PLANNING CITIES FOR ALL: IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

The New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted by governments in 2016, aligns with the 17 key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) related to urban development, quality of life and social equity. It is a blueprint for healthy, inclusive and sustainable cities in the next 20 years.

The Implementation Plan articulates transformative commitments for sustainable urban development in three priority areas:

1. Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty
2. Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all
3. Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development

The CIP New Urban Agenda Committee (NUAC) was established in September 2017 to communicate the NUA goals to Canadian planners and to facilitate its implementation.

Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Canada

“In the spirit of the New Urban Agenda, Canada is looking beyond bricks and mortar, towards a people centred vision for communities across the country. Governments and stakeholders, are working together in seven key areas to ensure all Canadians have healthy, sustainable and prosperous opportunities.”

Habitat III: Canada National Report, 2016

CIP New Urban Agenda Committee

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Critical Role of Planners

With over 80% of Canadians living in cities, urban growth management will require unique planning solutions where cross-disciplinary and cross-jurisdictional actions are essential. The NUA provides an engaging platform for Canadian planners in this process to address social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability challenges in our communities. The call for action is global, but the implementation is local. It requires commitment to the adoption of sustainable, people-centered and integrated approaches to urban development through planning policies, strategies, and actions at all levels.
Supporting Resilient Communities can help us achieve these Sustainable Development Goals:

NUA calls for the integration of infrastructure and land use decisions where displacement is minimized and affordable housing and economic opportunities are integrated. This approach must govern the planning of new neighbourhoods as well as the retrofit of existing urban environments to create healthier, more inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities.

Key Challenges in Canadian Cities

- Low-density, auto-centric land use creates high infrastructure costs, inefficient transportation systems, environmental stressors and social segregation.
- First Nations and northern communities lack investments to ensure safe, healthy and thriving communities.
- Inner-city disinvestment undermines urban prosperity.
- Lack of safe, inclusive public spaces create social divisions and limit integration.
- Inefficient land use planning threatens ecosystems and natural resources.
- Insufficient stakeholder engagement limits inclusive decision-making and implementation of ‘just city’ principles.

Planning & Design Strategies

- Implement planning and development strategies to foster energy efficiency, protection of the natural environment, and community resilience.
- Promote compact, mixed land uses to curb urban sprawl and enhance urban prosperity.
- Implement planning decisions to adapt neighbourhoods for all ages and incomes, to alleviate community displacement and to promote equal opportunities.
- Implement complete communities, with density and infill targets that support local commercial services, schools, and jobs close to affordable homes.
- Prioritize smart growth, urban retrofitting and infill over greenfield development.
- Create an integrated system of parks and public spaces that are safe, accessible and inclusive.
- Implement collaborative and participatory land use planning decisions and inclusive urban development processes.
- Implement solutions for improved infrastructure in First Nations and northern communities.

Fact: In 2016 across the country, 31 exurbs (peripheral municipalities with 5,000 residents) had a growth rate at least three times the national average of 5%.¹

Fact: Sprawl costs millions annually in lost productivity and higher pollution.

Fact: More than one-third of all Canadians (35.5%) live in three Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) - Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. The five fastest-growing cities are Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, and Lethbridge.²

Leave ideas, strategies, or examples for Canadian planners.

Prefer to email? Send comments to Daniel Potter at dpotter@cip-icu.ca.

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¹ Statistics Canada 2016 Census of Population  |  3
NUA identifies the supply of safe, adequate and affordable housing as a key priority to advance socioeconomic and cultural integration, to improve the quality of life, and prevent segregation.

**Key Challenges in Canadian Cities**

- Unaffordable housing limits economic and social opportunities.
- Housing stock is not keeping pace with Canada's increasing population diversity.
- First Nations and northern communities require significant investment and unique housing solutions.
- Profit-driven redevelopment without suitable, affordable housing options exacerbates displacement.
- Suburban model of growth is not affordable, feasible or integrated.

**Planning & Design Strategies**

- Implement Canada’s National Housing Strategy.
- Implement Provincial and Municipal Affordable Housing Programs & Investments.
- Leverage federal investment to end homelessness.
- Plan for affordable housing emphasizing social inclusion, economic effectiveness and environmental protection.

**Fact:**

Over 1.6 million households in Canada are in core housing need, over 80% are renters.¹

**Fact:**

Over 1.6 million households in CMAs live in condominiums, a share that has grown by 16% from 2011 to 2016.²

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**Government-Assisted Housing**

- Emergency Shelter & Housing for the Homeless
- Transitional Supportive & Assisted Living
- Independent Social Housing
- Rent Assistance in the Private Market
- Private Market Rentals
- Home Ownership

**BC Housing 2017 Housing Continuum**

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Supporting Sustainable Mobility can help us achieve these Sustainable Development Goals:

NUA addresses sustainable modes of transportation as a key strategy to plan sustainable cities, drawing attention to transportation options that are safe, age- and gender-responsive, affordable, accessible and sustainable.

Key Challenges in Canadian Cities

- Inefficient transportation creates environmental, economic and social issues.
- Limited mobility options create social exclusion.
- Weak transportation systems separate people from goods, services and opportunities.
- Transportation infrastructure and land use decisions are not integrated.
- Rural and urban areas are not adequately linked.

Planning & Design Strategies

- Implement planning policies and investments to advance sustainable mobility and accessibility, and eliminate spatial separation.
- Enhance the movement of people and goods within urban centres, and between rural and urban areas.
- Implement investments in public transportation at all levels of government.
- Prioritize cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, integrated with efficient rapid transit systems (LRT/BRT).
- Design an interconnected street system to support a diverse urban form that encourages active transportation.
- Support transit-oriented development to retrofit the suburbs and integrate higher density housing and mixed land use.
- Apply future technologies and smart grid technology to ensure equity.

Leave ideas, strategies, or examples for Canadian planners.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

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