



FAST FORWARD
PLANNING AT THE SPEED OF CHANGE

2026 SEPTEMBER
27 - 29

CALGARY, ALBERTA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM GUIDE

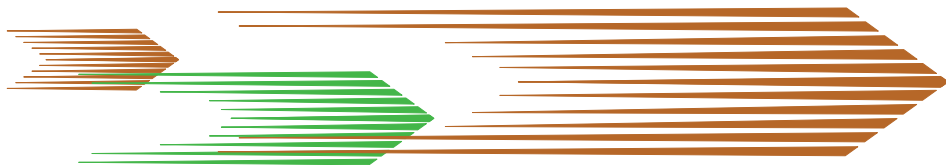


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VENUE MAP LEVEL THREE

HYATT REGENCY CALGARY
700 CENTRE STREET SE,
CALGARY, AB T2G 5P6





Calgary

Jeromy Farkas, Mayor

2026 APPI Conference
September 27-29, 2026

Dear Conference Delegates,

Welcome to the 2026 Alberta Professional Planners Institute Conference.

On behalf of The City of Calgary, it is a privilege to welcome planning professionals from across Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. Thank you for being here and for the important work you do to help shape the future of our communities.

Calgary is a city shaped by bold ideas. Built at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers, where the Prairies meet the foothills, we are a city of builders, innovators, and optimists. Home to diverse and vibrant communities, exceptional public spaces, and an entrepreneurial spirit, Calgary has always been a place where people come to pursue opportunities and build something better.

We are one of Canada's fastest-growing cities, which means we are on the front lines of many of the challenges facing communities and professional planners across the country: housing affordability, infrastructure, mobility, water security, climate resilience, and how to accommodate growth while maintaining the quality-of-life residents value.

But Calgary has never been defined by its challenges alone. It has been shaped by people who see possibility, who work across disciplines and communities, and who understand that great cities require vision, collaboration, and thoughtful planning.

I hope the next few days spark meaningful conversations, fresh perspectives, and new connections — and that your time in Calgary reminds you why your work as city-building professionals matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeromy Farkas".

Mayor Jeromy Farkas
The City of Calgary

WELCOME TO CALGARY!



On behalf of APPI Council, it's my honour to welcome you to the 2026 APPI Conference, *Fast Forward: Planning at the Speed of Change*. For many of us, it feels like our lives are playing out in fast forward as we juggle increasingly complex planning careers with family responsibilities and other activities. Economic, social and environmental change in the communities we work in means we need to rapidly connect cause and effect, impact and response. Adjust a policy direction here, pull a regulatory lever there, revise a design, test a new solution — and do it all presto with increased public and political scrutiny.

If you've felt like you've been operating in overdrive at times, you've come to the right place. This conference is an opportunity to step away from the bustle — to reflect, connect, take in a tour, and breathe.

With APPI's largest and most diverse lineup of sessions, workshops, and tours to date, there is something here for every professional practice — whether urban, rural, northern, public, or private. Use this time to sharpen your tools, gain new perspectives, and empower yourself to navigate the change in your own community.

Thank you for joining us at APPI's largest conference yet. Welcome, and enjoy the experience!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Backstrom'.

Erik Backstrom RPP, MCIP
President, Alberta Professional Planners Institute

APPI COUNCIL

Erik Backstrom RPP, MCIP President
Margaret Kralt RPP, MCIP President Elect
Debra Hamilton RPP, MCIP Councillor
Lilit Houlder RPP, MCIP Councillor
Hilary Janzen RPP, MCIP Councillor
Nabil Malik RPP, MCIP Councillor

Connor Smith RPP, MCIP Councillor
Martino Verhaeghe RPP, MCIP Councillor
Vacant, Public Member
MaryJane Alanko, Executive Director
Michelle Collins, Executive Administrator
Cathy Wiltsie, Office Manager



We are the face of the planning profession within Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. We serve the public interest by providing regulation, advocacy, promotion, and services for our members.

MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

A Big Blue Sky City welcome to everyone attending this year's APPI 2026: **FAST FORWARD – Planning at the Speed of Change.**

Planning has always been about preparing for the future. Today, however, the future seems to arrive faster than ever. Communities are navigating rapid technological advancement, climate pressures, housing challenges, demographic shifts, and evolving public expectations, all while striving to build places that are resilient, inclusive, and prosperous. This year's conference theme invites us to explore how planners can not only respond to change but help shape it.

Over the next several days, you will hear from thought leaders, practitioners, researchers, and innovators who are pushing the boundaries of planning practice. From conversations about housing innovation and gentle density, to discussions on emerging technologies, climate resilience, urban design, mobility, economic development, and community well-being, this year's program reflects both the complexity of the challenges we face and the creativity of the solutions emerging across our profession.

Just as importantly, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Alberta and beyond. Some of the most valuable conference moments happen between sessions, over coffee, during a tour, or in a conversation that challenges your assumptions and expands your perspective. The professional relationships we build strengthen our ability to collaborate, learn, and lead through change.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the conference committee, speakers, sponsors, volunteers, APPI Council, and APPI staff whose dedication and hard work have made this conference possible. Their efforts have created a program that is engaging, relevant, and reflective of the important work planners do every day.

Whether you are here to gain new technical knowledge, explore emerging trends, exchange ideas with peers, or simply recharge your professional curiosity, we hope you leave Calgary energized, inspired, and ready to help shape whatever comes next.

We look forward to learning, connecting, and planning for what's next together.

Warm regards,

Your Conference Co-chairs

Dino Civitarese RPP, MCIP

Misty Sklar RPP, MCIP

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Dino Civitarese RPP, MCIP Co-Chair

Misty Sklar RPP, MCIP Co-Chair

Nilendu Bala

Nicklas Baran RPP, MCIP

Allison Chan RPP, MCIP

Andrew Chell RPP, MCIP

Ethan Chow

Simran Chowdhary

Rafal Cichowlas RPP, MCIP

Yousaf Shah

Rachel Smigelski RPP, MCIP

Jiayi Wang

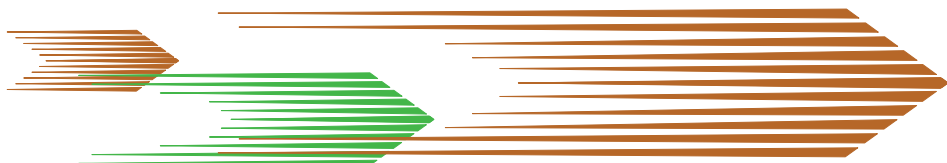
Claire Woodside RPP, MCIP

Stephen Yu RPP, MCIP

MaryJane Alanko, Executive Director

Michelle Collins, Executive Administrator

Cathy Wiltsie, Office Manager



SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 PRE-CONFERENCE TOURS AND SOCIAL

3:45 PM – 6:00 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 2: Sunnyside Garage Art –
A walk through Calgary’s Weirdest
Neighbourhood Alleyway Gallery

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Social Networking Evening with
Appetizers, Pool, Darts and Door Prizes
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
(CAL NO. 1) 116 SEVENTH AVE SE, CALGARY, AB
APPI and City Builders Social Club (CBSC)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM **GRAND FOYER 1**
Registration

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
STEPHEN AB AND WALKING
1D: The City of Calgary
Seasons of Reconciliation – Workshop

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 3: Investing in Vibrancy through
Programming and Activation

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 4: At the Intersection of
Transit and City Building

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Welcome Reception
with Gourmet Food Stations, Interactive
Activities and Prizes
IMPERIAL 1/2/3 AND GRAND FOYER

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM
Wake and Shake Morning Run

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Registration

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Exhibitors

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Breakfast

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Opening Remarks

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Keynote Speaker
Why We Show Up: Creating Work That
Matters (and Feels Good)

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM
Refreshment Break

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM
2AB: Rituals of Belonging:
Building a Downtown Community
Panel

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM
2C: Seeing the City:
Urban Sketching for Planners

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
2D: Municipality of Jasper & Parks Canada:
Disaster Response – Workshop Part 1

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Tour 5: From Vacancy to Vibrancy

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Lunch

12:15 PM – 2:30 PM
Tour 6: Housing Innovation and Community
Leadership in Hillhurst-Sunnyside

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM
**3AB: Developing Derelict Building Strategies
in the North – Workshop**

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM
3C: Learn to Read the Political Weather

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
**3D: Municipality of Jasper & Parks Canada:
Disaster Response – Workshop Part 2**

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM
Refreshment Break

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM
**4AB: Game of Trails: Where the Real
Battle Isn't on the Map**

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM
**4C: Designing Learning for Planning:
Building Capacity in Complexity**

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM
**4D: Wiring the Future –
Planning Data Centres – Panel**

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
**Tour 7: From Campus to City:
SAPL's Downtown Move**

6:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Banquet Reception

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Banquet and Planning Awards

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM
Wake and Shake Morning Run

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Registration

7:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Exhibitors

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Breakfast

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
**5A: mddl School: A Middle
Housing Development Lab**

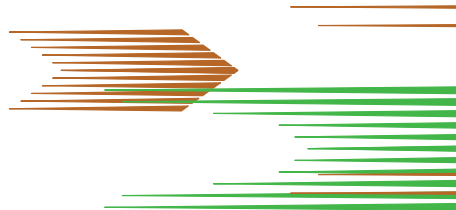
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
**5Bi: Beyond the Pond:
Stormwater That Does More**
**5Bii: Beyond the Bottom Line:
Measuring Project Success**

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
**5C: Times are Changing –
A Review of the Impact of Recent
Legislative Changes on Planning**

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM
Refreshment Break

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM
**6A: Getting the Temperature Down
in the Room: Supporting Planner Mental
Health in an Age of Conflict**

**FAST FORWARD
PLANNING AT THE
SPEED OF CHANGE**



10:30 AM – 11:45 AM
**6B: Anything but Standard:
Smarter Housing Options for Small
and Rural Communities in Alberta**

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM
**6C: From Growth to Resilience:
Rethinking Density Through a Municipal
Finance Lense**

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
Lunch

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
7A: Road to RPP

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM
8A: Rurban Role Play

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM
**8B: Can You Find Me Now?
An Interactive Town Hall Panel Discussion
for Transitioning Your Community
to the Precision of NG911**

1:15 PM – 2:45 PM
8C: Pecha Kuchas (8)

**PK1: What does a Drag Brunch and
Open House have in common**

**PK2: Making it Real:
Innisfail Addresses Climate Change**

**PK3 (Part 1): Protecting the Value of
Lake Landscapes: A Simple Toolset**

**PK3 (Part 2): Protecting the Value of
Lake Landscapes: A Simple Toolset**

**PK4: From Emergency to Essential:
Calgary's Seasonal Patio Evolution**

**PK5: Get on the Bus!
A Drumheller Case Study**

**PK6: The Pivot to Focused Growth
in Rocky View County MDP**

**PK7: Re-entangling Growth, Housing
Markets and Policy**

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Refreshment Break

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM
**Plenary Session
Do More by Doing Less – Your Secret to
Being Future-Proofed against change**

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM
Closing Remarks

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

PRE-CONFERENCE TOURS AND SOCIAL

3:45 PM – 6:00 PM

**Tour 2: Sunnyside Garage Art –
A Walk Through Calgary’s Weirdest
Neighbourhood Alleyway Gallery**

LU = 2.0

LOBBY

Christie Page

Gerald Wheatly

Kate van Fraassen RPP, MCIP

Members of The City of Calgary Planning Liaison team

Join us for a walk with local Sunnyside artists to learn about our community’s colorful history and hear some local stories. We will tour Sunnyside’s alleyway gallery and visit unique spaces on this VIP tour to get a behind the scenes look at where we work, live, play and create. You will learn how our neighbourhood has thrived through multiple disruptions and adapted to be an inclusive open place where trying new things and being weird is encouraged. We want you to come away with inspiration that you can take with you to add a little Sunnyside back to wherever you call home.

