done to make a medium-sized city more appealing to graduates in these areas, as well as build upon strengths such as lower living costs and commute times. However, this knowledge is only useful within an environment where civic leaders acknowledge the gaps and are willing to do something about them.

Acknowledging the need to engage students in the planning process, the City of Lethbridge created an innovative WIL program, *City Scholars* (CS). Since its first semester in Fall 2022, CS has created opportunities for 200+ students to lend research support to a range of projects centered on enhancing planning, policy, public engagement, and urban design at the City of Lethbridge. These projects emerged from City staff asking important questions – for example about AI, engagement, heritage management and more – but not having the capacity, expertise, or resources to answer them themselves.

Not only do these projects help City staff better understand emerging trends within their portfolios, as seen through the eyes of the current generation of students, but they also provide tangible conduits through which to strengthen campus-community connections. Finally, as with all WIL programs, the CS program provides students with hands-on opportunities to apply and learn skills, develop professional workplace experience, and test out different types of work that they may be interested in. Participating in WIL has also helped

City staff see the potential of students as community stakeholders. For too long, students in the city have been seen as temporary or transient residents, and not as *potential knowledge, economic, social, and cultural investors*.

Students want to be invested and involved in the community, and a combination of planning processes and WIL initiatives can be one way to close the gap between campuses and communities. Overall, the integration of students into the work of the City creates opportunities for engagement that not only builds skills and brings innovation, but also gives a voice to new and potential community members.

Charles McArthur, MFRE is the owner and lead consultant for Curve Strategic Research (CSR). CSR is a consulting firm based in Lethbridge, Alberta that specializes in market research and community/stakeholder consultation. CSR works closely with organizations in several industries and conducts both primary and secondary research and data analysis to support strategic decision-making. Charles is a skilled analyst with over 15 years of experience and holds a master's degree in Food and Resource Economics (MFRE) from the University of British Columbia.

Taylor Manns is an undergraduate student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Lethbridge. In partnership with the City of Lethbridge and the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Economy—supported by a Mitacs Accelerate Grant—Taylor is researching the emerging connections between post-secondary education, work-integrated learning (WIL), labour market participation, and population retention within cities.

Perry Stein, MA, RPP MCIP is Partner Services Manager for the City of Lethbridge. In his role, Perry facilitates the development of applied research and work-integrated learning partnerships between the City and Post-Secondary Institutions in southern Alberta and beyond. Perry has over a decade of experience in the fields of planning and Indigenous relations. He is a proud supporter of post-secondary learning, currently sits as Vice-Chair of the Lethbridge College Board of Governors, and has been inducted into the University of Lethbridge Alumni Honour Society.

Aerial view of Lethbridge
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¹Renewable Natural Gas (also called RNG or biomethane) is produced in a different manner than conventional natural gas. It is derived from biogas, which is produced from decomposing organic waste from landfills, agricultural waste and wastewater from treatment facilities. The biogas is captured and cleaned to create RNG. When RNG is added to North America's natural gas system, it mixes with conventional natural gas. This means we're unable to direct RNG to a specific customer. But the more RNG is added to the gas system, the less conventional natural gas is needed, thereby reducing the use of fossil fuels and overall greenhouse gas emissions. ²When compared to the lifecycle carbon intensity of conventional natural gas. The burner tip emission factor of FortisBC's current Renewable Natural Gas (also called RNG or biomethane) portfolio is 0.29 grams of carbon dioxide equivalent per megajoule of energy (gCO₂e/MJ). FortisBC's current RNG portfolio lifecycle emissions are -22 gCO₂e/MJ. This is below B.C.'s low carbon threshold for lifecycle carbon intensity of 36.4 gCO₂e/MJ as set out in the 2021 B.C. Hydrogen Strategy.

PIBC Student Internship Program

Evaluating Equity and Justice in Vancouver's Sea2City Design Challenge

Tira Okamoto, MRM-Planning, Simon Fraser University
Summer-Fall 2023 PIBC Student-led Internship

Like many coastal cities, the City of Vancouver has brought greater focus to coastal adaptation planning in the last decade. In 2021, the City of Vancouver launched the Sea2City Design Challenge, a sea level rise design challenge in False Creek, a narrow inlet bordering downtown Vancouver on the unceded, traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətaʔ Nations.

