



# MEMO

**September 26, 2025**

**TO:** PIBC Board of Directors and Policy & Public Affairs Committee (Board meeting date: September 26, 2025)

**FROM:** Deborah Jensen RPP, MCIP (Chair of RPP Regulation Subcommittee)

**RE:** Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project – Q3 2025 Chair Update

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## PURPOSE

This memo presents the third quarterly update on the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project (the Project).

## BACKGROUND

In December 2023, the PIBC Board approved direction to undertake outreach and education about the *Professional Governance Act* (PGA) and possible opportunities and implications for PIBC and the planning profession. The Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project is intended to achieve the Board direction. The information that is gathered through this Project – through engagement and research – will be presented to the Board through both quarterly reports and a final report. The Board has not made any decisions on whether the planning profession should or should not be regulated under the *Professional Governance Act*.

In November 2024, the PIBC Board endorsed the Phase 1 Work Plan and directed the Chair of the RPP Regulation Subcommittee to provide quarterly updates to the Policy & Public Affairs Committee (PPAC) and the Board. The Board also directed staff to distribute these quarterly reports for information to all PIBC standing and operational committees, PPAC Housing Task Force, JEDDI working group, and Chapter Chairs, and to post on the project webpage. The PIBC Board received the first quarterly update in March 2025.

## WORK PLAN UPDATES

Phase 1 focuses on building up the baseline knowledge of PIBC members, and offering varied ways for members to engage with the Project. Since the start of the year, the RPP Regulation Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) has convened monthly.

### Strategic Assessment of Professional Governance

In April, PIBC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to retain the services of a consultant to undertake a strategic assessment of professional governance for the planning profession in BC, including conducting focus group sessions with members and other stakeholders. The RFP was posted for one month, for which a total of six proposals were received.

The process to help identify the preferred consultant included a separate evaluation working group of the Subcommittee, comprising three members of the Subcommittee and two invited members from the Member Engagement Committee and Professional Conduct Review Committee. After an extensive review process in July, the Subcommittee endorsed the working group's recommendation to retain The Regulator's Practice. The Regulator's Practice is a consulting firm that focusses on providing advice and services related to professional governance matters. Recent contracts for this firm include the Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance, Engineers and Geoscientists BC, and College of Health and Care Professionals of BC.

At its meeting on August 19, 2025, the Subcommittee met with the consultant team to review and provide feedback on a project charter and key activities (see table below). The research and focus groups, are the core activities of the strategic assessment and are intended to be interdependent – the research informs the key lines of inquiry with the focus groups, and the focus group discussions will inform the research findings.

<b>Major Activities</b>	<b>Sample Tasks</b>	<b>General Timeline</b>
1. Discovery and Background Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key informant interviews</li> <li>• Jurisdictional scan</li> <li>• Targeted literature review</li> <li>• Operational assessment</li> <li>• Identification and evaluation of options (benefits, challenges, and risks)</li> </ul>	August – October
2. Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus group participant recruitment</li> <li>• Focus group guide creation</li> <li>• Focus group sessions</li> </ul>	September – November
3. Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Synthesis and integration of research and focus groups</li> <li>• Final documentation</li> </ul>	December – January 2026

Up to 9 virtual focus group sessions – each comprising approximately 8 participants – will be convened and facilitated by the consultant in October/November. The recruitment for focus group participants was launched on September 17, utilizing a short questionnaire as a means for garnering interested participants. The questionnaire asks applicants about, for example, their PIBC membership category, place of work, years of practice, specialization, and other demographic information. Staff and the consultant will review the completed questionnaires to shortlist and assign applicants to focus groups as appropriate in order to gather valuable feedback on the focus group topics.

Due to the increasing level of interest in this project, not everyone who wants to participate in a focus group can be selected given the limited size of the focus groups. Consideration must be made to strive for a broad-based representation of planning practitioners across British Columbia and the Yukon. Should the planning profession be regulated under the PGA, then practicing planners would likely be required to be registrants of PIBC. For these reasons, all PIBC members, including planning practitioners who are not members of the Institute, are encouraged to apply.

To encourage the widest possible engagement and fulsome discussion, at-large members will be prioritized over members who hold direct leadership roles with the Institute (e.g. Board directors, committee chairs, and staff). The Subcommittee has been regularly engaging with both the Board through quarterly Chair Update memos; and with PIBC committees as delegates at the committee meetings. This has provided the Board and committee members with numerous opportunities to provide comment. However, in order to provide the Board with additional opportunity to hear what the membership is saying about professional governance, Board directors will be offered the opportunity to attend the focus groups as observers. Staff will distribute an online sign-up sheet to Board directors once the focus group schedule has been confirmed, where individual Board members can select their focus group topic area of interest.

It is anticipated the consultant team will present preliminary findings of the research and focus groups to the Board at its scheduled meeting on November 28, 2025. Final results, including any recommendations, will be presented to the Board on January 30, 2026. As part of the scope of work, the consultant may also be requested to present the work at a PIBC webinar in the first quarter of 2026.

