

# PLAN NORTH WEST

A journal for professional planners of Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan

Winter 2020, Issue 6



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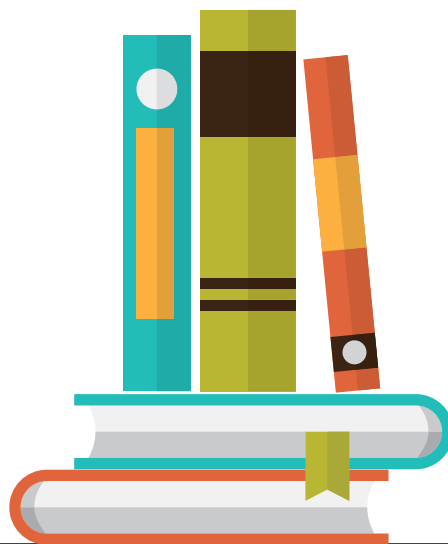
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*PLAN North West* offers opportunity for publication of original works that are both community-based and research oriented, and relevant to Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Types of submissions include case studies, analysis of events and/or trends, profiles of notable planners, projects, or programs, overviews of best practices and guidelines, book reviews or excerpts, and opinion pieces.

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## Journal Submissions

We are always looking for articles for future issues of *PLAN North West*. Submit an article or idea at any time and a member of the Editorial Board will help you through the process of getting it published. Potential subject areas we are interested in receiving article submissions on include:

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

For more information, please contact the *PLAN North West* Editorial Board at [plannorthwest@gmail.com](mailto:plannorthwest@gmail.com) or 780-435-8716.



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Welcome to Issue 6 of *PLAN North West*. *PLAN North West* is aimed at planning professionals across Western Canada, so please consider writing a short article at the same time you are working on your next project. If you are a student, consider writing a book review or augmenting your next course with an article. Finally, we welcome submissions reporting on planning conferences or gatherings. Communicate your ideas or passions to your fellow planners using *PLAN North West*!

Issue 6 contains a variety of articles and our first ever book review by Janu Raj. Topics include reconciliation, the emergence of urban post-secondary campuses across the prairies, the challenge and importance of planning for the suburbs and a report on a visit by the APPI Council to the NWT. As you sit back and read, perhaps consider including one of your own articles in the next issue. Enjoy!

# MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENTS

## Alberta Professional Planners Institute

Winter greetings to all of the planners, and others, who are reading this issue of *PLAN North West*. On behalf of APPI, it is my distinct honour to be able to co-present, with the Presidents of SPPI and MPPI, current and timely stories and information from planners who live and work in Canada's prairies and northern regions. As I write this, Calgary has just wrapped up its snowiest November in over 50 years and I suspect that a few more meteorological milestones will be set across this vast landscape before the season is over. So what better time than this, to relax in a warm comfortable spot and open up a planning journal!

Whether your interests lie in the importance of our professional designation, or in the latest trends in planning pedagogy, you've come to the right place. Or maybe a few highlights from specific areas of planning are what you're looking for - in that case as well, read on! Professional planners regularly come face to face with some of the most complex and vexing challenges of our times. Social challenges like how Canadian cities, regions and provincial or territorial agencies are handling (or ought to be handling) the unique and persistent concerns of our Indigenous neighbours and communities. Economic challenges such as how to use our natural resourcefulness to build on past successes

and move forward with enlightened vision towards prosperous horizons. And of course, the changing environmental conditions under which we all exist, and which we must all attend to with focus and reflection, for ours and every generation to come.

Whatever your interests in planning may be, I'm confident you'll find great value and much fodder for collegial conversations right here in this journal. So please read about your colleagues' work (we are all colleagues), consider the lessons they describe (lessons are everywhere), and share your learnings whenever you have a chance - you might find that planning is more of a shared language than you realized!



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# Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute

Welcome to 2020, and a new decade with so many things to grapple with as a profession in Western Canada. All the disruptive forces that were identified, analyzed and predicted in the last decade will start to take root and establish new norms in our communities. We need to be prepared. Climate change, shifts in energy production and consumption, ageing population, household debt, emergence of China as a world economic force (not just producer of consumer goods), electric/ autonomous vehicles, gene editing, crypto-currency, will all have profound impacts on our society.

It always amazes me how adept we are (the global 'we', not just planners) at solving technical problems and issues, but how inept we are at understanding and solving human problems. On many fronts, it seems that we are moving sideways or backwards. So how do we 'prepare' for inevitable disruptions and new norms? When faced with uncertainty, it is always best to base actions on principles and policy. Two things we, as planners, are trained and experienced at. When the path ahead isn't clear, principled, policy-driven steps will usually put us on the right course of action.

It all starts with communication and advocacy for our profession. Both the Saskatchewan and Alberta governments have delivered austere Provincial budgets – Saskatchewan in 2018 and Alberta in 2019. Each are having impacts on our profession to deliver the services our communities need and want.

An exciting but challenging decade is now upon us. Challenging each of our Institutes to represent and lead positive change in our provinces. Enjoy this issue of *Plan NW* and please consider contributing to future issues.



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# Manitoba Professional Planners Institute

Wow, 2020 is actually here!

Those of us old enough to remember when Jane Jacobs and Ian McHarg were contemporary figures, and humans walked on the moon, will recall when 'long range' plans extended to 2000, and 2020 was so far off it was the province of futurists and science fiction writers. By now, we were supposed to be working three days a week, flying around in personal jet packs, and colonizing Mars. Instead, we're checking work emails seven days a week, crawling along in rush hour traffic, and contemplating the fact that no human has left earth orbit in nearly half a century.

I wonder what people in 2070 will think looking back on the 'long range' plans we make today for 2050.

MPPI is pleased to partner in publishing PLAN NW. I am sure you will find the varied content of this 6<sup>th</sup> edition enlightening.



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# Volunteer Recognition

## Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute

Lenore Swystun already had a broad professional background that included community engagement, public participation, social planning, sustainable development, and even politics as a councillor for the City of Saskatoon when she joined SPPI in 2000. The next logical move was tie it all together by joining Saskatchewan's planning institute.



Lenore Swystun RPP, MCIP

A remarkable native of Saskatchewan, Lenore is the principal partner of Prairie Wild Consulting Co. a sustainability planning and community planning services firm in Saskatoon. She also hosts a local community radio program on civic issues and sits on Saskatoon's Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee. Indeed, heritage preservation has been one of Lenore's long-term passions.

Lenore has undertaken many roles volunteering with SPPI, such as working on committees and at conferences, helping to establish the professional standards board, mentoring young professionals and working on the Work Placement Program, which is jointly operated by the University of Saskatchewan and SPPI.

One of Lenore's strongest memories of volunteering was when the SPPI hosted the CIP National Conference in 2015, called "THRIVE", in Saskatoon. At that time, there was considerable discussion about the role of the CIP, but at that conference there was 're-boot' of CIP and the SPPI had a big role in it.

Over time, Lenore has noticed a shift in the language used in planning, with the terminology moving away from what 'we do not' want to what 'we do' want. She feels the SPPI was key in initiating a discussion about facilitation and building relationships at a time when it was not "very cool". Over the years, she also feels that SPPI has helped to bring ideas and

thoughts from outside of Saskatchewan to augment and test traditional planning methods. Lenore has also noticed other positive trends such as recognition of indigenous planning and the emergence of the role that planners play in reconciliation. She feels that planners have the skills and are well-suited to bring the views of people together and build relationships, as well as being knowledgeable about the space we share with First Nations.

