

FUSION

JULY 7-9 JUILLET 2026

CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

FAIRMONT THE QUEEN ELIZABETH
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 24, 2025



Ordre des
Urbanistes du
Québec

FUSION is the central theme of the CIP/OUQ 2026 National Planning Conference. It reflects the energy and innovation that happens when different ideas, people, and perspectives come together.

At its core, FUSION is about collaboration. It is about breaking down silos across disciplines, sectors, and communities to create stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient outcomes. FUSION invites planners to think boldly and work together to address complex challenges.

This theme will guide the entire conference experience, from the sessions and speakers to the tours and networking events. It is a call to connect, co-create, and reimagine the future of planning through shared knowledge, lived experiences, and innovative thinking.

FIRST PEOPLES

We recognize that the 2026 National Planning Conference will take place in Montréal, on the traditional and unceded territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation. Tiohtià:ke (Montréal) has long served as a gathering place for many First Nations, including the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk), who are recognized as the traditional custodians of these lands and waters.

We honour the enduring presence, cultures, and stewardship of all Indigenous Peoples, past, present, and future, who continue to care for this land. As planners, we acknowledge our responsibility to reflect on the colonial foundations of our profession, to listen deeply, and to build meaningful relationships rooted in respect and reconciliation.

We invite all conference participants to join us in learning from Indigenous ways of knowing and in working together toward more just, inclusive, and sustainable futures for all communities.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Conference activities will be taking place at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth, located in downtown Montreal. Discounted room rates are available for delegates at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth. Additional rooming options can be found on the conference website.

SUBMIT YOUR PRESENTATIONS

We are pleased to welcome presentation proposals for the 2026 conference program until **October 24, 2025**. The call for proposals is open to all who have an interest in supporting inclusive and vibrant communities. Membership in CIP and/or OUQ is not required. We welcome submissions from planners, students, allied professionals, researchers, academics, place-makers, and all who are dedicated to building forward.

Streams

Reconciliation and Indigenous Planning

- How can planners support and respect Indigenous-led planning processes and governance systems?
- What does meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities look like, beyond consultation?
- How are traditional knowledge and land-based practices shaping planning approaches today?
- What role can planning play in advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?
- How do we create safer pathways for Indigenous youth, students, and professionals to enter and lead in the planning field?
- What does reconciliation look like in everyday planning practice, from policy development to project implementation?

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

- How are planners helping communities adapt to the increasing risks of climate-related hazards such as flooding, wildfire, extreme heat, drought, and sea level rise?
- What tools, frameworks, or policies are being used to embed climate adaptation in local, regional, and national planning processes?
- How can planning better support equity-deserving communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate-related risks?
- What does it look like to integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into nation-building infrastructure projects, including housing, transportation, and energy systems?
- How are planners using nature-based solutions, green infrastructure, or land use regulation to reduce climate risks and promote healthier environments?
- What innovations are driving transformative climate action in planning?

Housing

- How can planners help accelerate the delivery of affordable, accessible, and diverse housing options?
- What strategies are working to integrate housing with the infrastructure and amenities needed for complete, livable communities?
- What policies, tools, or partnerships are helping remove barriers to non-market, Indigenous-led, or community-based housing models?
- How do we ensure that new housing supports equity-deserving populations and responds to diverse household needs?

Healthy Communities

- How can planners foster vibrant, healthy environments that enhance social and health equity for all Canadians?
- What impact are the shifts in demographics and changing work patterns having on Canadian society, and how do we need to change our planning mindset?
- What can the profession do to be more proactive in its work to plan for the transportation needs of a rapidly growing population?
- What must planners consider to better address accessibility and provide services that meet the needs of an increasingly diverse country?
- How is technology impacting transportation and mobility, and what are the considerations, consequences, and opportunities?

Economic Growth and Resiliency

- How can planners support faster, more efficient development without compromising sustainability or community wellbeing?
- What policies, partnerships, or planning tools are helping unlock investment, speed up approvals, or build local capacity for economic development?
- How are communities using land use planning to support emerging industries, small businesses, and rural or northern economic resilience?
- In what ways can planning help reduce barriers to infrastructure investment?
- How can planners respond to shifting labour markets, automation, and economic shocks in ways that build inclusive, adaptable local economies?
- What innovations are helping planners link economic growth with housing, transportation, and climate goals?

Career Development and Leadership

- How can ethics make or break a career, and how can you manage the 'grey zone' successfully?

- How can planners encourage and support healthy conflict and difficult conversations?
How do we achieve meaningful resolutions?
- What non-traditional planning specific skills are required for the career of tomorrow, and can we start learning them now?

