

December 12, 2023

Honourable Ravi Kahlon
Minister of Housing
Province of British Columbia
Room 248 Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Kahlon:

RE: Planning Institute of British Columbia – Peer Learning Network Initiative (PLN)

On Behalf of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC), I am writing to express our thanks to the Province for providing \$500,000 in funding to support a new peer learning network (PLN) initiative for professional planners and others working in and with local governments, educational institutions, public agencies, and industry across the Province. With these funds you offer BC planners the opportunity to advance the necessary housing solutions for the public good and the communities they serve in these critical times. BC's planners play a critical role in developing effective policy and regulations and assisting in efficient implementation of the legislative changes impacting housing across the Province.

We recognize and understand capacity challenges of local government, particularly those in rural areas, and value the opportunity to create a PLN that will provide resources to improve the systems and supports for planners in local governments that will be required to meet a number of legislative deadlines.

To date we have:

- Created a Task Force to lead the process of designing the PLN;
- Initial engagement with a number of internal PIBC teams: the Board, the chapter chairs (regionally represent the members across the province), the Member Engagement Committee, and the Policy and Public Affairs Committee; and
- Commenced hiring for a staff position to support the development, operationalization, and implementation of the initiative.

We intend to direct resources toward:

- Member engagement and needs assessment with respect to implementing legislative changes;
- Information sharing with members and professionals in the Province;
- Network building among peers, colleagues, cohorts to help planners share information quickly and easily;
- Mentorship and training opportunities; and
- A web-based portal of resources (text and video) for planning professionals to access.

We plan to coordinate with partner organizations and agencies, including the Province, to maximize the use of existing resources and capacity. We would also like to invite the Ministry of

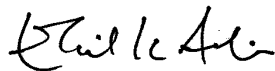
Housing and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to collaborate on the development and implementation of the PLN and a related workshop for the BC Land Summit conference in Nanaimo in May 2024.

We look forward to our annual meeting(s) with the Province on January 25, 2024. We see this as an opportunity to discuss our strategy for the PLN in general and, more specifically, on the development and implementation of the PLN and a workshop for the Land Summit in collaboration with the Province.

PIBC will support the Province in its initiatives to develop greater housing supply, diversity and affordability, and aims to be an effective partner. To support this partnership, in addition to the opportunities for collaboration identified above, we respectfully request that our Policy and Public Affairs Committee be offered a form of agreement, outlining PIBC's role as an advisory body to the Province on planning matters and legislation. We look forward to discussing this further in January.

Beyond implementation of the PLN, we endeavour to establish better integration amongst the Province and PIBC members to effectively support land use legislation and regulation now, and in the future. Planners are instrumental to the health and sustainability of communities in this Province. We are the front line for implementing a new vision for land use planning and housing in our communities and are poised to face today's challenges with courage and in partnership.

Thank you,



Emilie Adin RPP, MCIP,
President,
Planning Institute of British Columbia

CC:

Honourable Anne Kang (Minister of Municipal Affairs),
Lisa Helps (Special Advisor Housing Solutions, Office of the Premier),
Marijke Edmondson (Strategic Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs);
Jessica Brooks (Executive Director, Ministry of Housing),
Stephanie Billingham (Planning and Land Use Coordinator, Ministry of Housing),
PIBC Corporate Membership