



Blog User and Commenting Policy

As its name implies, the main goal of the *Planning Exchange* blog (the Blog) is to facilitate an exchange of planning knowledge, best practices, and issues important to planners. The purpose is to engage users and foster meaningful and respectful discussion about planning and the planning profession. Posts and comments on the Blog are not endorsed by OPPI, nor do they necessarily represent the Institute's views or policies.

By clicking "I have read and understood the blog user and commenting policy" below, you (the User) agree to the following terms, that you are responsible for all actions that take place through your account, and the security of your password.

Use of the Blog

Use of the Blog is free and registration is not required to access its content.

The User has access to documents, images, videos, reports, statistical data and other information (collectively referred to as content). This content may be provided under license by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) or by independent content providers, including other users of the Blog, and its intended use is to enhance the body of knowledge of both the User and the planning community in Ontario. OPPI Members undertaking [Continuous Professional Learning](#) may claim learning units according to the [CPL Program Guide](#) by reading or contributing to the Blog.

By using the Blog, you acknowledge that OPPI and other content providers have intellectual property rights for their respective content. These rights are not transferred to the User by mere use of the Blog and, as such, the User accepts full responsibility and liability for their use of any content.

Commenting on the Blog

Using the Blog's commenting function requires you to be registered and logged in. The User does not have to be an OPPI Member to register.

The commenting policy is built on the principle of mutual respect and its main intent is to foster meaningful discussion of planning issues. In other words, the User may be temporarily or permanently be banned from the Blog and their comments deleted if it is determined that they are:

- Profane, hateful or offensive;
- Construed to be libellous or defamatory;
- Misrepresentative, derogatory or unfounded statements;
- Personal attacks or threats; and
- Critical of another user, individual or group of people based on ability, age, country of origin or ethnicity, gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Promotion or advertisement of a particular service, company or product, job posting, fundraising venture or solicitation of employment, are all prohibited.

Unless given permission by OPPI, you are not authorized to speak on behalf of the Institute nor to represent that you do so.

Comments on the Blog are not endorsed by OPPI, nor do they necessarily represent the Institute's views or policies.

Data Collection Policy

The User agrees with OPPI's Collection of Data policy, as stated on the website's [Privacy and Security](#) page, as it pertains to the Blog.

Submitting Content for the Blog

Submission of content for the Blog by users and Registered Professional Planners is encouraged. Submission guidelines are available [here](#). Content related to OPPI's [Learning Strategy](#) will be given priority for consideration and publication on the Blog.

By submitting content for the Blog, you are stating that your contribution does not infringe upon any third party intellectual or personal rights, including but not limited to, copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, or privacy rights.

You grant OPPI the perpetual, royalty-free, and irrevocable right to any content you submit for publication on the Blog. Further, OPPI reserves the right to:

- Determine the content of the posting, including all comments and reserves the right to reject any submission, or to edit submissions for length, content that may have been covered in a previous posting, inappropriate or inaccurate information for the interest of our members. As a general policy, postings previously published in other blogs or newsletters will not be republished; and
- Use and reproduce all or part of the content on social media platforms for the purposes of promoting the blog.

In keeping with OPPI's guidelines for [Sponsorship and Use of Logo Protocol](#), the Institute's name and logo may not be used without explicit permission in writing from OPPI.

OPPI reserves the right to delete or restrict access to any content at any time for any reason whatsoever. OPPI also reserves the right to determine the length of time for which posts and/or comments will be displayed. The terms and conditions listed above may be revised at any time and without advance notice to the user. Therefore, your use of the Blog and its commenting functions will be subject to the most current version of the blog user and commenting policy.

I have read and understood the blog user and commenting policy. (Check box; must be checked in order for users to continue)