



APPI

FRESH FOCUS
IGNITE YOUR CREATIVITY
2025 OCTOBER
19-21
BANFF, ALBERTA

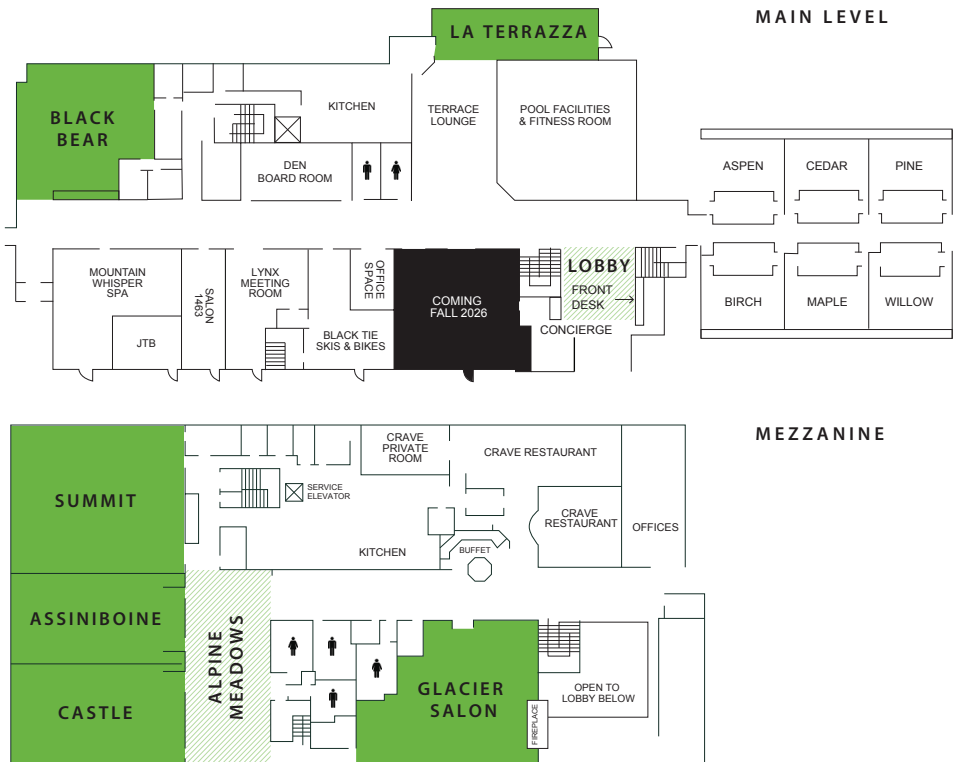
2025 APPI CONFERENCE PROGRAM GUIDE



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VENUE MAP





110 Bear Street
Box 1260 Banff, Alberta Canada T1L 1A1
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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

2025 APPI Conference – FRESH FOCUS – Ignite your Creativity

Dear Conference Delegates,

On behalf of the Town of Banff, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Alberta Professional Planners Institute conference. It is an honour to host you in our beautiful mountain town, where nature's grandeur meets vibrant community spirit and to have the opportunity to showcase our town to planning professionals from all over Alberta, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Banff is not only renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, but also for its commitment to sustainable development and innovative planning. This year's conference theme, centring on creativity and innovative ways to look at planning with a fresh focus, resonates deeply with our efforts to evolve as a national park community while preserving the unique character and natural beauty that make Banff so special.

As you gather to explore new ideas, share insights, and collaborate with fellow professionals, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities that await you here. From immersive workshops to inspiring keynote speakers, this conference promises to be an enriching experience that will empower you to foster fresh solutions in your respective fields.

I hope you also take the time to discover the charm of Banff. Whether you're wandering through our picturesque streets, enjoying the local cuisine, or venturing into the stunning wilderness that surrounds us, you will find inspiration at every turn.

I wish you all a successful and inspiring conference.

With warm regards,

C. DiManno

Corrie DiManno
Mayor, Town of Banff



www.banff.ca

WELCOME TO BANFF!



On behalf of APPI Council, it's my honour to welcome you to the 2025 APPI Conference.

This year's theme, **Fresh Focus**, feels especially fitting in the crisp mountain air of this place. From the Indigenous pithouses of thousands of years ago to today's proposed passenger rail line, Banff has long been a focus for people to gather, experience nature's beauty, and come away changed.

Our program offers an exciting mix of presentations, tours, and opportunities for connection – each designed to spark new ideas and help us see professional challenges in a new light. My sincere thanks go to the conference organizing committee, presenters, sponsors, volunteers, and staff for making this gathering possible.

I encourage you to take full advantage of what Banff and this conference have to offer. Engage deeply in the sessions, connect with colleagues old and new, and explore the unique setting around you. Our hope is that you return home inspired, re-energized, and ready to apply your own **Fresh Focus** to the communities you serve.

Erik Backstrom RPP, MCIP
President, Alberta Professional Planners Institute

APPI COUNCIL

Erik Backstrom RPP, MCIP, President
Khalid Mohammed RPP, MCIP, Past President
Debra Hamilton RPP, MCIP, Councillor
Susan Holdsworth RPP, MCIP, Councillor
Lilit Houlder RPP, MCIP, Secretary

Margaret Kralt RPP, MCIP, Councillor
Nicholas Kuhl RPP, MCIP, Councillor
Connor Smith RPP, MCIP, Treasurer
Marilyn Hooper, Public Member



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



Welcome to all the planners, urbanists, visionaries – and anyone who's ever turned a napkin sketch into a land use bylaw amendment!

This year's conference theme, **FRESH FOCUS – Ignite your Creativity**, celebrates the imaginative spirit at the heart of planning. Because let's be honest: if planning were only about policy reviews and zoning regulations, most of us wouldn't have survived our first open house. Planning is about vision, collaboration, and sometimes persuading a skeptical resident that, yes, their property values will be just fine after that rezoning.

We're shaking things up this year. Expect sessions that go beyond PowerPoint - think panels, play, and the kind of creative energy that makes you say, "Wait... we can actually do that?" From interdisciplinary mashups to bold ideas that would make even your engineering colleague raise an eyebrow, this conference is about sparking the courage to try something new. While you're sharpening your skills, take time to connect, reconnect, and maybe even find that one planner friend who always manages to sneak a hiking break between sessions.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible conference committee and APPI staff, whose dedication has made this year's program both inspiring and logistically sound - because even creativity needs a schedule.

We hope you packed your curiosity, your creativity, and maybe your best "planner chic" flannel. We can't wait to see what fresh ideas you'll bring to the table—and to the mountain air of Banff.

Here's to igniting creativity, sparking laughter, and proving once again that planners really do throw the best conferences.

Warm regards,

Your Conference Co-Chairs

Christine Lee RPP, MCIP

Stephen Yu RPP, MCIP

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Christine Lee RPP, MCIP, Co-Chair

Stephen Yu RPP, MCIP, Co-Chair

Janna Bradshaw RPP, MCIP

Dino Civitarese RPP, MCIP

Anika Drost RPP, MCIP

Darren Enns RPP, MCIP

Neal LaMontagne RPP, MCIP

Nabil Malik RPP, MCIP

Randall McKay RPP, MCIP

Erin O'Neill RPP, MCIP

Liz Pollock RPP, MCIP

Misty Sklar RPP, MCIP

Coralie Volker RPP, MCIP

MaryJane Alanko, Executive Director

Michelle Collins, Executive Administrator

Cathy Wiltsie, Office Manager

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 1: Affordable Housing (Walking) LU = 2

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM **LOBBY**
Registration

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM **BLACK BEAR**
1C: Workshop – Interactive Community Engagement Exercise: Looking at Housing Development Through the Various Housing Industry & Community Lenses LU = 3

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 2: Human–Wildlife Co-Existence in Banff (Walking) LU = 2

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 3: Banff's Sign and Foodie (Walking) LU = 3

