

Journal

Who's Planning Our Future Anyway?

A Reflection on the 2010
APPI Conference



+ **APPI 2010
Awards**

+ **Planning for the Future
Project Update**

+ **Conference
Highlights**

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The *APPI Planning Journal* offers opportunity for publication of original works that are both community-based and research oriented, and relevant to Alberta, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Types of submissions include case studies, analysis of events and/or trends, profiles of notable planners, projects or programs, overviews of best practices and guidelines, book reviews or excerpts, and opinion pieces for our "Commentary" section.

The *APPI Planning Journal* Committee is anxious to hear your feedback. Please submit any comments you may have about this issue to appi.journal@gmail.com. Your comments, suggestions and feedback are critical for the *Journal's* continued improvement and for us to provide the best possible publication that meets the expectations of our readers.



Journal Submissions

We are always looking for articles for future issues of the *Planning Journal*. Below are some examples of topic areas you may be interested in submitting an article for:

- sustainability initiatives
- member accomplishments
- member research
- community development projects
- urban design
- student experiences
- innovative ideas
- successes

and any other areas that would be of value to the planning community.

2011 submission deadlines:

- March 15
- June 15

For more information, please contact the *APPI Planning Journal* Committee at appi.journal@gmail.com or 780-409-1763.

Acknowledgements

The *APPI Planning Journal* Committee would like to acknowledge and thank the APPI Administrative Staff, MaryJane Alanko and Vicki Hackl. Your continued assistance is greatly appreciated!

We would also like to thank all of the contributors to this *Journal*, including Dnyanesh Deshpande for the wonderful sketch he created during the conference and is featured on this issue's cover. Your willingness to share your knowledge is what makes the *Journal* great!

Special thanks goes to Marcelo Figueira who has served as a volunteer on the *Journal* Committee for the last two years. Your contribution has been exceptional and you will be missed!

Advertising Opportunity!

The *APPI Planning Journal* provides businesses the opportunity to advertise. The *Journal* offers advertisers:

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IN THIS ISSUE...

Message from the President

REPORTED BY Gary Buchanan

04

Message from the Journal Committee

REPORTED BY Janelle Wyman

05

APPI 2010 Awards

06

Elephants: Creating the conditions to flourish

SUBMITTED BY Beth Sanders

10

Wiki Notes

14

Open Space Discussions

16

An animated welcome to planning in Alberta

SUBMITTED BY Marcus Paterson

18

Evolving and enacting the planning domain

Should we divide and conquer or unite and triumph?

SUBMITTED BY Kyle Whitfield

19

15-in-5 Summary

21

Planning for the Future project update

SUBMITTED BY Karen Russell and Dave Crossley

22





Message from the President

In the last edition of the Journal, I urged all members to attend APPI's first annual conference in Lake Louise: *What if we are not planning to survive? And who is planning our future anyway?* I also wrote that we'd be using a different format than previous conferences. Well, 192 of you took me up on my challenge; a great response from our membership, not only in terms of attendance but also in your willingness to try something new and different.

Beth Sanders and her team put together sessions that promised to be informative, challenging, enlightening, and entertaining. The feedback I have received personally from attendees is that Beth and her team kept their promise. Although some people embraced the new approach and others are still on the fence or are looking for a bit of the old and the new, the conference did challenge attendees to reflect on the future of planning and the profession as a whole. A hearty 'well done' to the Design Team (Beth Sanders, Michelle Hartlaub, Njeri Mbajiorgu, Jeremy Schiff, Hani Quan, Dnyanesh Deshpande, Janelle Wyman, Rick Stuckenberg, Lindsey Graham, Marilyn Hamilton, Peter Lehner) for their great effort!

For those of you who were not able to attend the conference, you can still share in the experience. This edition of the Journal covers all aspects of the conference. Included in this edition are highlights from the 15-in-5 presentations, open space and world café events along with feedback from membership and lessons learned from the conference Design Team. As well, there is information on our recognition of the volunteers for their contributions to the Institute and the awards presented in honor of the very best work of our colleagues. If you attended the conference this edition of the Journal will be a reminder while for those who did not attend the Journal will show you what you missed.

Enjoy this repeat of *What if we are not planning to survive? And who is planning our future anyway?*, and plan to join your colleagues again in Red Deer in October 2011.

And don't forget to log in at www.cip-icu.ca to record your Learning Units!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Buchanan".

GARY BUCHANAN, RPP, MCIP

President

Alberta Professional Planners Institute

Message from the Journal Committee

"You won't like it unless you try it." Famous words from my mother whenever she was attempting to get my sister and I to try fabulous new vegetables like cooked parsnips, turnips or brussel sprouts. This was usually promptly followed by "You'll eat it and you'll like it!"; depending on how well the more encouraging approach was working. Although I didn't realize it at the time, these words have a much broader meaning and are actually applicable to the 2010 APPI Conference held in Lake Louise this past October.

This year the APPI did things differently. They allowed a team of "designers" to rethink how our annual conference is planned and how it could look and feel. Some may call the 2010 Conference an overwhelming success, others may call it a complete flop, but what we do know is that our association practiced what we as planners preach on a daily basis – trying something different and moving forward from the status quo.

Our conference committee, dubbed "The Design Team" which I was fortunate enough to be a part of, was comprised of public and private sector planners but it also included other professions, a first for APPI. The goal of the team was to present alternative ways of communicating, learning, reflecting and building relationships. We also wanted to start to engage the wide range of professions required to build sustainable communities and respond to the changing landscape and context in which we work. The team invested significant training time to learn different conversation techniques and had many lively debates over how different we should stray from the ordinary.

After much discussion the Design Team decided to jump in with both feet, and supported by Council, we went about creating a three-day event without key note speakers and pre-determined sessions, focused around the principle that the expertise that we need to grow and develop our practice will be found in the participants in the room and their wide range of experiences. Through techniques that planners often use in community processes, such as World Café (www.theworldcafe.com) and Open Space (www.openspaceworld.org),

attendees broached the questions Are we planning to survive? . . . and who is planning our future anyway? Both of these "wicked questions" get to the heart of challenges faced by our profession today: If we continue to plan the way we always have will we be able to address emerging issues such as climate change and social equity? Can we plan the future of communities on our own or do we need to broaden our perspective of planning and create partnerships with politicians, youth, engineers, economists, biologists and social scientists to name but a few?

These questions also represent the elephants in the room that we often don't want to discuss and that lead to more questions rather than easy answers. The elephant metaphor used throughout the conference emerged from these types of discussions but also from John Godfrey Saxe's poem about the Blind Men and the Elephant which reminds us that we often think we have it right without using in-depth inquiry (see our conference blog for a copy of the poem at www.spoken-herd.ca/blog_article.php?article_ID=5)

As Gary mentioned and Beth Sanders further defines in her article later in this issue, the new approach we used was both loved and unloved. Much was learned from the process and both our mistakes and successes will be built upon to create stronger and more diverse APPI events in the future.

This edition captures snapshots of all aspects of the conference, from the open space sessions created on-the-spot by participants, to the 15-in-5 evening event, to the contributions to our interactive conference wiki and our follow-up participant survey. We have also included a timely article on the CIP Planning for the Future project, a key initiative in shaping the next generation of our profession. We hope you enjoy this summary and would like to extend our thanks to the Design Team, the Sponsors and especially to all of the brave participants who at least agreed to see if they liked it by giving it a try!

Janelle Wyman
Chair



Janelle Wyman is a regular volunteer with the APPI and is the Chair of the Journal Committee. She works as a Senior Planner for planningAlliance and heads up the company's Edmonton Office. Email: jwyman@planningalliance.ca or appi.journal@gmail.com



APPI 2010 Awards

APPI Volunteer Recognition Awards

APPI is largely a volunteer run organization. The Volunteer Recognition Awards annually recognize and celebrate those members who have made a significant contribution to the Institute and the planning profession more generally. The objective of these awards is to recognize the achievements and contributions of APPI members to encourage volunteerism and further build awareness of planning within the region.