The walk starts and finishes at the Sunnyside LRT station and will be approximately 3 kms in length crossing a variety of terrain. Tour registrants will need to meet at the Hyatt for 3:45 PM and be ready to catch the LRT with tour hosts at 4 PM sharp.



McElhanney

Christie Page is a Sunnyside resident, urban mom, MPlan Student, and mobility advocate.

Gerald Wheatly is a Sunnyside resident, non-profit leader, local musician, neighbourhood advocate and activator.

Kate van Fraassen is a Sunnyside resident and APPI volunteer.

Members of The City of Calgary Planning Liaison team are relationship and capacity builders, connectors between Planning & Development Services and Community Associations in Calgary.

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**APPI and City Builders Social Club
(CBSC)**

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
(CAL NO. 1)**

116 SEVENTH AVE SE, CALGARY, AB

Join APPI and CBSC for an evening social of networking and connection. This APPI preconference event is open to all regardless of APPI Conference registration.

Whether you’re a planner, city builder, student, or industry professional, this is a great opportunity to meet new colleagues, reconnect with familiar faces, and expand your professional network in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

What’s Included?

- Complimentary appetizers
- Darts and pool
- Networking with professionals from across the planning and city-building community
- Cash bar available

This is a complimentary event, but registration is required as space is limited.



12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Registration

GRAND FOYER 1

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

1D: The City of Calgary Seasons of Reconciliation – Workshop

LU = 3.0

STEPHEN AB AND WALKING

Dorothy First Rider

Traditional Knowledge Keeper

Clarence Wolfleg

Traditional Knowledge Keeper

Shawn Singer BSW, M.Ed

Senior Indigenous Policy Strategist, City and Regional Planning, Planning and Development Services, The City of Calgary

Lorna Crowshoe B.Mgmt, MBA

Senior Indigenous Policy Strategist, City and Regional Planning, Planning and Development Services, The City of Calgary

Fraser McLeod MPL, RPP, MCIP

Senior Planner, Community Planning, Planning and Development Services, The City of Calgary

Since its launch as a pilot project in 2023, The Seasons of Reconciliation Program has become a cornerstone of professional development within The City of Calgary's Planning and Development Services (PDS) department. Developed in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and growing staff interest in learning from Indigenous communities, this unconventional program moves beyond traditional classrooms to land-based learning. It has since engaged more than 240 staff and is now a celebrated learning initiative.

As part of the 2026 APPI Conference, PDS will host a unique Seasons of Reconciliation mini-learning session for up to 60 participants outside and on the land. This three hour session will explore Calgary/Mohkinstsis through place-based Indigenous knowledge flowing from the land. Participants will learn how the program connects staff with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, academics, and leaders to address knowledge gaps, strengthen commitments to reconciliation, and elevate Indigenous worldviews in planning practices.

Through direct learning from City staff and Traditional Knowledge Keepers, participants will explore ethical spaces, relationship-building and the intersection between Indigenous knowledge and planning. The session will conclude with reflections from City staff on why in an ever-changing world, planners must

pause, refocus and prioritize relationship building and learning from Indigenous communities whose languages, cultures, ceremonies and worldviews flow from the land they plan for.



Dorothy T. First Rider, a member of the Fish Eater and Lone Fighter Clans of the Blood Tribe in Southern Alberta, graduated with Honours from the University of Regina with a Bachelor of Arts. In 1991, while Governance Coordinator for the Treaty 7 Tribal Council, she coordinated research that produced *The True Spirit and Original Intent of Treaty 7*, based on Treaty 7 Elders' recollections of the *Blackfoot Treaty* from a First Nation perspective.

She served on Blood Tribe Council from 1994 to 2000 and again beginning in 2012. She chairs the Blood Tribe Tribal Government Committee, whose mandate includes land claims, Treaty and Aboriginal rights, and governance. Since 1971, she has held various Blood Tribe roles, including Senior Researcher and Consultation Coordinator for Tribal Government and External Affairs.

Clarence Wolfleg Sr. (Agar), also known by his traditional Siksika name *Miiksika'am* ("Red Crane"), is from Siksika Nation. A former Siksika Council member elected for ten terms, he is a veteran of NATO and UN International peacekeeping, he is a former police officer, Chief of Police, corrections worker, and addictions counsellor. A member of traditional Blackfoot societies, Clarence is recognized as a Siksika Traditional Spiritual Leader and Elder, a member of both the Horns and Brave Dogs Societies. In 2020, Clarence was honoured by Mount Royal University with an Honorary B.A. in Sociology, and in 2021, he was bestowed with an honorary Doctor of Law. Clarence gives his time to various boards and committees, including Mount Royal University, Calgary Board of Education and The City of Calgary.

Shawn Singer was born within the Blackfoot Confederacy and a member of the Kainai Nation. Shawn's work is deeply rooted in Blackfoot ontology (Blackfoot Ways of Knowing), which he uses to guide the development of respectful and sustainable relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. He is currently a Senior Indigenous Policy Strategist where he advises on corporate-wide initiatives that strengthen understanding of Indigenous experiences. He is committed to creating meaningful opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration as instructed by traditional knowledge.

Lorna Crowshoe is a proud member of the Piikani Nation and the Blackfoot Confederacy. She is deeply immersed in her relationships with her community, maintaining her ancestral knowledge, language, customs and culture. She consistently works with Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Cultural Advisors, bridging their knowledge into planning practice. Lorna has been with The City for 16 years and helped to create Seasons as an essential channel for staff to understand the relationships of Indigenous nations to historical lands, placemaking and placekeeping.

Fraser McLeod has been with The City since 2017, most recently as a Senior Planner in Community Planning's Director's Office. He also was the lead planner for the Riley Communities Local Area Plan. With over 10 years of public and private experience, Fraser focuses on building strong policy and relationship spaces with Indigenous communities, including establishing the Seasons of Reconciliation. He has a Master's of Planning from Queen's University where his research examined the intersection of Indigenous rights and planning.

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Tour 3: Investing in Vibrancy through Programming and Activation

LU = 2.0

LOBBY

Carlie Ferguson RPP, MCIP

Leader of Strategy & Placemaking, The City of Calgary

Morgan Huber RPP, MCIP

Senior Strategic Planner, The City of Calgary

As part of The City of Calgary's efforts to implement the Greater Downtown Plan and increase Downtown Vibrancy, the Downtown Strategy team has successfully led a range of projects to create engaging experiences and dynamic spaces. Join members from The City of Calgary Downtown Strategy team on a walking tour learning more about various programming, activation and placemaking projects in the Downtown. Stops may include Canton Alley in Chinatown, Eau Claire Plaza, River Hall (a parking lot transformation in Downtown West), Century Gardens, and Alcove Centre for the Arts. Learn about the value of programming and activation as well as leveraging partnerships and piloting and testing with interim uses, especially when supporting a broader portfolio of projects and investments. The project team will provide an overview of each project along with lessons learned and suggestions for future work in hopes of inspiring similar projects in other municipalities.



Carlie Ferguson is a passionate city builder and leader who strives to make a difference for Calgarians. Over the last twenty years, Carlie has held various positions throughout The City, contributing to a wide range of initiatives including the Guide for Local Area Planning, the update of the Municipal Development Plan (all three times!), Olympic Plaza community engagement, 9th Avenue Streetscape Master Plan, rezoning for housing, and most recently leading the Strategy & Placemaking Downtown Strategy team.

Morgan Huber is a Senior Strategic Planner at The City of Calgary. He has a wide range of planning and policy experience in the private sector and at The City. He has led downtown-specific policy projects focusing on three-bedroom unit incentives, density bonus provisions for affordable housing, public realm enhancements, heritage conservation, community investment funds and public art. He is currently on the Downtown Strategy team supporting a wide range of strategy and placemaking initiatives.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Tour 4: At the Intersection of Transit and City Building

LU = 2.0

LOBBY

Jordan Zukowski RPP, MCIP

Team Lead, The City of Calgary

Charlene Wilcock RPP, MCIP

Team Lead, Strategy, The City of Calgary

Planners are keenly aware of the value of transit-oriented development, and the integration of land use and transit planning is essential to shaping vibrant, resilient communities of the future. As cities evolve rapidly and priorities compete for attention, aligning long-term planning visions with day-to-day operational realities presents both challenges and opportunities. Strengthening the connection between long-range planning and the operational outcomes of planning decisions unlocks significant benefits for cities and transit systems alike.

This session invites participants to explore these opportunities first-hand through an on-the-ground tour of the redevelopment and major transit initiatives underway in and around Calgary's Culture + Entertainment District, near Calgary Transit's Victoria Park Storage and Maintenance Facility. Participants will

gain insight into how long-term city-building goals and the daily operational needs that keep the transit network running come together in this dynamic area. The session highlights how planners across disciplines and sectors can collaborate to build a world-class transit system that both supports and grows alongside a thriving city.



Jordan Zukowski is a Registered Professional Planner working at The City of Calgary. In her role as Team Lead for the Transit Corporate Priority, she works to advance transit service in shaping the future of Calgary, as a critical contributor to economic growth, affordability, housing, and downtown revitalization. In her spare time, you can find Jordan outside gardening, biking, or skiing, and exploring the city with her partner.

Charlene Wilcock leads a Strategy team at Calgary Transit focused on Council reporting, strategic planning, budgeting, work planning, and risk management. A transportation planner with experience in both consulting and municipal government, she has contributed to a wide range of transportation and infrastructure projects across Western Canada and Ontario. Charlene is driven by a passion for creating practical solutions that help communities move in affordable, healthy, and sustainable ways.

