

The first professionally trained urban planners arrived in Alberta as part of a rapid economic expansion following World War II and the discovery of oil in 1947. Their numbers were few but grew steadily. In 1953 the Town Planning Institute of Canada (TPIC) had just three members in Alberta.¹ By 1955 there were enough planners to have established an informal North West Group of TPIC. Based in Edmonton, the group discussed planner education, planning research and publication and, perhaps at the instigation of British imports prominent in the crowd, the possibility of participating in international conferences.

The group aspired to establish a provincial organization of planners. At a meeting on 15 Nov 1955, it was “decided that an Alberta division should be organized with chapters in Calgary and Edmonton.”² This decision proved premature; no such body was established at the time. Limited numbers and volunteer power meant that planner organization stayed close to the brownout level.

TPIC’s 1956 annual meeting was held in Banff. Perhaps inspired by this event, the North West Group took a small step forward by reorganizing itself as the Town Planning Institute of Canada, Edmonton Branch on 15 November 1956. Future Canadian planning luminaries Len Gertler and Harry Lash were acclaimed as chairman and secretary, respectively. The organization considered adopting bylaws and registering under the provincial Societies Act but did neither. Establishing a series of courses to help “students” (people working in planning offices without professional planning credentials) move towards full membership in TPIC was its main preoccupation. Minutes of the Edmonton Branch’s meetings were circulated to planners in other parts of Alberta. When Gertler moved to Ontario in 1957, Frank Marlyn took over as chairman in addition to assuming Gertler’s day job as Director of the Edmonton District Planning Commission.³

In 1958/59, Adolph “Al” Martin, the first planning director at the City of Calgary, served as the first TPIC President from Alberta. A major issue at the time was how TPIC would relate to the newly-formed Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC). The decisions made led to the present federal structure of planner organizations in Canada.⁴ PIBC thus blazed the trail for other provincial affiliates of the national institute, but it took a scandal for planners in Alberta to strike out along it.

William Hawrelak resigned as Mayor of Edmonton in September 1959 after a Royal Commission headed by Justice M. M. Porter of Calgary found him in serious conflict of interest on land development deals. The Porter report also charged Edmonton’s planning director with “complete abandonment of responsibility.”⁵ With allegations about the

conduct of planners making front-page news, the Edmonton Branch felt compelled to defend its members' credibility.

Its first tack was to ask TPIC to publicly respond to what it felt were inappropriate generalizations about planning in Alberta made by Justice Porter. After more discussions it was deemed more politic to spruce up than to attack.⁶ How effective would planners be in ensuring public confidence in their vocation without an organization with provincial scope, membership requirements attuned to provincial legislation and a process to enforce adherence to ethical standards? Accordingly the inaugural meeting of the Alberta Association of the Town Planning Institute of Canada (AATPIC) was held on 8 April 1960. A code of professional conduct was adopted at the meeting in addition to draft organizational bylaws.⁷

As its name suggests, AATPIC clearly organized itself under the TPIC umbrella. AATPIC was seen as an organization of Albertans who were already members of TPIC.⁸ A lengthy process of TPIC approval of AATPIC's bylaws followed the inaugural meeting. The new organization saw this as more than just a formality. It waited to publicly announce its formation until after this approval was granted,⁹ which happened on 19 February 1962.¹⁰

Having cleared this hurdle, AATPIC began the practical duties of a professional organization. It established membership fees (\$4 for members and \$1 for students) and admitted its first members in July 1962: Cecil Burgess, Noel Dant, Eric Browning, Leonard Milne, Clive Rodgers, Al Martin, Mark Stagg, E. T. Clegg, William Mackay, Rhys Smith, Denis Cole, Dusan "Danny" Makale, Frank Marlyn, H. Toogood and George Gordon.

Although the earliest documentation discovered regarding a President of AATPIC dates from 1962,¹¹ we can safely assume that Frank Marlyn was President from 1960. He had been chairman of the organization's precursor. There is evidence of an AATPIC Secretary-Treasurer (Eric Browning) from 1960, and it is unlikely that there would have been a Secretary-Treasurer without a President.

In 1963 AATPIC applied to incorporate under the provincial Societies Act. The stated reasons for incorporation included to promote professional knowledge, to regulate membership, to hold conferences, to encourage research and "to develop and maintain high standards in the Town Planning profession and to enhance the usefulness of the profession to the public."¹² Incorporation on 2 December 1963 marks AATPIC's official recognition by government but not its actual founding. That should be dated from the



inaugural meeting in 1960, the time when planners in Alberta formally associated themselves in defense of their professional integrity.