ERIK BACKSTROM RPP, MCIP

Erik served as the Chair of Nominating Committee from 2006–2010. He worked with the Professional Development Committee, publishing a Position Paper on Planning Education. Erik has worked tirelessly, compiling the history of the Institute. He also served on APPI Council and the Legislative Review Committee. Currently, Erik serves as an Active Examiner. Erik works at the City of Edmonton in the Planning & Development Department and spent many years on the Edmonton Events Committee.

FRANK LISZCZAK RPP, MCIP

Frank was APPI's first affiliate and National representative for the Continuous Professional Development Initiative. He has chaired committees and he is an Active Examiner, and was instrumental in organizing the first APPI conference in Banff. Frank runs his own company, Matrix Planning.

BILL SHAW RPP, FCIP

Bill has been involved with APPI for many years volunteering for many different committees of the organization, and chaired the Planning Awards Committee. His long time dedication is commendable and is an example to new and old members on what commitment to our organization is about and our responsibility as professional planners to our institutes (provincial and national). Bill was employed at Parkland Community Planning Services for many years and now operates BPS Consulting Ltd.

Council Service Awards

Council service awards recognize the significant time and effort contributed to the profession by outgoing APPI councillors. This year, four people received the Certificate in Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to the Association in the Advancement of the Professional Practice in Community Planning.

GERRY MELENKA RPP, MCIP

Gerry served on APPI Council from 2006–2010 during those two council terms, Gerry held a number of portfolios including Events, Communications & Marketing; and Awards & Recognition. Gerry also served as the APPI Treasurer for both terms.

CORY ARMFELT RPP, MCIP

Cory served on APPI Council from 2009–2010, holding the Operations portfolio. Within that portfolio, Cory was responsible for the Legislative Review Committee facilitating the adoption of the new APPI Bylaws and the new Professional Planners Regulation.

CATHY TAYLOR

Cathy served on APPI Council for 2009 as the APPI Student representative on Council. Cathy provided on-going liaison with students at both the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. Her efforts helped promote planning as a career choice and encouraged membership in our professional community.

KERSTEN NITSCHKE RPP, MCIP

Kersten served on APPI Council from 2008–2010. She held both the Events portfolio and the transition to the Communications and Marketing portfolio. She provided leadership in finishing the Communications and Marketing Plan for the new APPI name, logo and web site.

Student Awards

NATASHA KUZMAK

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

The Faculty of Environmental Design Silver Medallion in Memory of Danny Makale is awarded to the student with the best master degree project in the planning program. Natasha's research project was entitled "Barriers to Siting Shelters in Calgary."

NATHAN ROTH & MADELEINE BALDWIN

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

The Urban and Regional Studies Prize is awarded to the graduating students with the highest cumulative grade point average.

Awards of Merit

SPECIAL STUDY CATEGORY: Fort McMurray Fringe Area Development Assessment

Armin A. Preiksaitis & Associates Ltd., Associated Engineering Alberta Ltd., Thurber Engineering Ltd., Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Beth Sanders, Jagdev Shahi, Herb Kuehne, Don Proudfoot, Gregory MacKenzie

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo initiated a study in 2006 to assess six urban expansion areas around Fort McMurray to respond to the rapid population growth in the region. Goals were to identify areas suitable for future expansion and to establish a logical sequence for development. Seven evaluation criteria were used to compare four development scenarios: off-site transportation costs; off-site servicing costs; ease of implementation; environmental constraints; access to community services; balanced community, and; contiguous development. The criteria and method can be adapted by other communities conducting similar analyses.



University of Lethbridge students Nathan Roth and Madeleine Baldwin were awarded the Urban and Regional Studies Prize.

View of the Fort McMurray Planning Area



SPECIAL STUDY CATEGORY:

Red Deer County Open Space Master Plan

Dillon Consulting Limited, University of Calgary, EVDS Urban Lab, Red Deer County, Jamal Ramjohn, Natalie Seniuk, Dr. Bev Sandalack, Francisco Alaniz Uribe

This project applied a comprehensive approach to develop a multi-phase open space plan for Red Deer County. This work consisted of a physical inventory of all County-owned open spaces, consultation with residents, documentation of cultural landscapes, and assessment of issues and opportunities.

Various project zones were identified for more detailed study, and comprehensive plans for specific inter-related projects and paths were developed.

This project involved developing a comprehensive database for the County, designing a working typology of open spaces, creating various graphic tools for illustrating the project area, and identifying appropriate policies and implementation strategies.

SPECIAL STUDY CATEGORY:

Secondary Suites Grant Program

The City of Calgary, Abi Bond, Justin Rebello, Judy Lupton, Paul Cochrane, Brad Lorn

The City of Calgary's Secondary Suite Grant Program offers a grant of up to \$25,000 to cover up to 70% of the costs of developing or upgrading a legal secondary suite. It was launched in April 2009 and will run until December 2012. The program is linked with supportive changes to the Land Use Bylaw and public education and consultation. As of October, 116 applications were received, 60 were on-going, and 13 secondary suites were completed.

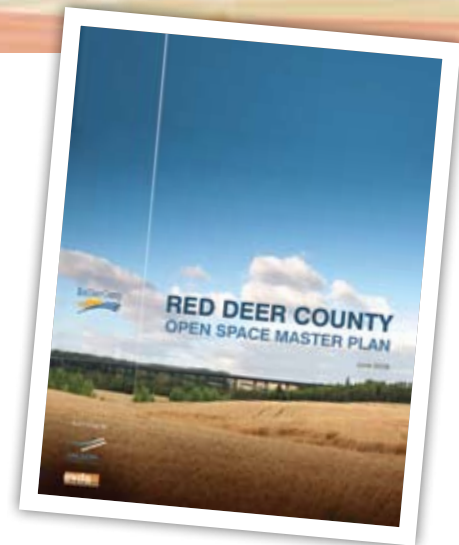
SPECIAL STUDY CATEGORY:

City of Edmonton Secondary Suite Program

The City of Edmonton, Planning & Development Department, Peter Ohm, Graham Beck, Beatrice McMillan, Scott Pragnell, Hal Wright, Jay Freeman, Kelly Dell

The City of Edmonton's secondary suite program combines Land Use Bylaw (LUB) changes with a secondary suite grant program. Prior to starting this program, secondary suites were limited to certain locations and considered a discretionary use.

Amendments to the LUB were introduced in two phases and included a monitoring period prior to Phase II. The largest impacts occurred as a result of the removal of location restrictions on suites. The first year after this occurred, approvals of secondary suites increased by more than two-and-a-half times over the previous year. It is anticipated that by the end of 2010, there will have been approximately 420 approved Secondary, Garage and Garden Suites and 225 approved grants.



Examples of Secondary Suites in Calgary and Edmonton



COMPREHENSIVE AND POLICY PLAN

CATEGORY: Residential Infill Guidelines

The City of Edmonton, Fletcher and Company, VIA Architecture, Peter Ohm, Greg Barker, Paula Ainsley, Oswald Ferreira, Lisa Larson, Dale Lewis, Tom Fletcher, Graham McGarva, Richard Borbridge, Matthew Roddis

The City of Edmonton has 107 mature neighbourhoods which reached full build out prior to 1970. All have since experienced some degree of redevelopment but until recently there was little official policy to guide where infill should happen and how it should be designed. As a result, residential infill has often been ad hoc and incompatible with existing housing. Common issues include scale, orientation away from the street, and architectural quality. The residential infill guidelines were developed to respond to these issues. One of the primary objectives of the guidelines is to facilitate the development of more housing in mature neighbourhoods, in accordance with the City's goal of achieving more compact, sustainable forms of growth. The guidelines direct the location, site and building design of all forms of infill, from secondary suites to high rise apartment buildings. They were prepared in close consultation with residents of mature communities and the development industry.