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Welcome Reception

IMPERIAL 1/2/3 AND GRAND FOYER

A great time to reconnect, network, and learn what others have been up to over the past couple of years. This casual experience will allow you to relax and enjoy everything that Calgary has to offer in a fantastic social environment. **The Welcome Reception will include gourmet food stations for all attendees.**



6:30 AM – 7:30 AM
Wake and Shake Morning Run
MEET IN LOBBY

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Registration
GRAND FOYER 1

7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Exhibitor
GRAND FOYER 1/2/3

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM
Breakfast
IMPERIAL 4/6/8
DILLON

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM
Opening Remarks
LU = 0.5
IMPERIAL 4/6/8

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM
Keynote Speaker
Jennifer Moss
Why We Show Up: Creating Work that Matters (and Feels Good)
LU = 1.25
IMPERIAL 4/6/8

Work is changing faster than most of us can keep up with. AI is reshaping how roles are designed, traditional career paths are giving way to something less defined, teams are doing more with less, and stress is showing up in places it didn't before.

Based on her latest book *Why Are We Here? Creating a Work Culture Everyone Wants* (Harvard Business Press), Jennifer draws on behavioural science and stories from real people navigating real change to share what's actually happening across today's workforce, and what you can do about it.

Takeaways:

- The four unexpected shifts in how we relate to work, explained through behavioural science
- How to find purpose and motivation when the path forward feels uncertain

- Practical ways to protect your energy and avoid burnout in an always on, AI accelerated workplace
- How to build genuine connection and belonging at work, even in hybrid and distributed teams
- Tools to move from change fatigue to change readiness
- A simple framework for working alongside AI without losing what makes your contribution distinctly human
- How to reconnect with the reasons you show up, and make them work for you



Jennifer Moss is an international speaker, award-winning journalist, author, and workplace culture strategist. She is co-founder of the Work Better Institute, a global workforce policy think tank, a nationally syndicated radio columnist, and a regular contributor to Harvard Business Review, Fast Company, and Fortune. A sought-after workplace expert, Moss is frequently invited by global media to share her research and insights.

Her third leadership book, *Why Are We Here? Creating a Work Culture Everyone Wants*, earned spots on multiple Best Books on Leadership lists for 2025 and received the Outstanding Works of Literature Award in the Leadership category. Her previous book, *The Burnout Epidemic*, was named one of Thinkers50's 10 Best New Management Books of 2022. She is also a member of Harvard Business Publishing's Impact Thought Leadership program and a former member of the Global Happiness Council in partnership with Gallup.

Moss is an award-winning speaker and will be Toastmasters' Golden Gavel Honoree for 2026. She is the recipient of a Public Service Award from the Office of President Obama, was named Canadian Innovator of the Year, and received the International Female Entrepreneur of the Year award.

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Refreshment Break

GRAND FOYER 1/2/3



SESSIONS 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

2AB: Rituals of Belonging: Building a Downtown Community

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 1/2

Pamela Haskell
Planner, The City of Calgary

Brad Pert
Co-Founder & Program Coordinator,
Central Outreach Hub

Bethel Afework
Executive Director & Co-Founder,
Alcove Centre for the Arts

Alison Andersen
Partnerships and Special Projects Officer,
Contemporary Calgary

Rituals of Belonging is a panel discussion exploring the role of non-commercial community spaces and long-term programming initiatives in creating community for downtown residents and making the downtown a regular destination for non-residents.

As Calgary's downtown shifts from a primarily commercial district to a growing residential neighbourhood, consistent and welcoming programming has emerged as a powerful tool for building community, identity, and a sense of belonging.

This panel brings together leaders behind three innovative downtown initiatives. Alcove Centre for the Arts is a drop-in recreational arts hub activating a previously vacant storefront. Contemporary Calgary, Calgary's foremost public art gallery, creates a monthly party around their free entry evening. The Central Outreach Hub offers a welcoming and safe indoor day space that serves over 250 people each day with food, clothing, and connection.

Together, they'll explore how ritual (programming that participants can return to daily, weekly, or monthly) creates a social infrastructure often lacking in downtowns. Panelists will share lessons learned about creating consistent & reliable programming, building partnerships, supporting safety and vibrancy in downtown, and fostering a genuine neighbourhood vibe in the city's core.

Attendees will come away with a greater understanding of the importance of long-term, low-barrier programming and why it is worth the effort to implement and sustain. They will find replicable ideas they can bring back to their own communities.



Pamela Haskell is a Planner with Downtown Strategy at The City of Calgary, specializing in placemaking. Prior to joining the City, she worked in stock photography and video, creative research, and in numerous museums and galleries. Pamela is the founder of Uphill Projects, a very small arts organization dedicated to public art and providing opportunities for Indigenous artists.

Brad Pert is Co-Founder and Program Coordinator of Central Outreach Hub, a peer-led, low-barrier downtown day space offering consistent daily programming, essential supports, and collaborative community partnerships in one welcoming place. With experience in operations and management, he focuses on building structure, collaboration, and sustainable growth. Since 2024 he has helped grow the Hub into a space serving hundreds each week, rooted in dignity, belonging, and community connection.

Bethel Afework is an educator, poet, musician, entrepreneur, and nature-lover with a passion for making cities more enjoyable and welcoming for everyone. In 2016, she founded Raw Voices, a monthly spoken word, comedy, and music showcase featuring open mics and guest performers. Bethel is currently the Executive Director and a Co-founder of Alcove, a recreational art space dedicated to making the arts more accessible by creating warm, inclusive spaces where people can explore their creativity.

Alison Andersen is a graduate of Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University, holding a BFA in Interdisciplinary Studies focused on photography and printmaking. Since moving to Calgary in 2010, she has built a career rooted in community engagement and collaboration.

She currently serves as Partnerships and Special Projects Officer at Contemporary Calgary, where she leads accessible, community-centered initiatives and cultivates cross-sector partnerships that foster meaningful connections and strengthen the city's arts and culture community.

2C: Seeing the City: Urban Sketching for Planners

LU = 1.25

MEET IN LOBBY

Georgina Campos MSC, URP
Urban Planner, Stantec

In a fast-paced planning world, taking time to slow down and closely observe places can reveal valuable insights about how they function and evolve over time. This interactive workshop introduces planners to the basics of urban sketching as a practical, field-ready tool for site observation, communication, and design thinking.

Designed for all skill levels, the session teaches simple, approachable techniques for sketching streetscapes, buildings, and public spaces. This indoor studio format will provide a supportive space to experiment with visual tools that can be used during site visits, engagement activities, and early design work.

Participants will leave with practical sketching tips, strengthened observation skills, and improved visual communication abilities, along with opportunities to connect with peers through a collaborative learning experience that builds creative confidence.

Format: Indoor studio workshop. Begins with an indoor presentation and demonstrations, followed by an interactive, tabletop sketching and design exercise



Georgina Campos brings experience in land use planning, urban design, science communication, and visual communication, with particular focus on making complex planning ideas accessible and people centered. Georgina is passionate about helping planners become more comfortable using visual tools to improve planning practices, strengthen collaboration, and communicate ideas clearly across disciplines.

SESSION 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

2D: Municipality of Jasper & Parks Canada: Disaster Response Workshop Part 1

(Part 2 following lunch break)

LU = 1.5

STEPHEN AB

Beth Sanders RPP

Director of Urban Design and Standards – Municipality of Jasper + Rebuild Team Co-Chair, Jasper Recovery Coordination Centre

Micheal Borland RPP

Town Planner, Municipality of Jasper

Lucas Sherwin RPP

Manager, Development Planning,
Municipality of Jasper

Isla Tanaka

Town Planner, Municipality of Jasper

Keith Batstone RPP, MCIP

Senior Development Advisory,
Jasper National Parks Canada

James Haney RPP

Recovery Planner, Jasper Recovery,
Parks Canada

Alex Lader ^{RPP}

Senior Planner, Jasper Recovery, Parks Canada

Sarah Ramey ^{RPP, MCIP}

Planner, Jasper Recovery, Parks Canada

The 2024 Jasper wildfire is one of several disasters that impacted Alberta communities in recent years. It won't be the last. Planning professionals have an important role in mitigating the impacts of disasters and being on the front lines of rebuilding communities.

Join planners from the Municipality of Jasper and Parks Canada for a 3-hour, hands-on workshop to explore the role of urban planners and community leaders in natural disaster response and recovery. This workshop will give participants language and experience to respond quickly to the impacts of wildfire (or other natural disasters) in the first 18 months following a major disaster.

Participants will practice the following:

- Translating Incident Command System training into planning contexts
- Making sound tactical decisions
- Identifying strategic goals for rebuilding
- Communicating the needs of rebuilding to members of the public, industry, politicians and other orders of government
- Developing targeted changes to land use planning regulations and processes to achieve the strategic goals
- Preparing for construction post-disaster
- Setting conditions for a neighbourly rebuild
- Planning temporary housing for residents and rebuilding teams
- Supporting business continuity

Participants will leave this workshop with an understanding for how to respond and recover from disaster in their communities.



Beth Sanders is an award-winning professional city planner with 30 years of experience. She loves working on the tiny details and the big-picture strategies that support communities to be their best selves in tough or good times. Beth loves to bring the voices of community—citizens, community organizations, the business community, and local government—together so they can hear each other and make choices that serve the community well.

Micheal Borland is a Registered Professional Planner and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

He has over 10 years of land use planning and urban design experience in Alberta. Prior to joining the Municipality of Jasper in January 2025, Micheal worked as a consultant at Green Space Alliance in Edmonton. Micheal brings a passion for land use planning, community engagement, urban design, and active transportation.

Lucas Sherwin is a Registered Professional Planner with nine years of planning experience. Before joining Jasper, Lucas worked as a private consultant around Alberta, then spent several years with The City of Calgary. Lucas brings an interest in planning processes, community engagement and reconciliation to his work as a planner. Lucas started working with the Municipality in September 2024, and is currently splitting his time between Calgary and Jasper.

Isla Tanaka has a passion for designing places for people of all ages and abilities in all seasons. As the Winter City Planner for the City of Edmonton, she worked to improve winter living, urban design and culture. Isla has also worked in disability/assistive services at two Canadian universities and currently sits on the international board of the Winter Cycling Federation. Isla is on secondment from the City of Edmonton to the Municipality of Jasper.

Keith Batstone is a passionate community planner, environmental design professional and senior-level strategic advisor with 20 years of broad experience and demonstrated successes in local, regional, provincial, and federal government organizations. He is committed to facilitating excellence in public sector administration and delivering thoughtful development planning services appropriate to the specific project, neighbourhood, or community context. He has spent most of his career working in mountain resort communities and high-amenity rural regions where he has contributed to: implementing innovative development plans and priorities, evaluating planning policy options, adjudicating planning conflicts, fostering organizational change and, making the built environment a more delightful and functional place to live, work, or visit.