Through volunteering, Lenore has learned there many different types of planning and planners - planners are diverse and adaptive to change. The profession is small, like a family, and she has enjoyed connecting with others. She encourages others to volunteer and build a network that you can reach out to when you need help.

Strong influences in her career include Lorne Sully, former Director of Planning at the City of Saskatoon, who was involved and thoughtful about communities and people who had no voice.

Her advice to prospective volunteers is to find something you are passionate about and then reach out and make it happen, in essence "if it is not there, build it". The more people who are involved the stronger the organisation becomes.

When not working on one of her innumerable business or civic projects, Lenore enjoys spending time in the outdoors or a wood working project!



# Manitoba Professional Planners Institute

Ross Mitchell continues to forge ahead with enthusiasm in his planning career at Sison Blackburn Consulting Inc. in Winnipeg. Even with an already impressive 39-year planning career, he has no doubts that he is ready to meet new challenges both at work and in his volunteer efforts with MPPI. With a family that includes three children, their partners, and 2 grandchildren (so far), and hobbies that include dogs, fishing, gardening and a vintage Triumph motorcycle, Ross still finds the time to participate in modest ways in MPPI affairs and events.

Involved with MPPI since its inception in 1988 after moving to Winnipeg from Toronto to initially work in the area of First Nations planning, Ross later began to specialize in site planning and subdivision design, development approvals, and land development in general, with his early projects including some of Winnipeg's earliest master planned and quintessentially 80's suburban communities including River Park South and Island Lakes.

Ross thinks volunteering is important and greatly appreciated by the organization at whatever level, whether being an event volunteer, an MPPI councillor or committee member, or as a student mentor or CIP candidate sponsor. Ross has strong memories of other MPPI members and dedicated volunteers who lead by example including CIP Fellows Chris Leach, Linda McFadyen, David Palubeskie and Ian Wight. He feels that volunteering provides opportunities to both learn and establish friendships and collaborative relationships with people you might not have otherwise met! Ross notes that he was privileged to have had excellent MPPI mentors early in his career including

David Hicks and Bill Kennedy, and so he continues to participate in MPPI events to learn from and perhaps give some advice to young professionals and planning students at events such as the annual speed mentoring event organized by the University of Manitoba chapter of the Canadian Association of Planning Students in conjunction with the MPPI Communications and Events Committee co-chaired by Brendan Salakoh and Tim Hogan.

It's no surprise that, given the above, Ross suggests that you "... do yourself and your career a favour and step forward..." into one of the numerous volunteer positions available within MPPI. Networking, the ability to have an impact on your profession, and the opportunity to socialize with like-minded individuals are all compelling reasons to volunteer, but Ross also believes that the MPPI is especially important as a vehicle for bringing Manitoba planners together to learn from each other in a concerted effort to address the urgent challenges confronting our many "communities" and the natural environment that sustains them all.



Ross Mitchell RPP, MCIP

## Alberta Professional Planners Institute

Oliver Green is a Principal Planner with the City of Edmonton's Regional Development section. His work focuses on advancing inter-municipal planning, policy development and regional initiatives. Oliver began his involvement with APPI in 2012, after moving to Alberta from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Having lived in a remote community in northern Alberta, Oliver experienced first-hand the difficulty of obtaining Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) in a rural area. To assist in extending digital opportunities for CPL events in northern Alberta, Nunavut and the North West Territories, Oliver joined the APPI Edmonton events committee in 2016. Oliver has worked alongside APPI to ensure CPL events are recorded and made available over the internet, as well as build awareness of the institute in rural areas.

Oliver's initiative, and perhaps proudest memory, of volunteering with APPI is his involvement with organizing an APPI event focused on the Professional Standards Board's RPP Certification Process in 2017. Attendees learned the "new candidates" application process and were able to ask questions. APPI recorded the session and uploaded it to its website, where it is now available to help new candidates learn about the application process as a supplement to the written process.

Through volunteering with APPI, Oliver has learned that every planner should develop their own planning support network. Having a group of people whom you can bounce ideas around with and seek

professional help and support has helped him grow and learn as a planner. Oliver has met a lot of people through volunteering which has allowed him to grow his professional network and make lasting friendships.

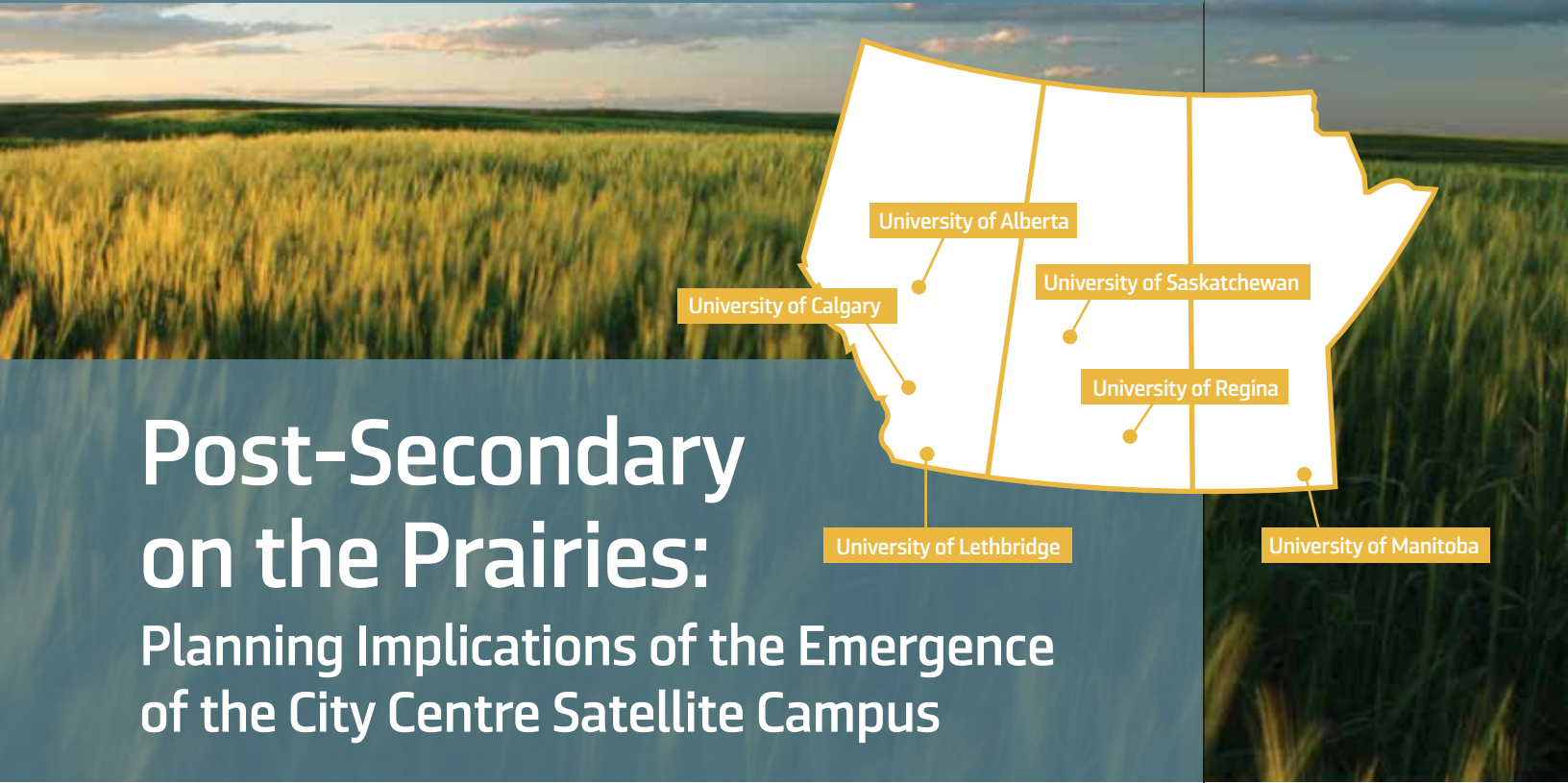
Volunteering with APPI also brings opportunities for fun – Oliver still recalls the APPI 2016 canoe trip down the North Saskatchewan River – about twenty planners in two large canoes!

