PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD FOR THE PLANNING PROFESSION IN CANADA

3.3.2 Code of Professional Conduct

1. The Planner's Responsibility to the Public Interest

Professional planners shall:

1.1 Treat all individuals with dignity and respect, including clients, colleagues, interested parties, and the public. This includes refraining from discriminatory, harassing or exploitative behaviour.

1.2 Provide full, clear and accurate information and advice on planning matters to decision-makers and members of the public, recognizing the diverse needs, identities and lived experiences of different people and their communities.

1.3 Acknowledge the inter-related nature of planning decisions and the long-term consequences for natural and human environments.

1.4 Endeavour to engage with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and communities in a manner that is sustained, meaningful, and culturally appropriate whenever planning activities may affect Indigenous rights, interests, or lands. Engagement should be initiated early, carried out respectfully, and informed by Indigenous knowledge and guidance.

1.5 Provide opportunities for education and inclusive participation in planning processes for members of the public, equity-deserving communities, underserved populations, and those who have been historically marginalized, ensuring that engagement is accessible, transparent and responsive to diverse perspectives, lived experiences and knowledge systems.

1.6 Exercise professional judgement and integrity by raising concerns about planning practices or decisions that may be inconsistent with this Code, and by supporting the public interest in a respectful and evidence-informed manner, appropriate to the member's role and context.

1.7 Ensure digital tools, data systems and emerging technologies are used in ways that are transparent, accurate, equitable and accountable, and do not reinforce systemic bias or discrimination.

2. The Planner's Responsibility to Clients and Employers

Professional planners shall:

2.1 Provide independent professional opinion to clients, employers, the public and tribunals.

2.2 Respect the values and objectives of the client or employer, while ensuring that professional advice and conduct remain consistent with this Code.

2.3 Respect clients' and employers' right to confidentiality of information gathered through a professional relationship, unless such rights conflict with other aspects of this Code or the Code of Ethics.

2.4 Disclose all potential, perceived and actual conflicts of interest in a transparent and timely manner.

2.5 Inform the client or employer in the event of a conflict between the values or actions of the client or employer and those of this Code in a transparent and timely manner.

2.6 Not accept any financial, personal or other benefits that could reasonably be perceived as influencing, or attempting to influence, the professional planner's judgment, planning advice or conduct.

2.7 Not offer or provide any financial or other inducement intended to improperly influence, or that could reasonably be perceived as improperly influencing, professional decisions or opportunities, beyond standard compensation or employment practices.

2.8 Not, as an employee of a public agency, give professional planning advice for compensation to a private client or employer within the jurisdiction of the public agency without disclosure to the agency and receipt of written consent.

2.9 Not, as a consultant to a public agency during the period of contract with the agency, give professional planning advice for compensation to others within the jurisdiction of the agency without disclosure to the agency and receipt of written consent in situations where there is the possibility of a conflict of interest arising.

2.10 Use digital platforms, data analytics and emerging technologies responsibly and transparently, ensuring that clients and decision-makers are informed of any limitations, assumptions and risks, and that all uses comply with applicable privacy, consent and data protection standards.

2.11 When using artificial intelligence or automated tools, remain fully responsible for the accuracy, integrity and ethical use of outputs.

3. The Planner's Responsibility to the Profession and Other Professional Planners

Professional planners shall:

3.1 Ensure that advertising, promotional materials and public representations accurately reflect the professional planner's qualifications, credentials and affiliations. A professional planner must not misrepresent or imply credentials they do not hold.

3.2 Undertake planning services with diligence, and render services with appropriate due diligence and preparation.

3.3 Act toward other professional planners and colleagues in a spirit of fairness and consideration, and not falsely or maliciously injure the professional reputation, prospects or practice of another professional planner or other colleagues.

3.4 Respect colleagues in their professional capacity, and when evaluating the work of another professional planner, show objectivity and fairness and avoid ill-considered or uninformed criticism of the competence, conduct or advice of the professional planner.

3.5 Refrain from soliciting or attempting to take over a contract, client, or employment opportunity that another professional planner is already engaged in or retained for, unless the arrangement has been formally ended or a new competitive process has been initiated. In doing so, professional planners shall avoid any actions that would undermine or disparage that professional planner's work or credibility.

3.6 Only sign or seal a final drawing, specification, plan, report or other document prepared or checked by the professional planner.

3.7 Not deliberately, nor with reckless indifference, commit a wrongful act that may cast doubt on the professional planner's competence or integrity, or that may reflect adversely on the integrity of the profession.

3.8 Engage in good-faith discussions with a colleague regarding a suspected breach of this Code, where appropriate and feasible. If the matter cannot reasonably be raised with the colleague or is not adequately resolved by the colleague, and the professional planner has reasonable grounds that the colleague materially breached this Code, the professional planner shall report such a breach to the PTIA. This must be done in a timely, confidential, professional manner, and in accordance with PTIA procedures.

3.9 Only make public statements on behalf of a PTIA, CIP, or affiliated organizations such as the Professional Standards Board if authorized to do so.

3.10 Cooperate with a PTIA or CIP on professional inquiries and disciplinary processes.

3.11 Respect the process and decision of any disciplinary proceeding affecting a professional planner.

3.12 Refrain from participating in unethical or unlawful practices by clients, employers or colleagues.

3.13 Not engage in conduct, whether in professional practice or otherwise, that could reasonably be expected to undermine public confidence in the professional planner's integrity, professionalism, or fitness to practice.