James Haney is a Registered Professional Planner with over 15 years experience working in both rural and urban communities across Alberta. Prior to joining Parks Canada as a Recovery Planner following the 2024 Jasper Complex fire, James worked at Municipal Planning Services and the City of Edmonton in both current and long-term planner roles. He holds a Master's Degree in Planning from Dalhousie University.

Alex Lader is a Registered Professional Planner with experience working at all levels of government and in the private sector. He first moved to Jasper in 2020 to

work for Parks Canada until 2023. Following a two-year stint as a planner for the District of Tofino on Vancouver Island, he returned to Jasper in March of 2025 to support the recovery effort. He holds a Master's Degree in Planning from Ryerson University (now known as Toronto Metropolitan University).

Sarah Ramey is a planner with Parks Canada supporting the recovery and rebuilding efforts in Jasper. With nearly 15 years of experience in municipal planning, she has worked in Edmonton, Banff, and Ontario, specializing in development review, growth planning, and open space planning. She holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Queen's University

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Tour 5: From Vacancy to Vibrancy

LU = 2.0

LOBBY

Thom Mahler RPP, MCIP

Director of Downtown Strategy and Deputy General Manager, Planning and Development Services

Maxim Olshevsky

CEO, Astra Group and Peoplefirst Developments

Downtowns across Canada are responding to changing economic conditions, evolving work patterns, and increasing office vacancies. In Calgary, collaboration between the public and private sectors is creating new opportunities to transform underutilized office buildings into vibrant mixed-use spaces, housing, and community destinations.

Join representatives from The City of Calgary and Astra Group for a walking tour showcasing Calgary's Downtown Strategy in action. Participants will visit adaptive reuse and revitalization projects while learning about the planning policies, partnerships, incentives, and development processes driving downtown renewal.

This tour offers planners, municipal staff, developers, and industry professionals the opportunity to explore real projects, hear first-hand lessons learned, and discover practical approaches to transforming vacant spaces into vibrant places that can inspire communities across Alberta.



Thom Mahler is the Director of Downtown Strategy and Deputy General Manager, Planning and Development Services. He leads The City of Calgary's Downtown Strategy team. He also serves as Vice-Chair of Calgary Planning Commission.

Thom has over 30 years of experience in planning. In addition to his 20+ years of experience with The City of Calgary, he has also practiced in Ontario and British Columbia. He holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from Queen's University.

Maxim Olshevsky is the CEO of Astra Group and Peoplefirst Developments, bringing over two decades of experience in real estate development and construction. Focused on social impact and urban revitalization through adaptive reuse, Astra's portfolio currently includes six adaptive reuse projects, including five office-to-residential conversions in Calgary's Downtown West End, totaling more than one million square feet.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

IMPERIAL 4/6/8



12:15 PM – 2:30 PM

Tour 6: Housing Innovation and Community Leadership in Hillhurst-Sunnyside

LU = 2.0

LOBBY

Kate van Fraassen RPP, MCIP

Board Member, Norfolk Housing Association

Chris Bell

CEO, Norfolk Housing Association

Ximena Gonzalez

Resident, Sunnyside Hillhurst Housing Co-operative

Jaydan Tait RPP, MCIP

President & CEO, Attainable Homes Calgary

Lesley Kalmakoff RPP, MCIP

Coordinator Growth Strategy, The City of Calgary

Crisis, generational challenge, anxiety-inducing, all of these describe housing in communities across Canada. Calgary has made headlines for leading the country in housing starts, but the challenge is as real here as it is anywhere else. Beyond the headlines are organizations, communities, builders, and planners experimenting and working together to respond.

Hillhurst-Sunnyside, an eclectic inner-city community with a long history of citizen action, is home to Norfolk Housing Association, Sunnyside Hillhurst Housing Co-operative, a modular affordable housing project by Attainable Homes Calgary, and numerous initiatives by The City of Calgary to support established area growth. Join us for a walking tour through Hillhurst-Sunnyside to not

only hear from these organizations but to see and feel their work for yourself.

This session is an opportunity to hear from a variety of perspectives on what's working, what's not, and what's possible with housing in Calgary. While exploring Hillhurst-Sunnyside participants will witness the community roots behind Norfolk Housing Association and Sunnyhill Housing Co-operative and hear about innovative housing and City projects happening in the area. The conversational nature of a walking tour will provide participants space to consider how the approaches and innovations taking place in Hillhurst-Sunnyside could be applied to their project or municipality.



Kate van Fraassen is a Registered Professional Planner with 14 years of municipal government experience. Since 2022, Kate has served on the Norfolk Housing Association Board, championing community-based housing in Hillhurst-Sunnyside—her family's home and Norfolk's. She believes strongly in actively participating in her professional and personal communities through sharing her time, skills and enthusiasm.

Chris Bell is the CEO of Norfolk Housing Association, a role he took on in late 2025 with extensive experience and dedication to housing in Canada. Prior to joining Norfolk Housing Association, he served as Executive Director at The Integrated Post Secondary Education Society of Alberta. Chris currently serves on the Board of the Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association (ASCHA).

Ximena Gonzalez is a resident of Sunnyhill Housing Co-operative and a freelance journalist with an eclectic background in writing, editing, architecture and urban planning. She holds a master's degree in environmental design and is a licensed architect in Mexico, where she grew up. Her journalism explores the intersection of people and place, with a focus on social justice. Her work has appeared in *The Sprawl* and national and international publications including *The Globe and Mail*, *The Tyee* and *Jacobin*.

Jaydan Tait is the President and CEO of Attainable Homes Calgary, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The City of Calgary dedicated to creating affordable housing solutions for middle-income Calgarians. Jaydan has over two decades of experience in the development industry and has led land acquisitions, project design, and the delivery of multifamily and mixed-use developments across Calgary.

Lesley Kalmakoff is a planner and leader with The City of Calgary, with a 10-year focus on enabling and responding to rapid city growth. She has a Master's of

Environmental Design (Planning) with the University of Calgary, and a passion for collaborative action on tangible issues. She led the creation of Calgary's Established Area Growth and Change Strategy and helped define the integrated Citywide Growth Strategy, in collaboration with colleagues, community and business representatives, and industry partners.

SESSION 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

3D: Municipality of Jasper & Parks Canada: Disaster Response Workshop Part 2

(Part 1 prior to lunch break)

LU = 1.5

STEPHEN AB

See 2D Part 1 Session Description and Presenters



SESSIONS 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

3AB: Developing Derelict Building Strategies in the North – Workshop

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 1/2

Keith Holmes RPP, MCIP
Planner, Dillon Consulting Ltd.

Matt Boscarol RPP, MCIP
Senior Project Manager, Dillon Consulting Ltd.

This session explores the complex challenges of managing derelict buildings within Northern Canadian communities. In remote regions, managing abandoned and derelict buildings is often hindered by limited administrative capacity, resources, and geographical connections. When buildings become vacant, they fall into disrepair and become public safety hazards for the community, particularly with the increasing impacts of climate change. Dillon Consulting Ltd. has extensive experience working with northern communities on derelict building bylaws, including the hamlets of Whati, Fort McPherson, and Gameti in the Northwest Territories, and is seeking to share some of its lessons learned with the planning community.

Following a brief presentation on the topic, attendees will be invited to participate in a workshop where they explore the different roles and constraints at play. Participants will be grouped together and prompted to respond to the unique needs of different parties involved. Following the activity, groups will share their responses with the other groups to encourage a diverse conversation on the topic.

This session highlights the planners’ unique role in responding to change, balancing different interests, and creating safe communities. Ultimately, this session will improve planners’ understanding of rural and northern planning considerations that can be applied elsewhere across the country.

DILLON

Keith Holmes is a planner at Dillon Consulting Ltd. In Calgary whose experience working across Canada has provided him with a unique lens for his projects. His work spans rural and urban municipalities where he has led engagement strategies, developed land use plans, and the created practical policies and bylaws that are tailored to each community’s unique context.

Matt Boscariol is a Senior Project Manager with Dillon Consulting with over 12 years’ experience managing local governments across Canada. He is a Full Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, a Registered Professional Planner, and a Certified Local Government Manager (CLGM). He has worked in urban, rural, and northern communities and has extensive community engagement experience with First Nations across Canada.

other governments influence municipal planning. Rather than focusing on partisan politics or council dynamics, the session will explore ways to better understand and anticipate the broader political forces affecting planning work. Designed to be accessible and practical, the session will include a presentation with recent examples and discussion opportunities. It is presented with humour, honesty, and insight by a planner who transitioned into intergovernmental relations and had to quickly learn these lessons first-hand. Participants will leave with practical tools to scan the broader political landscape, anticipate emerging challenges and opportunities, and provide more confident, foresight driven planning advice.

This session is for those who want to start expanding their political horizons, or learn new ways to follow a rapidly changing world.



Allison Chan is a Senior Planner with The City of Calgary and brings 25 years of experience across planning and government relations. Prior to her current role, she worked in Intergovernmental Relations, supporting subject matter experts in navigating the political landscape and helping advance City priorities with other orders of government. She enjoys leading complex, first-of-their-kind initiatives and has never met a messy special project she didn’t secretly love.

3C: Learn to Read the Political Weather



LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 3

Allison Chan RPP, MCIP
Senior Planner, The City of Calgary

Planners must increasingly navigate forces beyond their direct control. While political awareness once focused mainly on local council dynamics, today’s planners must also understand how provincial, federal, and even global events shape local planning decisions. Topics like housing, infrastructure, and growth are influenced by other governments, yet play out through municipal planning. Developing this broader perspective is becoming an essential skill for providing forward-looking planning advice.

This session explores why political acumen beyond local politics matters and how decisions made by

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Refreshment Break

GRAND FOYER 1/2/3

SESSIONS 2:45 PM – 4:00 PM

4AB: Game of Trails: Where the Real Battle Isn’t on the Map

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 1/2

Peggy Holroyd MEdES, RPP, MCIP
Planning Lead, Kananaskis Region, Alberta Parks

Matt Hadley
Outdoor Recreational Professional, McElhanney Ltd.

Leah Schmidek
Senior Manager, Infrastructure Planning
& Coordination, Alberta Parks

Sometimes in trail planning, the trails are the least of it.... This interactive session uses the Canmore Area Trails Master Plan (CATMP) as a case study for planning in a rapidly shifting ecological and social landscape. Through a live, multi-stakeholder negotiation, this session will allow participants to experience the pace and complexity of contemporary recreation planning mirroring the CATMP's context of accelerating recreation pressures, expanding unauthorized trail networks, and escalating human-wildlife conflict.

Organized as a game, participants will be challenged to design recreation networks considering visitor experiences, ecological values, and residential and industrial activity. Each group will reveal and compare outcomes, including site-level challenges and landscape-scale implications.