His favourite annual event is the University of Alberta student meet and greet, where APPI hosts a 'speed dating' style event with students, APPI and CPAA (Community Planning Association of Alberta members). Students sit at round tables and APPI and CPAA members spend 15 minutes at each table, rotating to allow students to learn about different areas and perspectives of planning. At these events planners offer advice about careers, jobs and planning theory. It's no coincidence Oliver enjoys these events, a warm and genuine person; he is well known to enjoy board games and socializing with new and old friends.

Oliver's advice – please volunteer and get involved! Even if it's in a small capacity – such as attending events, it helps build and give APPI a voice, and can also be rewarding to your personal and professional life.



Oliver Green RPP, MCIP



# Post-Secondary on the Prairies:

## Planning Implications of the Emergence of the City Centre Satellite Campus

This article explores the emerging presence of post-secondary institutions within city centres across Canada’s three prairie provinces - Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba. In this article we provide a description of the relationship between the university and its respective city centre, highlighting completed and proposed developments. Through a content analysis, we outline the motivations driving this trend and conclude the discussion with potential implications for planning practice.

### Introduction

Post-secondary institutions provide a physical setting for an exchange of knowledge, innovative and cutting-edge research, and late-night study sessions. While the emergence of online education offers an alternate approach to learning, these experiences have traditionally transpired on university campuses; where lecture halls, libraries, residences, student centres, and ancillary buildings are clustered. While many of Canada’s post-secondary campuses are embedded into the urban fabric of their respective city centres, other institutions operate from more peripheral locations. This is characteristic of most university campuses located in Canada’s three prairie provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba). However, over the last decade, universities here have established a more significant presence in the city centre. The subsequent discussion highlights the emergence of city centre satellite campuses of six post-secondary institutions across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

### Prairie Universities and the City Centre

The origins of this article emerged through our own observations of an increased presence of satellite campuses in a number of city centres, Alberta (n=5); Saskatchewan (n=2); and Manitoba (n=3). We sought to better understand the prevalence of this trend across all ten universities in Canada’s three prairie provinces. To understand the relationship between universities and the city centre, we completed a content analysis of campus master plans as well as complementary material (i.e. university websites, press releases, news articles) for each of the ten cases. A content analysis places a document (plan) as the unit of analysis and uses a predetermined coding system to assess the presence or absence of particular content - in order to generate meaning. Through this analysis, three distinct themes emerged to better explain this relationship. As presented in Table 1, the cases are categorized as follows:

**TABLE 1** Case examples of Universities and the City Centre in Canada's Prairie Provinces



Relationship between University Campus and City Centre	Cases
University with main campus located in the city centre	MacEwan University (Alberta) Brandon University (Manitoba) University of Winnipeg (Manitoba)
University with main campus located outside of the city centre but with an established or plans to establish a satellite campus in the city centre	University of Calgary (Alberta) University of Alberta (Alberta) University of Lethbridge (Alberta) University of Regina (Saskatchewan) University of Saskatchewan (Saskatchewan) University of Manitoba (Manitoba)
University with main campus located outside of the city centre, and no established or plans to establish a satellite campus in the city centre	Mount Royal University (Alberta)

Amongst our cases, MacEwan University, Brandon University, and the University of Winnipeg are distinctly urban with their main campuses embedded within the downtowns of their respective cities. As these institutions expand, their presence will continue to reshape the built form of the city centre.

Mount Royal University, located in Calgary, is the lone case without a presence in the city centre and with no plans to establish a satellite campus. Instead, all growth is focused at its campus in the city's southwest.

The remaining cases (University of Calgary, University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan and University of Manitoba) are the focus of the following discussion. These institutions, over the last decade, have established or set plans in motion to develop a more notable physical presence in the city centre. A more detailed description of their respective developments is presented in Table 2:

**TABLE 2** Description of City Centre Satellite Campuses

 Location  Distance from Main Campus to City Centre






University	Description of City Centre Satellite Campus (date established)
<b>University of Calgary</b>  Calgary, AB	<b>Downtown Campus (2010)</b> The adaptive-reuse of a six-storey medical office building allowed for a more significant presence of the University in downtown Calgary. The campus provides graduate and executive level programming through the School of Public Policy, Haskayne School of Business, and Continuing Education. Additionally, the campus houses the University's Alumni Association.  <b>10 km</b>
	<b>City Building Design Lab (2019)</b> A partnership between the University of Calgary and Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC), a subsidiary of the City of Calgary, reactivated the Castell Building, previously the main branch of the Calgary Public Library. This agreement, under the terms of a 5-year lease, provides a downtown location for the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape and has been rebranded as the City Building Design Lab (CBDL). <sup>1</sup> The CBDL, Downtown Campus, and main campus in the Northwest are all strategically connected on one line of the city's light-rail-transit network.  <b>10 km</b>

TABLE 2 Description of City Centre Satellite Campuses (continued)

