

## Annual Student Fellowship Awards

The recipients of the 2025 Student Fellowship Award presented session CS-34: Fellowship Award Presentations on Friday June 13, 2025.



**Amanda Van Hulsen**  
Vancouver Island University,  
Master of Community Planning

Presentation: **Shifting Away From a Resource-Based Economy: Tourism Development and Housing Affordability in Revelstoke, British Columbia**

Over the last two decades, the economic landscape of Revelstoke has greatly shifted away from a blue-collar resource extraction town to a tourism mountain town. In 2007, Revelstoke became one of British Columbia's Mountain Resort municipalities, attracting visitors from all over the world. Seasonality plays a large role in the economic landscape of Revelstoke. As the snow melts away, so do many jobs. These seasonal tourism employment positions are key pillars to sustaining Revelstoke's economy. Without this key demographic of employees, many of the businesses within Revelstoke would struggle to keep the lights on.

As cost of living and tourism rise, Revelstoke's tourism workforce are being priced out. Non-market housing, typically subsidized or operated by government agencies, non-profits, or cooperatives to provide affordable housing for low- to moderate-income individuals and families, is key to keeping Revelstoke's tourism employees within the city and sustaining Revelstoke's tourism economy.



**Achilles Sophia Madhi Gnanaprakasam**  
Vancouver Island University,  
Master of Community Planning

Presentation: **Retail Activation: Turning Shopping Fronts into Experiences**

This presentation deals with the hypermarkets and any other individual large stores that are merely for shopping and depressing parking lots and have no connection or sense of placemaking with its surrounding areas. The question arises: how can the spaces in front of these expansive big box structures be transformed into socially engaging and vibrant areas?

### 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 the Yukon.