Since the early 1960s the organization has grown in membership (almost 1,000 in 2013), extent (it now serves the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in addition to Alberta) and complexity. After the national organization abandoned the British “town planning” term in 1974, AATPIC renamed itself the Alberta Association, Canadian Institute of Planners two years later. In 2010, it took on a new, stronger identity. In support of an alignment of CIP affiliates and in order to suit members regardless where they practice, the organization became the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) and the title¹³ legally reserved for its members became Registered Professional Planner.¹⁴

Throughout these changes, the organization’s purpose remains the same: promoting excellence in planners and planning. It can only do so to the extent that planners within its boundaries support this goal. Those who care about planning should care about APPI. As it moves beyond its 50th anniversary, an appreciation of APPI’s past will hopefully kindle enthusiasm about its future.

Presidents of AATPIC (1960-76), AACIP (1976-2010) and APPI (2010-)

1960-64	Frank Marlyn
1964-66	Noel Dant
1966-68	Adolph (Al) Martin
1968-69	Ron Maslin
1969-70	No president
1970-71	George Gordon
1971-72	Clive Rodgers
1972	Ron Fromson
1972-73	David McCullagh
1973-74	Ron Fromson
1974-75	Jack Staseson
1975-76	Ted Brown
1976-77	Zard Sarty



1977-78	Kim Mackenzie
1978-79	Bill Shaw
1979-80	Barry Clark
1980-81	Keith Driver
1981-82	Austin Lawrence
1982-83	John Steil
1983-84	Paul Fenwick
1984-85	Larry Spencer
1985-86	John Steil
1986-87	Helen Henderson
1987-88	Ian Wight
1988-89	Pat Maloney
1989-90	Paul Meyette
1990-91	Ross Sharp
1991-93	Gary Willson
1993-94	Wes Candler
1994-95	Gary Klassen
1995-96	Brian Kropf
1996-97	Barb Koch
1997-98	Pat Maloney
1998-99	Simon Farbrother
1999-00	Doug Parrish
2000-01	Gail Sokolan
2001-02	Stan Schwartzenberger
2002-03	David Hales
2003-05	Wayne Jackson
2005-07	Jamal Ramjohn

2007-09	Brian Kropf
2009-11	Gary Buchanan
2011-13	Beth Sanders
2013-15	Eleanor Mohammed

This article was researched and written by Erik Backstrom RPP, MCIP.

¹ Town Planning Institute of Canada. *List of the members of the Town Planning Institute of Canada (1952-53)*. Canadian Institute of Planners fonds, National Archives of Canada. Then, as now, there was no legal requirement for practicing planners to register with a professional organization, so there were more planners in Alberta than TPIC members.

² Town Planning Institute of Canada. *Minutes of the 1955 Annual Conference (Ottawa: 18-19 November 1955)*. Canadian Institute of Planners fonds, National Archives of Canada.

³ Town Planning Institute of Canada, Edmonton Branch. *Minutes of Meetings*. AACIP files.

⁴ Don South, "The Formation of PIBC." <http://www.pibc.bc.ca/pdf/PIBC_Bylaw.PDF>. Retrieved 18 April 2008.

⁵ *Edmonton Journal*. 9 September 1959, p. 1.

⁶ Town Planning Institute of Canada. *Council Minutes (12 December 1959, 7 June 1960 and 8 June 1960 meetings)*. CIP files.

⁷ Letter from E. C. Browning, Secretary-Treasurer of AATPIC, to Hugh Lemon, Secretary of TPIC. 20 May 1960. AACIP files.

⁸ At the time TPIC was responsible for admitting its members. Today, through formal agreement, AACIP and the other affiliates of CIP are responsible for admitting members, who then automatically become members of CIP.

⁹ Letter from E. C. Browning to Hugh Lemon. 28 October 1961. AACIP files.

¹⁰ Certified copy of the By-laws of the Alberta Association of the Town Planning Institute of Canada. AACIP files.

¹¹ Letter from E. C. Browning to Hugh Lemon. Undated. AACIP files.

¹² *Societies Act* application. 12 April 1963. Service Alberta corporate records.

¹³ The title was instituted through provincial regulation in 1989 as Alberta Community Planner.

¹⁴ *Professional Planner Regulation*, Alberta Regulation 115/2010 as revised under the *Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter P-26