 Location  Distance from Main Campus to City Centre

University	Description of City Centre Satellite Campus (date established)
<p><b>University of Alberta</b></p>  <p>Edmonton, AB</p>	<p><b>Enterprise Square</b> (2008) Originally built in 1939, what is now known as Enterprise Square, was originally a Hudson Bay department store in downtown Edmonton. The restoration and rebranding of the historic building as Enterprise Square injected new life into a space that sat largely vacant for more than a decade. This campus now serves as a hub of activity for research, learning and partnership building through the Office of Advancement, Alberta School of Business - Executive Education, Alumni Relations, Faculty of Extension, and Tec Edmonton.<sup>2</sup>  <b>3 km</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Calgary Centre</b> (2009) The Calgary Centre campus offers classrooms, meeting rooms, and office space, primarily for the operations of University Relations, Office of Advancement, and the Faculty of Agricultural Life and Environmental Sciences.<sup>3</sup> While not located at the Calgary Centre campus, an extension of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation operates from the (aforementioned) University of Calgary's Downtown Campus.  <b>296 km</b></p>
<p><b>University of Lethbridge</b></p>  <p>Lethbridge, AB</p>	<p><b>Dr. Foster James Penny Building</b> (2013) The former Capital Furniture Building in downtown Lethbridge was donated to the University in 2012 by Jim and Hazel Penny (the parents of late son Foster). The space is largely occupied by the Faculty of Fine Arts as well as an art gallery, meeting rooms, Alumni Relations, the University call centre, and a gift and ticket store.<sup>4</sup>  <b>5 km</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Calgary Campus</b> (1996) Operating out of Bow Valley College in downtown Calgary, the Calgary Campus offers a range of educational programs primarily in the fields of business, and health sciences.  <b>212 km</b></p>
<p><b>University of Saskatchewan</b></p>  <p>Saskatoon, SK</p>	<p><b>John Deere Plow Co. Building</b> (TBD) Currently vacant, the University of Saskatchewan intends to restore the John Deere Plow Co. building. Designated as a heritage asset the building was donated to the University by the City in 2010. The University intends to restore the building to house a new School of Architecture and Visual Arts.<sup>5</sup>  <b>2.3 km</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Prince Albert Campus</b> (2020) Located in the former Forestry Centre in Downtown Prince Albert, when completed this satellite campus will house multiple educational programs which are currently scattered and operating in buildings throughout the city.  <b>141 km</b></p>
<p><b>University of Regina</b></p>  <p>Regina, SK</p>	<p><b>College Avenue Campus Renewal</b> (2018 - ongoing) The restoration of the College Avenue Campus (CAC) ensures the longevity of the University's original and historic campus. The project includes restoration of the College Building, Tower Building, Darke Hall, and the Conservatory façade. Additionally, new structures were added to the east and west ends of the College Building. While restoration of Darke Hall is ongoing, the University's Centre for Continuing Education, Lifelong learning Centre, the Conservatory of Performing Arts, and the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy have operated from the CAC since it reopened in 2018.<sup>6</sup>  <b>4.6 km</b></p>
<p><b>University of Manitoba</b></p>  <p>Winnipeg, MB</p>	<p><b>Bannatyne Campus</b> (2014 - Ongoing) The original buildings of the University of Manitoba's central campus (Bannatyne Campus) date back to 1883, however, 2014 marked a significant milestone with the release of the Bannatyne Campus Master Plan, the first initiative aimed at coordinating future growth and development. Today, the campus houses a range of programs including Dentistry, Medical Rehabilitation, Pathology, Pharmacy, Medical Services, and Basic Medical Sciences. The Master Plan envisions an intensification of the campus to increase educational space, as well as to offer other facilities including student residences and child care.<sup>7</sup>  <b>11 km</b></p>

The University of Manitoba's Bannatyne Campus Master Plan proposes additional educational facilities, an improved public realm, and increased student housing options.

SOURCE: University of Manitoba. "Bannatyne Campus Master Plan". (2014). Accessed August 14, 2019. [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/campus\\_planning\\_office/media/140514\\_Bannatyne\\_Master\\_Plan\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/campus_planning_office/media/140514_Bannatyne_Master_Plan_for_web.pdf). Reprinted with Permission.



### Institutional Motivation for a City Centre Campus

While motivations for an established presence within the city centre varies across each institution, the content analysis exposed the following key themes:

#### Meet student expectations and offer new student experiences

- The proposed School of Architecture and Visual Arts at the University of Saskatchewan would be the first architecture program offered in the province. This would offer new educational opportunities within the province and allow aspiring architects to remain in Saskatchewan.
- The University of Saskatchewan's purchase and renovation of the former Forestry Centre in downtown Prince Albert provides an opportunity to consolidate educational programs and more significantly, increase opportunities for post-secondary education for indigenous and northern communities.
- The University of Calgary's Downtown Campus was established in response to student demands for experiential learning, with a focus on community service learning which benefits from a closer physical connection to organizations located downtown.
- The University of Regina's College Avenue Campus Renewal is intended to foster better linkages between "Town and Gown" in part to meet the needs and expectations of students.

- The University of Manitoba's plan to develop housing at the Bannatyne Campus is a response to student demands for opportunities to be able to live near the central campus.
- The extension of the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation in downtown Calgary was developed to increase access to graduate programs in Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy in Southern Alberta.

#### Increase connections/synergies between the institution and the broader community

- The Dr. Foster James Penny building in downtown Lethbridge provides a flexible space for events intended to engage the broader community, as well as space dedicated for community use. Additionally, the University of Lethbridge's alumni relations office operates from the building, providing a central location to engage with alumni.
- The University of Manitoba's Bannatyne Campus has emerged as a hub for health sciences and provides much needed medical services to the surrounding community. Future growth on campus is to occur in a manner which not only provides space and amenities for staff and students, but also to engage residents in adjacent neighbourhoods. Additionally, development is framed through an objective to enhance the exchange of ideas, opportunities and engagement with the broader community.
- The University of Regina's College Avenue Campus

provides a new home for the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Strategically, the location overlooks the Saskatchewan Legislative Building with the intent to foster better synergies with the Government of Saskatchewan.

- The reuse and rebranding of the historic Hudson Bay department store as Enterprise Square was developed to provide a central hub for the University of Alberta to foster stronger connections with the downtown business, arts and cultural community.
- The University of Alberta Calgary Centre opened to serve as a gateway to the university, with a broader mandate to connect with the “20,000+ alumni, prospective students, donors, other U of A partners, supporters and community groups in Calgary.”<sup>8</sup>
- The University of Calgary’s Downtown Campus developed in part to provide “a window for the downtown communities into the University of Calgary” and a window “for students to look on the downtown communities.” The relocation of the Alumni Office to the Downtown Campus was a strategic move to better connect with alumni working in the city centre.<sup>9</sup>

**Expanded research opportunities**

- The University of Calgary’s CBDL establishes an innovative research hub that explores topical issues related to city-building in downtown Calgary. The central location allows the university to engage with the broader community in a more inclusive discourse and research program about the future of Calgary.

**Preserve the institution’s history**

- The University of Regina’s historic College Avenue Campus is an important component of the University’s legacy and tradition. Restoring the campus preserves the tangible and intangible history of the institution, ensuring the campus plays a prominent role in years to come.

Motivations to establish a university presence in the city centre can be grouped into two major themes: a desire to meet student demands and offer new student experiences, and to foster better connections with other groups in the community. Additionally, motivations of the University of Calgary include a desire to expand research opportunities, while motivations of the University of Regina include preserving the institution’s history.



The Dr. Foster James Penny building in downtown Lethbridge provides a central space for the University of Lethbridge to engage with the broader community.

SOURCE: Fabio Coppola. (2019)



The \$60M College Avenue Campus Renewal will maintain the legacy of the University of Regina’s historic campus located on the edge of downtown Regina.

SOURCE: Rylan Graham. (2019)

**Implications for Planning Practice**

What are the planning implications from the emergence of the city centre satellite campus? While not the primary objective of any institution, through the content analysis it is evident that the presence of these satellite campuses is anticipated to aid in facilitating downtown revitalization.

Concerted efforts of planners to facilitate downtown revitalization has been a constant of planning practice for decades. Today’s planners would likely find common ground with their predecessors when speaking about the challenges of and efforts towards core area revitalization. It has been a perpetual challenge, across Canada’s urban hierarchy, to restore the vibrancy, activity, and role of the city centre typically attributed to the pre-WWII period. While facilitating the seemingly elusive yet important goal of downtown revitalization is a complex issue that requires a multi-pronged approach, the introduction of a post-secondary institution may be a notable component of any strategy.