The challenge brought together City staff, international design teams, Indigenous cultural advisors, youth, community representatives, and technical advisors to develop design concepts for adapting to a rising False Creek. Now complete, Sea2City presents unique lessons learned for shaping future coastal adaptation across Vancouver and beyond.

Research Aim

As a case study, this research applies the JustAdapt framework to the Sea2City Design Challenge to better understand how the challenge incorporated equity and justice into its process and outcomes. This research sees equity (fair distribution of climate adaptation actions and supports) as distinctly different from justice (dismantling extractive systems to lessen climate impacts).

Developed by the researchers of this case study, the JustAdapt framework is a new evaluative framework for planning professionals and academics alike to bring greater accountability to their equitable adaptation work. The JustAdapt framework presents five forms of justice – **procedural** (process), **distributive** (outcomes), **recognitional** (acknowledgement), **intergenerational** (generational thinking), and **epistemic** (diverse worldviews valued) – as integral for realizing just urban coastal adaptation.

Methods

Methods included two rounds of semi-structured interviews with nine Sea2City participants, surveys, participant observation, and document analysis. NVIVO, a qualitative data analysis software, was used to code examples of the five forms of justice across the data.

Results

Three findings stood out from applying the JustAdapt framework. First, procedural justice (192) was coded the most, and intergenerational (41) and epistemic (40) were coded the least. Second, there were more examples of equity being actioned rather than justice. Third, valuable insights were shared on lack of actions around each form of justice.

Sea2City's **successes** included (1) prioritizing Indigenous knowledge and decolonizing coastal adaptation approaches; (2) a culture of learning; and (3) flexibility concerning budget and time.

Key learnings included: (A) the pivotal role of the Indigenous cultural advisors in the process; (B) transformational experiences for some Sea2City participants in (un)learning

dominant design and adaptation practices; (C) youth calling for a stronger seat at the coastal adaptation planning table; and (D) a lack of focus on engaging specific equity-denied populations.

Three main **recommendations** for the City of Vancouver emerged: (1) Make equity a priority in future coastal adaptation in False Creek in addition to decolonization; (2) Conduct an equity audit in False Creek; and (3) Consider opportunities to increase the decision-making power of youth and community representatives.

Conclusion

Coastal adaptation planners have identified equity and justice as important guiding principles in their plans, yet tangible outcomes and clear evaluation are lacking. Through this case study, this research hopes to inspire future projects in their efforts towards evaluating equitable and just coastal adaptation.

Tira Okamoto is a Senior Policy Analyst with BC Climate Action Secretariat working on disaster and climate resilience planning.



Rural Challenges in Agricultural Policies in the Cariboo Region

Matt Henderson, Dr. Tara Lynne Clapp RPP MCIP, and Dr. Theresa Healy



Matt Henderson
Credit: Quesnel Observer

During the summer of 2023, I was fortunate enough to undertake a student-led research project of my choosing and direction. With such an amazing opportunity to explore a passionate interest, I decided to undertake research that would benefit an underrepresented community group in the region of Northern British Columbia. The often-overlooked group I chose was rural agriculture growers and producers in the Cariboo Region.

The research was grounded in community-based participatory research (CBPR). The type of research and associated ethics formed the bedrock for how communications with community partners and feedback sharing would be conducted. CBPR centers on the voices and viewpoints of the community members. This was an important choice due to reservations held by several community members in the study region because of historically poor experiences with university-based work. Paying attention to these concerns also enabled a focus on what previously received a very negative reaction from community members – the lack of reporting back. This required me, as a researcher, to differentiate my intentions in undertaking this research work from the many disciplines and projects conducted in years past. This included building relationships across many “burned bridges” and regaining the trust of various agricultural community groups in the Cariboo region. It is worth noting, as this project seeks to begin its next phase of work, that the mending of relationships is still, and should always be, ongoing.

Another advantage in utilizing CBPR is the fluidity of pivoting from an initial topic

or concept to adapt to a changing reality that would change the research trajectory. A community’s viewpoints and needs should be the guiding star of the work. This work is a prime example of this factor at play.