DESIGN PLAN CATEGORY: Bridgeland-Riverside Vacant Lots Garden

The City of Calgary, Parks Department, Community Gardner, Adopt-A Park, Mike Ricketts, Marci Skimulet

The Bridgeland-Riverside Vacant Lots Garden was one of the gardens cultivated under the Vacant Lots Garden Club. The purpose of the club was to allow poor families to grow vegetables while at the same time improving the appearance of the City by ridding vacant lots of weeds and garbage. Formed in 1914, the club cultivated 3229 lots at its peak in WWII before dissolving in 1953. The Bridgeland-Riverside Vacant Lot Garden, recognized as a Municipal Heritage Resource by Calgary City Council, is the last known remaining Vacant Lot Garden. The management guide was created to ensure the garden's qualities are maintained and conserved as a historic, but working, community garden.

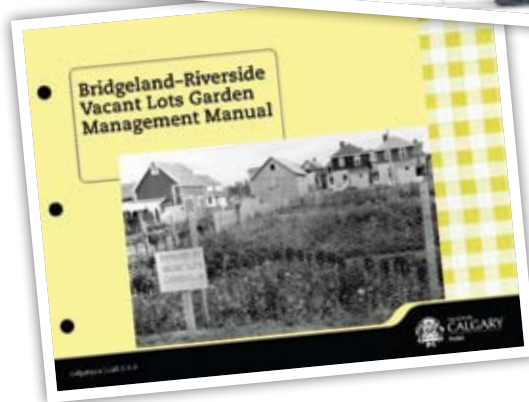
DESIGN PLAN CATEGORY: Westbrook Village Transit Oriented Development

Brown & Associates Planning Group, IBI Group (Vancouver), The City of Calgary

Westbrook Village is the first fully approved land use plan for Transit Oriented Development in Calgary. The Westbrook Village Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) covers a 55-acre area and provides a vision and guiding principles for a vibrant mix of live, work, play and shop opportunities in a high density mix-used pedestrian friendly environment. The ARP policies detail urban design concepts for reintroducing a grid system and providing a transit plaza, a large central park, a hierarchy of complete streets, and a schedule of land use and building design guidelines for each block in the area. The ARP includes a set of seven direct control districts that define land uses to support transit use and an active pedestrian street. The ARP provides flexibility but could accommodate up to 3,000 million square feet of commercial space and 4,000 residential uses.



Graphic representation of the Westbrook Village TOD concept



A few of the many P&D staff who worked on the successful projects, outside Council Chambers in Edmonton's City Hall. Mayor Stephen Mandel recognized the City of Edmonton Planning and Development department in Council November 9th for winning 2 recent APPI awards for Residential Infill Guidelines and the Secondary Suites program. Photo credit: Natalie Cormier

From L to R: Brian Kropf (representing APPI), with City staff Graham Beck, Beatrice McMillan, Scott Pragnell, Lisa Larson, Paula Ainsley, Jay Freeman, Hal Wright, and Peter Ohm.

ELEPHANT 2:

Our work is open, dynamic and interconnected

... our mental model of how the world works must shift from images of a clockwork, machinelike universe that is fixed and determined, to the model of a universe that is open, dynamic, interconnected, and full of living qualities... Once we see this fundamental open quality of the universe, it immediately opens us up to the potential for change; we see that the future is not fixed, and we shift from resignation to a sense of possibility. We are creating the future every moment.²

ELEPHANT 3:

Linear learning serves the past, not the future

Our mental model of learning should match the open dynamic character of the world in which we work. At a conventional conference, we passively move along from one session to the next expecting to pop out the other end better practitioners, complete with a list of sessions attended to justify the expense, whether or not we know and understand anything differently. Problems are identified clearly and solutions are standardized. What we learn — and how to apply it — is predetermined.

This as a mechanical and industrial, mode of learning³ that is linear; it keeps what we know separate, isolated and clear. This assembly line mode of learning used to be appropriate, but in our evolving world we need opportunities to integrate what we know.

ELEPHANT 4:

Learning is an open and dynamic experience

Learning is an open and dynamic process that sees new possibilities and reaches for them. In this mode of learning we explore our talents and passions.⁴ This feels messy, but from this comes the diversity our community of planners needs, as well as the communities we serve. What we learn — and how we will apply it — is determined in response to the needs of the learner and his/her context.

To be successful in our learning and performance, planners know this:⁵

- Find your passion and spend your time there
- Be self aware

- Be open to any communication
- Be comfortable with being uncomfortable
- Seek to understand

This learning model naturally leads to shared experiences and understanding—a key determinant of success for any community (whether our profession or a community we serve).

ELEPHANT 5: We need a place to practice (and learn) unusual behaviour

Planners have noticed that when we behave in unusual ways, our best work emerges⁶. Our unusual behaviour takes place when we embrace our work as an open and dynamic experience:

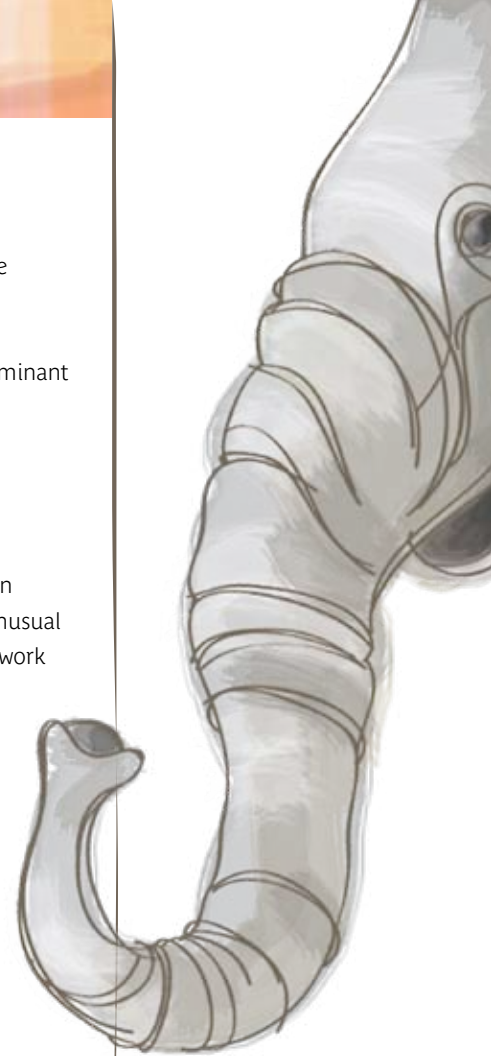
- We look for opportunities
- We are interested in others
- We are open to change
- We care about others
- We are adaptable
- We are self aware in the moment
- We experience joy
- We motivate and understand others
- We are able to both lead and be lead
- We notice what is going on for others
- We are open to learning from mistakes
- We are aware of what is going on around us
- We have a sense of purpose or direction
- We are curious about what makes a place work
- We have support to do difficult things
- We are self aware of, and learning from, strengths and weaknesses
- We are honest about when the answers are not known

ELEPHANT 6:

Learning is maximized if customized

In a linear learning environment, we put others in charge of what we learn, of what we think, and of determining our next steps. We are likely not conscious of what we are learning, let alone what we would like or need to learn. We are passive. Our choice in this mode: which expert will tell us best what we need to know. This is our usual behaviour.

In an open and dynamic learning environment, we take charge of what we learn, we put ourselves in charge of what we think about something, and we put ourselves in charge of telling us what our next



2 Joseph Jaworski, *Synchronicity*, Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., San Francisco CA, 1998, p. 183

3 Sir Ken Robinson, and Sir Ken Robinson: *Bring on the Learning Revolution* http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9LeIXa3U_I and Sir Ken Robinson, *The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything*, Penguin Paperbacks (2009)

4 Ibid

5 Beth Sanders, "Are Planners Suffering from Akrasia?", AACIP Planning Journal 2009

6 Ibid



steps are. The challenges we face as communities and individuals are not standardized; what and how we learn should not be either.