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The University of Calgary's Downtown Campus (above) and CBDL (top right) bookend the west and east ends of Calgary's downtown. The Downtown Campus, established in 2010 and the CBDL in 2019, increase the presence of students, staff and faculty in Calgary's downtown.  
SOURCE: Fabio Coppola. (2019)



### Final Thoughts

While we opted to focus our discussion on universities located in Canada's prairie provinces, we note that the findings here fit within a broader trend: Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, Laurentian University, Lakehead University, Brock University, University of Windsor, Wilfred Laurier University and the University of Waterloo, to name only a handful, have all in recent years established a presence in downtowns across Canada. This practice is likely to continue with plans having progressed for satellite campuses of York University and Ryerson University in downtown Markham and Brampton respectively - although a withdrawal of provincial funding for both projects presents some uncertainty of their future.

The emergence of a satellite campus in the city centre is perhaps not entirely surprising, as the centralization and intensification of uses has become a common policy objective for municipalities throughout Canada. While the expanded presence in the city centre is driven by the motivations of the institution, planners may view universities as a key ally in revitalization efforts.

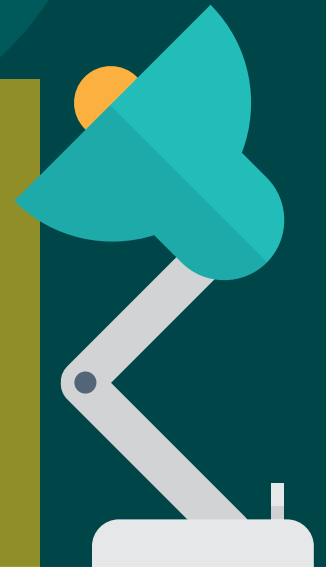
Specifically, institutions can contribute to revitalization efforts by restoring and injecting new life into vacant buildings or spurring redevelopment on empty and underutilized parcels. The presence of institutional space undoubtedly increases the critical mass of downtown patrons which helps contribute to increased vibrancy and economic activity within the area. While the findings across each of the case studies indicates that to date the city centre campus has been limited to a building or a block, it may be the initial step in what could be continued expansion. While it is unlikely that universities will relocate the entirety of their campus to the city centre, it might be an optimal location for some programs, faculties, offices or facilities. What may be only a limited presence today could expand to include added educational space, complemented with student housing, recreational facilities, and on campus food services and retail. Additionally, we might anticipate that a growing city centre campus would entice developers to develop commercial and residential nearby to capitalize on the interests of a growing population. Collectively these actions contribute to developing a more vibrant and diversified city centre. While universities are not necessarily a panacea to neighbourhood decline, previous research indicates their presence has a positive impact on the success of a downtown<sup>10</sup>. Moreover, that relative to other downtown patrons, students are more likely to rent apartments, shop, and patronize bars and restaurants<sup>11</sup>.

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**Fabio Coppola, MPLAN** is a graduate of the University of Calgary's School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape program and is a Planner with Invistec Consulting Ltd in Edmonton, Alberta. Fabio's professional interests include community planning, urban design, real-estate land acquisition, as well as research. He can be reached at [fabio.coppola@invistec.ca](mailto:fabio.coppola@invistec.ca).

About the Authors





# Is the Sixth Mass Extinction due to Human Impacts Inevitable?

## Cohen's book might have answers

A Review of the Book "Ecohumanism and Ecological Culture: The Educational Legacy of Lewis Mumford and Ian McHarg"

One paradox of progress is how we detach ourselves from what is existing and focus on accomplishing the unseen. Humans are seemingly delusional when it comes to believing in our exceptionalism. Since the dawn of civilization, destruction of the natural environment and overall human dominance has been imposed on the planet. In a rational world, other forms of life would have instantly characterized us as a parasitic species. With a biased attitude and an unwavering will to grow, we have laid foundations of the future on the brink of eco-suicide.

William Cohen's "Ecohumanism and the Ecological Culture: The Educational Legacy of Lewis Mumford and Ian McHarg" (2019) questions the technological

supremacy reflected in machine-made environments, mass-produced suburbs, massive highway networks and other elements of present-day cities' landscape. It also shows how an unbiased approach towards growth, one that understands our relationship with the ecosystem, and where responsibly coexisting with our environment, can move us towards attaining an 'ecological culture.'

Ecohumanism describes a philosophy where the environment and humanity are given equal importance. Through the lens of ecohumanism, this book highlights how the inextricable relationship between humanism and environmentalism can attain a state of equilibrium. Survival of the human epoch means finding a balance between human progress and environmental stability. The author offers precedents from history to illustrate how undermining the environment has led to catastrophic ecological events that have collapsed civilizations.

Cohen's book (2019) is a riveting account of Mumford's ecohumanism-based philosophy, and McHarg's human ecology-based graduate educational curriculum at the University of Pennsylvania, which both advocated for educating planners and designers to plan, design and build communities by understanding the natural environment. This book challenges the reductionist approach in planning and design studies, and encourages a shift towards more holistic method where different data layers are mapped, overlapped and difficult trade-offs made through understanding the interconnection between various layers.

students and began to influence leading thinkers in the discipline to shift their perspective on planning and design. Although there existed individual programs ranging from Geology, Biology, Social Sciences, and Built Environment studies, McHarg brought these disciplines together to demonstrate how each informed the others over time, and he instituted a project-based curriculum where students could gain competence in all areas through case studies. These studies began with identifying regional and social problems, and devised solutions based on understanding of existing natural processes. This approach instilled the necessary awareness to address regional planning through an ecological mindset.

To confront the issues of the twenty-first century and the many worldly problems, Cohen encourages present-day planners to become generalists and establish a comprehensive approach for addressing competing ideas involved in making planning decisions. He encourages educators to develop a curriculum that offers a pragmatic and interdisciplinary approach for planning and design professions.

Although a disruptive idea like ecohumanism is imperative in planning education, it can face opposition due to established culture and path dependency. However, just understanding the current 'need of the hour' and using the expertise that Cohen's book has to offer can help lay the foundation for long-term change. Contemporary planning and design theorists, leaders and educators should read Cohen's book to spur the conversation of ecohumanism among next-generation planners. Now is the time more than ever to take a step back and assess the consequences of unmindful human actions that are solely focused on growth.

*To confront the issues of the twenty-first century and the many worldly problems, Cohen encourages present-day planners to become generalists and establish a comprehensive approach for addressing competing ideas involved in making planning decisions ...*

McHarg put forth the idea of looking at planning and design challenges through an ecological lens for the first time in his book "Design with Nature" (1969), which received several criticisms, ranging from a charge of elitism, an absence of cultural or human perspective, a confusing philosophy, an unsystematic approach, to ignoring the ecology of the city. Cohen addresses each of these criticisms to explain how they informed McHarg's philosophy over time, which helps the reader understand his transition. He states, "Although McHarg's work has been subject to further discussion, debate, criticism, and even modifications by others over time, the importance of the evolution of ecological planning to human ecological planning is the most significant advance made by McHarg himself." (2019, p.101) By highlighting planning theorists' rejections to McHarg's ecological planning model, Cohen shows us how in the 1960's and 1970's ecological interconnections were not valued even remotely close to the way technology and conventional planning methods were treasured.

