

BIMONTHLY PSB BULLETIN

August 2026



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

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Chair's Report

It was a pleasure to see so many Members and colleagues at the recent CIP conference. The event once again provided an excellent opportunity to connect, share ideas, celebrate our achievements, and discuss the opportunities and challenges ahead. The enthusiasm, collaboration, and engagement demonstrated before and during the conference were a great reminder of the strength of our various organizations and the commitment of those who support the planning profession.

In this context, the PSB was thankful for the opportunity to discuss the on-going improvements being made by our Accreditation Program Committee (APC) and Professional Education and Examination Committee (PEEC), and the recent achievements of our Standards Advisory Committee (SAC). The next several months will be interesting ones as we work with the PTIAs and CIP to complete and implement a new Definition of Planning and updated Ethical Standards.

Most of our success is due to the countless hours provided by PSB volunteers. Their collective effort, commitment and dedication allow us to better serve the planning community and advance our mission. A special thank you goes out to departing PSB directors Janice Harper and Dana Kripki. These long-serving PSB directors (8-years each) were critical in building the PSB into the success it is today.

We are delighted to welcome new incoming Directors, Alex Henderson and Jim Charlebois. Both bring a wealth of planning experience to the Board and we look forward to their new perspectives.



Accreditation Program Committee (APC)

APC has wrapped up an incredibly busy year with 8 accreditation reviews and two pre-accreditation reviews. We are thankful to the APC committee members, the Site Visit Volunteer Team members, and our university partners for the significant work to support planning education.

This academic year will see two re-accreditation reviews (York University, University of Toronto) as well as the preliminary accreditation review of Nipissing University's new undergraduate program.

A major initiative this year for APC has been the creation of a new Site Visit Guide. This project is well advanced and will provide all with more information, more tools, and a better understanding of the process and requirements. Thank you to all who have supported this project.

Finally, as APC moves forward, our thanks to Christine Gutmann and Richard Shearmur who have concluded their terms on APC. Both Christine and Richard committed many hours to supporting APC, the Site Visit Teams, and our university partners. This process and program could not work without the commitment of people like Christine and Richard. We are grateful.



Professional Education and Examination Committee (PEEC)

The Fall sitting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026. Registration is now open. All eligibility requirements above must be met by August 31st, 2026. Please note, Examination sittings are held twice in each year – once in the spring and once in the fall.



Standards Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Joint Administrators Group (JAG) has recommended adopting the term “national model” for some of the outputs developed through the Standards update. The intention is to clearly differentiate the role and work of the PSB from that of the PTIAs, which function within distinct legislative environments.

National Model Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct:

Further to the planned roll out of the above, the PSB confirms the following information for current candidates:

- The PSB has received a quote for services to review and assess the ethics course for edits and module updates. This has an anticipated completion date of Dec. 31, 2026.
- All candidate progress completed to date will count based on the old standards. (IE Mentorship meetings)
- The new course will not be available before January 2027.
- All work started after January 1st will be completed utilizing the updated standards and course
- Any active candidates who have completed the current course can access the updated course materials free of charge if they wish

The updated Ethical Standards are currently being circulated to the PTIAs and CIP for adoption consideration, and for preparation and coordination of information releases for our respective members. The anticipated release and implementation of the updated Ethical Standards is January 1, 2027.

National Model for the Definition of Planning:

The Definition of Planning Task Force (DPTF) has completed a thorough and methodical process to update the definition: a full jurisdictional scan across all Canadian provinces, supported by a student researcher; development of multiple alternative definitions based on identified gaps; and structured evaluation of each option using a 15-criteria matrix to ensure clarity, consistency, and operational usefulness. This work was intentionally iterative and evidence-based, with the goal of producing a definition that is both functional and durable.

The new national model Definition of Planning is currently being circulated to the PTIAs and CIP to see if there is any substantial error or omission. The PSB is not seeking other proposals or wordmithing in the belief that nearly every professional planner will have an idea as to how the draft definition can be improved. If there are no egregious errors, the intention is to work with CIP and the PTIAs to announce the new definition to the planning profession through coordinated release information.

SAC Competencies Update

The Competencies Subcommittee has engaged shiftED Academy to provide advisory, training, and quality assurance services to support the modernization of the national competency framework for the planning profession in Canada. The Competencies Subcommittee has participated in an introductory meeting with ShiftEd Academy, and training is being scheduled which will be delivered to all Competencies Subcommittee members and will also be made available to all members of the Standards Advisory Committee (SAC).

As the work of the Competencies Subcommittee proceeds, information will be shared with the PTIAs and CIP for review. The PSB requests that each PTIA and CIP create a working group/subcommittee to review the information provided and offer timely feedback and recommendations.

The Chair of the Competencies Subcommittee welcomes discussion throughout the review process and is available to participate in virtual meetings as needed to support the working group's questions and comments.





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