ELEPHANT 7:

It is time to sort out what it all means

Every day we drink data through the fire hose, and there are very limited opportunities for our communities (and planners) to ascertain what we actually know and what it means. Of anyone, this seems like a conversation for planners to host — but we won't reach that understanding if we gather the same way we have always gathered. We have to learn to gather in new ways to gain new insight.

ELEPHANT 8:

Warning: learning is exhilarating and risky

I often forget that risk and fear can override the thrill of learning something new. Trying something new makes me feel inadequate and gross. I feel vulnerable because others are watching. Each time there is a choice to make: try something new or coast with the status quo. Sometimes status quo is right. If uncomfortable enough with the status quo I find the courage to take the risk.

ELEPHANT 9:

Risk makes us look for the silver bullet

It would just be easier if someone told me what to do and how to do it! This is the trap of the silver bullet that we face when considering responsibility for our own learning.

ELEPHANT 10:

Offer support rather than rescue

I have a silver bullet urge to avoid being uncomfortable, or causing others to be uncomfortable. But I recognize that if I/we avoid feeling uncomfortable, I/we avoid learning and growing. It means that I have to ask for support and I have to ask how to offer support.

ELEPHANT 11:

It takes time to take responsibility

I have to consciously take the time to jump out of the routine to make meaning of the work I am doing. As individuals, many of us do this by going to the gym, reading a book, riding a horse, going for a walk. But we also need opportunities to discern as a profession what we wish to accomplish together — consciously.

ELEPHANT 12:

We know more than we think we do

The ability to perceive or think differently is more important than the knowledge gained. David Bohm
I believe we have much knowledge and skill to offer the communities we serve. I believe that when we fall into the silver bullet trap of linear learning, we ignore — and more damaging yet, we discount — what we have within the people of our profession. We sabotage ourselves. Our true challenge is not to find the next best thing “out there” but to integrate the knowledge and skills at our disposal. Moreover, we have to believe in ourselves before others will believe in us.

ELEPHANT 13: The conventional conference is both loved and unloved

We have more information available to us than ever before in very timely and responsive means: web sites, blogs, webinars, social media, etc. In addition, the number of speakers series, conferences, symposia seems to be at an all time high in our communities. All of which makes the conventional conference — to hear from the best thinkers and speakers about the best things and practices — redundant. What are left are the connections and networks to be made face-to-face.

Some participants wish wholeheartedly to keep the linear learning structure. They value dedicated time to hear the latest and desire the structure. Others desire an open and dynamic learning space that pulls what we know out of us. Both of these approaches have a time and place.

In the end, I am left curious about how to best create learning opportunities with these two diverse needs in mind. What is the balance? What do you need to flourish? What do we need as a profession? I welcome your ideas.

What will we do with these elephants?

As a professional institute we are obligated to continuously improve our professional learning. This conference experience highlights that our learning takes place both in terms of content and process. A few lessons from this experience to shape our next conference and the future of our profession as a whole:

- There are a variety of learning styles among conference participants and this is connected to our conference structure. Too much structure and learning stops. Too little structure and learning stops. The challenge: the balance between too much and too little structure varies from person to person. The conference somehow needs to respond to more than one kind of learning style.
- We wish to hear from the experts among us and the experts from outside.
- When offering new formats for conversation, much like we do with the communities with which we work, we really have to improve communication to do this well.
- Outsiders have a role in helping us see ourselves better. They can see and name our limiting beliefs. We have to give them a chance to get to know us before they can do this for us, though, which means that we have to get to know ourselves. It seems that this started in October 2010 when our outsiders could see that we didn't believe in ourselves. They helped us articulate the value we offer. We'll have to keep working at believing we are credible before others will believe we are credible.

Most conversations that begin at a conventional conference cease at the conference's conclusion, like a plan put on a shelf (a linear learning phenomenon). Our conferences meet the same fate. What if we started things and moved them forward from our conferences – initiatives, plans, papers, propositions, advocacy positions? This may feel like a big (open and dynamic) mess to handle, but just as planning takes place in a community, it should be messy for us as well. We will discern what efforts will be the right thing to move forward — and conferences can play a role in this. What we offer is up to us.

From here, you can continue to explore the elephants with your self, with your colleagues and communities or on the conference wiki. Anyone interested in working on upcoming conferences and/or other learning opportunities are welcome to get in touch with the APPI office.

Let's continue the conversations needed to strengthen our profession. ■

NOTES

For proceedings, as captured by participants during the conference, please go to picasaweb.google.com/albertaplanners

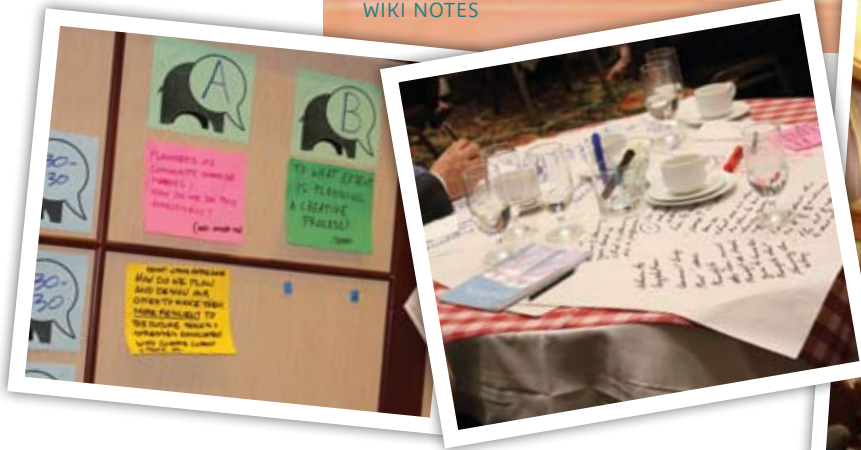
Participants also generated proceedings digitally in a wiki. If you would like to see their work, or continue or start a conversation, you will find the wiki at spoken-herd.ca/gathering_area.php. If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact admin@albertaplanners.com

Anyone interested in working on the 2011 conference should get in touch with APPI at 780-435-8716, toll free at 888-286-8716, or by email at admin@albertaplanners.com

Beth Sanders RPP MCIP served as the 2010 APPI Conference Chair. In 2010 she was elected president elect of APPI; her two year term as president will begin April 29, 2011. Beth can be reached at beth@populus.ca or 780-886-0354.

About the Author





Wiki Notes

APPI and Other Professional Organizations

- How can APPI help planners bring the proper expertise to the table?
- Can APPI partner with / leverage existing partnerships with other organizations to create synergies or undertake joint lobbying efforts?
- Can APPI act as a hub towards furthering education for planners / gaining access to expertise provided by other organizations?

Shared Responsibility

An idea—leave a note for yourself to open at the next conference. What are you going to...

- do for yourself (name 1 thing)?
- do for the association?
- do before the next conference?

Keeping Discussion Going

Maybe the new conference is about doing what we can't do — meet with each other and reflect. The luxury of stopping and reflecting together. How do we keep creating this space?

Transit-Oriented Development

TOD is a valuable tool to the densification of Urban Planning, but it is not a Silver Bullet. Several criteria must be in place or created in order to facilitate TOD. We could summarize our discussion in this statement: "We need to plan Transit for densification, but most importantly we need to learn how to manage TOD into the context of urban planning."

Questions Emerging on Social Media

- How do we reconcile geographic and non-geographic communities?
- How much is online discussion censored?
- How can municipalities use social media?
- How can government adjust to meet the demands of social media?
- How is digital media changing timelines and priorities?