McHarg's action-based ecological planning curricula in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania was predicated on ecology. It attracted

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She is thankful to Hemant Chauhan, Community Planner with Aplin & Martin for insightful discussions during the process and Kyle Whitfield, Associate Professor at University of Alberta's School of Urban and Regional Planning for her meticulous edits and feedback.

About the Author



# We'll Do Anything to Feel Less Like Pig Pen

## A young planner's perspective on renewal in places that fuel climate change

This article is a response to Keil (2019) "Into post-suburbia: Planning the Canadian periphery after the suburb" as presented within the Canadian Institute of Planner's centenary edition of Plan Canada and was completed with the support of Kyle Whitfield, Associate Professor with the Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta.

Being 20-something in 2020 gives me a license to carry a considerable amount of angst. When one is steeped in anxiety regarding the climate crisis that will inevitably impact the future of one's profession, life, and world, it's easy to become crestfallen with the current state of affairs. I feel like Pig Pen of Charlie Brown's fame. Instead of being imbued by dust, I'm enveloped in increasing greenhouse gases.

Do we bother planning communities for 50-year time horizons when the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change continues to produce reports which indicate that large scale and devastating shifts in global climate will occur prior to this? I think so, it would be irresponsible if we did not. Planners plan, it's what we do! We can plan to reach outcomes which foster more sustainable patterns of development and living. So not only should we plan because it's our job, we should plan because we can actually help.

When spritely young planners sink their teeth into the profession, they often feast their eyes on the core of cities. Is this where the most overt sustainable visions of our future lie?

In some ways, our education leads us to this vision. The development of renderings and reports for school are fueled by one too many cups of coffee from the cafe within a cute heritage building on the high street. Studio presentations showcase vibrant multi-modal thoroughfares supported by the density in glossy towers. After final exams, students end up at trendy bars downtown to celebrate.

Furthermore, where else is it clearer that you could be a part of planning for an exciting and sustainable future? As with any development, infill and redevelopment of brownfield sites still contribute to emissions. But it is so obvious to a young planner that planning the core accelerates the development of a more sustainable city. Less greenfield is sacrificed,



The titular figure, Pig Pen, known for his constant dirtiness.

SOURCE: Peanuts by Schulz Website <https://www.peanuts.com/>



Views of suburban Calgary, Alberta.

SOURCE: iStock

commutes become less carbon-intensive, and resources can be more efficiently provided.

Honestly, we'll do anything to feel less like Pig Pen. And the cores of cities are, in the minds of the tenderfoot, the most obvious place to start.

But, Keil (2019) challenges the planning community to not focus squarely on the core. How do planners plan for cities and regions where an urban-suburban divide deeply segments the wants and needs of communities?

I believe this challenge falls most squarely under the purview of the young planner. No, I am not trying to frame this as 'us' cleaning up the mess made by everyone before 'us.' Every cohort has its test. I do not envy the task of being the first to try and separate land uses to ensure the city wasn't an actual pig pen. Additionally, I do not covet the chance to provide enough affordable family housing for a baby boom (babies freak me out, I still haven't learned how to hold one).

The twinkle in our eyes should not only reflect the scintillation of downtown towers, it should also capture the lonely streetlight in the cul-de-sac. Our challenge is to foster a vibrant core that attracts sustainable growth in a globalized world while also supporting the wide swaths of suburbia as they undergo their own inevitable upheaval.

Out of these two tasks, supporting the suburbs will be more difficult. With increasing advancement and disruption in technology, employment, and society, the monoculture presented in suburban land use patterns, housing forms, and transportation options creates a cumbersome scenario that will likely not age well.

But it's been built. Planners must plan for the best collective outcome. Keil (2019) suggests that, from an equity perspective, it is even more important to get renewal right in the suburbs.

The more diverse demographics that will call the suburbs home in the future will not have the same capacity to develop political momentum as the mainly white and very affluent previous inhabitants of the

suburbs were able to. Additionally, as development patterns shift to infilling the core, capital and power concentrates here. Autonomous vehicles may also facilitate expansion beyond the city itself and intensify political power with those who can afford to live in and commute around exurban areas. The shifting power dynamics in our cities and regions is a process that planners must not take lightly.

Diminishing political clout in the suburbs may lead them to become overlooked in policy development as well as in operating and capital budgets. Suburbs will also have more disparate needs than before because of their increasingly diverse population. Spreading these needs over sprawling areas means they will be more expensive to provide for.

As young planners, it can be perplexing to support suburbs in a world that is warming due, in part, to massive amounts of unsustainable suburban development. But if we are planning the city for everyone, then we must be providing for everyone too. As suburbs diversify, it becomes increasingly important to incorporate equity within the planning process to reflect the needs of the entire public.

I am hopeful that we can rebuild our suburbs to support a more sustainable city. We must, or we'll become permanently shrouded in dust like Pig Pen.

But with disruption comes innovation. The solutions to provide sustainable development in suburbs may not be here yet. Integrating evolving forms of mobility, employment, and redevelopment into our praxis will hopefully help us reach best collective outcomes. Before we regulated land use after the industrial revolution or facilitated the provision of massive amounts of housing during the baby boom, we did not know it was possible to do these things.

What's important to take to heart, as Keil (2019) comments in the article, is that we must not provide for communities from the "birds-eye view" (p.132). In setting the agenda for city-building, we must be reactive to the needs and wants of the suburbs even if they do not, in their present state, integrate perfectly within our vision for a sustainable city on a liveable planet.

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**Stephen Raitz** is a recent graduate of the University of Alberta School of Urban and Regional Planning. He is privileged to be working with the City of Beaumont through the Province of Alberta's Municipal Internship Program. He is also an active transportation advocate with Paths for People and a theatrical improviser with Rapid Fire Theatre in Edmonton.

About the Author



# Planning Practice and Reconciliation

## An uncomfortable conversation that needed to happen

Inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action ([http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)) and the recently adopted CIP Policy Statement on Planning Practice and Reconciliation (<https://www.cip-icu.ca/Indigenous-Planning>), a group of Planners assembled at the CIP Generation Conference in Ottawa in July 2019 to participate in an essential discussion. This panel was selected to speak about the role non-Indigenous planners have and how they can do their individual part to progress reconciliation in the planning profession and beyond. Dr. Hayden King's keynote address that morning set the perfect stage for planners to reflect on this important conversation.

Recognising the past and present injustices Indigenous people in Canada have been and continue to be subjected to, the panel reflected on how planning is deeply rooted in colonial infrastructure that systematically dispossesses Indigenous people in Canada. The purpose of the panel then, was to explore how non-Indigenous planners must evolve to personally understand the truth about Canada's history and colonial present, and how they must ensure that their

planning practice reflects the true spirit of reconciliation. Only when planners face uncomfortable realities about our profession and about themselves, can they begin to achieve meaningful reconciliation and support Indigenous people and Indigenous planning as we all strive towards the decolonization of planning in Canada.

The moderated panel, with five panelists and one moderator, included an interactive presentation, engaging the audience through live polling and open questions. Moderator Amanda-Brea Watson introduced the panelists: Dr. Janice Barry; Melanie Harding, RPP, MCIP; Margaret Kralt, RPP, MCIP; and Stephen Stone, RPP, MCIP. These professionals represent planners across academia, the public and private sectors, and have varied experience working Indigenous communities in the planning context (see Presenters Bios below). However, the purpose of the panel was not to share stories of planning successes and challenges that the panelists had witnessed in communities, but rather to reflect on what working with indigenous communities has meant to them in their learning, growth, and practice as planners and where our profession must go from here.



