



Call for **Program** Proposals

Submission Deadline:

October 23, 2026, 11:59 p.m. PT

CIP & PIBC National Planning Conference,
Victoria, BC | July 6-8, 2027



In a time of shifting landscapes on the national and international stage, MOMENTUM is about moving forward with purpose. As economic, environmental, political, and technological forces rapidly reshape our communities, we must not lose ground on the progress already made to address Canada's most pressing challenges.

This year's CIP/PIBC National Planning Conference brings together planners and allied professionals at a pivotal moment. From evolving federal priorities to housing supply and affordability pressures, the growing need for climate-resilient infrastructure, and technological change, the demands on planners have never been greater. The pace is intense, and the stakes are high.

MOMENTUM is both a call to action and a commitment to sustainability in our work. It's about aligning priorities, tackling emerging challenges, harnessing new opportunities, and focusing on the most impactful solutions while ensuring planners themselves are supported, connected, and not burning out in the process.

Together, we will explore what's next for Canada's communities and for the profession itself. Through actionable insights, dynamic conversations, and meaningful networking and connections, participants will leave inspired and equipped with practical tools, strengthened relationships, and renewed energy to drive real impact. Let's move forward intentionally with momentum.

Territorial Acknowledgement

CIP and PIBC recognize that the present-day region of Greater Victoria has been inhabited by Coast Salish peoples for thousands of years. We are honoured to host the 2027 National Planning Conference on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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 Victoria Conference Centre, located in downtown Victoria. Discounted room rates are available for delegates at the Fairmont Empress, Coast Victoria Hotel & Marina by APA, Hotel Grand Pacific and the Marriott Victoria Inner Harbour. Additional rooming options can be found on the conference website.

Submit Your Presentations

We are pleased to welcome presentation proposals for the 2027 national conference program until **October 23, 2026, 11:59 PM PT**. The call for proposals is open to anyone interested in supporting inclusive and vibrant communities. CIP and/or PIBC membership is not required. We welcome submissions from planners, students, allied professionals, researchers, academics, place-makers, and all who are dedicated to building forward.

Streams

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 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?

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?

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?

Rural, Northern & Arctic Communities

- How are communities responding to changing populations?
- What planning solutions improve housing and infrastructure in rural and northern Canada?
- How are communities adapting to climate change?
- What approaches strengthen connectivity, economic resilience, and essential services?
- What lessons could benefit communities across Canada?

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?

Emerging Technologies & Innovation in Planning

- How can AI be used as a tool for planners (e.g., data analysis, scenario modelling, 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?
- What innovations are driving transformative climate action in planning?

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?

Language and Accessibility

As a national organization, CIP is committed to providing conference communications in both English and French. Program proposals may be submitted in either English or French, and we encourage 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.

Please note that session descriptions and speaker biographies must be submitted in both languages to be published bilingually. Content submitted in only one language will be published in the language provided. CIP & PIBC is not responsible for translating session descriptions, speaker biographies, presentations, or other presenter materials unless agreed upon in advance.

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.

Workshops: Hands-on, interactive skill development and training designed to take full advantage of the in-person experience. Workshops provide a unique opportunity to use breakout spaces, facilitate small-group activities, and incorporate interactive components that may not be possible in a traditional session format. Regular workshops are generally 2-3 hours, and extended workshops can range from 4-8 hours. Workshops are offered on-site only and are not available virtually.

Learning Tours: Less formal, experiential learning activity that takes participants off-site to explore projects, sites, and the surrounding communities firsthand. Tours may take the form of walking, cycling, or bus tours that visit one or more locations. Regular learning tours are generally 2-3 hours (including travel time). Learning tours are offered on-site only and are not available virtually.

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.

Research & Academic Insights: Research/Academic Presentations: Presentations showcasing emerging research, evidence, and innovative approaches in planning. Individual presentations will be 12-15 minutes, followed by a question period.

Abstracts will be peer-reviewed; selected submissions will be grouped by theme to create full-length sessions. Priority themes for 2027 are:

- Reconciliation and Indigenous Planning
- Climate Action: Disruptions and Resilience
- Communities: Health, Housing, and Prosperity in Divided Places

This stream is intended for established academic and research professionals; a separate stream is available for student submissions.

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

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, giving students the opportunity to interact with delegates and answer questions. 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 (100 words maximum) 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

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[SUBMIT HERE](#)

Evaluation

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

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, 2027, with the results of the review.

Important Information

Online/Hybrid Sessions: Most 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 Victoria 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 regular full member rate for a maximum of five registrants per submission. 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 December 2026.

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/PIBC to reproduce their abstract and/or presentation material in the conference syllabus and on the conference website.