What We Need To Do

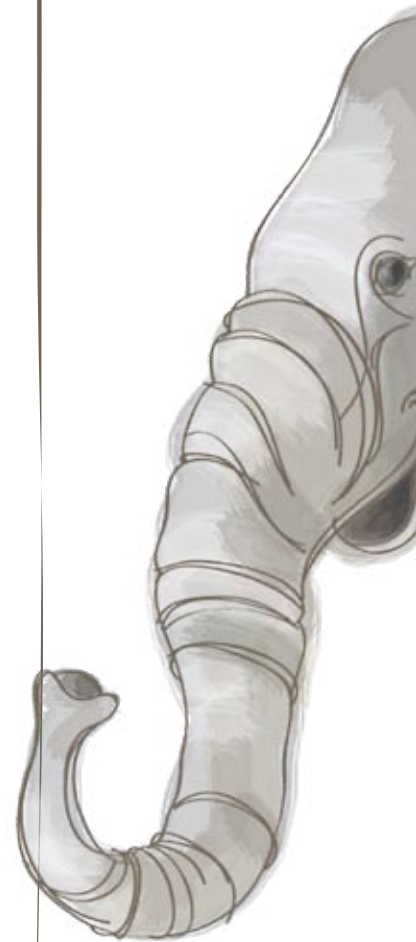
- Be an alliance with ourselves.
- Be a source of compelling change within APPI.
- Be a source of change to communities.
- Build alliances with other associations.
- Be the change

Choices

- Maintain the caribou herd vs. more development.
- Car vs. public transport.
- Free vs. fettered decision-making.
- Indifference vs. accountability.
- Individual freedom vs. survival of species (human and others).
- Money measures of success vs. full quality of life.

Examples of 'Wicked Questions'

- What does sustainability mean in a rural context?
- To what extent is planning a creative process?
- If you had 2.1 kids and a dog, what type of house would you choose to live in? Could you afford to live in a big enough high rise condo?
- What is the role of scientists in planning?
- How do we plan for conflicting interests?
- How can we promote better urban design in "extreme" suburban context? Is it really worth it?
- How do we address 10,000 work camps and associated recreation needs?
- How do we plan for the social integration of marginalized populations in our communities?
- Affordable housing. How? Why? What? Who? Where?
- How do we more actively engage the public in the planning process?
- What is the business case for long term planning?
- Are planners educators?
- How relevant is regional planning?





Open Space Discussions

What topics are indispensable to the planning degree of 2013?

- Research methods
- Ecology theory
- Citizen engagement
- Accounting/ costing
- Team building theory and practice
- Co-op experience to instill theory to practice
- Social issue and identity
- Local governance model and structure
- Planning theory

What are the criteria for a perfect neighborhood?

- Biodiversity (invertebrates, vertebrates, habitat)
- Public transit and density to support—diversity of transportation modes
- Diverse/ functional habitats — connected, contiguous, mixed efficient uses, native/built
- Multifunctional spaces for season and function — gathering space to build community identity
- Connectivity of human and natural habitats and communities
- Living neighborhood with diverse activity — work, play and live
- Safe and secure neighborhood
- Distributed sustainable energy system — water and waste

What does sustainability mean in rural context?

- Need a better land classification system to define prime/nonprime farm area to ensure food sustainability
- Country residential does not pay for itself, what about social and ecological suitability



Road blocks to sustainable communities. Why is it so hard to make the shift?



- What motivates our politicians? Why no buy-in?
 - Need to have a clear definition of sustainability and the measure of "success"
- Lack of community understanding
 - Bringing new voices to the process, e.g. use of social media
- Special interest group "Fears" (institutional inertia)
 - need to provide a lot of small successful examples and demonstration projects
- Departmental silos are risk averse
 - Case studies and pilot project to demonstrate successful cases
- Political accountability (set policy but lack of implementation)
 - implement sustainable project in small scale first
 - good reporting of success
- No standard definition for sustainability amongst professions
 - need for common language amongst departments and professions
 - common definition and direction
- Lots of vision but often little implementation
 - small steps, small success, site by site, ongoing evaluation and progress monitoring
- Some consultants are trying to educate and lead their clients
 - educate and provide assistance to progressive consultant
- Planner do not tell the story well
 - Need to establish some threat/fear
 - Engage communication specialists
- Few incentives to do the right thing
 - incentive programs to induce desired behavior, either voluntary or mandatory compliance
- Mass production of new communities (A business machine)
 - Assist to find a new business model to replace the old one
 - Reinforce non-suburban infill development
 - Better definition of success in creating sustainability

Participant Feedback

"The ability to integrate, deliberate and meet planners that are as passionate about their profession as I am. No other APPI conference has given such an opportunity for deliberate interaction!"

"... I would like to see a balance between old and new. Some world cafe and some lecturers."

"... I think it was a very well planned out/executed program."

"...the mood felt like the "enlightened" ones got it and those who really mattered were in the room and the rest were inconsequential. I felt it was bit divisive as opposed to professional network building. The process really works for some and really isolated others so can we not work together to get a balance of approaches for the diverse group we find ourselves a part of? "

"More structure. I get the idea of the conference but I was disappointed that there weren't any structured activities, such as a keynote speaker. I don't think the conference had to be entirely an "unconference". "

"This year's program worked for me. I was comfortable, confident and conscious about the planning issues that matter to me, and for the first time, I felt like I BELONGED!"

"There shouldn't have been such a radical change in formatting and programming. It sideswiped the attendees."

An animated welcome to planning in Alberta

As a recent planning graduate returning to Alberta, October's APPI 2010 conference in Lake Louise proved a worthwhile and timely event to attend. While chatting and spending time with other Municipal Affairs planning interns, we frequently noted the networking opportunities that existed and how the innovative structure of the conference allowed for a great deal of interaction and dialogue between planners from all realms.

The non-traditional conference format generated considerable debate, raised questions, and generally engaged those in attendance. While the undercurrent of frustration with the lack of conference structure could be heard at times, the benefit of open dialogue and access to planners with decades of experience discussing their thoughts and stories was welcomed by those new to the profession. As easy as it was to criticize the non-traditional approach, I spoke with a number of experienced planners that were engaged in the

process and enjoyed the new format. Similar to being in a more academic setting, the conference provided a venue to toss around ideas without constraints and push some ideas further than you might have otherwise done back at the office.


With the conference being such a dramatic departure from the norm, challenges were inevitable. The inclusion of a key note speaker or a more easily defined theme often came up in discussion as subtle ways to improve the process. Other points of conversation suggested looking at how the information and thoughts generated during the conference could be packaged more effectively to be used by individuals in their own municipalities.

Time spent with other planners highlighted the staggering diversity of work done in the province that falls under the planning umbrella and the close-knit nature of the profession. Planning has always presented itself as a profession that encourages mentorship, openness, and approachability. All of these traits were found at this year's APPI conference which highlighted the continued need for an exchange of information from senior planners to more junior entrants into the field. The conference showed the quiet way planners often go about their work, easily sharing ideas and exchanging information around the table. Perhaps the most beneficial component for me was the chance to see planners from both the private and public sectors work together to challenge and develop some of the questions put forth throughout the conference. Based on my Lake Louise introduction, I look forward to future APPI conferences and similar opportunities to welcome and engage the next generation of planners into the fold. ■

Marcus Paterson is a recent graduate from Dalhousie University, a Regional Planning Intern with the Calgary Regional Partnership, and member of the APPI Journal Committee. He can be reached at marcus@calgaryregion.ca.

About the Author





Evolving and enacting the planning domain:

Should we divide and conquer or unite and triumph?

Strange but true, elephants were central to the APPI 2010 annual conference. One of the 'elephants in the room' that a group of us discussed is the divide between academic planners and planning practitioners. After one 15-in-5 presentation and our group consultation, I discovered that this particular divide was certainly not the only elephant in the room — in fact, there are other divides within the planning domain in Alberta, apparently.

For example, there seems to be some division and maybe even some contention, albeit slight, between: development officers and registered planners, between junior planners and senior planners, between planners and council members and between planners and citizens. It's clear that hierarchy based on status, knowledge and maybe even power is alive and well in the planning world here in this province. The first step toward change, it has been said, is to first name the elephant.