6:30 PM - 10:00 PM **WHYTE MUSEUM**
Welcome Reception

6:30 PM - 10:00 PM **WHYTE MUSEUM**
Tour 4: The Ancestors are Talking Exhibition LU = 1

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

MONDAY OCTOBER 20

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM **LOBBY**
Wake and Shake Morning Run

6:30 AM - 8:00 AM
GLACIER SALON & LA TERRAZZA
Breakfast

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM **LOBBY**
Registration

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM **ALPINE MEADOWS**
Exhibitors

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM **BALLROOM**
Opening Remarks

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM **BALLROOM**
Keynote – Devon Clunis
Fresh Focus: Imagining
Unity In Diversity LU = 1.25

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM **ALPINE MEADOWS**
Refreshment Break

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **CASTLE/ASSINIBOINE**
2A: When Planning Meets Law
– Tips for facing potentially litigious planning matters LU = 1.25

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **SUMMIT**
2B: What Comes Next: Regional Planning and Relationships After EMRB LU = 1.25

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **BLACK BEAR**
2C: Placemaking and Investment in Established Communities LU = 1.25

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
GLACIER SALON & LA TERRAZZA
Lunch

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM **BLACK BEAR**
3C: The Road to RPP LU = 1

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM **CASTLE/ASSINIBOINE**
4A: Planning in the Age of Misinformation LU = 1.25

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM **SUMMIT**
4B: Pecha Kucha Sessions LU = 1.25

PK1: Four P's in a Pod – The Perfect Recipe

PK2: Transformation Change Through Unconventional Engagement

PK 3: Jump to Recipe: Cooking up a Focused Plan (Part 1, County Side)

PK 4: Jump to Recipe: Cooking up a Focused Plan (Part 2, Consultant Side)

PK 5: Enabling Housing Choice in Northern Alberta

PK6: An Approach to Creating a Sustainable and Vibrant Neighbourhood

1:15 PM - 2:30 PM **BLACK BEAR**
4C: Igniting Urban Revitalization in Chinatown LU = 1.25

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM **ALPINE MEADOWS**
Refreshment Break

2:15 PM - 5:15 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 5: Roam Transit Tour LU = 3

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM **CASTLE/ASSINIBOINE**
5A: Focusing Density Edmonton's City-led Upzoning of Priority Growth Areas LU = 1.25

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM **SUMMIT**
5B: City of Calgary's Season of Reconciliation Learning Series LU = 1.25

3:00 PM - 4:15 PM **BLACK BEAR**
5C: Professional Ethics and Discipline – A Change Has Come LU = 2

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **LOBBY**
Tour 6: Waste Reduction in Banff (Walking) LU = 2

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM **ALPINE MEADOWS**
Banquet Reception

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM **BALLROOM**
Banquet & Planning Awards Social Evening & Entertainment (Trivia)

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM **LOBBY**
Wake and Shake Morning Run

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **GLACIER SALON**
Breakfast

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM **CASTLE/ASSINIBOINE**
6A: Planning Battle of Alberta comparing Edmonton & Calgary LU = 1.25

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | **SUMMIT**
6B: A Collective Hug LU = 1.25

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM **BLACK BEAR**
6C: Future-Proofing Campus Planning: How Futures Thinking is Shaping the Next Generation of Learning Environments LU = 1.25

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM **ALPINE MEADOWS**
Refreshment Break

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM **BALLROOM**
Plenary Panel
Zoning Wars & Urban Legends: Debunking Myths to Create Better Cities LU = 1.25

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM **BALLROOM**
Closing Remarks LU = 0.25

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
ALPINE MEADOWS
Lunch to Go

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tour 1: Affordable Housing (Walking)

LU = 2

MEET IN LOBBY

Sharon Oakley

Manager Housing Sustainability, Town of Banff

Darren Enns RPP, MCIP

Director, Planning & Environment, Town of Banff

Come learn about the evolution of affordable housing in Banff, from initial efforts by Parks Canada in the 1970s through to the Incorporation of the Town of Banff in 1990 and the creation of the Banff Housing Corporation. With nearly 10% of homes in Banff under the ownership of an affordable housing agency, there is both a lot to celebrate and much to look forward to.



Sharon Oakley is a leader and builder of community, social structures, and housing. A passionate advocate for housing, she believes that when we work collectively and align our goals, we can create lasting success. Her decades of work in the community of Banff have given her a deep understanding of the social, economic, and regulatory complexities of a community that exists within a National Park.

Holding a master's degree in leadership, Sharon combines strategic vision with on-the-ground experience to address housing needs, affordability, and social challenges. In her spare time, she can be found on her mountain bike, hiking or skiing the stunning peaks that surround her home.

Darren Enns RPP, MCIP

Darren Enns is the Director of Planning and Environment for the Town of Banff, where he has worked for the last 15 years. Prior to Banff, Darren was a policy planner for the Cayman Islands Government and worked in private sector resort development in British Columbia. Darren enjoys sharing Banff with the world and living a life outdoors

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

1C: Workshop – Interactive Community Engagement Exercise: Looking at Housing Development Through the Various Housing Industry & Community Lenses

LU = 3

BLACK BEAR

Alyce Wickert

Project Manager, Community Planning & Development Rural Development Network

Sean Adams

Community Planner, Rural Development Network

In this session the Rural Development Network (RDN) will share how they are addressing housing issues, needs and opportunities in rural Alberta communities. The housing landscape in rural communities is distinct from that in urban areas. Join RDN's Enabling Housing Choice team in this community engagement exercise, where you will examine housing development scenarios that focus on the housing issues, needs and opportunities in small rural communities. Your job will be to look at the scenario through the lens of the various local community members and groups who want to enable and promote local housing development. By looking through these perspectives you will learn how effective engagement is vital to understanding the community. The knowledge you gain can be used to develop collaborative solutions that will result in housing that is locally relevant.



Alyce Wickert is the Project Manager in Planning and Community Development for RDN and the team lead for the Enabling Housing Choice project. She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Alberta in Urban and Regional Studies. Past experience includes many years in the planning and development department in a large southeast Alberta rural municipality. This municipal government experience has given her the ability to understand rural communities, and effectively work with them to adapt their policies and bylaws so that they can create locally-relevant policies and bylaws that will increase housing diversity in their community.

Sean Adams is a Community Planner on the Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) team in the Rural Development Network. Sean is passionate about working closely with rural communities to create

locally-relevant and sustainable solutions for housing diversity. Sean holds a Masters of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. Through his work on SHI's Enabling Housing Choice team Sean has led the EHC partner municipalities through the community engagement process to help them identify and address the diverse housing needs in their communities. Through these partnerships he has been involved in extensive research, community engagement processes, and recommendations reports to guide municipalities in navigating their diverse housing needs.

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Tour 2: Human – Wildlife Co-Existence in Banff (Walking)

LU = 2

MEET IN LOBBY

Michael Hay

Manager of Environment Services, Town of Banff

Misty Sklar RPP, MCIP

Manager of Development Planning North,
City of Calgary

The Town of Banff in conjunction with Parks Canada strives to minimize and mitigate the community's impact on adjacent wildlife corridors. Join the Town's environmental team and Resource Conservation team members from Parks Canada to learn about the innovative ways in which wildlife and humans are managed in this complex landscape.



Michael Hay has been the Manager of Environment for the Town of Banff since 2019. He is passionate about a variety of urban sustainability issues including sustainable transportation, climate action, water quality and security, and waste reduction – all of which are critical issues for the Banff town site and Banff National Park overall. Michael has led many of Banff's recent sustainability projects including Roam Transit's new bus garage, a new biomass heating facility, and several solar energy projects. He works closely with Banff's Council and Administration to continue Banff's quest to be a model environmental community.

Misty Sklar is Manager of Development Planning - North at The City of Calgary. She leads a highly skilled team of planners working closely with municipal leaders, developers and consultants to guide urban growth. Misty's background in business and city planning supports her collaborative approach to city building. A Past President of the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI), she actively contributes to the profession and is involved in mentorship efforts as well as the Legislative Review and Conference Committee.

