

# Introducing PIBC's Climate Action Subcommittee

/ Sean Tynan RPP, MCIP and Patricia Dehnel RPP, MCIP

Building on the work of the Climate Action Task Force, PIBC has established the new Climate Action Subcommittee. With oversight from the PIBC Board and PIBC's Policy & Public Affairs Committee, the Subcommittee's role is to build strategic partnerships, conduct research, and advocate on matters related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Following a Call for Volunteers in Fall 2019, Subcommittee members were affirmed by the PIBC Board, and the Subcommittee held its first meeting in December 2019. The Committee members have been appointed for the duration of the current PIBC Board of Directors' two-year term.

Subcommittee members include: Sean Tynan RPP, MCIP (Co-Chair); Patricia (Trish) Dehnel RPP, MCIP (Co-chair); Sara Muir-Owen RPP, MCIP; Jeff Zukiwsky RPP, MCIP; John Ingram RPP, MCIP; Devon Miller, Candidate Member; Clarissa (Claire) Huffman, Candidate Member, and: Dave Crossley, PIBC Staff (non-voting).

## Climate Action Update

The following actions are complete or well underway:

- Updated the workplan for the Subcommittee's current term (completed)
- Provided input on behalf of PIBC to *Climate Ready BC*, the Province's new climate preparedness and adaptation strategy (completed)
- Provided input on behalf of PIBC on updates to the BC *Emergency Program Act*, the legislative framework for the management of disasters and emergencies in BC. (completed)
- Two Subcommittee members representing PIBC as part of *Inspiring Climate Action*. This initiative helps professionals in British Columbia who work at the front line of climate adaptation to integrate adaptation competencies into their professional practice through education, training and networking – see: <https://climateactionbc.com/> (ongoing)
- A Subcommittee member is participating in the BC Regional Adaptation Collaborative's *Climate Risk Network*. The Network aims to increase awareness of climate adaptation activities among its members, strengthen relationships between academia and government, and strategically develop new activities to address gaps in adaptation programming – see: [https://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/ccaq\\_bcrac.html](https://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/ccaq_bcrac.html) (ongoing)

### Priority tasks for 2020 include:

- Making BC and Yukon climate action case studies a regular part of *Planning West* – see *Accelerate Kootenays* in this issue
- Building strategic partnerships with other organizations that have a strong mandate for climate action, such as APEGBC or BCSLA.
- Updating PIBC's *Climate: A Call to Action* (2017). The Call to Action is strongly focused on climate change mitigation and the Subcommittee feels there is an opportunity to strengthen climate change adaptation.
- Providing input to the Professional Standards and Certification Committee on climate-related competencies for professional planners.
- Work with the Continuous Professional Learning Committee regarding climate action PIBC webinars.

## Over to You

We would like to open it up to you, our fellow members, to share ideas for climate action that you think could be addressed by the Subcommittee. We would be happy to hear your ideas for:

- Advocacy, such as legislative changes or requests for resources to support climate action.
- Future case studies to profile in *Planning West*.
- Other ideas you have for how PIBC could support its membership in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

You can reach out directly to the Sub-committee co-chairs with your climate action ideas:

Sean is available at [seantynan1@gmail.com](mailto:seantynan1@gmail.com)

Trish is available at [pdehnel@communityenergy.bc.ca](mailto:pdehnel@communityenergy.bc.ca)

We look forward to hearing from you. ■

Sean Tynan RPP, MCIP is a planner with the City of Vancouver.

Patricia Dehnel RPP, MCIP is a PIBC Board Member and a Community Relations Manager/Carbon Neutral Specialist with Community Energy Association. She lives in Nelson, BC.