Two weeks into the research, my community partners and I discussed the validity of the topic, Housing Challenges for Multi-generational Farmers, which was the original focus. However, the community partners felt there were other policies that needed to be analyzed prior to a “deep-dive” into a specific topic. The outcome of this discussion broadened the scope of the project policy review while gaining insight from farmers and ranchers on what agricultural policies from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and/or the Agricultural Land Commission needed to be improved upon to meet regional challenges in agriculture production. Through Dotmocracy, a facilitation process that would present the best ideas to date generated from research and the community partners while still privileging input from community members, five initial ideas of policy changes were generated in concert with the community partners. The process gains feedback from participants using a few initial ideas as a baseline. The participants then can place a “dot sticker” – a vote – beside an idea they agree with. Additionally, they can share ideas outside of those listed. This process is highly visual and engaging and gathers anonymous feedback from communities that is high quality and informally verified. The dotmocracy exercises were held at farmers’ markets and rodeos in Alexandria, Quesnel, and Williams Lake from June to August 2023.

The ideas and the resulting votes cast by participants can be viewed in the table below.

Initial Ideas	Vote Totals
Allow non-farming businesses to support farmers wishing to supplement their farming income?	82 Votes
Allow complimentary zoning for non-farming purposes that would still benefit the farming community?	44 Votes
Go back to the two-zone system?	48 Votes
Increase legacy protections for generational farmers?	76 Votes
Have a more flexible application process with the ALC? More considerations are made.	40 Votes
Leave everything as is?	0 Votes
Total	290 Votes Cast

In addition to the 290 votes cast concerning the six ideas, there were an additional 83 unique ideas noted by engagement participants. Participants could also vote on those unique ideas and the resulting top five were:

Additional Participant Ideas	Total Votes
Let farmers farm. It is currently too costly to run any scale of operation.	10 votes
More supports and guidance through red tape are needed for farmers.	6 votes
No more subdividing agricultural land for non-farm related housing.	5 votes
Costs are too high for young farmers today. How can we/provincial government support the next generation? This is a growing/significant issue in general, not just agriculture.	5 votes
Total Votes	26 Votes

The results gathered from these engagements presented a firm foundation for how to enact meaningful changes to our rural agricultural policies. As of the date of writing this article, the outcome of this work is still ongoing with the intention of recurring research work in the form of the previously mentioned “deep-dives” into specific topics. These topics

will originate from the input gathered from the community engagements. Discussion topics will match areas with highlighted priorities from that area. This next phase of this research work will focus on the most promising practices for increasing processing capacity in the Cariboo Region.

For those wishing to conduct community-based participatory research, I would highly recommend dotmocracy, as this process is rewarding from both the participant and facilitator perspectives, and ethical community engagement practices. As well, CBPR seeks the opportunity to hear from a "boots-on-the-ground" perspective. Changes that are meaningful and promise significant returns on social capital investment need that critical on-the-ground perspective which emerges from having lived alongside, and become part of, a local ecosystem tended by generations of farmers.

I must express my gratitude to the participants in this work who shared so generously and allowed me to reach further than I had any right to expect in the short time frame. Further, I am thankful for the trust PIBC has given me to conduct this work, which is now living on. Advocating for and supporting local and

regional policy changes to improve our rural agriculture sector is truly a privilege and I am excited to see where this journey takes me and my partners with respect to our primary goal of establishing meaningful, sustainable, and ethical changes to policies of northern food production on the province's arduous journey to food sovereignty.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the following:

This work was conducted on the traditional and unceded territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, Lhtako Dene First Nation, Lhoosk'uz Dene First Nation, Nazko First Nation, ?Esdilagh First Nation, Xat'sull, and the Secwepemc First Nation.

The funders of this research project include PIBC, Cariboo Regional District Directors A, B, C, D, and I, and the Kersley Farmers Institute.

Finally, thank you to my community partners with whom I have gained a cherished relationship of knowledge sharing and life experience, and for taking a chance on an undergraduate student with a dream.

