

APPI Nominee Platform – Election 2020

NOMINEE FOR THE POSITION OF COUNCILLOR

Heather Chisholm, RPP, MCIP
(nominee's name)

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Academic and professional background

I have worked as a professional planner in both the private and public sectors for a little over ten years. I am currently employed as a senior planner with B&A Planning Group and based out of the Edmonton office. Prior to working at B&A, I was employed as a senior planner at both ParioPlan and Associated Engineering in Edmonton, I held a number of planning positions at the City of Edmonton, and I worked as a project planner for Terrain Group in Halifax.

I have bachelor's degrees in environmental science and environmental planning, a master's degree in rural planning and development, and I have completed the IAP2 foundations in public participation training. I am currently working on my MBA on a part-time basis.

Involvement in professional organizations

I am a member of APPI and CIP, the Urban Land Institute (ULI), and the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2). I have written for PLAN Canada and presented at the Alberta Professional Planners Institute conference. I have also led walking tour presentations for the CanU Conference, Chinatown Conference, and the FCM Conference.

I am currently a member of the ULI Edmonton Programming Committee. I participated on the APPI Edmonton Events Committee for five years and I am the past Chair of the APPI Edmonton Events Committee, as well as a past member of the APPI Journal Committee, a past student member of OPPI, a past director on the Board of Directors for the Boyle McCauley Health Centre in Edmonton, a former Special Olympics Coach, and a former Women in Politics Program Mentee.

Election Platform

I am passionate about our profession and want to do my part to build on the great work done by previous council members and other volunteers. If successful, there are four areas in which I would like to focus my efforts:

- 1) Joint Conferences with Related Professions - I think there is an opportunity to enhance our planning conferences by collaborating with people in related professions, such as landscape architects or engineers, to organize biennial joint conferences. Joint conferences would offer a greater range of presentations and more diverse attendee perspectives.
- 2) Educational Opportunities - APPI has done a great job of increasing access to educational opportunities, including providing a number of online learning options. I would continue to build on these efforts by working with relevant organizations to seek access to reasonably priced online training on a variety of topics of interest to the membership.
- 3) Mentorship Programs - The search for a mentor can be difficult and intimidating. I would help coordinate more mentorship opportunities for new planners and work to create a formalized peer to peer mentorship program to provide additional ways for members to connect and grow.
- 4) Membership Value - Continuing to communicate the importance of becoming an RPP and sharing the benefits of membership in APPI and CIP is an area of importance to me. By increasing the range of opportunities to learn, grow, and connect as planning professionals, I would hope that existing members would find increased value in being an APPI member and that APPI would gain new members from across AB, NT, and NU.