The session builds future-ready practice by asking planners to weigh trade-offs, set thresholds for visitor use, and coordinate across interests—skills essential to managing shared landscapes. Applicable to both rural and urban edges where recreation pressure meets ecological limits, this session motivates planners to design adaptive, evidence-driven systems. Participants leave with practical tools for shaping community-supported trail networks in rapidly changing landscapes and a deeper understanding of how to manage recreation in ways that meet user demand while protecting wildlife and habitat in a time of accelerating change.



McElhanney

Peggy Holroyd is a planner, researcher, communicator and facilitator with two decades of experience in recreation, land and resource management. As Planning Lead for Kananaskis Region Alberta Parks, she applies expertise in recreation, cumulative effects and visitor use management planning across diverse projects. She has worked with provincial, territorial, non-governmental and Indigenous organizations. A Registered Professional Planner with a Master's in Environmental Design, Peggy was born in Banff, raised in Yellowknife and lives in Cochrane with her family.

Matt Hadley has over 20 years of experience designing and building trail networks for hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, and motorized use. This work spans assessment, master planning, engagement, concept and detailed design. As an active trail builder, he brings

practical knowledge of trail features that enhance user experience while reducing maintenance requirements. In addition, 16 years of mountain bike racing, including six years on the Canadian National Team have provided broad exposure to trail systems worldwide.

Leah Schmidek moved into a Senior Manager role in Infrastructure Planning & Coordination with Alberta Parks after 15 years of hard-earned lessons managing trail, backcountry campground, and day use area projects in Kananaskis, sharing those lessons she learned to make the trail a little less rocky for others. Her work focuses on bridging the gap between planning and implementation – making sure good ideas don't get stuck on paper.

4C: Designing Learning for Planning: Building Capacity in Complexity

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 3

Christine Leung RPP, MCIP
Team Lead, Technical Training, PDS Learning
& Development, The City of Calgary

Insia Hassonjee
Senior Planner, PDS Learning & Development,
The City of Calgary

Jillian Geen
Senior Planner, PDS Learning & Development,
The City of Calgary

Planning departments operate within complex, evolving systems shaped by policy change, regulatory frameworks, and public accountability. Supporting effective planning practice requires more than informal knowledge transfer, particularly as organizations face workforce turnover, rapid change, and the need to build shared understanding among staff, leaders, Council, and community partners.

At The City of Calgary, Planning & Development Services approaches learning as a core capacity-building function. A dedicated Technical Training Team has been established, made up of planners and technical planning staff who work collaboratively with learning professionals in Learning & Development. Together, they design learning that supports onboarding, continuous development, and adaptation to change. Together, they focus on making planning systems, processes, and decision-making more understandable, accessible, and consistent across diverse audiences.

This session explores how planning learning can be intentionally designed as a continuum, supporting people as they enter the organization, grow in their roles, and respond to new policies, bylaws, and

major planning initiatives. We will highlight our work developing department-wide technical training, onboarding programs, sustaining our external public education program, and reimagining Council onboarding to make planning more transparent and collaborative.

Participants will learn:

- How capacity building through learning supports onboarding and continuous development
- How structured learning pathways reduce ramp-up time while building long-term capability
- How to design training for new policies, bylaws, and initiatives
- How adult learning principles support learning for staff, leaders, Council, and communities

Attendees will leave with adaptable ideas for making planning more learnable in their own organizations supporting people, practice, and change over time.



Christine Leung is a Registered Professional Planner and Team Lead with The City of Calgary, bringing extensive experience in policy development, planning implementation, and building organizational capacity within municipal planning. Since joining the City in 2007, she has led training, onboarding, and mentorship initiatives across Planning & Development Services. Christine designs department-wide training programs and external education initiatives, including Partners in Planning, while advancing technical training and supporting organizational change.

Insia Hassonjee is a Senior Planner with extensive experience in municipal planning, policy & strategy development, and implementation. She specializes in business processes, technical writing, knowledge management, and change management within Planning & Development Services. Known for translating complex policy and procedural changes into practical guidance, Insia supports staff readiness for change, service excellence, and Council priorities through a collaborative, people-centred approach grounded in project management, interdisciplinary planning, and strategic learning.

Jillian Geen is a Senior Planner with over 10 years of experience in municipal planning, policy development, and implementation in Calgary and the surrounding region. She has led complex development reviews, statutory policy projects, and multidisciplinary teams, providing recommendations to Council and Planning

Commission. In her current role, she develops and delivers technical training, supports operational improvements, and strengthens organizational capacity through practical learning tools, staff mentoring, and cross-team collaboration.

4D: Wiring the Future – Planning Data Centres – Panel

LU = 1.25

STEPHEN AB

Aaron Latimer
Development Manager, Canada Mission Critical Data Centres at Bird Construction

Martino Verhaeghe RPP, MCIP
Director of Planning & Economic Development,
Municipal District of Greenview No. 16

Daniel MacGregor RPP, MCIP
Senior Urban Planner, Stantec

Charlie Hogarth MBA, PMP
Principal Advisor, Policy & Regulatory, Stantec

Alima Pal RPP, MCIP
Urban Planner, Stantec

As demand for artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and digital infrastructure accelerates, data centres are emerging as a new and complex land use challenge for planners across Alberta. These projects require navigating evolving policy frameworks, servicing and power requirements, infrastructure constraints, environmental considerations, and rapidly changing investor expectations.

This session brings together a multidisciplinary panel of planning, engineering, and power-sector professionals who are actively involved in data centre development across Alberta. Drawing on real-world projects from both urban and rural contexts, panelists will share practical lessons learned from advancing data centre proposals through area structure plans, land use redesignations, permitting, and infrastructure planning processes.

Attendees will gain insights into aligning policy, servicing, environmental requirements, and power availability with accelerated project timelines, while exploring strategies to support economic development and attract investment. Whether you work in municipal planning, development, infrastructure, or economic development, this session will provide practical tools and perspectives to help plan at the speed of change.



Aaron Latimer is a business and economic development leader specializing in mission critical infrastructure and data centre development across Canada. As a former Manager of Economic Development with Rocky View County, he led investment attraction initiatives for hyperscale and AI data centre projects. Currently, as Development Manager, Canada Mission Critical Data Centres at Bird Construction, Aaron works with developers, utilities, governments, and industry partners to advance large-scale digital infrastructure investments and support data centre growth across Canada.

Martino Verhaeghe has more than 22 years of experience in municipal planning, economic development, and local government leadership across Alberta and Saskatchewan. As Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Municipal District of Greenview No. 16, he leads planning, economic development, communications, and GIS initiatives. His career spans municipal and provincial government, with extensive experience in policy development, regional planning, governance, and organizational transformation. Martino is passionate about building strong communities and supporting sustainable growth.

Daniel MacGregor is a Senior Planner with over 15 years of experience in private consulting, municipal planning, and international practice in Australia. He has led complex industrial, commercial, residential, and mixed-use development projects, with expertise in planning policy, development approvals, and stakeholder engagement. Daniel has extensive experience

coordinating multidisciplinary teams and navigating regulatory processes across diverse jurisdictions. He is currently supporting multiple private-sector data centre projects across Alberta, supporting clients advance complex developments while balancing technical, regulatory, and community considerations.

Charlie Hogarth brings over 13 years of experience in support load and generation project development in Alberta. Specifically, Charlie has assisted developers through the interconnection processes to connect to Alberta's transmission and distribution grids, comply with facility regulations and obtain regulatory approvals. Charlie has directly contributed to the development activities of multiple data center projects (over 2GW) across the province and enjoy bringing stakeholders together to discuss the big picture considerations for progressing these complex projects.

Alima Pal is an Urban Planner with Stantec based in Calgary, Alberta, specializing in land use planning, development approvals, policy alignment, and stakeholder engagement. She has supported data centre developments across Alberta through Area Structure Plans, land use redesignations, development permits, and regulatory approvals. Alima contributed to the Beacon AI Hub Area Structure Plan and is currently supporting multiple private-sector data centre projects across the province. Her experience includes coordinating multidisciplinary teams and working with municipalities, agencies, and stakeholders to advance complex development initiatives.



4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Tour 7: From Campus to City:
SAPL's Downtown Move**

LU = 2.0

LOBBY

Professor Dr. John Brown
RAIC – Dean, School of Architecture,
Planning and Landscape

Francisco Alaniz Uribe RPP, MCIP
Associate Professor of Planning, University of Calgary

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL) at the University of Calgary has relocated to downtown Calgary, becoming an anchor tenant in Calgary's innovative office tower conversion program. After eight years split between campus and a downtown location, the City Building Design Lab in the former W.R. Castell Central Library, SAPL now occupies nine floors of an award-winning converted high-rise, purpose-built for transdisciplinary design education and research.

The new facility includes a community-facing City Lab at street level, a Digital Fabrication Workshop in an adjacent annex, and a shared atrium hosting public programming. This physical presence in Calgary's urban core embodies SAPL's longstanding commitment to community-embedded education rooted in the school's origins as the Faculty of Environmental Design.

SAPL's Master of Planning program has long prioritized community-based and form-based planning, fostering close collaboration with municipal agencies, practitioners, and community groups. Downtown immersion deepens this tradition, positioning the school as a hub for participatory research and immersing students and faculty directly within the urban fabric. The building's conversion serves as a tangible example of land use adaptability within a dynamic downtown planning environment.

This session presents SAPL's relocation strategy and explores how its community-integrated model of planning education creates new opportunities for collaboration with Calgary's professional, civic, and community partners.



Professor Dr. John Brown, dean of SAPL since 2018, is a registered architect and founding principal of Housebrand and Garden Loft. Renowned for innovative housing design and age-in-community planning. Brown emphasizes applying research to practical contexts and fostering entrepreneurialism along with

new practice models. As dean, he has established the Doctor of Design and the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation as practice-focused design programs and led SAPL's move to its downtown location.

Francisco Alaniz Uribe is an architect, urban designer, and APPI-registered professional planner from Monterrey, Mexico, is an Associate Professor who teaches in the Master of Planning and Landscape Architecture programs and leads the Zurich study abroad program in Switzerland. As Co-Director of the Urban Lab, he researches sustainable urban design, densification, livability, and the built environment, using urban morphology, participatory research, extended reality, and drone technology. With 28 years of experience across Mexico, Canada, Switzerland, and New Zealand.

6:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Banquet Reception

CORRIDOR



7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Banquet

IMPERIAL 4/6/8 & CORRIDOR



Planning Awards

QUALICO
communities

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM

Wake and Shake Morning Run
MEET IN LOBBY

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Registration
GRAND FOYER 1

7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Exhibitors
GRAND FOYER 1/2/3

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Breakfast
IMPERIAL 4/6/8

DILLON

SESSIONS 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

5A: mddl School: A Middle Housing Development Lab

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 1

Claire Askey
Urban Planner, mddl Ltd.

Jasneet Pritam
Developer Enablement Initiatives Lead, mddl Ltd.

