



Call for Presentation Proposals

Deadline: October 25



Ontario
Professional
Planners
Institute



The year 2025 stands as a pivotal moment in history. It represents the halfway point in the Decade of Action, five years since the COVID-19 pandemic, ten years since the 94 Calls to Action were issued, and the quarter mark of the 21st century. The world has undergone profound changes in just a few years, transforming the planning profession along with it.

There is no better time than the 2025 CIP/OPPI National Planning Conference to come together and reinvigorate our profession with fresh ideas, innovative tools, cutting-edge research, and a renewed sense of compassion and determination. As we know, actions speak louder than words, so let's make ACTION 2025 a testament to our collective commitment to care for the natural world and ensure the well-being of current and future generations!

Indigenous Peoples

The word Toronto originates from the Mohawk word, Tkaronto, which means "the place in the water where the trees are standing," and for time immemorial, the region has been an important gathering place and home for many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. The territory is also covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaties, which was signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

This region is further recognized as "Dish With One Spoon" territory, and we encourage all delegates to honour the guiding principles of this Wampum agreement: that, as stewards of the land, we share a duty to maintain it in a way that ensures there will always be something left for others and for future generations.

Today, many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples call Tkaronto/Toronto home and CIP and OPPI recognize and thank them for their continued stewardship of the lands.

Conference Venue

Conference activities will be taking place at the Westin Harbour Castle Convention Centre, located on the shores of Lake Ontario and steps away from downtown Toronto via the PATH, Toronto's underground covered walkway. It's the perfect location to take a walk along the revitalized waterfront, explore new parks and daylight rivers, and reach new heights at the top of the CN Tower, there is so much to experience.

The venue is proud to be a Green Key Award winner and to integrate responsible practices throughout its operations and value chain, including a rooftop garden that provides all the herbs for the kitchen and a beehive sanctuary.

Hotel

Discounted room rates are available for delegates at the Westin Harbour Castle, which connected to the Convention Centre. Please note that rooms often sell out, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Submit Your Presentations

We are pleased to welcome presentation proposals for the 2025 conference program until **October 25, 2024**. The call for proposals is open to all who have an interest in supporting inclusive and vibrant communities. Membership in CIP and OPPI is not required. We welcome submissions from planners, students, allied professionals, researchers, academics, placemakers, and all who are dedicated to building forward. Please share with your colleagues and networks!

Themes

In 2025, society and the world demand progressive planning approaches to tackle the urgent and complex challenges confronting communities and the planet. As a dynamic and responsive profession, we are shaped by community needs, cultural and social norms, scientific advances, legal and policy frameworks, and the natural environment. Our work as planners must be collaborative, coordinated, inclusive, and interdisciplinary.

The ACTION 2025 conference draws inspiration from today's and tomorrow's issues, offering a range of cross-cutting and boundary-pushing themes designed to stimulate bold thinking, sharing, and action while challenging the status quo. The time for ACTION is now!

ReconciliACTION (reconciliation and Indigenous planning)

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued 94 Calls to Action, yet ten years later, only a handful of the actions have been completed. As the majority of Indigenous people live in urban areas, and considering the profession includes significant responsibilities related to the unceded and Treaty Lands of Canada, planners and the planning profession have an ethical responsibility to advance reconciliation. At ACTION 2025, we will purposefully focus on relationship-building with Indigenous peoples, based on mutual respect, trust, and dialogue.

- What actions are we taking to strengthen our relationships with Indigenous Peoples?
- How can planning meaningfully incorporate Indigenous knowledge systems into the planning practice?
- How can we support enhanced opportunities for Indigenous people to enter the planning profession and celebrate the strengths, skills, and knowledge they bring to the profession?
- How are we advancing the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework?

ClimateACTION (climate change, adaptation, and mitigation)

Some records aren't meant to be broken, yet human activity has impacted the natural cycles of the climate resulting in spiking temperatures and extreme weather events that endanger both global ecosystems and societies.

Planners have a key role to play in reducing GHG emissions from energy, housing, transportation, waste management, and agriculture, and in adapting communities to environmental changes that are already happening and are forecast to occur in the future. Now, at the mid-point of the Decade of Action, we ask:

- Can we be bolder in our tackling our climate commitments?
- What does resiliency in planning look like, and how can we plan for increased climate disruption and unpredictability?
- How can we better support historically marginalized communities that are facing the brunt of the effects caused by climate change?
- What can the profession do to better prepare for the climate reality of the future?

MobilACTION (transportation and mobility)

We are more connected than ever before. From digital networks to cross-country trails to highway expansions to flight options – the options that we have to move our bodies, goods & services, and information is expanding every day, so why does it seem that we're always behind? As Canada's population has raced past 40 million, with some scenarios to reach 100 million by 2100, the planning profession is facing an opportunity and challenge to plan for increased demands for mobility, access, and transportation efficiency.

- What can the profession do to be more proactive in its work to plan for the transportation needs of a rapidly growing population?
- How can planning reduce isolation and increase linkages?
- 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, what are the considerations, consequences, and opportunities?

CommunityACTION (housing, urban and rural communities)

In 2020, a pandemic of unprecedented scale swept across the globe, leading to a tragic loss of life, a severe economic downturn, and significant disruption to daily life. Across Canada, both urban centres and rural communities faced profound changes, including population shifts, the rise of remote work and digital communication, the closure of main street businesses, and rapid inflation.

- What lessons has the planning profession learned from COVID-19 and how has it adapted?
- How can planners foster vibrant, healthy environments that enhance social and health equity for all Canadians?

- How do we ensure that our efforts to provide housing are addressing the needs of different communities and vulnerable populations, providing dignity in addition to structure?
- 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?

OccupACTION (career development and leadership)

With over 10,000 planning professionals across the country, what it means to be a professional planner is more varied and diverse than ever before. The composition of the profession also continues to change, reflecting demographic shifts, political contexts, socio-cultural norms, and economic conditions. As an action-oriented profession, we will continue to welcome, listen to, and amplify diverse voices and perspectives to foster an engaged, inclusive, and dynamic profession.

- How can ethics make or break a career, and how can you manage the 'grey zone' successfully?
- How can we encourage and support healthy conflict and difficult conversations? How do we achieve meaningful resolutions?
- What are the latest approaches to diversity, inclusion, and intersectionality and how can planners apply this to their daily work?
- What non-traditional planning-specific skills are required for the career of tomorrow and can we start learning them now?

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.

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.

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 Toronto 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 offsite. 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.

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

[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, 2025, 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 all speakers must be present in Toronto 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. 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: For the third year in a row, 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. Applications will open in November 2024.

In order to apply for the Inclusion Fund, applicants must not have previously attended a CIP conference. They must also self-identify as a person under-represented in the profession (as defined by "Key Insight 1" from CIP's 2021 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Insight Survey)

Communication: All communication concerning this submission will be sent to the primary contact at the e-mail 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/OPPI permission to reproduce their abstract and/or presentation material in the conference program and website.

