



BIMONTHLY STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) BULLETIN

May 2025



PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
BOARD
FOR THE PLANNING
PROFESSION IN CANADA

CHAIR'S UPDATE



Patricia Maloney, SAC Chair

The seven Task Forces and Subcommittees of the Standards Advisory Committee (SAC) have been working on their various tasks to move actions forward and make progress on the Work Scope. In this inaugural year, SAC aims to resolve three priority items:

1. Modernization of the Membership Standards Policy Manual (MPSM) by removing administrative tasks and those tasks which are the responsibility of the Provincial and Territorial Institutes and Associations (PTIAs);
2. Recognition of planning school students who hold degrees in programs accredited by the Government of Québec and l'Ordre des urbanistes du Québec (OUQ) to allow admission to the PSB's process through the Accredited Degree route; and
3. A review and rewrite of Section 3 of the Membership Standards Policy Manual (MPSM) (Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct), ensuring inclusion of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) policies, reference to emerging planning topics, and ensuring Section 3 will provide the overarching national standards (while allowing each PTIA to adapt to their specific legislation).

With the tragic loss of Bill Budd in February of this year, we have been thrilled to have Samantha Murphy nominated and accepted on the Committee. The Committee meets monthly to ensure good communication, progress on our Work Scope and regular updates on provincial and PTIA progress on actions such as legislation.



**PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
BOARD**
FOR THE PLANNING
PROFESSION IN CANADA



SUBCOMMITTEE/TASK FORCE UPDATES

Communications & Outreach Subcommittee

The SAC Communications & Outreach Subcommittee has confirmed its work plan and prepared the Draft Communications Plan. As the SAC's work and work of other subcommittees has emerged, the specific communications protocols are now coming clear, which will assist in refining the methods and tactics for communications in the future. The Communications Plan will be revised in the next two months. The role of the SAC Communications & Outreach Subcommittee will then shift to monitoring communications and providing ongoing advice during every SAC meeting to foster good communications.

Definition of Planning Task Force

Formed in September 2024, the Definition of Planning Task Force began with three SAC members and expanded in the fall through the recruitment of three external volunteers. Deliberations with the full complement of Task Force members began in earnest in January 2025. To date, the Task Force has reviewed the existing definition of planning as well as the revised definitions proposed by the previous Standards Committee (SC), familiarized itself with the reports by the SC and external consultants, shared individual perspectives on drafting a new definition, discussed criteria for drafting the new definition, and reviewed the definitions developed by eleven teams of students in the University of Alberta School of Planning. In addition, the Task Force has engaged a student researcher to provide

an updated inter-jurisdictional scan of definitions cited in governing legislation across Canada, which is to be completed in June 2025. The Task Force is working to provide a progress report to the SAC by July 2025, including a summary of its findings to date and a statement of its criteria for drafting the definition, and a final report including the proposed text of the new definition by October 31, 2025.

Quebec Schools Task Force

The mandate of the Quebec Schools Task Force is to recommend system improvements to ensure portability and transferability of professional planners across Canada. Since fall 2024, the Task Force has been undertaking the due diligence required to amend certification standards to recognize graduates of planning degree programs accredited by L'Ordre des Urbanistes du Québec (OUQ) as eligible for the Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada's (PSB) Accredited Degree route. Empowered by a motion at PSB's 2024 AGM, the Task Force continues to advance this work collaboratively with OUQ, which has proposed complementary amendments to their regulations aimed at those hoping to practice in Québec. Currently, while registered planners (RPPs/LPPs) in the rest of Canada and urbanistes registered in Québec enjoy professional mobility, graduates without their RPP/LPP or urbaniste title – whether from PSB-accredited or OUQ-recognized programs – are not automatically recognized across jurisdictions

causing unnecessary barriers to entry for the profession. With this important work nearing completion, the Task Force will soon recommend signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between OUQ and PSB. This MoU will formalize reciprocity between the organizations and ensure enhanced mobility for planners across all provincial borders by closing this missing link for aspiring planners.

Competencies Subcommittee

The Competencies Subcommittee has been formed to complete the review and update of Section 2 of the Membership Standards Policy Manual (MPSM) (Competency Standards). The Competencies Subcommittee has been reviewing past work completed on this task to date. Through the PSB Board of Directors, the Competencies Subcommittee will be sending communication out to users of the planning competencies to seek input on what issues with the competencies have been experienced, and any suggestions for improvements. Please keep an eye out for these future communications. The revised Section 2 Competency Standards are slated for completion in 2027.

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) Task Force

The PLAR Task Force is in the data gathering and analysis stage. The Task Force has engaged a Master's student to collect and organize information about the PLAR process across Canada, in different Planning Associations internationally, and in different professions in Canada. Seeking to identify best practices, the next step will be to consider potential modifications to the PSB PLAR process with the goal to maintain high standards while making the process more equitable, bring candidates into the organization earlier and maintain national transferability.

Ethical Standard Subcommittee

The Ethical Standards Subcommittee has completed updates to the Membership Standards Policy Manual's (MPSM) Section 3: Ethical Standards, including the Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct. Building on feedback gathered from PTIAs in 2021, the Subcommittee undertook a jurisdictional scan of Canadian and

international ethical standards to inform revisions. The updated standards reflect evolving priorities in planning practice, with new and expanded clauses addressing reconciliation, equity, diversity and inclusion, climate responsibility, emerging technologies, and professional well-being.