NAMING THE ELEPHANT

My first experience even noticing this elephant—this supposed divide between academic planners and planning practitioners — occurred when I was

reading the 2010 Summer edition of Plan Canada. In the section "Letters to the Editor" (p. 12), a planner wrote that "... CIP [Canadian Institute of Planners] is primarily a profession of practitioners...[and] we [are not] primarily a planning research organization... [and that Plan Canada's' focus] should be on planning practice, with research...having a lesser role". I heard this same sentiment again when a planner friend of mine told me that they believed that most faculty members in schools of planning refuse to get their accredited planner status because they see this as being beneath them.

If it was true that maybe a hard-hearted division existed between these two groups, I wondered about the source of the issue(s). Turning to the

REFERENCES

- Myers, D. and Banerjee, T. (2005) *Toward Greater Heights for Planning: Reconciling the Differences between Profession, Practice, and Academic Field*. Journal of the American Planning Association, 71(2).
- Canadian Institute of Planners (2010) Plan Canada. 50(2), Ottawa: Ontario.
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academic literature, as academics often do, and to the planning literature, in particular, I found Myers and Banerjee (2005) confirming this to be true in their article *Toward great heights for planning: Reconciling the differences between profession, practice, and academic field*. In this article, they differentiate the role of these two types of planners.

For practitioners, ones practice often defines their profession and for academics, it is often ones field, which they describe as being "eclectic, integrative, and inclusive of different disciplinary traditions and often closely related to practice and profession" (2005, p. 125).

In still wondering what might be at the heart of this division and maybe even contention between academic planners and planning practitioners, I wondered if research and our sometimes different skills, knowledge and role as researchers was part of the underlying issue(s). If this was true, I was maybe going to have to rethink my belief about the relationship between research and planning. To me, they are interdependent, research informs planning and planning also informs research.



Research offers evidence of need. It can offer deep insights versus those that may be superficial. Research also offers another piece of information that can help to facilitate the best possible decision. In turn, planning informs research by providing context and information about real needs and available assets and existing limits.

"There is an elephant in the room", she said aloud.

I now felt compelled to write the editor of Plan Canada myself, in defense of the role of research in the field of planning and to suggest that although there may be a divide between academic planners and planning practitioners, whatever the essence of that separation, those of us that make up the planning field, in Canada, need to find ways to work together. Part of my letter to the editor of Plan Canada, stated that "...to separate us as planner types [e.g. planning practitioners and academic planners] may only act as a detriment if full and exhaustive exchange of views..is our goal. We have so much to

learn from one another" (Whitfield, K.Y., 2010).

The planning field, which Myers and Banerjee (2005) remind us is relatively small and young, is made up of a mix of those with backgrounds in geography, economics, architecture, engineering, community development, design, and other professions. And as an academic planner, it is my sense that we have to find the commonalities that bind us and we need to find avenues to mutually support those things that are not only common amongst and between us but also those things that are different, such as skills, knowledge, purpose, and interest for the application of planning. Academic planners and planning practitioners both touch on... want to explore solutions to... want to find best practices for... do research about... talk to people about... and want to improve such important issues relevant to:

- urban planning
- rural communities
- accessible housing
- public transportation
- smart growth
- aging successfully
- human settlements
- efficient use of land

To conclude, Myers and Banerjee (2005) propose, that together we: expand and strengthen the planning domain; align our interests; develop a more strategic vision of the field of planning, and redesign planning for the future. Since we have some similar and also differing skills and areas of expertise, that future ought to be one where we can work together to complement one another; if not now, when will we evolve and enact the planning domain by uniting and triumphing rather than dividing and conquering? ■

Kyle Whitfield is both a registered professional planner and an academic planner. Kyle has a PhD from the School of Planning at the University of Waterloo and a MSc. in Rural Extension Studies, from the University of Guelph. Kyle is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta. As part of her research, teaching and service responsibilities, she is the Academic Advisor to the Applied Land Use Planning Program. At the core of her research, teaching and community work are the following areas of expertise: community planning processes, citizenship, health services, community development; social and health impact assessment and ideas relevant to inclusion and exclusion. Examining individual, neighborhood, community, organizational/ inter-organizational and policy levels is the application in which such areas of scholarship are explored.

About the Author

15-in-5 Summary

On the second night of the conference, delegates attended “15 in 5” presentations, modeled after PechaKucha nights used throughout the world. This presentation format makes presentations concise and moves at a rapid pace, in this case allowing fifteen slides to be presented in five minutes!

Kate G van Fraassen, *University of Calgary, Faculty of Environmental Design*, discussed citizen participation in the development of sustainable community planning in Alberta. Key points included:

- Exploration of citizen participation and how we know it is something we need to do
- The link between participation, sustainability, and community planning

Ian MacLachlan, *Coordinator of Urban and Regional Studies from the University of Lethbridge*, discussed immigration and social planning challenges facing smaller communities in Alberta. Key points included:

- The rising number and share of the foreign-born population in Canada, focused traditionally in large, urban centers in the country
- Rising immigration trends in Alberta

Kyle Whitfield, *Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta*, discussed how professional planners and planning academics can more effectively work together. Key points included:

- The observed divide between professional planners and planning academics
- The changing world of planning continues to see both sides evolve and adapt their respective roles, often blurring boundaries

Dnyanesh Deshpande, *Principal Urban Designer at the City of Edmonton*, presented an urban design audit of Edmonton. Key Points Included:

- Explanation of some of the urban design related policies, frameworks, initiatives and actions currently in play in Edmonton
- Visual examples highlighting the impact a concentration of good architecture in an urban setting can have on a community
- Elaborating on some of the challenges facing Edmonton, such as limited walkable streets, the scattered nature of architecture in the city, and the existing image Edmonton has of itself
- The need to create context and strong identity in city centers before allowing outward growth

Craig Applegath, *Principal in Cohos Evamy's Toronto studio*, discussed resilient cities and seven strategies to build resilience. Key points included:

The 7 Strategies to build Resilience

1. Reduce energy input requirements
2. Increase self-sufficiency
3. Increase redundancy
4. Increase durability
5. Integrate with environment
6. Increase diversity
7. Increase capacity for innovation



Planning for the Future project update

Upgrading membership standards — what it means to become a Professional Planner in Canada

This is modified from an article originally written for Planning West magazine, the quarterly magazine of the Planning Institute of British Columbia (Volume 52, No. 4, December 2010), and is reprinted here with permission.

The following article, graciously provided by our PIBC colleagues, summarizes the Planning for the Future Project (PFF) which I have had the honour of co-chairing from the outset alongside Ron Keeble with OPPI. PIBC sharing their article with us in fact reflects the collaborative spirit that has characterized the PFF and has allowed CIP and all seven affiliates to arrive at this watershed in our development as a profession. As the article conveys, the PFF has been a significant undertaking and is the result of a great many professional planners from across Canada contributing their thoughts, expertise and knowledge to the advancement of our membership standards and processes. I am especially proud to report that APPI members figured largely and have made significant contributions to the PFF. Please take the time to read this article as it represents one aspect of Who is Planning our Future Anyway?.

Greg Hofmann, RPP MCIP
PFF Co-Chair and APPI Registration Committee
Chairman

The Planning for the Future Project is a project that recommends changes to the membership certification process in a very fundamental way — and one that could shape the future of the profession for years to come. This article provides a current update on this important project.

What is a professional planner? Who decides and how? What does it take to become one? These are some of the questions that the CIP led Planning for the Future Project team members have been wrestling with for the past few years. This substantial project reaches to the core of what planners do — and seeks to ensure that excellence in planning for the public good is achieved in a responsible, competent, and ethical way.