This 75-minute workshop gives attendees a hands-on introduction to mddl and its suite of tools designed to accelerate middle housing delivery across Canada. The session opens with a 15-minute introduction to mddl, with the remaining 60 minutes dedicated to a structured, hands-on exercise that mirrors the real-world development process.

Participants move through five steps: discussing how zoning frameworks shape what can be built; using mddl's GIS-based Lot Identification Tool to conduct site suitability analysis with layered data including zoning, transit, infrastructure, and realtor.ca listing integrations; selecting a pre-approved building permit plan matched to their site and housing typology; running a pro forma financial analysis using standardized assumptions; and finally determining whether the project is viable.

Key takeaways: Attendees will understand how integrated tools can lower barriers for new developers, while experiencing first-hand the complexities and trade-offs of middle housing development through

a structured exercise covering zoning, design, finance, and viability.

Why attend: Housing supply is among the most pressing challenges facing Alberta communities. This session moves beyond theory, giving attendees the opportunity to interact with live tools already deployed in Canadian cities, gaining practical understanding of how technology and process innovation build capacity.



Claire Askey is an Urban Planner at mddl, leading municipal initiatives across more than 10 North American municipalities. Her work focuses on GIS analysis, financial modelling, and industry engagement to support housing innovation. Claire is a CAPM-certified project manager, Canadian Planning Excellence finalist, avid cyclist, and contributor to over 15 awards in housing capacity building and enablement programs.

Jasneet Pritam leads mddl's Developer Enablement Initiatives, supporting site-based and standardized middle housing projects from early feasibility and design through delivery. Her work focuses on project management, due diligence, scenario-based massing modelling, and daily problem-solving to advance mddl's housing development and policy work. A CAPM-certified project manager and practicing artist, Jasneet is drawn to mission-driven work and has helped shape much of mddl's award-winning programming.

5Bi and ii:

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 2

**i: Beyond the Pond:
Stormwater That Does More**

Nathan Arthur ^{RPP, MCIP}
Project Manager, Dream Asset
Management Corporation
Jennifer Magnus
CEO, Magna Engineering Services

What if a stormwater pond at the edge of your community didn't just meet its engineering function, but also delivered elevated public amenity, climate resilience, and next-generation water quality today?

Alpine Park's Storm Park in southwest Calgary is a case study in exactly that kind of future-ready thinking. Constructed in 2025 and opened to the public in 2026, this integrated facility combines a Nautilus Pond sediment clarifier forebay, treatment wetlands, and a

biofilter into a single nature-based stormwater system that fulfills key infrastructure requirements while serving as a premier neighbourhood amenity.

Co-presented by MAGNA Engineering Services and Dream, this session highlights a reimagined approach to conventional stormwater infrastructure – showing how collaboration and interdisciplinary design can outperform conventional approaches on environmental outcomes, lifecycle costs, and community value. We'll walk through how the Storm Park was shaped through land use and policy hurdles, demonstrating how creative engineering and planning can move at the speed of change.

This session will also speak to scalability: MAGNA has applied nature-based stormwater systems across Alberta, from larger urban neighbourhoods to smaller retrofits and rural contexts, proving these are not niche solutions, but transferable ones.

Attendees will discuss barriers like policy, risk, cost, and approval processes, and where opportunities exist to fast-forward toward resilient, multifunctional stormwater infrastructure.

Nathan Arthur is a Project Manager with Dream and a Registered Professional Planner. As a Planner with Stantec from 2017 to 2024, he worked on planning approvals for Alpine Park, later joining Dream to support delivery of the community he helped plan. Passionate about urban placemaking, Nathan believes great neighbourhoods invite continual exploration and are rich with character that encourages people to want to discover, experience, and come back for more.

Jennifer Magnus founded MAGNA with a vision to deliver innovative, nature-based stormwater solutions that go beyond conventional infrastructure. As CEO, she leads a 30-plus member team known for creative, purposeful design. An engineer who leads from the front, Jennifer brings hands-on expertise and a collaborative approach to every project. She was the champion for bringing Alpine Park's Storm Park to life, one of Alberta's most ambitious integrated stormwater facilities to date.

QUALICO
communities

ii: Beyond the Bottom Line: Measuring Project Success

Christina Lombardo
Senior Planner, Stantec

James Scott RPP, MCIP
Senior Project Director, Stantec

Canadian municipalities are currently facing growing pressures to justify investments not just in dollars but in community resilience, equity, and sustainability. That said, project evaluation often defaults primarily to financial metrics. This session explores how a traditionally narrow project-focused lens can overlook the broader value that investments bring to communities. Advocating for a weighted, multi-criteria (triple-bottom-line) approach placing social outcomes at the forefront, alongside environmental stewardship and economic resilience. Using the example of a planned recreation centre reimagined as a community hub, we'll demonstrate how integrated

planning across departments can deliver vibrant, healthy spaces that foster equity, inclusion, and well-being. These hubs can adapt over time to demographic shifts, by offering cultural programming, health services, and climate-resilient designs. By embedding social impact metrics such as accessibility, program diversity, and community partnerships into project assessments, municipalities can ensure decisions reflect long-term benefits beyond cost.

This approach aligns with federal priorities on climate action and social inclusion and supports healthy communities, economic resiliency, and climate adaptation in a rapidly evolving urban landscape. This session will explore how municipalities can adopt a multi-criteria analysis (weighted triple-bottom-line) approach to assess project success more holistically moving forward.

Christina Lombardo is a Senior Planner that has planning experience within current, long range and policy planning. Previously as a municipal planner and currently as a planning consultant, Christina works on and manages multiple complex projects that involve collaboration with elected officials, municipal and provincial staff, regional stakeholders as well as the general public. This experience allows her to excel while leading integrated technical teams and build on relationships, incorporating a holistic and balanced interdisciplinary approach.

James Scott, with over 30 years in the industry, has worked both as a planning consultant and land developer gaining vast experience ranging from master and policy planning to complex site development and redevelopments. James has acquired experience in multiple technical and regulatory environments

managing the delivery of complex projects. James' leadership and governance experience through development management and executive positions in the development industry represent a wide range of clients and projects in Calgary, western Canada and the US.

5C: Times are Changing - A Review of the Impact of Recent Legislative Changes on Planning

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 3

Alifeyah Gulamhusein, Partner
Brownlee LLP

This session will provide a high-level overview of some of the changes that planners should be aware of arising out of Bills 13, 28 and 40. This includes changes to planning and development practice as well as changes that may impact the profession more generally.



Alifeyah Gulamhusein is a partner in the municipal law department at Brownlee LLP. Her areas of practice include planning and development, governance, and litigation. Alifeyah has represented municipalities before various tribunals and various levels of court. Alifeyah has done numerous presentations on planning and development, drafting, and governance issues.

Alifeyah worked as in-house legal counsel for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo from 2015-2017 and for other municipalities. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Alifeyah taught high school in Edmonton.

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM

Refreshment Break

GRAND FOYER 1/2/3



SESSIONS 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

6A: Getting the Temperature Down in the Room: Supporting Planner Mental Health in an Age of Conflict

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 1

Dr. Marie Cecile Kotyk
Assistant Professor and Design Justice Research Chair, University of Calgary, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape

In an era of growing distrust, polarization, and public hostility, planners are increasingly on the front lines of conflict. From contentious public hearings to personal attacks, the emotional and psychological toll of planning work is intensifying, yet conversations about mental health in the profession remain limited.

This session creates a dedicated and supportive space for planners to reflect on the mental and emotional impacts of the work. It begins with a brief framing presentation, followed by facilitated small-group discussions where participants can share experiences, build connections, and exchange practical coping strategies.

Designed as both a reflective and action-oriented session, participants will leave with new tools, a stronger sense of peer support, and strategies for navigating high-conflict environments.



Dr. Marie Cecile Kotyk is an award-winning social planner, housing practitioner, and design justice scholar with over 15 years of experience advancing equity in public and non-profit sectors. She is an Assistant Professor and Design Justice Research Chair at the University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture, and founder of Kotyk Consulting. Her doctoral research produced the Black Housing Equity Framework, Canada's first framework addressing anti-Black racism in housing policy and design. Her work is nationally and internationally recognized, including being named an Avenue Calgary Visionary in 2025.

6B: Anything but Standard: Smarter Housing Options for Small and Rural Communities in Alberta

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 2

Cleo Corbett ^{RPP, MCIP}

Sr Specialist, Municipal Relations, CMHC

Thelma Tsuro

Housing Professional, CMHC

The evolution of zoning across Canada has set the stage for the use of standardized housing designs. This session will provide an overview of land use changes happening across Canada and the opportunity, the CMHC Housing Design Catalogue (HDC) presents communities big and small. Experiences from Launch Partner municipalities will be shared and how these tools can be used for accessory dwellings and missing middle housing. Attendees will learn how the designs can be used in their communities with a focus on application in small and rural communities and the advantages standardized approaches to land use and pre-reviewed designs provide. There will be an interactive opportunity to explore the Alberta designs in small groups and their possible fit in local contexts. The Session will also explore connections between the HDC and modern methods of construction and production.

Key Takeaways:

- Understanding the benefits of standardization: zoning, development processes and open-source housing designs
- Making links to modern methods of construction: Pre-fab, panelization and modular
- Exploring the application in local jurisdictions: Small, rural and cities – the Opportunities and Challenges
- Addressing community push-back to change and density
- Whole system approaches to housing
- Possible Build Canada Homes (BCH) connection



Cleo Corbett, having grown up in Co-op Housing in Vancouver and spending parts of her childhood in different countries in Africa, Cleo has a unique perspective on what 'home' means. Her educational background from Vancouver Island University and Simon Fraser University and 20 years of municipal planning experience provide the perfect backdrop for

her current role with CMHC's Municipal Relations team, where she works with local governments in British Columbia and Nova Scotia to improve the housing system. Cleo's work has been recognized by the United Nations and UBCM, and she currently serves on the board of the Planning Institute of British Columbia and the Yukon. Based on Vancouver Island, Cleo balances a busy career and family life with dog walks, theatre and rock n' roll.

Thelma Tsuro is a housing professional with CMHC, where she works collaboratively with partners to support housing initiatives. With experience in relationship building, interest holder engagement, and housing related programs, Thelma is committed to advancing solutions that improve housing outcomes for Canadians. She is passionate about fostering partnerships and sharing knowledge to support housing development.

6C: From Growth to Resilience: Rethinking Density Through a Municipal Finance Lens

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 3

Nick Pryce ^{RPP, MCIP}

Vice President, Alberta Municipal Business Development Leader, V3

Darryl Howery ^{MA}

Owner, Senior Economic & Fiscal Analysis, Applications Management Consulting Ltd.

For decades, the planning profession has advocated for changes in how our urban environments are structured in order to reduce environmental impacts and improve long-term sustainability. One of the most prominent and debated strategies today is increasing residential density within established urban areas.