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Tour 3: Banff's Sign and Foodie (Walking)

LU = 3

MEET IN LOBBY

Kelso Brennan MBA, PMP, ICD.D

Tour Guide

Behind the scenes look at how signage, architecture, and placemaking intersect in one of Canada's most iconic national park towns. Led by Hi Signs, a design-build signage firm behind many of Banff's custom signs, this walking tour explores how thoughtful signage contributes to identity, flow, and storytelling across both heritage and commercial properties.

Along the way, we'll enjoy light bites and a signature drink while exploring historic buildings, shared streetscapes, and modern retail spaces – all within the right design constraints of Banff National Park.

hi signs.

Kelso Brennan is the Managing Director of Hi Signs and Past President of the Alberta Sign Association. He acquired The Banff Sign Company in 2017, originally founded in 1986, and has led projects in world-renowned destinations like Banff, Jasper, Montana, and Iceland.

With a passion for design, real estate, and architecture, Kelso brings a unique perspective on how signage shapes spaces. His work blends creativity with the practical realities of national park regulations and municipal design standards—making signage both beautiful and functional.

6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Welcome Reception

WHYTE MUSEUM

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 Banff has to offer in a fantastic social environment. **The Welcome Reception will include a full barbeque buffet for all attendees.**



6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Tour 4: The Ancestors are Talking Exhibition

LU = 1

All attendees of the Welcome Reception will have complimentary access to explore the Ancestors Are Talking Exhibit. This exhibition celebrates the ground breaking artwork of the Professional Native Artists Inc. (PNAI), colloquially know as the Group of Seven.



6:00 AM - 7:00 AM

MEET IN LOBBY

Wake and Shake Morning Run

Anika Drost RPP, MCIP

Town of Canmore

Coralie Volker RPP, MCIP

Select Engineering Consultants

Engulf yourself into the beauty of the mountains and start your day off right with a 5 km morning run. Keep your eyes out for some eager morning beavers as you run through a forested oasis and admire the beauty of downtown Banff! We encourage you to bring a headlamp, bear spray and your activity tracker – as we all know, if it's not on Strava it never happened. See you at 6 AM at the Banff Park Lodge Lobby!

6:30 AM - 8:00 AM

Breakfast

GLACIER SALON & LA TERRAZZA

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

LOBBY

Registration

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

ALPINE MEADOWS

Exhibitors

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

BALLROOM

Opening Remarks

9:00 AM - 10:15AM

BALLROOM

Keynote – Devon Clunis

Fresh Focus: Imagining Unity In Diversity

LU = 1.25

In our rapidly changing world, creating truly inclusive places to live, work, and play requires more than planning, policies, and regulations. Meeting the needs of our future demands courage and fresh thinking. FRESH FOCUS – Imagining Unity in Diversity invites participants to rethink Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through a shared, creative lens. This engaging session explores how genuine empathy, which seeks to understand and be understood, can break down barriers, challenge assumptions, and lead to meaningful and lasting change. Through storytelling, dialogue, and practical strategies, we will explore ways of cultivating an inclusive mindset and grasp the real potential for our future when we work together.



Devon Clunis served 29 years with The Winnipeg Police Service, retiring as Chief of Police in 2016.

Devon has a reputation for professionalism, integrity, and problem-solving. Skilled in evaluating and enhancing community safety systems, he has inspired change and implemented best practices in policing both in Canada and the United States of America.

Adept at building stakeholder relationships and navigating political landscapes, Devon led the development of The Inspectorate of Policing in Ontario, the first of its kind in Canada, ensuring compliance with the Community Safety and Policing Act and setting standards for excellence in policing.

Devon was the chair of the Steering Committee for The Public Safety Training Strategy for the government of Manitoba. This framework will impact the future of training for all public safety personnel.

In addition to co-authoring two children's books on equity, diversity and inclusion, Devon's reflective autobiography, *ONE – A Story of Hope in Our Time*, addresses many of the social challenges facing society and calls us to create a more cohesive social climate.

Devon currently works across Canada and the U.S. assisting policing in meeting the emerging needs of community safety and well-being in the 21st century, in addition to speaking extensively on leadership, organizational development, and the need for unity in diversity.

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM

ALPINE MEADOWS

Refreshment Break

hi signs.

SESSIONS 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

2A: When Planning Meets Law – Tips for facing potentially litigious planning matters

LU = 1.25

CASTLE & ASSINIBOINE

Jeneane Grundberg ^{KC}
Partner, Brownlee Law LLP

Jana Jedlic ^{RPP, MCIP}
Manager of Permitting, Inspections and Customer Service, Strathcona County

Stephen Raitz ^{RPP, MCIP}
Student-at-law, Brownlee Law LLP

The law provides the authority for planners to plan and facilitate development. Not every development permit, subdivision application, or area structure plan requires formal legal advice though. Planners may not feel they explicitly engage with these legal foundations while engaging in everyday planning exercises. But, as planning frameworks are implemented and evolve, planners may face increasingly complex legal issues. How should planners best protect planning decisions from legal challenges?

This presentation will underscore the inter-disciplinary relationship between planning and the law. Panelists will share candid case studies, as well as strategies to mitigate against successful legal challenges, and will provide specific tips on how to place your organization in the best position as planning issues become growingly litigious. The presentation will emphasize “best practice” approaches in both rural and urban environments and how growth pressures may give rise to legal issues at the municipal and regional levels. Tips will include: protocols for public input; proper public hearings; and appropriate staff reports.



BROWNLEE LLP
Barristers & Solicitors

Jeneane Grundberg has over 35 years of experience in the municipal and planning law area. Since 1989 she has provided advice on legislation impacting municipalities (including the MGA, the EPEA and related regulations). Jeneane has been counsel on over 100 reported Alberta cases respecting planning law, including statutory plans, regional plans, and land use bylaws. Jeneane has been a leading lawyer in municipal and planning law for decades, having broken barriers as one of the first female partners at Brownlee LLP.

Jana Jedlic is an RPP with over 15 years of experience. She is a member of APPI and is the Manager of Permitting, Inspections and Customer Service with Strathcona County, overseeing a talented team of Development Officers, Safety Codes Officers and other professionals. She previously held planning and development positions in Saskatchewan where she played an active role in promoting the planning profession in rural areas. Jana is a graduate of the Master of Urban Planning program at McGill University.

Stephen Raitz has a keen interest in administrative, municipal, and planning law. He is a planner with RPP accreditation and a student-at-law. He has been involved in various community-related planning projects, from active transportation advocacy to Municipal Ward Boundary Commissions, to Subdivision and Development Appeal Boards. Before attending law school, he completed a BA in Urban Planning at the University of Alberta. He worked in Planning positions throughout his degree and afterward in the Edmonton region from 2017 to 2021.

2024/2025 was a pivotal year for regional planning. This session will be part reflection, part discussion of this year, and part looking to the future about what's possible and what's next. It will provide a chance to hear planners reflect on this stage of regional planning in the province.



Jane Purvis is a recent addition to the Regional Development team at the City of Edmonton. Her career has spanned over twenty years, including both the public and private sectors and working in areas that include current planning, engagement, regional partnerships and governance.

Natasha De Sandi is a senior planner for the planning coordination team at Parkland County. With a passion for problem-solving, Natasha thrives on finding innovative solutions to complex challenges. Charismatic and enthusiastic, she tries to bring energy and positivity to every team and project she works on. Natasha project managed the Municipal Development Plan project from the County's end.

Greg Hofmann has worked as a professional planner in Alberta since 1983, providing services to a wide variety of public and private sector clients. Specific expertise includes regional and intermunicipal planning; all statutory plans; land use bylaws; annexation briefs; community and housing needs assessments; subdivision/development appeals; wildland-urban interface wildfire planning, expert testimony; planning seminars and workshops.

Kristina Peter is the Director of Planning and Development for the City of St. Albert, bringing over 15 years of leadership experience in municipal and regional planning. Her career spans both urban and rural contexts, reflecting a deep understanding of diverse community needs.

