

## Great Plans Need Great Planners

### Professional Regulation Update

March 29, 2017

Professional planners are dedicated to ensuring that Ontario is a sustainable, healthy place to live, work and play. Since 1994, when the *Ontario Professional Planners Institute Act* was passed, the planning landscape has changed dramatically and become much more complex. This private legislation was the first in Canada to protect the title “Registered Professional Planner/RPP.” Over the past 25 years, many other provinces have passed public legislation regarding the regulation of the planning profession that goes further than the OPPI Act.

OPPI continues to work with MPPs and Ministry officials to move forward the proposed *Registered Professional Planners Act* to enhance the public’s confidence in professional planners and their commitment to protecting and furthering the public interest.

MPP Peter Milczyn is scheduled to introduce the Bill in the legislature on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This legislation will help to raise further awareness about the importance of planning and the role of the planning profession in creating and fostering healthy communities. We are excited to bring forward a Bill that will support professional planners in their role in implementing the current and future changes to the planning system — putting the public interest first.

### Key Points - Proposed Bill

- The proposed Act would not hinder anyone from practicing planning or giving opinions, however, certain clauses would not allow them to hold themselves out to be a professional planner (not only RPP) or provide a professional opinion on planning matters. This key point will ensure consumer protection in the public interest as well as provide title protection for professional planners. The title “Registered Professional Planner/RPP” would remain protected and reserved for use by practicing Full Members of OPPI. The title “professional planner” would also be protected (except when used in obviously-different contexts, e.g. a financial professional planner in a bank).
- Employers would continue to choose whether they want to require membership or RPP status as a requirement for a position. Changes in title and/or compensation would not be a result of the passage of this Bill.
- OPPI already, by by-law, carries out many of the duties of a regulator. Those duties and how these are carried out would simply be specified more precisely by the proposed Bill.
- Public member(s) on Council would be a new mandatory requirement under the proposed Bill.
- OPPI will continue to improve and enhance Professional Standards.
- The accreditation process for the university planning programs and the certification process for Candidate Members would not change as a result of passage of this proposed Bill.

### Questions?

If you have questions about the proposed Bill, please contact the Registrar, Brian Brophey, at [standards@ontarioplanners.ca](mailto:standards@ontarioplanners.ca) or 416-483-1873 x 229 or visit [ontarioplanners.ca/Who-We-Are/Professional-Regulation](http://ontarioplanners.ca/Who-We-Are/Professional-Regulation)