For further information on this and future iterations of my research work please follow my website at <http://alrpolicyreviewproject.my.canva.site>

Community Partners:

Lorne Doerkson, MLA for Cariboo Chilcotin;
Sage Gordon, President of the Quesnel Cattlemen's Association;
Coralee Oakes, MLA for Cariboo North;
Christa Pooley, Secretary of the Kersley Farmers' Institute;
Jackie Sarginson, President of the Cariboo North Riding Association;
Mary Sjostrom, Director of Electoral Area 'A' of the Cariboo Regional District;
Nigel Whitehead, Manager of Planning Services at the Cariboo Regional District;
Rick Wittner, President of the Quesnel Chamber of Commerce and President of the Cariboo Mining Association;
Roy Zisbricht, Son of Generational Farmers
Matt Henderson, Undergraduate Student, School of Planning and Sustainability at the University of Northern British Columbia.
Dr. Tara Lynne Clapp RPP, MCIP, Program Chair of the School of Planning and Sustainability at the University of Northern British Columbia
Dr. Theresa Healy, Assistant Professor, School of Planning and Sustainability at the University of Northern British Columbia

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IN MEMORIAM



Credit: Royal BC Museum

REMEMBERING IONA CAMPAGNOLO

27th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia
PIBC Honourary Member (2010)

It is with great sadness that PIBC learned of the passing of Iona Campagnolo, 27th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and PIBC Honourary Member (2010), at the age of 91.

Born Iona Victoria Hardy, Iona Campagnolo was a believer in the importance of public service. Iona started her career in broadcasting in Prince Rupert and her passion for supporting local education led to her election onto the Prince Rupert School Board and City Council before becoming a Member of Parliament in 1974. Iona went on to achieve many firsts, including becoming the first woman appointed as BC's Lieutenant Governor in 2001. Before becoming Lieutenant Governor, she was the first female president of the federal Liberal Party and she was also Canada's first Minister of Amateur Sport. Later on, she also became University of Northern British Columbia's first chancellor.

Iona championed many causes while serving as Lieutenant Governor, including climate action, gender equality, and reconciliation. She was an early supporter of reconciliation,

at a time when reconciliation was not at the forefront of people's minds. She recognized the importance of building relationships with Indigenous peoples and Northern communities and was honoured with two Indigenous names, symbolized by the Orca and the Haida Eagle, which were incorporated into her Vice-Regal uniform.

PIBC was pleased to admit and welcome Iona as an Honourary Member at our annual World Town Planning Day celebrations in 2010. She was amongst the founders of the Fraser Basin Council – a unique and critical agency with respect to land use, management and conservation for one of British Columbia's most substantial and critical river-basin regions.

Her family was her greatest love. Iona is survived by her brother, her two daughters, as well as three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Iona was an active community member of the Courtenay-Comox Valley where she made her home for more than 20 years. She

will be remembered as a champion and role model for many.

In lieu of a service, her family encouraged people to remember Iona in their own way. Donations may be made to the scholarship in her name – The Chancellor Iona Campagnolo Memorial Scholarship – at the University of Northern British Columbia at <https://www.unbcgiving.ca/>

Sources:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/iona-campagnolo-dies-at-91-1.7165861>

<https://www.royalroads.ca/honourable-ionav-campagnolo-pc-oc-obc>

<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/obituaries/iona-campagnolo-nee-hardy-7366481>

<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2024/04/05/statement-prime-minister-passing-honourable-ionacampagnolo>

PIBC BOARD NOTES

On **March 1, 2024**, the PIBC Board of Directors met in Prince George, BC.

It was acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional territories of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.

DELEGATIONS

Dr. Tara Clapp RPP, MCIP of the School of Planning and Sustainability welcomed the Board to UNBC provided an overview of the program's activities and recent developments. It was noted that the program's goals include recruitment, enhancing the student community, a curriculum refresh, and enhancing relationships with program partners.

Ashley Murphey RPP, MCIP provided an update in relation to the BCLI Renovate the Public Hearing process, noting some impacts and challenges within the process. It was highlighted that project is expected to conclude in June 2024.

MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the January 26th, 2024, meeting and also confirmed a previous electronic resolution approving the allocation of funds to support actions relating to the Peer Learning Network (PLN).

PRESIDENT

Emilie K. Adin RPP, MCIP provided an update on various activities, including recent media interviews and an update on the 'President's Minute' webinar segment. It was also highlighted that a review of committee roles and responsibilities is underway. There was some additional discussion on potential research and work related to shortages of planners, and also exploration of further work on advocacy for planning best practices.