While the rationale for intensification is often framed around legitimate objectives—such as reducing greenfield expansion, limiting environmental impacts, and supporting housing affordability—these arguments have not consistently resonated with residents. Many community members are less focused on macro-environmental outcomes and more concerned about neighbourhood character, property values, and the preservation of the existing urban fabric.

What has been largely absent from the public discourse—and what should be central to it—is the growing fiscal imbalance facing municipalities. Post-COVID cost escalation in construction, infrastructure replacement, labour, and service delivery has significantly outpaced municipal revenue growth and

there are no signs of it changing. The widening gap between the taxes collected and the true lifecycle costs of operating, maintaining, and replacing infrastructure presents a structural financial challenge that cannot be ignored.

This presentation will examine how planning must more directly integrate fiscal realities into policy development and regulatory frameworks. It will explore how density, growth management, and land use decisions influence long-term municipal financial sustainability, and how planning tools can be strategically applied to build fiscally resilient communities in an era of rising costs and constrained revenue capacity.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SCHOOL OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Nick Pryce has over 32 years of experience in the global planning profession, and is dedicated to sparking honest and critical conversations about the challenges and opportunities facing planners today - both locally and globally. Passionate about identifying emerging trends, Nick explores how shifting political landscapes, misinformation, and evolving societal dynamics influence the way we plan for the future.

Recognizing the urgent need to raise awareness of the planning profession, Nick advocates for proactive and clearer communication about the profession its role, importance, and complexities. He emphasizes the critical intersection of planning, governance, and multidisciplinary collaboration, highlighting the power of education in bridging the gap between planners, decision makers and the public's understanding. Through thought-provoking discussions, Nick challenges planners to rethink how they can proactively educate and inform communities, adjacent disciplines, decision-makers, and the broader public in an era of rapid change.

Darryl Howery has over 35 years working throughout the province on Growth and Fiscal Impact Analysis, including demographic forecasting, employment modelling, fiscal scenario testing, and integration of economic and fiscal considerations into MDP policy direction.

Darryl Howery is a senior economic and fiscal modelling specialist with Applications Management who supports municipalities with growth forecasting, labour market analysis, and long-term fiscal impact assessments. He has experience translating demographic, economic, and development trends into practical inputs for land use planning and infrastructure decision-making.

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

IMPERIAL 4/6/8



12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

7A: Road to RPP

LU = 1.0

IMPERIAL 1

Ryan Jones
Professional Standards Board (PSB)
for the Planning Profession in Canada

Aspiring and current RPP candidates seeking certification as Registered Professional Planners (RPPs) in Canada, Mentors, and Sponsors are invited to join us on a journey through the certification process. In this presentation, we'll explore the pathways to becoming an RPP. With a focus on both the accredited degree pathway and Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) pathway. From the requirements for admission through to obtaining your RPP designation to the final exam, we'll demystify the certification process. We'll delve into the role of the mentorship in the certification journey. Expectations and best practices for mentors and resources to support you on your journey. Whether you're a fresh graduate or seasoned planner working in Canada, this session will provide valuable insights into obtaining your RPP designation. Join us as we pave your path toward excellence in planning!



PROFESSIONAL
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PROFESSION IN CANADA

Ryan Jones works from Ottawa, Ontario as the Operations Manager for the Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada. He assists with delivering PSB's core services in university program accreditation and candidate RPP certification for Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations across Canada.

SESSIONS 1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

8A: Rurban Role Play

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 1

Derek Macdonald RPP, MCIP
Planner II, Parkland County

Jared Candlish BCD, MSC URP
Planner II, Parkland County

Roya Karimi-Boushehri MSC URP
Planner I, Parkland County

Join Parkland County's Planning Coordination team for an interactive and refreshing dive into the world of policy and regulation implementation in a "rurban" municipality! Session attendees will learn about the trials and tribulations of implementing the County's planning "bookends", the new Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw, in a rapidly changing environment.

The new MDP and LUB were created with a focus on "How Do We Get to a Yes?" while also identifying the County's hard no's early so that the County's planning and development process is flexible, user friendly, and streamlined for both development applicants and County staff. Fast forward one year after approvals, and the County's Planning Coordination Team is putting this policy and regulation evolution into practice. Through a mix of audio-visual and interactive tools, attendees will learn the answers to big questions including:

- Is the "How Do We Get to a Yes?" approach flexible and future-ready enough to work when "the big fish" development opportunities arise;
- Is it user-friendly enough for "never-ever" applicants to make sense of; and
- How is the County streamlining all of the outdated policy surrounding the new MDP and LUB to create alignment and anticipate future growth pressures?



Derek Macdonald is an enthusiastic Planner II with Planning Coordination at Parkland County. He has a passion for helping resource -based communities become more economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable through his "plangineering" and mixed public and private sector background. He leads and supports the new Municipal Development Plan's implementation through a wide range of policy projects and planning and development applications including the overhauling of the County's Area Structure Plans.

Jared Candlish is a Planner II with Planning Coordination at Parkland County. He is skilled at translating ambitious policy into practical regulation, effectively bringing vision to reality. He recently led the Redesign of the County's Land Use Bylaw and is focused on stewarding complex files including major development applications, rezonings, policy plans, and inter-municipal planning. Jared specializes in using clear visuals and graphics to help the public and stakeholders interpret regulatory processes.

Roya Karimi-Boushehri is a Planner I with Planning Coordination at Parkland County. She uses her subdivision planning experience to explore the integration of cultural ecosystem services into land use and policy planning. Roya actively supports the implementation of the Municipal Development Plan through various planning and development applications, while also leading and assisting with other County projects. Prior to transitioning into the planning field, she worked as a project manager in the construction and utilities industry.

8B: Can You Find Me Now?
An Interactive Town Hall Panel
Discussion for Transitioning Your
Community to the Precision of NG911

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 2

Christopher M. Morin, Sr
A/Senior Manager, Planning & Development Services,
Enoch Cree Nation

James Chin
Planning Coordinator, Planning & Development
Services, Enoch Cree Nation

Don Kitchener
Senior Support Staff, Alberta Municipal Data
Sharing Partnership

James Mazak RPP, MCIP
Director of Planning & Development,
Clearwater County

The Enoch Cree Nation worked with different consultants over the past decade to organize its addressing system without clear success, leaving it with a convoluted mix of addressing systems. In one incident, peace officers mistakenly broke down the door of the wrong house while serving an arrest warrant because they could not find the address.

The first part will discuss the challenges, implementation, and setbacks encountered when the team rationalized the addressing system. These issues are similar for small municipalities. We will also discuss how the Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership

(AMDSP) has been instrumental in helping us comply with the Next Generation 911 (NG 911) so that our data can be used seamlessly by the police, emergency services and Google. Lastly, we will present some of our key takeaways as well as the concrete results.

This will be a presentation in two parts: first, a review of the background and what was accomplished; second, a town hall discussion with representatives from the Nation, Aubin Consulting, and AMDSP.



Christopher M. Morin Sr., a member of the Enoch Cree Nation (ECN), is the Nation's Acting Senior Manager of Planning and Development Services. With over fifty years of service to his community, he brings eleven years of dedicated expertise in the Planning Department. Christopher has been instrumental in shaping community infrastructure, developing the Integrated Land Use Plan, the Village Area Structure Plan, and establishing critical land-use by-laws. Notably, he successfully negotiated a Global Servicing Agreement with the City of Edmonton.

James Chin is a candidate member of APPI dedicated of the Canadian Institute of Planners dedicated to impactful community development. He currently applies his expertise in spatial analysis and land use planning as the Acting Manager for the ECN's Planning and Development Services. James led a Next Generation 911 (NG911) mapping project that modernized their geographic infrastructure. He has also worked as an asset manager for the largest real estate company in the Philippines. He holds degrees from the University of Alberta and Rice University.

Don Kitchener began his career as a photogrammetrist in 1979 and has over 45 years of experience in mapping, and GIS data creation. He has developed GIS datasets for numerous dispatch and 9-1-1 systems across Alberta and other Canadian provinces.

Don also designed the data specifications and submission system for the Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership (AMDSP), which collects and validates GIS data for Alberta's province-wide NG9-1-1 database. Today, AMDSP supports more than 280 municipalities and First Nations communities in Alberta.

James Mazak is a dynamic Professional Planner with over 20 years of progressive municipal, consulting, and leadership experience. As a trusted advisor specializing in community-led planning, strategic planning, and Indigenous relations, James has dedicated much of his recent work to building in-house capacity for First Nations. Notably, he successfully guided the Enoch Cree Nation to become the first First Nation in Alberta

to achieve Next Generation 911 (NG911) compliance, establishing a critical framework for modern emergency services.

PECHA KUCHA SESSION 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM

8C: Pecha Kucha Sessions

LU = 1.5

IMPERIAL 3



PK1: What does a Drag Brunch and Open House have in common?

Lyndsay Francis RPP, MCIP
Independent Consultant

At first glance, it might seem like being a Planner and performing as a drag king are two complete opposites, but that isn't the case. Drag teaches transferrable skills, both soft skills and technical skills which can be applied to work as a Planner. In this fast, funny performance ... I mean presentation, I will be weaving a web to show what a drag brunch and public open house have in common (hint: it's not a love for mimosas). I will be showcasing some of my personal experiences performing as Dyxson to highlight the skills I have gained through drag and how they apply to planning practice. This presentation celebrates both queer joy and planning and the connection they share in community building. Embracing drag is one way that can help us plan at the speed of change and have fun while doing it!

Lyndsay Francis is a queer millennial planner who believes we do our best work when we bring our true selves into our roles. By day Lyndsay works in communities creating and implementing planning policies and by night building social community through events, fundraisers, and drag performances. Merging their lived experience as a queer person and professional experience as a Planner, Lyndsay incorporates an inclusive lens into their work.

PK2: Making it Real: Innisfail Addresses Climate Change

Gordon Shaw RPP, MCIP

Manager of Community Development Services,
Town of Innisfail

Innisfail made a change in thinking seven years ago to embrace approaches that challenged the standard normative practices of a smaller sized rural town to address sustainable energy and low carbon solutions to support the community's long term health, affordability, and prosperity.

Building partnerships with global companies and integrating the carbon capture ecosystem into policy formulation and implementation along with operational practices led to the divestiture of staid thinking in how a municipality could lead by creating synergies with the private sector to address climate change.

Using a Pecha Kucha presentation format, the presenter will illustrate how a paradigm shift in a community's approach to energy consumption and the organization's ecological footprint can open economic development doors while allowing it to be a leader as a local government.

The presentation will focus on initiatives the town and private companies have taken over seven years to transition from fossil fuels while addressing carbon removal and climate change through technological innovation and transfer, infrastructure improvements and policy formulation and implementation.

This presentation focuses on the role communities can play in creating and implementing policy frameworks that influence operational practices to address climate change.