Kristina has been an active contributor to the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board, engaging in regional discussions, submitting statutory plan applications, and shaping implementation tools. She is committed to a regional vision that integrates thoughtful growth while respecting the distinctiveness of each community.

Darren Young's involvement in regional planning predates the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board (EMRB). He was a contributor to the 2007 Capital Regional Integrated Growth Management Plan that underscored the imperative for the EMRB's original establishment as the Capital Region Board in 2018. From then until earlier this year, Darren was

2B: What Comes Next: Regional Planning and Relationships After EMRB

LU = 1.25

SUMMIT

Jane Purvis RPP, MCIP
City of Edmonton

Natasha De Sandi RPP, MCIP
Senior Planner, Parkland County

Greg Hofmann RPP
G.T. Hofmann & Associates

Kristina Peter
Director, Planning and Development,
City of St. Albert

Darren Young RPP, MCIP
Community Planning Manager,
ISL Engineering and Land Services

A panel discussion and Q&A to reflect on the dissolution of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board and its effects on planning practice. Potential discussion questions:

- i. In hindsight, what were the benefits and drawbacks of the regional growth board?
- ii. How has the dissolution of the regional board impacted regional relationships? Planning practice in the region?
- iii. How are planners dealing with the dissolution of the EMRB? New organization? ICFs/IDPs?
- iv. What do you see in the future for regional planning in Alberta?

regularly immersed in Regional Evaluation Framework application third-party reviews, leveraged geodesign in the preparation of the award-winning Edmonton Metropolitan Region Growth Plan (EMRGP), and facilitated annexation applications on behalf of four member municipalities within the context of the EMRGP.

He is now a Community Planning Manager with ISL that owes his specialization in growth analysis and management to over 15 years of regional planning in the Edmonton Metro Region.

2C: Placemaking and Investment in Established Communities

LU = 1.25

BLACK BEAR

Lesley Kalmakoff RPP, MCIP
Coordinator Growth Strategy
City of Calgary

Brian Smith
Senior Growth Management Planner
City of Calgary

Nazim Virani
President, Sarina Homes

Calgary is growing fast, and The **City's Established Area Growth and Change Strategy** realizes timely public real investment in the most actively redeveloping areas of the city, an outcome not typically led by Planners. At the same time, Developers like **Sarina Homes** are bringing their own placemaking investments into growing communities.

With an intent to invest where the market is active, these initiatives depend on a partnership between residents and businesses, developers and planners to combine data and professional knowledge to determine where public realm improvements can best support quality of life as communities change. Sarina Homes is using placemaking to strengthen connections amongst neighbours in their neighbourhood, and The City has a role in demonstrating that there are welcome benefits to growth. Calgary's Growth Strategy team and Sarina Homes both operate in unconventional roles by pursuing funding, prioritizing improvement projects, and monitoring how they sustain the attractiveness of established communities.

This presentation will share municipal and developer-led goals, actions, challenges and successes to delivering win-win community investment. Interactive discussion through Menti meter and Q&A will compare Calgary's context with that of other municipalities so components of this strategic work can be applied to other locations and situations.

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 Masters 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.

Brian Smith is a Senior Growth Management Planner with the City of Calgary. Originally from Cranbrook, BC. Brian began his planning career with the City of Calgary in 2013, after graduating from the University of Calgary. Brian has been focused on Citywide growth since 2021 and became lead of the Established Area Growth and Change Strategy in 2024. Brian's work history includes all stages of development, from intake to approvals, which has provided him with a diverse perspective to city building.

Nazim Virani built up his involvement in Calgary's real estate development market, leading to his establishment of Sarina Homes. Sarina has been a trusted builder of boutique apartments for 15 years contributing to the vibrancy of Calgary's established neighborhoods. Last year, Naz and his team initiated a non-profit initiative to devote their creative efforts and resources to community-driven placemaking in these established communities.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch

GLACIER SALON & LA TERRAZZA



12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

3C: The Road to RPP

LU = 1

BLACK BEAR

Ryan Jones

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

Greg Birch RPP, MCIP

Board Chair, Professional Standards Board

Neal LaMontagne RPP, MCIP

Board Director, Professional Standards Board

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 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!



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.

Greg Birch has over thirty years of rich and diverse experience in municipal planning and management. He has worked for rural and urban governments, for regional planning organizations, and in the private sector. His practice has included oil and gas projects and market studies, municipal annexations, preparation of a host of municipal planning documents and bylaws, wildlife corridor establishment policy, multijurisdiction recreational trail development, transfer of development credit regulations, potable water system construction, solid waste collection systems, and town manager. Greg currently volunteers as the Chair of APPI's Discipline Committee and is CIP's appointee to the Professional Standards Board where he serves as Board Chair.

Neal LaMontagne is a Teaching Professor in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Alberta. A RPP with over 25 years of experience in policy, regulation, and design review and guidance, he has held senior level positions at the City of Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and UBC Campus and Community Planning as well as IBI Group (now Arcadis). He is a board director with the Professional Standards Board (representing Alberta) and Chair of the PSB Planning Education and Examination Committee, Vice-Chair of the City of Edmonton Design Committee and board member of Media Architecture Design Edmonton.



4A: Planning in the Age of Misinformation: Bridging the Gap between Planners and the Public

LU = 1.25

CASTLE & ASSINIBOINE

Jonathan Schmidt ^{RPP, MCIP}

President, Bluerock Planning Inc.

Nick Pryce ^{RPP, MCIP}

VP Planning Group Leader,
V3 Companies of Canada Ltd.

Josh Bishop

Reeve County of Wetaskiwin

John Whaley

Former Reeve of Leduc County

In an era of widespread misinformation and growing distrust in government, the planning profession stands at a crossroads. The ability to plan for a more sustainable future is increasingly hindered by a lack of understanding and the pace of change that is occurring. If we fail to clearly communicate the role and value of planning, we continue along on a path that results in more devastating decisions that affect our future generations financially, socially and environmentally.

This session brings a panel of existing and past Reeve's along with an experienced planner to share their experience of the challenges of misinformation and share how they have handled it along with providing input on what professional planners can do to help alleviate the growing divide and perspectives that arise through the planning process.

The planning profession cannot afford to be silent in the "information wars." We must harness our expertise, storytelling abilities, and innovative tools to educate and inform the public, elected officials, and interested parties about how planning works - and why it matters. This panel session will help planners understand a different perspective to rethink how we engage, inform and advocate the profession in a rapidly changing world.



Jonathan Schmidt is president of Bluerock Planning Inc, a small consulting firm that specializes in municipal planning policy and regulations across western Canada. He has spent his 15-year career helping small and rural municipalities work towards their desired community vision. Through his work career he has experienced first-hand the mis-information impact and its effects on the profession.

Nick Pryce with over 32 years of experience in the global planning profession, Nick 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.

Josh Bishop is the Reeve at the County of Wetaskiwin, where he brings a strong commitment to community, agriculture, and rural development. He plays a vital leadership role in shaping the County's policies and advocacy efforts. He has served as an elected official since 2017.

He is a director for the Joint Economic Development Initiative, an organization dedicated to partnering with businesses and other municipalities in order to pursue greater opportunities together including public private partnerships.

Josh is also a director for the RMA (Rural Municipalities of Alberta), providing strategic direction and governance.

John Whaley served on the Agricultural Practices Act Appeal Tribunal from 2017 to 2024. Prior to that he was also elected to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (Now Rural Municipalities of Alberta) Board of Directors from November 2007 until November of 2017 and was elected for 17 years as Leduc County Councillor where he has served 10 years as Reeve / Mayor. Up until 2013 John was an agricultural producer, and prior to coming to Canada in 1990, he ran a mixed farming operation in England for more than 20 years. Where he also received his Agricultural Diploma from Kirkley Hall Agricultural College. John has been actively involved with a variety of community organizations such as the Nisku-Leduc Rotary Club and 4-H clubs. Retired now he enjoys hobby farming and spending time with his grandchildren.