BOARD & GOVERNANCE

The Board discussed topics of strategic value including an overview of the intention for upcoming strategic discussions and potential training for the Board members as well as potential advocacy topics. It was agreed that these matters would be further revisited.

The Board discussed and approved the location and date for the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), to take place on Wednesday May 8, 2024, in Nanaimo, BC.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Executive Director Dave Crossley reported on the ongoing and key projects, initiatives, and activities at the PIBC office.

The Board reviewed the 2023 unaudited financial statements to December 31, 2023, for information.

MEMBER PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The Board discussed and approved the allocation of funds to extend the current access to QuickScribe online legal services for members and other practitioners as part of the PLN. It was noted that following this extension, the service could be provided at a discounted rate.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS:

Emilie K. Adin provided an update regarding the transition of the role of the national Standards Committee (SC) to the Professional Standards Board (PSB), including current work and next steps. It was noted that there will be a need to identify volunteer nominees for the new Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & BUSINESS

Policy & Public Affairs Committee: The Board discussed a brief update on work regarding the Professional Governance Act (PGA) noting timelines for next steps, including member engagement and potential outreach to the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance.

The Board discussed an update on the work of the Peer Learning Network (PLN). It was agreed that the Institute's Housing Task Force will work to develop support for self-organized local 'peer learning pods' to augment the current regional PLN sessions being held.

The Board also further discussed BC Law Institute (BCLI) – Renovate the Public Hearing work and agreed on further follow up.

Professional Standards & Certification: The Board approved the admission of a number of new members including 7 Certified, 14 Candidate, 3 Pre-Candidate and 3 Students. The Board also noted 11 resignations and a number of membership transfers and other changes.

The Board discussed and approved the allocation funds to support work relating to research and reporting to assist the PIBC in achieving net zero emissions in operations as part of the Institute's current climate action policies and objectives.

The Board discussed an update regarding the Institute's new Justice, Equity, Diversity, Decolonization and Inclusion (JEDDI) task force, noting that several volunteer expressions of interest had been received from interested individuals. There was also discussion of the potential for possibly funding honoraria to support volunteer participation in the group.

INSTITUTE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS & BUSINESS

The Student member representative from UBC provided a brief update to the Board on the recent activities within the planning program including internal engagement regarding potential challenges and changes within the program, possible adjustment to the academic schedule to perhaps facilitate more professional development. It was also noted that the SCARP Symposium would be held on April 26, 2024.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next Board meeting would take place on May 8, 2024, in Nanaimo and that a short virtual meeting would be required in April to review and approve the 2023 audited financial statements.

On **April 24, 2024**, the PIBC Board of Directors met online by videoconference.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

The Board received and approved the 2023 audited financial statements, auditor's report and findings as prepared by the Institute's external auditors. There were no substantive issues arising from the audit.

It was further agreed that the Institute's current external auditors – Tompkins Wozny LLP, Chartered Professional Accounts – be recommended for re-appointment for the 2024 fiscal year at the upcoming AGM in Nanaimo.

COMMITTEE REPORTS & BUSINESS

Executive Committee: The Board confirmed the appointment of Narissa Chadwick RPP, MCIP to the Institute's Executive Committee.

Member Engagement Committee: The Board endorsed the proposed member engagement actions and work to be undertaken at the upcoming BC Land Summit conference.

The Board also endorsed the potential engagement of a consultant to undertake research and analysis into the state of the planning profes-

sion, subject to refinement of the terms of the initiative and scope of work by the Member Engagement Committee.

Policy & Public Affairs Committee: The Board received and discussed an update from the Housing Task Force regarding the implementation of the Peer Learning Network (PLN). The Board approved the allocation of additional PLN funds to further support ongoing and upcoming work.

NEXT MEETING(S)

It was noted that the next regular Board meeting would take place on May 8, 2024, in Nanaimo followed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM), at the upcoming BC Land Summit conference.

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UPCOMING WEBINARS

PIBC Fall 2024 CPL Webinars
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September 25, 2024

PIBC CPL Webinar #7
Deep Dive into Legal Survey Plans, Natural Boundaries and Riparian Area Protection
October 30, 2024

PIBC CPL Webinar #8
A Legal Argument for Procedural Fairness in Land Use Decisions
November 27, 2024

PIBC CPL Webinar #9
Accessibility & Inclusion
December 4, 2024

Visit the PIBC Webinars webpage www.pibc.bc.ca/pibc-webinars for information on current webinars, registrations, and the latest webinar recordings.