Gordon Shaw has extensive experience in planning small to medium-sized rural and urban communities in Alberta and Saskatchewan, most recently with the Town of Innisfail. His professional expertise is strategic planning, regulatory compliance, and team leadership. His focus is on executing impactful projects that meet community needs while strengthening stakeholder relationships. His education includes degrees from Simon Fraser University and the University of Calgary as well as NACLA Level I and II certificates from the University of Alberta.

PK3: Protecting the Value of Lake Landscapes: A Simple Toolset (Part 1 - Consultant Perspective)

Simran Chowdhary
Planner, O2 Planning & Design

Matt Knapik
Senior Associate and Project Leader,
O2 Planning & Design

PK3: Protecting the Value of Lake Landscapes: A Simple Toolset (Part 2 – Municipal Economic Development Perspective)

Linda Sallstrom
Economic Development Officer, The St. Paul/Elk Point
(STEP) Economic Development Alliance

How can we manage recreation, tourism, and development while protecting the health of our lakes?

A recent project in Lakeland Alberta has inspired new thinking about purpose and approachability.

Lake landscapes play a key role in recreation, tourism, and development as Alberta works toward a diverse economy, but this growth can threaten lake health and long-term value.

While many groups share an interest in healthy lakes, decisions are often made without a shared understanding of development intent, lake health, development impacts, or mitigation among the parties that drive this change — who include residents, investors, developers, designers, builders, and operators. Data and strategy can be patchy, expensive, and misaligned.

In 2025/2026, O2 and AE worked with Alberta's Lakeland Region to develop a toolkit to consolidate a common, simplified language around lake health and development. The result was an innovative action planning process.

Join us for this double Pecha-Kucha session to share tools and story, including:

- building an inexpensive and meaningful picture of lake health
- setting intentions by clarifying lake role and development intent
- understanding impacts of different development types
- exploring key actions to mitigate and offset impacts

Simran Chowdhary is a Planner with O2's Calgary office. Her work focuses on making complex planning decisions clearer and more usable through structured tools, plain language synthesis, and engagement

methods that support shared ownership. On this project, Simran has supported toolkit development, scenario design, and translating ecological and development concepts into practical decision steps for diverse audiences.

Matt Knapik is a Senior Associate and project leader at O2 Planning and Design. He brings nearly 20 years of experience delivering public and private sector work across planning, urban design, and economic development. His recent practice has focused on district master planning, rural revitalization, and land use policy, with a strong emphasis on practical tools that support clear decision making. Matt lives in Calgary with his family and works with communities across the prairies.

Linda Sallstrom is the Economic Development Officer for the St. Paul and Elk Point Economic Development Alliance. She supports regional economic development initiatives related to investment attraction, business growth, and long-term community sustainability. Linda works closely with municipalities, regional partners, and local stakeholders to align economic development goals with land use planning, infrastructure, and environmental considerations across lake influenced and rural contexts.

PK4: From Emergency to Essential: Calgary's Seasonal Patio Evolution

Andrew Sedor RPP, MCIP

Mobility Initiatives Lead, The City of Calgary

In 2020, the “pandemic patio” was a lifeline for a struggling hospitality sector. In 2026, it is a permanent pillar of Calgary’s urban vibrancy. This session explores how The City of Calgary’s Seasonal Patio program successfully transitioned from a rapid-response pilot into a sophisticated program. Currently 100 restaurants take part in the seasonal patio program.

Transforming public space with modular infrastructure can help local businesses and create vibrant streets. Calgary has developed a physical “kit of parts” (e.g. barriers, platforms, planters) to help protect the parklets, boardwalks and patios, while improving the aesthetics and accessibility of the areas. Calgary has also developed internal processes that have made the implementation easier and streamlined.

Andrew Sedor works as the Mobility Initiatives Lead at The City of Calgary. Andrew leads the shared e-Scooter and e-Bike program, the seasonal patio program, and other innovate projects occurring in The City’s road right of way. In his prior roles, he led Canada’s first public-facing autonomous vehicle pilot, authored Calgary’s Future of Transportation Report, updated bylaws to accommodate new transportation technologies and trends, launched The City of Calgary’s Living Lab program, and led the University of Calgary

Wearable’s collaboration. Andrew also teaches a course in Urban Planning at the University of Calgary and holds a master’s degree in Land Economics from the University of Cambridge. He was one of Avenue Magazine’s Top 40 under 40 in 2024.

PK5: Get on the Bus! A Drumheller Case Study

Lana Phillips RPP, MCIP

Destination Development Manager, Travel Drumheller

I’ve had the amazing opportunity over the past couple years to plant the seeds for establishing public transportation in Drumheller. The project, called Valley Connect, is about connecting people, places and possibilities. It’s a starting point for public transportation in Drumheller and beyond. Valley Connect combines a pilot shuttle bus and a feasibility study to explore how public transportation can help the community.

The project combines the technical/academics of a Feasibility Study, with a tangible pilot for the community to understand. One can’t overstate the impact on our community and economy of us having a community funded summer hop-on, hop-off bus operating this summer on Fridays and Saturdays.

Lana Phillips is a rural tourism entrepreneur and community builder passionate about practical solutions for small communities. With experience in both the private and public sectors and an MBA, she brings a collaborative, problem-solving approach to community development. Living in rural Alberta, Lana is leading local conversations about mobility and public transportation, exploring how innovative ideas can strengthen access, connection, and economic opportunity in rural regions.

PK6: The Pivot to Focused Growth in Rocky View County MDP

Devin LaFleche RPP, MCIP

Regional Planning Manager, Rocky View County

Gerrit Scheffel

Senior Regional Planner, Rocky View County

In Rocky View County, growth brings both opportunity and tension. Bordering Calgary, the County spans prairie farmland, industrial transportation hubs, and rapidly growing rural and urban communities. It faces a defining challenge: how can growth be managed while preserving rural character and protecting agriculture?

The County’s new Municipal Development Plan (MDP) offers a focused growth strategy. Rather than spreading development everywhere, growth is directed to areas with infrastructure, service capacity, and community readiness to support sustainable expansion. This approach strengthens fiscal responsibility, improves

service efficiency, and reduces long-term infrastructure risk.

Central to the MDP is the Distinct Areas Framework, shaped through collaboration with residents, community groups, the development industry, and regional partners. By clarifying each community's role and growth expectations, the framework allows areas to evolve in ways that reflect their character while contributing to the County's broader identity and objectives.

This Pecha Kucha session shares practical lessons on implementing focused growth in a high-pressure region, highlighting how clear vision, policy alignment, and collaborative planning can build resilience, protect farmland, and position communities to capture the right opportunities.

Devin LaFleche is Regional Planning Manager with Rocky View County, where he leads strategic planning initiatives focused on intergovernmental collaboration. His work aligns long-range policy with implementation to support focused growth, fiscal responsibility, and efficient service delivery across one of Alberta's fastest-growing regions. He previously served as Transit and Sustainability Coordinator with the Town of Cochrane, launching Canada's first fully on-demand local transit system and advanced active transportation, sustainability, and energy efficiency initiatives.

Gerrit Scheffel is a Senior Regional Planner with Rocky View County, where he has worked in various roles, supporting and leading long-range policy initiatives such as the County's new Municipal Development Plan. With a background in finance, data analysis, and community planning, he brings a balanced approach to growth and sustainability. Gerrit enjoys working directly with communities to bring their vision to life by aligning economic opportunity, local identity, and long-term resilience.

PK7: Re-entangling Growth, Housing Markets and Policy

Justin Barer RPP, MCIP
Urban Systems Ltd.

Callie Symmers
Urban Systems Ltd.

Foresight – developing an understanding of the future – is a critical component of planning for growth. The population projections commonly developed by public agencies to support these exercises rely exclusively on historical demographic patterns. Lacking consideration for local policy, need or supply, they falter when assessing need during a time of rapid shifts. During this session we

will present our thesis outlining: a) how demographic based projections below the regional level are not well suited to supporting effective and responsive planning as they abstract away from the key factors that planners need to consider, and b) that planners need frameworks and methods that re-engage with the tangle of economic and policy factors which influence growth and where it occurs.

We will present a brief case study outlining an alternative approach which emphasizes the importance of the development process in forecasting. This approach involves analysis of development potential at the parcel level across a region, using detailed planning and geospatial data, combined with the logic of development feasibility. The session will be of interest to those who develop or make use of population or housing projections, and those who are interested in demographics, urban and land economics, and parcel-level data-oriented methodologies.

Justin Barer is a professional planner and land economist with over 17 years of experience leading market and financial analysis assignment for municipalities across Western Canada. He specializes in integrating real estate market dynamics, land value analysis and development feasibility into land use planning. His work increasingly focuses on bridging the gap between land economics and planning policy, helping communities ground their forecasts and aspirations in market realities and development viability.

Callie Symmers is a housing economist and data analyst, previously having worked at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. She uses housing, demographic, and economic data, combined with statistics and economic theory to describe and understand how cities work, and how we can get them to work better. She supports the Land Economics practice at Urban Systems, working alongside planners and with municipal and First Nations governments across western Canada.

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Refreshment Break

GRAND FOYER 1/2/3



3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Plenary Session
Do More by Doing Less –
Your Secret to Being Future-Proofed
against change

LU = 1.25

IMPERIAL 4/6/8

Anthony Sanni
Anthony Sanni Co International

This engaging, paradigm-shifting session shares insights from Anthony's book of the same title and challenges the belief that more success requires more effort. It leans into how the adoption of a new perspective on value transforms current work and future-proofs planners' careers.

Supported by stories and science—and delivered in Anthony's engaging, humorous, and conversational style—attendees will discover they can have, do, and be more while doing less.



Anthony Sanni is an author, coach, speaker, and consultant working with organizations to harness the power of their people through enhanced personal productivity and effective communication.

Anthony is the author of *The Law of The Vital Few: How to do more by doing less*. He has researched and written on personal productivity, and strategic communication for over 12 years.

He is an experienced learning strategist and has consulted on learning programs for private and public sector organizations in Alberta.

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM

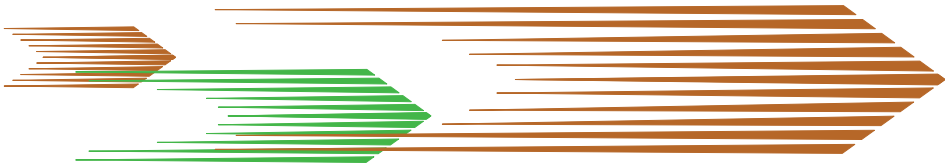
Closing Remarks

LU = 0.25

IMPERIAL 4/6/8

Those in attendance at the Closing Remarks will be eligible to win one of a number of fabulous prizes including, but not limited to, a complimentary registration to the 2027 APPI Conference.

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