The updated Ethical Standards are currently undergoing legal review. Once finalized, they will be shared with the PSB Board of Directors for review and to identify next steps.

Membership Standards Policy Manual (MPSM) Subcommittee

The Membership Standards Policy Manual (MPSM) Subcommittee has completed its review and expects to publish the revised manual in June 2025. Updates include:

- Removal of administrative processes under the responsibility of the PSB or PTIAs, and updated language to reflect the PSB's revised role and that of its SAC Committee in the development and review of standards.
- Amendment to 4.1.2 to update the requirement to an undergraduate bachelors degree as opposed to a 4 year undergraduate degree.
- Replacement of gender-specific pronouns with the gender-neutral 'their' to support inclusive language.



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

SAC - Statement of Operations

SAC Revenues:	Actuals	Budgeted	Percentage to Budget
Standards Advisory Committee Fees	\$125,000	\$125,000	100%
Standards Advisory Committee Revenue	\$125,000	\$125,000	100%
SAC Expenses:			
Administration	\$18,458	\$56,330	33%
Meetings	\$19,554	\$67,348	29%
Subcontractors	\$180	0	
Total	\$38,192	\$123,678	31%
Net Surplus/Deficit	\$86,807	\$1,322	6566%

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 12, 2025
 July 5, 2025 (In Person)
 August 14, 2025
 September 11, 2025

UPCOMING BULLETIN DATES:

July 31, 2025
 October 3, 2025
 December 5, 2025
 February 6, 2026
 April 3, 2026
 June 5, 2026

CIRCULATION

PSB Members & EDs
 PEIIPP Chair & ED
 NBAP Chair & ED
 NLAPP Chair & ED
 OUQ President & ED
 ACUPP
 PSB Board of Directors
 PSB APC
 PSB PEEC
 PSB SAC

SAC MEMBERS

Name	Role	PTIA
Patricia Maloney	Chair	PSB
Rory Baksh		OPPI
Michal P.A. Kubasiewicz	Vice Chair	MPPI
Samantha Mark		SPPI
Daniel Mercer		CIP
Samantha Murphy		API
Claire Negrin		PIBC
Pamela Robinson	Non-Voting	MPPI
Dalal (Dali) Salih		LPPANS
Jean-François Vachon	Non-Voting	OUQ
Chelsea Whitty		API

SCTF MEMBERS

PLAR Task Force	
Name	Role
Patricia Maloney	Chair
Isela Emilia Contreras-Dogbe	
Emily Herd	
Claire Negrin	
Pamela Robinson	Non-Voting
Dalal (Dali) Salih	
Chelsea Whitty	

Quebec Schools Task Force	
Name	Role
Daniel Mercer	Chair
Sophie Blanchet-Vaugeois	
Benoit Frate	
Michal P.A. Kubasiewicz	
Patricia Maloney	
Richard Shearmur	
Jean-François Vachon	Non-Voting

Definition of Planning Task Force	
Name	Role
Michal P.A. Kubasiewicz	Chair
Amna Khan (New Practitioner)	
Carli McKinnon	
Daniel Mercer	
Laura Taylor (ACUPP)	

Competencies Subcommittee	
Name	Role
Claire Negrin	Chair
Rory Baksh	
Caitlin Kotak	
Michal P.A. Kubasiewicz	
Patricia Maloney	
Richard Milgrom	
Samantha Murphy	

Ethical Standards Subcommittee	
Name	Role
Samantha Mark	Chair
Brian Chow	
Nabil Malik	
Patricia Maloney	
Nalini Naidoo	
James Pyro	
Dalal (Dali) Salih	

Communications Subcommittee	
Name	Role
Rory Baksh	Chair
Brian Chow	
Samantha Mark	
Samantha Murphy	
Chelsea Whitty	

MSPM Subcommittee	
Name	Role
Patricia Maloney	Chair
Jean-François Vachon	Non-Voting



CANADIAN PLANNING ECOSYSTEM

8 Members of the PSB

Canadian Institute of Planners and PTIAs

Responsible for licensing, regulation, national advocacy, professional development

Candidates & Registered Professional Planners are members of these associations

Awards the RPP to candidates that have gone through and been successful at the PSB's pathway to certification

Adopts national standards for the planning profession recommended by PSB



Association of Canadian University Planning Programs (ACUPP) -
Represents accredited planning schools

Not a member of PSB

l'Ordre des urbanistes du Québec (OUQ) -
Represents professional planners in Quebec

Not a member of PSB

Professional Standards Board

CIP & PTIAs are members
Operates under Shared Service Agreements with its members
Administers the pathway to certification and accredits Canadian university planning programs
Sets standards for the profession for adoption by its members

Three Standing Committees

SAC

PEEC

APC

PSB is the decision-making authority for all committee recommendations

Standards Advisory Council (SAC)

Develops consistent national pathways, standards, metrics, and codes

Recommends these matters to the PSB Board for potential universal adoption by the PTIAs and CIP

Professional Education and Examination Committee (PEEC)

Manages the certification process, by which candidates are recommended to PTIA for Full Membership

Accreditation Program Committee

Accredits University planning programs



**PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
BOARD**
FOR THE PLANNING
PROFESSION IN CANADA