MEMBERSHIP REPORTS
MARCH 1, 2024

Welcome
New Members!

Congratulations and
welcome to all the new
PIBC Members!

At its meeting of March 1, 2024, it was recommended to and approved by the Board to admit the following seven (7) Certified, fourteen (14) Candidate, three (3) Student and three (3) Pre-Candidate individuals to membership in the Institute as noted:

CERTIFIED:

- Hillary Beattie**
(Joint with MPP)
- Irene Hauzar**
(Joint with OPPI)
- Sarah Herring**
(Transfer from LPPANS)
- Lihua Huang**
(Transfer from APPI)
- Mike Logan**
(Joint with OPPI)
- David Maloney**
(Transfer from OPPI)
- Chelsea Whitty**
(Joint with APPI)

CANDIDATE:

- David Chaney**
- Kevin Cooper**
(Transfer from LPPANS)
- Tyla Crowe**
- Divyanga Ganesh**
- Kerry Hamilton**
- Chelsea Krahn**
- Alexandra Labuda**
- T. Scott Low**
(Transfer from APPI)
- Madeleine MacLean**
- Kaela Schramm**
- Savonnae Street**
- Gabriel Tamminga**
- Louis-Felix Tremblay-Renaud**
- Hugo Wu**

STUDENT:

- Brinnae Cooper** *(UBC)*
- Erin Grace** *(UBC)*
- Mikolo Ikenaga**
(Joint with APPI / Uni of Alberta)

PRE-CANDIDATE:

- Taryn Bruckshaw**
- Orlaith Keen**
- Sarah Tremblay**

Member Changes

It was further recommended to and approved by the Board to grant or acknowledge the following two (2) Certified and two (2) Candidate individual's membership status changes:

FROM CERTIFIED
TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

- Amelia Andrews**
- Kristina Bouris**

FROM CANDIDATE
TO MEMBER ON LEAVE:

- Jessica Ball**
- Julianne Kucheran**

It was also noted by the Board that the following one (1) Certified member returned to active practice, thus returning to active membership:

FROM MEMBER ON LEAVE
TO CERTIFIED:

- Jeanette Elmore**

It was further noted by the Board that the following eleven (11) individuals resigned as members of the Institute.

RESIGNED:

- Kirsten Baillie**
- Joan Chess-Woollacott**
- James Demens**
- Valerie Durant**
- Jacob Fox**
- Scott Fraser**
- Deborah Gogela**
- Casey Loudoun**
- Janet Omelchuk**
- Megan Taylor**
- Sam West**



BLACKFOOT CROSSING HISTORICAL PARK – CALGARY, ALBERTA

Blackfoot Crossing, the historic site of the signing of Treaty No.7, is located an hour's drive south of Calgary, Alberta. Designated as a Canadian National Heritage Site and recommended to be a World Heritage Site for its national and international historical and archaeological significance, this unique cultural, educational, and entertainment centre was built for the promotion and preservation of the Siksika (Blackfoot) Nation Peoples' language, culture and traditions.

Ron Goodfellow, Architect for the Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, worked closely with many members of the Siksika community, particularly a group of Elders who shared their knowledge of traditional Blackfoot practices, to design the entire site as a vast reinterpretation of Blackfoot culture, incorporating sacred icons and the everyday life of the Siksika people. The 62,000 square foot main building is intended to be a metaphor of traditional Blackfoot iconography.

Strater Crowfoot, who was instrumental in raising money for the centre, is a descendant of the great Chief Crowfoot, returning to the Siksika Nation reserve in the early 1980s to become the Chief of the Siksika Nation in 1987 for five two-year terms.

With its interactive exhibits, dance and craft demonstrations, traditional survival skills classes, and many other activities, Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park is considered a world-class attraction designed to engage and educate.

Sources:

<https://blackfootcrossing.ca/wordpress/>

<https://canadiangeographic.ca/articles/8-places-to-connect-with-indigenous-peoples-in-canada/>

<https://albertaviews.ca/return-blackfoot-crossing/>



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