1:15 PM – 2:30 PM

4B: Pecha Kucha Sessions

LU = 1.25

SUMMIT

Deriving their name from the Japanese term for “chit-chat,” Pecha Kuchas are presentations consisting of 20 automatically timed slides each displayed for only 20 seconds for a presentation totaling no more than about seven minutes long. In this dynamic showcase, presenters will share bold ideas, lessons learned, and creative sparks from across the field.



McElhanney

PK1: Four P's in a Pod – The Perfect Recipe

Hailey Bloom RPP, MCIP

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Bhavana Chaudhary

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Lethbridge is a vibrant and growing city located in southern Alberta, Canada. Since 2024, Stantec Consulting Ltd. and the City of Lethbridge have been working together to reimagine the downtown Civic Common.

The 4 P's in a Pod: Place, People, Process and Possibilities

The Civic Common is a four-square-block area that includes Lethbridge City Hall and other civic and cultural uses. It aims to become a dynamic civic hub for both celebration and contemplation. The City of Lethbridge and Stantec developed a Redevelopment Strategy to position the Civic Common as a cultural and economic hub, involving successful collaboration across various disciplines. In this session, we will explain the ingredients for a successful Redevelopment Strategy, which includes the translation of complex ideas and local requirements, an engaged and supportive client, development of “plug and play” options in the design process, and incremental investments to ensure implementation in the future.

Hailey Bloom is a professional planner located in Stantec's Calgary office with experience in urban design and land use planning. Hailey is interested in creating great spaces and communities for people while proactively addressing the changing climate through resilient urban design and planning strategies. She looks for opportunities to improve how people can move through, gather, and connect within a community and is passionate about finding design solutions to create inclusive places for people to live, work, and play.

Bhavana Chaudhary is an urban planner at Stantec's Calgary office, bringing experience in urban design, community development, and urban activation. With an architecture background, she focuses on integrating elements of the built environment to create vibrant, meaningful spaces. Passionate about adaptive reuse and activation strategies, Bhavana seeks opportunities to reimagine existing spaces, enhancing the urban experience and fostering a strong sense of place to build resilient, thriving communities.

PK2: Transformation Change Through Unconventional Engagement

Josh Cairns

Senior Policy Planner, Town of Canmore

Caroline Hedin

Communications Advisor, Town of Canmore

Creating the conditions to allow for transformative change means breaking through

traditional barriers and expectations on who we hear from and how we hear them. In this session, attendees will hear from the Town of Canmore on their “Connect Downtown” planning process—an 18-month initiative to create an Area Redevelopment Plan for downtown Canmore—and how they shifted the narrative through unconventional and inspiring approaches to communications and public engagement.

These approaches included innovative tactics to inspire people to imagine what a vibrant downtown can be and to get excited about local government initiatives. Whether it was partnering with Middle Schools to run classroom activities or joining forces with the Canmore Folk Fest to host pop-up concert series in downtown businesses, the results spoke for themselves: record participation, representation from voices typically excluded from planning, and broad support for transformative change—including a redesign and permanent, year-round closure of the main commercial street.

But changing how we do things isn't easy, and it's not without growing pains. This session will share the lessons learned from this new approach: what worked, what challenges arose, and how we can do better in the future for how we reach the broader community.

Josh Cairns is a long-range policy planner with several years of experience developing and implementing area plans and housing policy for a number of BC and Alberta municipalities including the Town of Canmore, District of North Vancouver, and City of Vancouver.

Caroline Hedin is a communications and community engagement specialist with the Town of Canmore with a decade of experience translating complex issues into meaningful stories. She has previously worked with

organizations like Parks Canada, The American Prairie Foundation, and is the founder of FieldLab Films, an impact driven science storytelling company.

PK3: Jump to Recipe: Cooking up a Focused Plan (Part 1, County Side)

Natasha De Sandi ^{RPP, MCIP}

Senior Planner, Parkland County

PK4: Jump to Recipe: Cooking up a Focused Plan (Part 2, Consultant Side)

Sarah Lumley ^{RPP, MCIP}

Associate, O2

Anyone who has searched for a recipe online has encountered the modern cooking webpage: “Banana egg pancakes always remind me of my Great Aunt Verna, a dynamo in her time [...]”. This is frustrating, especially if you’re trying to answer a simple question, like “*how many eggs per banana?*”.

We ask: are plans sometimes like these recipe websites? How can we provide the same kind of focused energy as that legendary, cut-through-the-noise button: *‘Jump to Recipe’*?

Throughout 2024, O2 prepared a new Municipal Development Plan with Parkland County. The project maintained a singular goal: writing a focused and approachable plan. In the end, the team cooked up something fresh: a 40-page plan (down from 180), with one reference map (down from 13), organized clearly by audience and shared responsibility.

This pair of Pecha Kucha presentations, delivered in sequence by O2 and Parkland County, will provide a range of transferrable lessons, like:

- How organizing by audience makes your policies tighter,
- How to remain cool and collected as your plan gets shorter and shorter, and
- How to be a severe and effective editor of policy and narrative.

Anyone who wants to enable tighter, more focused planning in their communities will benefit from participation in the session.

Natasha De Sandi is a senior planner for the planning coordination team at Parkland County. With a passion for problem-solving, Natasha thrives on finding innovative solutions to complex challenges. Charismatic and enthusiastic, she tries to bring energy and positivity to every team and project she works on. Natasha project managed the Municipal Development Plan project from the County’s end.

Sarah Lumley is a Planner and Associate at O2’s Calgary office. She is passionate about bridging the

gap between policy and implementation. Through her work across Canada, she is consistently looking for new ways to streamline and clarify plan direction and build capacity for implementation through process and relationship building. Sarah was the primary planner on Parkland County’s MDP and is currently working on projects across Canada, including in Calgary and St. John’s.

PK5: Enabling Housing Choice in Northern Alberta

Sean Adams

Community Planner, Rural Development Network

Alyce Wickert

Project Manager, Rural Development Network

The housing landscape in rural areas is distinct, complex, and different from urban areas.

Attend this informative session by the Rural Development Network (RDN) to learn how they are exploring the unique housing landscapes of rural communities in Alberta.

At the 2022 APPI Conference, RDN presented the Enabling Housing Choice Project, an initiative aimed at promoting diverse housing development in rural communities. With this project now complete, the Alberta Real Estate Foundation (AREF) has provided funding to continue the project for rural communities north of Edmonton: EHC North.

The goal of the EHC North project is to better understand northern Alberta’s local housing landscape: barriers, issues and opportunities. In this presentation, RDN will share how community engagement and collaboration were used to identify housing needs, respond to housing challenges, and create locally relevant solutions to enable housing diversity in its partner communities.

In addition, RDN will share the stories of the partner communities in their journey to improve housing diversity. Finally, RDN will explore their Guidebook to Enabling Housing Choice in Rural Alberta, a resource that was created to assist rural communities to update their policies, bylaws and processes to facilitate diverse housing development that meet the needs of the community.

Sean Adams, is a Community Planner on the Sustainable Housing Initiative (SHI) team in the Rural Development Network, Sean is passionate about working closely with rural communities to create locally relevant and sustainable solutions for housing diversity. Sean holds a Master’s of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Alberta and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies. Through his work on SHI’s Enabling Housing Choice team Sean has led the

EHC partner municipalities through the community engagement process to help them identify and address the diverse housing needs in their communities. Through these partnerships he has been involved in extensive research, community engagement processes, and recommendations reports to guide municipalities in navigating their diverse housing needs.

Alyce Wickert is the Project Manager in Planning and Community Development for RDN and the team lead for the Enabling Housing Choice project. She holds a Master of Arts from the University of Alberta in Urban and Regional Studies. Past experience includes many years in the planning and development department in a large southeast Alberta rural municipality. This municipal government experience has given her the ability to understand rural communities, and effectively work with them to adapt their policies and bylaws so that they can create locally relevant policies and bylaws that will increase housing diversity in their community.