Emerging Technologies & Innovation in Planning

- How can AI be used as a tool for planners (e.g., data analysis, scenario modeling, land-use forecasting)?
- How can AI support community engagement and decision-making?
- What are the ethical considerations and risks of AI in planning practice?
- Examples of case studies of municipalities, consultants, or academics integrating AI into planning work?
- How are emerging technologies shaping the future of planning practice?

LANGUAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY

FUSION 2026 is a fully bilingual national conference. Presentation proposals may be submitted in either English or French and we encourage presentation proposals to consider a balance of English and French presenters during their session.

All conference sessions delivered in-person as part of the main program will be simultaneously translated to ensure accessibility for all delegates, regardless of language preference.

Please note that some program elements, such as learning tours and workshops, may only be available in one language or offered bilingually, depending on presenter availability and program design.

We encourage all presenters to consider ways to support language accessibility, including the use of plain language, visual aids, and bilingual materials where possible.

PROPOSALS AND PRESENTATION FORMATS

Proposals may be submitted for a variety of presentation formats. If multiple abstracts are received on similar topics, presenters may be requested to do joint presentations. All proposals must be submitted through our *online form*.

We encourage creativity and unique ideas for formats, room set-ups, and ways to engage delegates. Please consider delegate accessibility needs in your proposal.

Concurrent Sessions: Individual or panel presentation. Sessions can vary in length between 60 and 75 minutes in length. Sessions typically begin with a presentation/panel discussion followed by a 15-minute question period.

Research/Academic Presentations: Individual presentation on the latest research in planning. The presentation is typically 15 minutes, followed by a question period. Several presentations (not all academic) will be combined to create a full session. Submissions will be peer reviewed.

Student Presentations: Individual presentations should be 15 minutes in length. Student presentations may include student-led research, as well as studio projects, and will be combined with other presentations to create a full session.

Fast and/or Funny Planning Presentations: An exciting session with the opportunity to present a fast and/or funny planning presentation – make ‘em laugh or make ‘em think (10 minutes). Presentations may be combined.

Workshops: Hands-on, interactive skill development and training, which may include an outing in Montreal or surrounding locations. Regular workshops are generally 2-3 hours (including travel time), and extended workshops can range from 4-8 hours (including travel time).

Learning Tours: Less formal learning activity, which takes place off-site. This may be a walking, cycling, or bus tour that visits one or more sites for 2-3 hours.

Plus: We are looking to continuously run one tour, which will be accessible to all conference delegates. Please indicate if your tour would be able to run multiple times and days during the conference.

Student Posters: Posters should showcase engaging and innovative work being undertaken by current students. Posters will be displayed in the exhibitor area during the conference, allowing students the opportunity to interact and answer questions from delegates. Poster submissions will be peer reviewed and an award for best poster will be given during the award ceremony.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

What to include when submitting your proposal:

- Names, contact, and brief biographical details for each presenter/participant in your proposed session or program element
- A draft title for your session or program element submission
- A brief comprehensive description of your session or program element (50 words maximum), a longer description of your session or program element (150 words maximum), and information on key learning outcomes and how they fit the themes and vision of the conference

Submission Deadline: October 24, 2025

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated on the following metrics: their overall merit (based on relevance to the theme), quality, practicality, and innovative character of the proposal.

Abstracts will be subject to peer review, with members of the Program Advisory Committee participating in the review process. The primary contributor of all abstract submissions will be contacted via email by January 31, 2026, with the results of the review.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Online/Hybrid Sessions: The majority of sessions will be part of the online conference program, which will be broadcast live to the online audience and will be recorded for all conference attendees to watch for a minimum of 90 days after the conference. Please note that all speakers must be present in Montreal to participate. We will not be able to accommodate any pre-recorded or remote presenters.

Audio/Visual: All session rooms will be equipped with an LCD projector, laptop, screen, lectern and recording equipment. Optional audio/visual equipment, such as the Internet, speakers, cordless microphone, or laser pointer, may be available upon request.

Handouts: It is recommended that handouts with relevant contact information regarding a presentation be available in both English and French. These will be made available in the conference app, and no physical copies will be provided.

Conference Registration: Presenters who have their submissions accepted as part of the conference program will receive a registration discount of 15% off the full member rate for a maximum of five registrants. Student presenters will be able to register at the student rate. Presenters shall be responsible for their own travel, accommodation, and incidentals.

Inclusion Fund: CIP is pleased to administer the Inclusion Fund as part of our annual national conference. The Inclusion Fund helps to include more individuals who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend a CIP conference by offering free in-person or online registrations to eligible applicants who are first-time delegates. Applications will open in November 2025.

Communication: All communication concerning this submission will be sent to the primary contact at the email and mailing address indicated on the abstract submission form.

Copyright Permission: By submitting an abstract to the conference, and upon their acceptance, submitters authorize CIP/OUQ permission to reproduce their abstract and/or presentation material in the conference syllabus and on the conference website.