Panel discussion

SOURCE: Kelsey Hewitt and Amanda Brea-Watson

Panelists began by each delivering a personal introduction that included open and honest discussion on their settler ancestry, and providing individual recognition on the impacts these pasts and their lives today have on Indigenous Peoples and their lands. The panelists reflected on their personal bias, prejudice and unique perspectives that influence the way they have and continue to operate throughout their planning careers in the spirit of reconciliation. The panelists shared personal experiences and situations when they were faced with the uncomfortable colonial nature of planning, and explored how these experiences drove them to question what they have been taught throughout their lives to uncover the truth of Canada's colonial planning past, actively deny oppressive planning strategies and use their privilege to reject planning injustices towards Indigenous people and their land.

The moderator allotted time for a robust discussion period, and invited the audience to ask questions or share comments. Questions covered why it is important that non-Indigenous people engage in this conversation, the role of women in planning, and

Reconciliation word map

SOURCE: Kelsey Hewitt and Amanda Brea-Watson



how to support young Indigenous planners better in our profession. An elder shared reflections on the panel and reminded the room of conference attendees of the gravity, importance, and ability that planning has to protect the very life sustaining land on which we exist. As planners, we often work very far removed, literally and physically, from the land we plan for and thus become disconnected to what really matters.

One final question was posed to the audience using the interactive presentation, "What will you commit to do to support reconciliation?" As audience responses began populating the screen, the moderator concluded the session by emphasizing that the planning profession has a long way to go to in working towards reconciliation. That said, this 100 year anniversary of the profession is a time to commit to the real work of reconciliation. The moderator recapped that processes need to change in order for planning practice to achieve meaningful reconciliation: there must be a factual awareness of Canada's colonial past, acknowledgement and atonement of the harm that has been and continues to be inflicted on Indigenous people in Canada as a result of planning, and a promise to actively change personal and organizational perceptions and bias in order to be a power of change in planning and reconciliation.



**Kelsey Hewitt** is Anishinaabe from Lac Seul First Nation. Kelsey is a student of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo and specializing in

the linkage of Indigenous knowledge, environmental management and sustainability, and more recently doing research in Indigenous tourism planning. Kelsey worked as a Community Planner with Dillon in the Yellowknife office as part of her cooperative education in 2019. She is the lead executive of the UW Indigenous Student Association and has contributed to many efforts towards meaningful Indigenousization the UW campus. Kelsey is also a Project Coordinator for the Indigenous Youth Resilience Project and working as a Research Assistant examining Indigenous tourism and cross cultural understanding.

**Amanda-Brea Watson** Amanda-Brea Watson is a Registered Professional Planner with the Alberta Professional Planners Institute and her biography is on page 23.

About the Authors



**Margaret Kralt** is Registered Professional Planner with the Alberta Professional Planners Institute with over 12 years of experience. Located in Dillon's Yellowknife Office she has been involved in a

number of planning projects for Indigenous, community, territorial and provincial as well as private sector clients. A key focus all planning projects she's been involved in how best to respect and incorporate the traditional Indigenous values and land use in statutory plans. The focus has always been on how best to build a relationship with the Indigenous community, but recognizing that the path to reconciliation is not easy and her own bias as a non-Indigenous Planner always has to be re-evaluated and challenged.



**Amanda-Brea Watson** is a Registered Professional Planner with the Alberta Professional Planners Institute with over ten years of experience who works for Dillon Consulting in the

Yellowknife Office. Prior to working with Dillon Amanda has worked as a municipal planner for several municipalities in the NWT, Alberta and Ontario. While in Yellowknife Amanda-Brea has attended residential school system training as part of truth and Reconciliation Commission. While Amanda continues to support conventional governments with planning administration and land use matters a great deal of her time is spent working for the Tlicho Regional Government as well as Indigenous Communities.



**Stephen Stone** RPP is a planner with six years' experience in municipal planning, indigenous planning, land development planning and community engagement throughout Atlantic Canada. Stephen

has a depth of experience assisting indigenous communities with land use planning, community

engagement techniques, economic development strategies, and governance capacity building. Stephen is currently working with Neqoktuk Maliseet Nation on developing the Nation's first comprehensive Land Use Plan. Additionally, Stephen closely works with Kingsclear First Nation in New Brunswick with various community planning initiatives, including strategic plans, economic development strategies, a Comprehensive Community Plan, and a Land Use Plan. Stephen ensures that community capacity building is at the core of all planning initiatives and has unique approaches to project's to address the complexities involved in indigenous planning.



**Melanie Harding**, RPP, MCIP is currently the Executive Director of the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board in Fort Good Hope, Northwest Territories where she is overseeing the 5-year review of

the Sahtu Land Use Plan. Previously she worked as the Senior Community Planner / CCP Program Lead at Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund in northern Ontario where she led the development of a program that supported First Nations communities to do comprehensive community planning. Melanie holds a Master's of Arts degree from UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning where she specialized in Indigenous Community Planning.



**Janice Barry** (PhD, MCIP, RPP) is a settler-Canadian and an Assistant Professor in University of Waterloo's School of Planning. Her research focuses on questions of Indigenous

recognition and reconciliation in and through planning, with a particular interest in how land claims and other treaty settlement agreements shape planners' relationships with Indigenous peoples. She is the co-author of *Planning for Coexistence? Recognizing Indigenous Rights through land-use planning in Canada and Australia* (Routledge, 2016), as well as numerous other book chapters and articles.



# Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) Council Visit to the Northwest Territories August 22 to 24, 2019

APPI is proud to be the face of the planning profession within Alberta, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut. APPI serves the public interest by providing regulation, advocacy, promotion and services for its members.

In August 2019, Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) Council travelled to the beautiful city of Yellowknife in Chief Drygeese Territory – the home of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) in the stunning Northwest Territories. The purpose of the trip was to connect with northern planners, to learn about local planning initiatives and to participate in indigenous awareness training to better support reconciliation. It was a schedule filled with presentations and tours by planners from across the territory, as well as land-based learning with First Nation peoples.

In recognition that we were guests on Dene lands, the first day of the trip began in the Yellowknives Dene First Nation community of Detah (YKDDFN). Bobby Drygeese of BDene Adventures, a Dene First Nation owned tourism and cultural business, provided Council and planners land-based learning to generate a broader understanding of the YKDFN culture, history and traditional practices. This experience was an important opportunity to reflect on our responsibility as planners to incorporate reconciliation into our practice.

APPI Council was honoured to be introduced to the traditional knowledge of the Dene people and to better understand the significance of the land as a source of knowledge and resources in the YKDFN territory.