PK6: An Approach to Creating a Sustainable and Vibrant Neighbourhood

Pallavi Singh
Planner I, City of Airdrie

Car dependency has long influenced urban planning in North America, often reducing opportunities for social interaction within neighbourhoods. Traditionally, front yards, sidewalks, and streets served as semi-private spaces where families, guests, and neighbours could connect. However, modern neighbourhood design has deprioritized these interactions. The COVID-19 pandemic further highlighted this isolation as designated gathering spaces—cafés, restaurants, and public venues—were shut down.

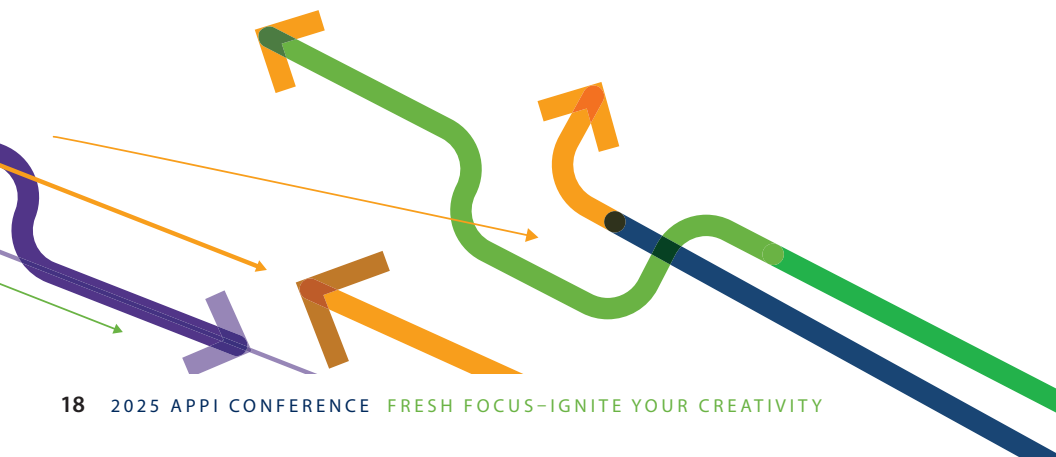
Amidst Canada's housing crisis, the Town of Innisfail has adopted an innovative approach to fostering social connection while increasing housing supply. The Napoleon Lake South Development integrates a Shared Residential Street concept that prioritizes pedestrian movement, social interaction, and sustainable development. The neighbourhood features a mix of housing types and unique design standards that enhance connectivity, encourage neighbourly engagement, and promote climate resilience.

This presentation will provide an in-depth look at the project's objectives, initial design options, and key decision-making processes. It will also discuss challenges encountered and solutions applied to align the final design with its goals.

Attendees will be encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and share their own strategies for enhancing social connectivity and sustainability in urban developments, contributing to an interactive discussion on creating vibrant, resilient, and connected neighbourhoods.

Pallavi Singh began her planning career through the Municipal Planning Internship with the Town of Innisfail and is now a Planner I with the City of Airdrie. With a background in architecture and urban design, she is passionate about creating sustainable, people-centered spaces that enhance community well-being. Her work spans land development, long-range, and current planning. She takes a holistic approach by integrating planning, architecture, and urban design to balance aesthetics, functionality, and social connectivity in vibrant, inclusive communities.

CHECK OUT THE EXHIBITS IN ALPINE MEADOWS



4C: Igniting Urban Revitalization in Chinatown

LU = 1.25

BLACK BEAR

Wilson Wong
Co-owner of Van Lock

How do we transform underutilized urban spaces into thriving cultural and economic hubs? This session explores how Van Loc, a Vietnamese Banh Mi shop, shut down the streets of Chinatown and started the conversation on how to reshape community engagement, inspire entrepreneurs, and strengthen relationships with the city.

The presentation will be an interactive discussion, breaking down the strategies behind successful placemaking, including:

- Leveraging arts, culture, and commerce to drive foot traffic and economic growth
- Building collaborations between planners, developers, businesses, and grassroots organizations.
- Using data-driven storytelling and advocacy to influence urban policy.
- How to reignite declining districts through relationship activation, not just development.
- Actionable steps to bridge cultural heritage with modern urban experiences.
- Real-world examples of successful public-private partnerships in urban planning.

Planners, policymakers, and community leaders will gain practical, tested strategies to create inclusive, vibrant spaces while learning from one of the most compelling revitalization stories in Canada.



Wilson Wong has 17 years of direct sales experience with CUTCO Knives and is the co-owner of Van Loc. He co-founded Boa & Hare and CRW Coffee and is the author of Fun Is My Favourite F Word. As an investor in businesses and real estate, Wilson is passionate about building relationships, developing communities, inspiring entrepreneurship, and creating impactful experiences.

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

ALPINE MEADOWS

Refreshment Break

hi signs.

2:15 PM - 5:15 PM

Tour 5: Roam Transit Tour

LU = 3

MEET IN LOBBY

Darren Enns RPP, MCIP
Director of Planning and Environment,
Town of Banff

Steve Nelson
Director of Service Delivery, Roam Public Transit
Roam Transit – The story of Alberta's 3rd busiest transit system; Take a facilitated charter tour on Roam Transit, a regional service provided by the Town of Banff, Town of Canmore, Parks Canada, and Improvement District #9. Roam is Alberta's 3rd busiest transit system by ridership and is an excellent example of service delivery on a regional level, as well as one which spans multiple levels of government.



Darren Enns is the Director of Planning and Environment for the Town of Banff, where he has worked for the last 15 years. Prior to Banff, Darren was a policy planner for the Cayman Islands Government and worked in private sector resort development in British Columbia. Darren enjoys sharing Banff with the world and living a life outdoors.

Steve Nelson has been with Roam Public Transit for over 10 years and currently serves as the Director of Service Delivery. Before joining Roam, he gained valuable experience with the Town of Banff and Calgary Transit, building a strong foundation in municipal transit operations and public service.

At Roam, Steve leads service delivery across Banff, Canmore, Lake Louise, and the wider Bow Valley. His focus is on ensuring safe, reliable, and sustainable transit for residents and visitors, while guiding system growth and improvements that align with the unique needs of a national park community.

SESSIONS 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM

5A: Focusing Density: Edmonton's City-led Upzoning of Priority Growth Areas

LU = 1.25

CASTLE & ASSINIBOINE

Lisa Drury RPP, MCIP

Senior Planner, City of Edmonton

Jordan McArthur

Planner, City of Edmonton

Edmonton's Priority Growth Area Rezoning project is a new, large-scale upzoning initiative to support additional housing, encourage investment, and streamline development along its key main streets and urban centres. This session will be an interactive discussion on how to balance competing issues while still applying the City's land use policies. The presenters will use tools like Mentimeter to engage participants with polls and questions. For example, they may poll participants on criteria for selecting areas for upzoning such as market demand, LRT proximity, and land availability to encourage discussion on how sites were selected for this project.

The presentation will cover the project's history, context, and its "fresh" and unique approach to upzoning in areas with anticipated growth. It will explore how the project team selected areas, implemented policy, and balanced community feedback. It will also discuss the strategies used to develop in-person and online engagement and how the project team navigated returning to in-person engagement after the Covid-19 pandemic to connect with thousands of Edmontonians.

Key takeaways will include discussing what a balanced approach to rezoning means and how the team worked with different disciplines to support the rezoning. For example, the project explored new methods for analyzing multimodal transportation to understand congestion acceptance on a corridor level. The presentation will encourage audience participation through its dynamic and conversational format, with the goal of inspiring discussion on innovative approaches to redevelopment in cities across Alberta.



Lisa Drury is a Senior Planner at the City of Edmonton with a range of municipal experience. After graduating with a Master of Science in Planning for the University of Toronto in 2014, Lisa worked in several municipalities in Alberta and Ontario. She began her career working in long range policy planning and transitioned to working in current planning prior to coming to the City of Edmonton. She enjoys applying her planning interests in a variety of capacities including her local Community League, the Edmonton Food Council and APPI Events Committee.