As this important project nears completion, we thought it would be timely to update members on the status of the Planning for the Future Project, and what to expect in the next few months. This includes upcoming membership votes on bylaw amendments at both the national (CIP) and provincial/regional (Affiliate) levels, followed by a transition period to implement and assess the new membership standards and processes.

These proposals for far-reaching changes to the standards and membership processes of the planning profession in Canada are nearly finalized, and will be enabled by key bylaw amendments that will be up for member consideration and adoption in the spring of 2011. The proposed changes will address how planning education is structured and recognized, identify standards of practice and ethics for professional planners, and establish new standards, processes and administrative structures for how the Institute certifies individuals as professional Members.

These important changes will be amongst the most fundamental changes to affect membership and professional standards in the history of the Canadian planning profession. It signals that the profession is responding to the changing demands and high quality standards that are expected of the profession in the 21st century.

WHAT IS THE PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE PROJECT?

In 2006, our national association — the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) — began a major project to re-examine, update, renew, and improve professional membership standards and processes in Canada. The project was initially called the Membership Continuous Improvement Project (MCIP) and later renamed the Planning for the Future (PFF) project. CIP's National Membership Standards Committee (NMSC) — formerly the National-Affiliate Membership Committee (NAMC) — has led the project, aided by a consultant, and with the assistance and input of many volunteer members from across Canada.

WHY WAS THIS PROJECT UNDERTAKEN?

At the commencement of the PFF project, it was strongly believed that, as a profession, planning needed to address contemporary trends and expectations with respect to professional standards and processes. The project was also responding to the fact that many of the Institute's membership certification standards and processes had not been substantially revised in many years. These contemporary trends and expectations are represented by a variety of factors, including

greater awareness and concern about the public interest, greater expectations of accountability, trends and precedents in other professions, labour mobility both within Canada and across international boundaries, and new, emerging skill and competency expectations within planning theory and practice.

Essentially, the project was to answer some of the following key questions:

- What basic knowledge, skills and abilities should a professional planner be expected to have in Canada today?
- What basic ethical and professional standards should the planning profession have and how should they be upheld?
- What requirements and steps should the Institute adopt to certify a practitioner as a professional planner and Member?
- What requirements and steps should the Institute adopt to accredit a university degree program as a professional planning program in Canada?
- What other membership issues, policies, and processes should be updated in the current context of the planning profession?

HOW HAS THE PROJECT UNFOLDED?

It was recognized very early that given the scale of issues and potential changes, that a comprehensive and integrated approach which looked at the majority of the issues, standards, policies and processes within one large project was preferred over a segmented approach over time. In 2006, the external consultant — Jim Pealow of Association Management Consulting & Evaluation Services (AMCES) — was hired by CIP and began the process of shepherding the project forward by working with the NMSC (formerly the NAMC) and other stakeholders.

The first step was the development and publication of the first major report and discussion paper — *New Horizons for the Profession* — issued in May 2006. This report, drafted by the consultant, synthesized some of the initial consultation, identified the many issues and elements for consideration, and outlined a framework for the project to move forward. At the time, the first key issues identified for review included:

- **Competency Standards:** The high-level skills, knowledge, and abilities that a professional planner should hold.
- **Ethical Standards:** The professional standards of conduct and practice a professional planner should abide by.
- **Certification Standards:** The criteria and processes established and applied to administer how an individual becomes a professional planner and Full Member of the Institute.
- **Accreditation Standards:** The minimum requirements and core knowledge that a professionally accredited university planning degree program must provide.

Other related issues that were identified to be addressed as the project moved forward included: examining the Fellows membership category, examining reciprocity for non-resident planners or applicants, the impact of provincial legislation, and implementation issues.

Following the New Horizons report, and related consultation and feedback, a series of five different Task Forces made up of Members representing each of the affiliates from across the country was established. Task Force reports were prepared under the guidance of the NMSC (NAMC) and rolled out over the subsequent three years to tackle the key issue areas, and develop specific proposals for change.

WHAT HAS BEEN AFFILIATES' PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK?

From the beginning of the project, a number of leading members from provincial/regional Affiliates participated in each of the five Task Forces, contributing to the formative work that led to the recommended changes. Members across Canada, from all Affiliates, also contributed comments directly to the project — particularly by identifying core competencies to assist the work of the Competency Task Force in its early research.

Affiliate Councils have also been actively monitoring the ongoing progress of the project, and providing direct input and feedback to the NMSC (NAMC) and CIP at strategic points in the process. In the fall of 2010, after an extensive process and many years of work, Affiliate Councils endorsed the

final Planning for the Future Project proposals and recommendations.

The project proposals and recommendations have been endorsed by the National Membership Standards Committee (NMSC), CIP Council, and all other provincial/regional Affiliates across Canada (except Quebec which is in a unique regulatory situation).

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

By the fall of 2010, the work of all of the principal Task Forces had been completed, and a comprehensive set of recommended changes had been produced, which have been subsequently circulated and endorsed as noted earlier. Key elements include:

- A revised set of core competency standards for the planning profession, including knowledge-based 'functional' competencies and skill-based 'enabling' competencies.
- A revised set of ethical and professional practice standards, including updated Codes of Ethics, and Professional Conduct, and updated guidelines for the administration of the Codes.
- A revised set of certification standards that outline the requirements and steps to achieve membership as a professional planner in the Institute based on the new competency and ethical and professional standards.
- A revised set of accreditation standards and requirements for the professional accreditation of university planning degree programs.
- A revised and clarified process for the Fellows honorary designation.

WHAT EXACTLY WILL THE NEW MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATION PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

The new membership certification standards and process will result in a number of changes, including the following:

- The category of CIP membership now known as Provisional will be changed to Candidate Membership.
- The category of CIP membership now known as Full will be changed to Registered Membership, and the associated professional designation will be Registered Professional Planner.

- There will be two principal entry routes to achieve Registered Membership as a Registered Professional Planner:
 1. The first route will be for those individuals who are employed in planning and hold an accredited planning degree. This will be the preferred route to professional membership and will enable quick entry into the Candidate membership category for graduates with an accredited degree.
 2. The second route will be for those who are employed in planning and hold a degree that is not in planning or that is non-accredited. This route will require an extensive review and evaluation of each individual's education and planning work experience (known as Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition, or PLAR). These will be based on the new competency standards, to determine eligibility for acceptance into the Candidate membership category.
 3. There will be a third route available for individuals who already hold professional membership in a foreign professional planning organization with which CIP has a formal reciprocal agreement (such as the AICP in the US, the RTPI in the UK, and the PIA in Australia).
- The revised standards will require Candidate Members with an accredited planning degree to complete and document a minimum of two years of professional planning experience to be considered for Registered Membership.
- Applicants with another degree will be required to cumulatively achieve and document a minimum of six years of professional planning experience.
- All Candidate Members will be required to:
 - participate in and complete a mandatory one-year mentoring program with a qualified Registered (Full) Member mentor.
 - successfully complete a mandatory course and exam on ethics and professionalism.
- A new national body (Professional Standards Board) — established through an administrative partnership between CIP and the provincial/regional Affiliates will maintain and administer