Following our introduction to the Dene Nation, Council joined a group of local planners from the Government of Northwest Territories, City of Yellowknife, Town of Inuvik and the private sector in downtown Yellowknife to take part in presentation-based educational sessions. The first session, titled Regulating the Profession, was delivered by APPI Discipline Committee Chair Roy Wright, RPP, MCIP. Roy's presentation provided an overview of APPI regulations and the responsibilities of members under the Professional and Occupational Associations Registration Act (POARA) and Professional Planner Regulation. The topic led to a thoughtful discussion on professionalism and the disciplinary process, as well as the legal responsibilities for planners in the Northwest Territories practicing under territorial regulations (rather than provincial regulations as current and potential members of APPI). The group's discussions



carried over into dinner at Yellowknife’s famous Wildcat Café, a heritage designated site in Yellowknife’s historic Old Town. The day concluded with a crisp walking tour of Old Town area hosted by NWT planner Ann Peters, RPP, MCIP. Ann’s tour shared a perspective of how the land and water have influenced the patterns of development in Old Town over time. From Bush Pilot’s Monument, atop “the rock” that overlooks Great Slave Lake, the tour highlighted emerging planning issues unique to the context of Yellowknife. This included the recent rise in popularity of houseboats and the ongoing impact of the mining industry along the waterfront.

The remainder of the visit was a continuation of collaborative learning through educational sessions and a tour of an Indigenous urban healing camp. Chris Van Dyke from the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Lands delivered an informative presentation on current land legislation in the Northwest Territories. His discussion included the history of territorial and federal land administration framework and its impact on community planning and development in the north. Darha Phillpot, RPP, MCIP, with the GNWT Department of Lands and Chris Hewitt, RPP, MCIP, with the GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs together shared two presentations. The first was on the recent nomination of Tuktoyaktuk for the APPI Planning Excellence Awards which showcased recent work done by the community to better address climate change issues including erosion and flooding. The second presentation was an overview of the current community and regional planning frameworks being employed by the GNWT’s departments of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and Lands.

Sarah Bercu, planner at the City of Yellowknife, led a discussion on the partnership between the City and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) on a joint application to change the municipal boundary between the two communities. Currently, one of the YKDFN communities, Ndilo, is nested within the municipal boundary of Yellowknife. The joint boundary change application is a result of the City’s current update to the 2012 General Plan (Community Plan) and the ongoing Akaitcho Process - which are negotiations focused on land, resources and governance involving the Akaitcho Dene First Nations (the representative body of YKDFN, Lutsel K’ue Dene First Nation, and Deninu K’ue First Nation) the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Canada. The parties are currently negotiating an Agreement-in-Principle. The community boundary impacting the City and YKDFN is one part of the Agreement-in-Principle for the Akaitcho Process. The



Indigenous training session  
SOURCE: APPI

YKDFN identified that for the purposes of community growth and land development, the community boundary between the City of Yellowknife and Dettah (another YKDFN community)/Ndilo be adjusted. Sarah’s presentation concluded with a thoughtful group discussion on how our understanding of reconciliation have informed our own approaches to planning.

The final two presentations were a case study of Inuvik and a discussion of northern approaches to urban revitalization. Kecil Joseph, Town of Inuvik planner, shared his experiences as the town’s development officer and the challenges, opportunities and recent projects related to energy and infrastructure happening in Inuvik, the first planned town north of the Arctic Circle. Kecil did an excellent job illustrating the resiliency of the people of Inuvik. Darren Lucas, planner with the City of Yellowknife, introduced the group to tactical urbanism initiatives recently being implemented in downtown Yellowknife.



Raining in Yellowknife  
SOURCE: APPI



APPI Council in Yellowknife  
SOURCE: APPI

Beyond the exceptional presentations, the group had an opportunity to visit the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation's (AIWF) urban land-based healing site. The site, a camp located just outside of Yellowknife's downtown core, provides a diverse group of people-in-need with access to Indigenous cultural education and traditional on-the-land interventions and counselling. The group was invited to gather in one of the camp's shelters, a traditional tepee, to hear from Elders Donald Prince (AIWF director), Rassi Nashalik (board member) and William Greenland (site coordinator and traditional counsellor). Donald, Rassi, and William shared stories of deep healing experiences that guide the intent and purpose of the camp. The day culminated with Council and local planners gathered around a campfire on the shore of Long Lake at Fred Henne Territorial Park, reflecting on the day's learning and taking in the spectacular natural wonders of the Northwest Territories.

Council would like to express our sincerest gratitude to each of the individuals and organizations that contributed to the success of APPI's visit to the Northwest Territories. The trip enabled collaboration, reflection and learning. It also supports continued advocacy for policies or initiatives in Alberta, the Northwest Territories, and Nunavut that promote sound community planning and which align with APPI's mission, values, code of professional conduct, and code of ethics. Council looks forward to continuing to strengthen its connections with current and future APPI members from the north. We leave the territory in awe and humbled by the land and its people.



Map of the Akaitcho Territory  
SOURCE: APPI

**Kate van Fraassen, RPP, MCIP** is a Senior Planner at the City of Calgary. Previously, Kate worked as a Development Planner for the Town of Canmore, and gained experience working for MakeCalgary and Sustainable Calgary while she was a student at the Faculty of Environmental Design. This is Kate's third year on APPI Council. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Victoria, and a Master of Environmental Design from the University of Calgary and is a member of the Faculty of Environmental Design's Alumni Advisory Council.

**Glinis Buffalo, RPP, MCIP** is a member of Samson Cree Nation and a Planning Lead with AECOM. She is a registered professional planner with over 15 years of experience within the public and private sector. Her background includes extensive indigenous planning, extensive indigenous and stakeholder engagement, municipal planning, environmental assessment and supporting women in leadership. Glinis is passionate about the land and environment and strongly supports positive approaches and best practices with engagement and consultation to contribute to thoughtful and meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

**Bernice Gonzalez, RPP, MCIP** has participated in projects ranging from compact urban centres to rural communities and regions. A passionate and active advocate for the planning profession, she has extensive educational background: bachelor's degree in environmental design, an interdisciplinary master's degree in urban design, and 4 years of postgraduate work in public space and public art as well as writing and lecturing on transdisciplinary areas worldwide.

**Chelsea Whitty, RPP, MCIP** holds a Master of Planning degree in Urban Design from the University of Calgary and a Bachelor of Education with a major in Biological Sciences from the University of Alberta, as well as studying at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and working as cultural program coordinator in Japan. She has worked in Calgary and Edmonton, holding positions in both the public and private sectors. Currently Chelsea is an Associate at DIALOG, on the Urban Design and Planning team. Her portfolio of work spans across traditional policy development, broad scale master planning, urban design, and public engagement.

# Professional Designations and the Use of RPP

APPI, MPPI and SPPI's fully certified Registered Professional Planner (RPP) members in good standing, have rights and responsibilities defined in both their applicable provincial legislations/regulations and corresponding Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations (PTIA's) bylaws. Within the APPI, MPPI and SPPI jurisdictions, the Institutes each have exclusive authority to grant the RPP professional designation and protected title to those members who have completed the certification process and relevant standards for ethical and professional competency. The RPP credential is an assurance of quality for employers who want to attract the most professional, skilled and competent planners. RPP's bring value to their employers and their communities.

The institutes encourage all RPP certified members to proudly use the RPP professional designation alongside their names, in business signatures on business cards, in email signatures and on professional social media sites such as LinkedIn. This further promotes the planning profession and raises the credibility and profile of Registered Professional Planners (RPP's). With the goal of aiming for a consistent approach across Canada, the PTIA's have committed to encouraging RPP members to adopt the practice of listing the "RPP" designation immediately following their name, followed by "MCIP", where applicable to denote the national affiliation with CIP.

If you have any questions regarding the appropriate use of RPP please contact your PTIA Executive Director.

**Thursday**  
**FEBRUARY 6**  
9 am-3 pm

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