Jordan McArthur is a Planner with the City of Edmonton with over 10 years of diverse experience. He graduated from the University of Lethbridge in 2012 with a BA in Urban and Regional Studies. Jordan moved home to Calgary for a few years and worked as a Development Officer at High River, helping rebuild following the floods in 2013. Later he joined the City of Edmonton in 2015 where he has worked in various roles ranging from being the 3-1-1 point person for development questions, reviewing development permits, leading inspections teams, and processing land development applications.

5B: City of Calgary's Season of Reconciliation Learning Series

LU = 1.25

SUMMIT

Fraser McLeod RMPL, RPP, MCIP

Senior Planner, Community Planning,
City of Calgary

Lorna Crowshoe B.M.GMT, MBA

Senior Indigenous Policy Strategist, City of Calgary

Since its inception as a pilot project in 2023, The Seasons of Reconciliation Program has become a cornerstone of professional development for planners at the City of Calgary's Planning and Development Services department. This unique initiative emerged in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and staff's growing interest to learn directly from Indigenous communities. This unconventional program that takes staff out of typical classroom settings and onto the land to learn has solidified into a celebrated learning initiative that has impacted over 240 staff.

In this session, you'll learn about the collective curiosity that first sparked it, initial challenges, and how this made-in-Calgary learning initiative evolves and provides planners with meaningful Indigenous place-based learning opportunities. We will explore how the program deepens commitments to truth and reconciliation, addresses gaps and strengthens understanding. Participants will discover how

learning directly from Traditional Knowledge Keepers can spark change and further enhances planning practices. Following the presentation, participants will engage in small discussions into how Indigenous worldviews can make for a more resilient and hopeful practice in increasingly uncertain times. We'll then highlight how planners can lean into discomfort, act on reconciliation and build meaningful ways forward with Indigenous communities.



Fraser McLeod has been with The City since 2017 and most recently lead the Riley Communities Local Area Plan. With over 10 years of public and private experience, Fraser consistently finds innovative ways to build relationships and policy spaces with Indigenous communities, including establishing the Seasons of Reconciliation. He has a Master's of Planning from Queen's University where he was part of a research partnership with two First Nations critically examining the intersection of Indigenous rights and interests and planning.

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.

REGULATED MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO SELF-LOG THE CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING UNITS (LUS) THEY ACQUIRE WHILE ATTENDING THE 2025 APPI CONFERENCE, AS PER THE LUS ASSIGNED TO EACH SESSION, AND IDENTIFIED IN THE PROGRAM.

5C: Professional Ethics and Discipline – A Change Has Come

LU = 1.25

BLACK BEAR

Greg Birch ^{RPP, MCIP}
Discipline Committee

Erin O'Neill ^{RPP, MCIP}
Discipline Committee

Members of the APPI Discipline Committee will provide an overview of the Professional Code of Practice governing regulated planners in the APPI jurisdiction. The code will be the central focus of the course and will be used to generate group discussion about issues confronting planners working in the public service and private industry. This discussion will help planners address a range of questions including:

- Think it won't happen to you? Think Again!
- Who to go to for advice?
- How does the Code provide a moral/ethical foundation?
- How can APPI help with difficult issues?

For more information on the Professional Code of Practice or to review the code please visit:
APPI Professional Code of Practice



Greg Birch has over thirty years of rich and diverse experience in municipal planning and management. He has worked for rural and urban governments, for regional planning organizations, and in the private sector. His practice has included oil and gas projects and market studies, municipal annexations, preparation of a host of municipal planning documents and bylaws, wildlife corridor establishment policy, multijurisdiction recreational trail development, transfer of development credit regulations, potable water system construction, solid waste collection systems, and town manager. Greg currently volunteers as the Chair of APPI's Discipline Committee, and is CIP's appointee to the Professional Standards Board where he serves as Board Chair.

Erin O'Neill, RPP is the Senior Vice President of Finance & Shared Services with Alberta Health Services and has been working in professional planning for over 18 years. Having worked in both urban and rural areas; Erin has primarily been involved in land use development, emergency management and health care. Since moving to Alberta in 2007, Erin has been a dedicated member APPI by serving on APPI Council, the Discipline Committee, Registration Committee and Co-Chairing the annual conference. While Erin does not work in a traditional planning role, she brings a different perspective to ensure planners working in traditional and non-traditional planning roles are supported.

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Tour 6: Waste Reduction in Banff
(Walking)**

LU = 2

MEET IN LOBBY

Shannon Ripley
Waste Coordinator, Town of Banff

Darren Enns RPP, MCIP
Director of Planning and Environment,
Town of Banff

Waste reduction in Banff – Being a model environmental community in a national park; Banff has lofty goals with respect to waste reduction and have implemented a range of tactics to achieve these in the last 10 years. These range from a comprehensive organics collection program for the local restaurant industry, to a multi-stream recycling network for local residents. This guided infrastructure tour is led by Town of Banff Environment and Operations teams.



Shannon Ripley is trained as a soil scientist (M.Sc.) and environmental scientist (B.Sc.) and is a Professional Agrologist. Shannon has 18 years of experience planning, implementing and evaluating composting and waste diversion programs and policies in collaboration with municipal and territorial governments, Indigenous governments, non-profit organizations, businesses and farmers. Shannon has worked with communities in BC, the Northwest Territories and Alberta. She grew up and currently lives in southern Alberta, and has also loved time living in Yellowknife, Latin America and various communities across Canada.

Darren Enns is the Director of Planning and Environment for the Town of Banff, where he has worked for the last 15 years. Prior to Banff, Darren was a policy planner for the Cayman Islands Government and worked in private sector resort development in British Columbia. Darren enjoys sharing Banff with the world and living a life outdoors.

6:30 PM - 7:00 PM **ALPINE MEADOWS**
Banquet Reception



7:00 PM - 9:00 PM **BALLROOM**
Banquet



Planning Awards



**Social Evening
& Entertainment (Trivia)**



6:00 AM - 7:00 AM **MEET IN LOBBY**

Wake and Shake Morning Run

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **GLACIER SALON**

Breakfast

SESSIONS 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM

6A: Planning Battle of Alberta comparing Edmonton and Calgary

LU = 1.25

CASTLE & ASSINIBOINE

Jordan Brown RPP, MCIP

Planner, City of Edmonton

Breanne Harder RPP, MCIP

Coordinator, Local Area Planning, City of Calgary

Edmonton and Calgary face similar challenges: managing growth, enhancing livability, and supporting sustainable development, while taking creative approaches to address these challenges.

The City of Edmonton adopted a comprehensive approach to policy planning by introducing District Plans simultaneously to cover the entire city. These high-level, long-range plans provide a broad policy framework guiding more detailed initiatives within each district. This “big picture” approach allows for coordinated planning across the whole city.

The City of Calgary has employed a more incremental strategy through its Local Area Planning Program. Local area plans, approved as area redevelopment plans, are developed through multi-year engagement processes and group communities together to look at how growth and change could occur over the next 30 years. This approach also provides a clear link from policy to implementation that will support growth over time.

This joint presentation followed by an interactive discussion will compare and contrast both approaches to policy development, how each framework addresses growth and change in communities and will highlight how each approach could support policy development in your municipality. The Planning Battle of Alberta will provide valuable insights into how Alberta's largest cities are approaching the coming decades of growth through distinct planning frameworks.

Jordan Brown is a planner with the City of Edmonton with over 8 years of municipal planning experience and a B.A. in Planning from the University of Alberta. After working in smaller municipalities in the Edmonton area, he joined the City to work on District Planning. Jordan's work on the District Planning project focused on public engagement as well as designing and creating the largest package of bylaws and council reports for a single project in the history of the City of Edmonton.

Breanne Harder is a coordinator on the Local Area Planning team at The City of Calgary. Her career at The City has focused on policy development in a range of communities and industrial areas across Calgary. She holds a Master of Planning from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Calgary

6B: A Collective Hug

LU = 1.25

SUMMIT

Jonathan Schmidt RPP, MCIP

President, Bluerock Planning Inc.