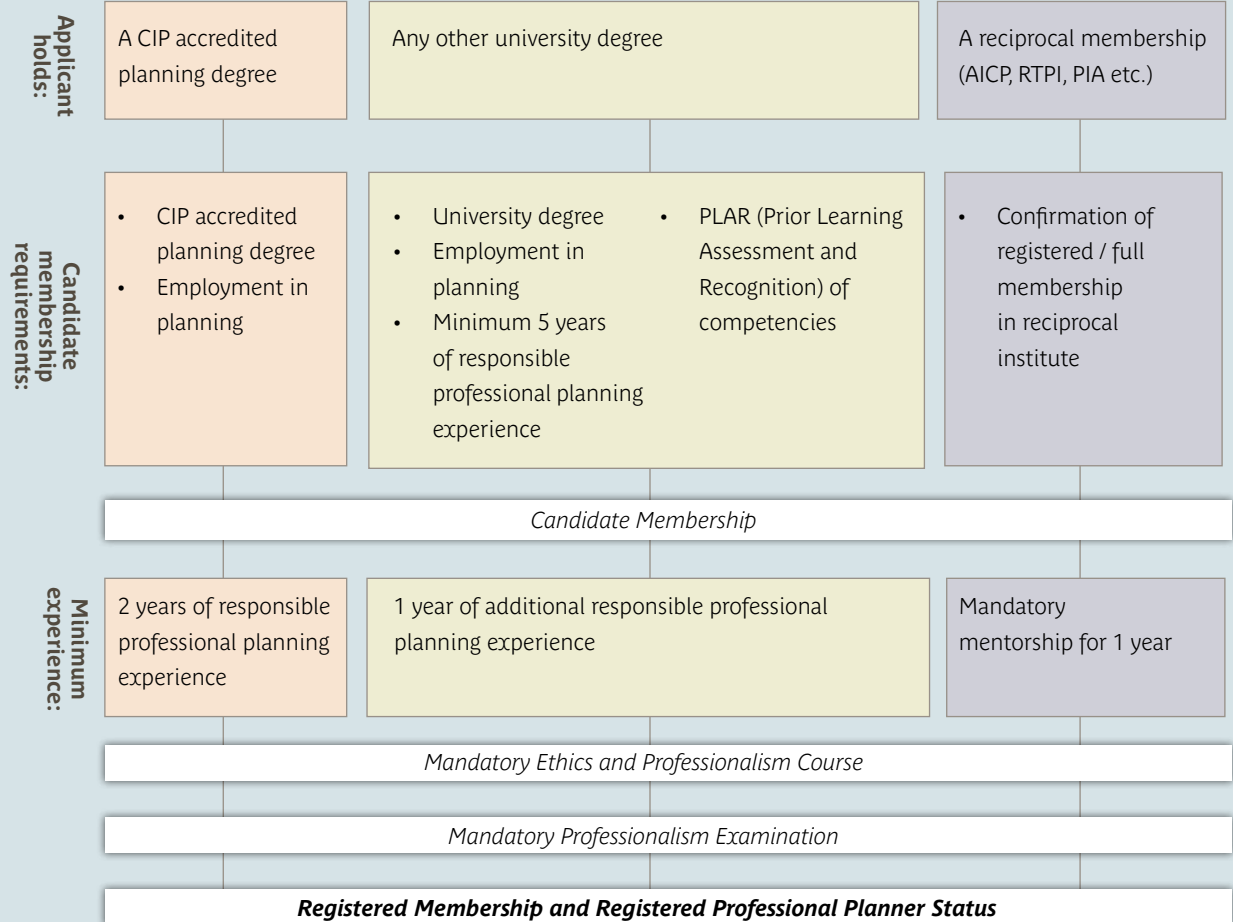
key elements of the certification and accreditation processes. This will provide consistency in certification processes, and portability of membership across the country, while also improving administrative efficiencies and economies of scale in service delivery. On the following page is a diagram that visually represents the proposed routes from applicant to Registered Membership as a Registered Professional Planner.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY NEW STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS?

When the proposed new standards and processes are enabled and adopted:

- All members will be affected and required to conduct themselves in accordance with the new ethical and professional practice standards ensured through the Institute's new Code of Ethics, and Codes of Professional Conduct. The ongoing expectation that professional planners contribute to the profession through a range of activities in their regional and national Institutes that includes honouring continuing professional development commitments remains a central responsibility of members. Within the new membership process, the mentoring of Candidate Members becomes an even more important shared responsibility of all professional planners.
- New membership terminology will apply, meaning that existing Provisional Members will become known as Candidate Members, and existing Full Members will become known as Registered Members. The Fellow designation will remain essentially unchanged. However it will be an honorific designation instead of a separate membership category. Student Members and those in the Associate category will be unaffected.
- The new membership certification standards and requirements will only apply to future new applicants who apply for membership as Candidate Members. The professional status of existing Full (or Registered) Members and Fellows will be unaffected.
- Existing Provisional (or Candidate) Members will

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: ROUTES TO REGISTERED MEMBERSHIP



be able to continue through the membership process to professional membership based on the process and requirements that were already in effect at the time they joined, or switch over to the new process if they wish. As before, time limits will apply for previous Provisional Members to complete the process to professional membership.

- Although the Fellow designation is being clarified as honorific, existing Fellows of the Institute will not be affected by these changes. Any adjustments to selection criteria and processes will be part of a separate process led by the College of Fellows.
- The new standards and requirements for the accreditation of university planning degree programs will affect both existing recognized planning programs, and programs that apply

to become accredited in the future. There will be an extended transition period of up to nine years to enable existing recognized university planning degree programs to adjust to the new requirements, as may be required.

ARE THERE ANY OUTSTANDING ISSUES?

The project's Administrative Task Force is still working on many administrative details related to having the appropriate information, materials, and logistics in place to implement the new standards and processes. This work will continue into 2011.

In addition, CIP is continuing to consult with the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP) to discuss some outstanding issues related to the new standards and requirements for the accreditation of university planning degree programs. Planning education is

an integral part of certification standards and it is recognized that practitioners and the academic community need to work together to introduce and implement any new standards.

Once the new standards and processes are in place, there will be work undertaken to further explore the issues regarding provincial legislation and regulation of the planning profession across Canada. This work will get underway following the implementation of the new standards and processes in 2011.

WHAT'S NEXT?

As noted earlier, these new membership requirements have been endorsed both at the national (CIP) level and by the provincial / regional Affiliates — including PIBC. The next step will be to hold a national vote to amend relevant parts of the CIP bylaws to enable the implementation of the new standards and processes.

The CIP vote is expected to take place in the spring of 2011, followed by amendments to Affiliate bylaws shortly after. The purpose of the two-staged bylaw amendment approach is to ensure consistency across Canada at both the national and provincial / regional Affiliate levels.

Once the bylaw amendment process has been successfully completed, the remaining policy updates, new administrative structures and procedures will be put in place to enable the full implementation of the changes — likely in mid 2011.

WHAT ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSALS WILL BE VOTED ON?

The new standards and processes represent a combination of many updates and improvements. Some basic changes to Institute bylaws are required, as well as the many more detailed updates to Institute policies and administrative procedures that will follow.

Therefore, although the project involves many different detailed changes, only a limited number of basic, key changes will be voted on as part of the bylaw amendment process. These basic bylaw changes then enable the implementation of the other policy and process changes.

WHAT FUTURE MONITORING, CHANGES, OR IMPROVEMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE?

Although much time, effort and consideration has gone into the proposed new requirements and associated administrative procedures, no system is perfect. Once the new standards and processes are in place, the Institute — through the National Membership Standards Committee — will carefully monitor and evaluate their success, identify any problems or challenges, and oversee any adjustments or improvements that may be required going forward.

In addition, as part of the new policies, a re-examination of the standards on a regular basis is essential to ensure that they are succeeding in meeting the needs of the profession now and into the future.

WHERE CAN MEMBERS FIND MORE INFORMATION?

More information about the Planning for the Future Project, including copies of the detailed reports of the project Task Forces, can be found on the project website at: www.planningincanada.ca

THANK YOU!

The intent of this article is to provide members with a useful, updated primer on the coming changes affecting membership standards. The revamping of membership standards and processes has involved the devotion of many personal hours and intensive work and contributions by Institute staff, volunteer members who have worked on the various Task Forces, members of Council, key stakeholders, and members at large. This commitment was mirrored across the country. As the project nears completion, there is still work ahead in completing the bylaw amendment process and ultimately the implementation and administration of the new standards.

We hope that all Members will take the time to learn more about the proposed changes and contact CIP and Affiliates with any questions or comments. Be sure to take the time to not only learn more, but also participate and vote on the upcoming bylaw amendments in 2011 to help us move our profession forward into the future. ■



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