



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –Thursday April 27, 2017

APPI Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award

APPI is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2016 Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award, Gary Willson, RPP, MCIP.

Gary acquired an undergraduate degree in Urban Geography from the University of British Columbia in 1971 and then a graduate degree in Urbanism from the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary in 1976. He has demonstrated his commitment to lifelong learning over the years acquiring learning via the Sustainable Enterprise Academy at York University, the Foundations for Leadership at the University of Western Ontario and as a Licensed Trainer and Member of the International Association for Public Participation.

Gary has spent over 40 years practising professional planning in many capacities – as a public sector planner, as a senior manager in the private sector, and as consultant focusing on various aspects of community and environmental planning, stakeholder involvement, government relations. His portfolio contains many significant works of accomplishment including the engagement component of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and the Bow River Impact Assessment.

Gary's commitment to volunteerism over this same time frame has been exemplary. He has served and provided leadership to many organizations including:

- The Society for the Preservation of Architectural Resources in Calgary
- The Federation of Calgary Communities
- Bridges Social Development
- Alberta Real Estate Foundation
- International Association for Public Participation
- City of Calgary Environmental Advisory Committee
- The Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence

In addition, Gary has served both CIP and APPI in a variety of capacities.

- Member and Chair of the CIP Planners' Awards Jury
- Member of the CIP and APPI Conference Committees
- Extraordinary securer of sponsorship for both the CIP and APPI conferences, including the upcoming 2017 CIP/APPI Conference in Calgary June 17-20, 2017
- APPI Examiner
- APPI Council from 1989 to 1994, including President from 1991 to 1993
- Co-Chair of the Alberta Sustainability Planning Initiative (ASPI)
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Gary has managed to balance career, education, and volunteering and still find time to enjoy his leisure pursuits including his love of the mountains, water and a fine glass of wine. Professionally, as a learner, a mentor, a volunteer, or as a friend, Gary enjoys what he is doing, and is committed to doing it well, with respect, graciousness and more than a little sense of humour.

Please join APPI in honouring Gary Willson for his commitment and dedication to the Institute, the profession and his community. He is truly deserving of the 2016 APPI Outstanding Contribution to the Profession Award.