Kate Van Fraassen RPP, MCIP

Senior Planner, City of Calgary

Chris Fields MEDES

Principal, Rynic

Have you experienced harassment from the public while doing your job? Are you feeling burnt out as a planner? Looking for a chance to share your experiences, feel supported from your fellow planners, and take away some self-care tips? Join this interactive session to renew your passion for planning, share your worst (or best) planning stories, and hear inspirational messages from a panel of experienced planners. Facilitated by experienced planners Kate Van Fraassen, Jonathan Schmidt and inspirational speaker Chris Fields this session will have all the “feels” in its pursuit of the uplifting. Come join us for a session that's sure to feel like a collective hug from your fellow planners.



Jonathan Schmidt is president of Bluerock Planning Inc, a small consulting firm that specializes in municipal planning policy and regulations across western Canada. He has spent his career 15-year career helping small and rural municipalities work towards their desired community vision.

Kate Van Fraassen is a Senior Planner on the City of Calgary's new Zoning Bylaw project. Her career has included numerous challenging municipal planning



projects that have brought her into the front stage of public backlash, local politics, and emotionally charged rhetoric. Despite it all she continues to believe in the planning process and the impact planners can have on the future of their communities.

Chris Fields is a popular keynote speaker and award-winning economic development and marketing consultant. Chris' talks weave together 32+ years of experience as a municipal planner and economic development expert providing audiences with a chance to laugh, gasp, and leave with a new inspiration for community building.

6C: Future-Proofing Campus Planning: How Futures Thinking is Shaping the Next Generation of Learning Environments

LU = 1.25

BLACK BEAR

Chelsea Whitty RPP, MCIP
Campus Planner, DIALOG

Robyn Stebner RPP, MCIP
Urban Planner, DIALOG

Patrick Lefebvre INTERN ARCHITECT
Intern Architect, DIALOG

Post-secondary campuses are more than just learning environments—they are living laboratories for urban planning, policy experimentation, and innovation. But how do we design campuses that remain resilient, adaptive, and future-ready in the face of technological disruption, climate change, shifting demographics, and evolving learning models?

This session introduces Futures Thinking as a strategic planning tool for campus planners, municipalities, and policymakers. Using trend analysis, scenario development, and foresight strategies, we will explore how campuses can serve as testing grounds for the cities of tomorrow.

Drawing from real-world campus planning experiences—including projects at NAIT, University of Guelph, Lakeland College, and MacEwan—this session will highlight how planners can:

- Anticipate and plan for emerging trends in student housing, mobility, and infrastructure.
- Apply scenario planning to create adaptable, resilient campus environments
- Leverage campuses as urban test sites for sustainable design, technology integration, and inclusive planning.
- Bridge academia and municipalities to co-create long-term urban solutions

Through an interactive scenario-building exercise, attendees will engage in strategic foresight, imagining how today's planning decisions will shape future learning environments.

To complement strategic foresight, we'll demonstrate how 3D printed models can bring planning scenarios to life—helping diverse stakeholders visualize complex ideas, explore spatial relationships, and participate meaningfully in design conversations.



Chelsea Whitty is a Planner and Associate at DIALOG, specializing in campus planning. She integrates Futures Thinking with interdisciplinary collaboration to create responsive, adaptable, and inclusive spaces. A Registered Professional Planner, Chelsea has led projects across Canada and contributes to advancing the profession through her involvement with APPI and PSB. She is also a mentor to young planners and a sessional instructor at the University of Alberta's School of Urban and Regional Planning.

Robyn Stebner is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) with over six years of experience planning at a variety of scales across Alberta, BC, Ontario, and New York. With a background in urban placemaking and GIS, Robyn is passionate about creating place-based, human-centered, and data-informed communities. Their work focuses on integrating placemaking principles, authentic public engagement, and participatory design to foster vibrant, inclusive, and healthy communities that enhance quality of life—physically, socially, and mentally—for all residents.

Patrick Lefebvre is an Intern Architect passionate about human-centered design and the architect's role in communities. At DIALOG, he has worked on diverse laboratory, post-secondary, mixed-use, commercial, and industrial projects, providing leadership and design expertise. Along with his project work he has advanced 3D modeling, design communication, and computational design in the Edmonton Studio to add value to the design process. Additionally, Patrick co-founded Becoming Architects Canada (BAC-DAC), an advocacy group representing student and intern voices on a national level.

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM **ALPINE MEADOWS**
Refreshment Break

hi signs.

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Plenary Panel Zoning Wars & Urban Legends: Debunking Myths to Create Better Cities

LU = 1.25

BALLROOM

Christopher Dulaba RPP, MCIP
Manager, Placemaking & Entitlements, Rohit Group

Dave Onishenko RPP, MCIP
Owner, Clarity Development Advisory

Ian O'Donnell
Development Manager, Westrich Pacific

Christine Lee RPP, MCIP
Project Manager, Qualico Communities

Urban planning isn't just about blueprints and regulations—it's a high-stakes collaboration where vision meets reality. Engineers, developers, policymakers, and community voices all converge, often with competing priorities. Conflicts arise, budgets stretch thin, and negotiations shape the cities we build. This session is about bridging gaps, fostering understanding, and turning friction into innovation. How can we align perspectives and create spaces that serve everyone? Let's break down barriers and build better cities—together.



Christopher Dulaba is a professional planner with over 20 years of experience in land use planning and real estate development. He has held senior leadership roles and contributed to projects ranging from master-planned communities to adaptive reuse developments. At Rohit Group, he leads development and planning for the Income Producing Properties and Communities divisions. Chris holds a degree from the University of Waterloo and a diploma from NAIT. He is a member of APPI and CIP, and currently serves as Co-Chair, Business Development (Edmonton) for the Urban Land Institute Alberta Chapter.

Dave Onishenko is the owner and principal of Clarity Development Advisory and a seasoned urban planner and development manager. With extensive experience across Western Canada, he has led hundreds of projects in residential, commercial, industrial, and public sectors. Dave excels at stakeholder engagement and navigating complex planning challenges. He is known for connecting people and ideas to drive results. His leadership has guided teams through projects from concept to completion.

Dave remains actively involved in committees and organizations that support planning and real estate development in Edmonton and across Canada.

Ian O'Donnell is a development manager at Westrich Pacific, where he champions resilient, walkable communities through multi-family projects across Canada. A University of Alberta graduate, Ian has worked with developers, architects, and nonprofits to support sustainable, inclusive urban growth. Recognized as one of Edmonton's "Top 40 Under 40" by Avenue Magazine, he's deeply involved in community initiatives. Ian has volunteered with groups like the Downtown Edmonton Community League and Winter City Edmonton. A passionate traveler, he enjoys exploring new cultures and ideas that support people, places, and environmental stewardship.

Christine Lee is a Planning Project Manager at Qualico Communities Edmonton, leading the development of multiple neighbourhoods across the region. She holds a BA in Planning from the University of Alberta and a Master's in Urban Design from Seoul National University. Christine has worked with both rural and urban municipalities, contributing to major land use policy initiatives, including Edmonton's new Zoning Bylaw. Her work bridges urban planning theory with practical execution, helping to shape inclusive, thriving communities. Christine is passionate about design-driven planning that supports long-term livability and sustainability.

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Closing Remarks

LU = 0.25

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 2026 APPI Conference and a stay at the Banff Park Lodge.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM **ALPINE MEADOWS**

Lunch to Go





Planning & Development Services: Shaping Calgary's Future Today

At the City of Calgary, Planning & Development Services doesn't just manage growth, we imagine and build a city that thrives. What sets us apart is our bold, integrated approach to city-building.



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- Streamline development, setting clear parameters that make land use and building processes efficient and predictable.
- Champion resilience, aligning strategies across departments to foster a sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready city.
- Empower entrepreneurs, making it easier for businesses to launch, grow, and succeed.
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