#### Online Discussion Forum

The Phase 1 Work Plan also includes an online discussion forum to create another way for planners to engage with one another about this project. The Subcommittee has determined the online discussion forum will be implemented once there is more content generated through the strategic assessment work in order to better inform participants. The exact timing of the launch of the online discussion forum will be confirmed by the Subcommittee at an upcoming meeting this Fall.

#### Work Plan Schedule

The original work plan anticipated completion of Phase One by Fall 2025. With the strategic assessment and focus group work now underway, Phase 1 is now forecasted to conclude in Q1/Q2 2026.

#### Conference Session

The subcommittee convened a panel dialogue session at the annual PIBC conference on June 13, 2025, the final day of the conference. The panelists included representatives from Forest Professionals British Columbia, BC Society of Landscape Architects, BC Institute of Agrologists, and the Subcommittee. About 24 people attended the session, including three Board directors. A summary of this conference session, as well as the May 21st webinar (these two sessions were intended to mirror each other with respect to content) can be found in the summer edition of *Planning West*.

#### Engagement with PIBC Committees

As noted in the Q2 Chair Update, the Subcommittee Chair engaged with numerous PIBC committees throughout the Spring of 2025 to present an overview of the project and answer any questions from committee members. These committees, including the JEDDI Working Group and the Awards & Recognition Committee, continue to express interest in the project, and the Subcommittee will resume further discussions with them in the Fall 2025, once further research has taken place and work with the focus groups is underway.

### **OTHER SUBCOMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### Subcommittee Terms of Reference

The Subcommittee was created by the Policy and Public Affairs Committee (PPAC) several years ago, and has convened on a regular basis working under the general terms and directions of PPAC. Given the increased role and responsibility that the Subcommittee has in steering the Project, it is an appropriate time to formalize the terms of the Subcommittee. To this end, the Subcommittee has initiated the preparation of an internal Terms of Reference, with the intent to set out the regular operational provisions that all other PIBC committees work under. It would also formalize the relationship with PPAC, the role of staff and Subcommittee members, and decision-making approaches. The Terms of Reference will be made consistent with any directions arising from the work of the Governance and Nominating Committee and any new directions from the Board and PPAC. (PPAC is tentatively scheduled to convene November 7, 2025 in Vancouver, in conjunction with World Town Planning Day. Once the Subcommittee has finalized and presented the Terms of Reference at PPAC, it will be advanced to the Board.

#### Subcommittee Membership Update

Gloria Venczel's participation on the Subcommittee concluded in June. Recruitment is underway to attract one new member from PPAC. At the time of writing, the Subcommittee is comprised of five members from PPAC (Deborah Jensen RPP, MCIP, David Block RPP, MCIP, Tim Shah RPP, MCIP, Danielle Noble-Brandt RPP, MCIP, and Erica Tiffany RPP, MCIP) with staff support from Raymond Kan RPP, MCIP (Manager of Policy & Research).

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no new financial implications associated with this Q3 2025 Chair Update. The budget for the consultant-led strategic assessment work is within the funding envelope approved by the Board in 2023.

#### **CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS**

The RPP Regulation Subcommittee continues to provide strategic guidance in the conduct of the Professional Governance Research and Engagement Project, and a significant amount of work has been completed since the last quarterly report. The Subcommittee engaged members in a webinar in May and convened a session at the annual PIBC conference in June. In July, a consultant team was retained to undertake a strategic assessment of professional governance, and that strategic assessment work is now underway and will conclude in Q1 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Jensen RPP, MCIP  
Chair of RPP Regulation Subcommittee

#### **REFERENCES:**

Q1 2025 Chair Update

[https://www.pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal\\_pages\\_pdfs/resources/PLN/PPAC-RPP-Reg-SubCtee-PGA-Engage-Update-Report-DJ-Mar2025-Updated-2.pdf](https://www.pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal_pages_pdfs/resources/PLN/PPAC-RPP-Reg-SubCtee-PGA-Engage-Update-Report-DJ-Mar2025-Updated-2.pdf)

Q2 2025 Chair Update

[https://pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal\\_pages\\_pdfs/resources/PG/20250610\\_PIBC-Board-RPP-Regulation-Chair\\_Update-PDF.pdf](https://pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal_pages_pdfs/resources/PG/20250610_PIBC-Board-RPP-Regulation-Chair_Update-PDF.pdf)

Summer *Planning West* Article

[https://pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal\\_pages\\_pdfs/planning-west/PIBC-PG-Update-PW-Summer-2025.pdf](https://pibc.bc.ca/sites/default/files/internal_pages_pdfs/planning-west/PIBC-PG-Update-PW-Summer-2025.pdf)

Project Webpage:

<https://pibc.bc.ca/professionalgovernance>