



Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Essential Questions and Suggested Sessions for the 2020 OPPI Conference

Essential questions exist to provoke further questioning by the learner and promote the concept of individuals becoming **lifelong learners**. A question may be essential if it:

- Causes genuine and relevant inquiry into big ideas and core content;
- Provokes deep thought, lively discussion, sustained inquiry and new understanding
- requires learners to consider alternatives, weigh evidence, support their ideas, and justify their answers;
- stimulates vital, on-going rethinking of big ideas, assumptions, and prior lessons;
- sparks meaningful connections with prior learning and personal experiences; or
- Naturally recurs, creating opportunities for transfer to other situations and subjects.

During this moment in history, large portions of the world are experiencing a Civil Rights uprising. While protests against the realities of systemic discrimination and institutionalized racism continue, it is important for professional planners to examine the following essential questions with a contemporary lens and realize that racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and ableism have long existed, and have often times served as barriers to public participation and representation in planning processes. As professional planners, we have a duty to listen to diverse voices, learn more about how the systems we work under have negatively impacted marginalized people, and to better understand how we can change the conversations, and the work we do, to create more inclusive and equitable communities in Ontario.

Demographics	Housing
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How does understanding your demography (population size, average age, cultural diversity, im/migration Indigenous populations, etc.) truly translate into planning for your community?2. What are the most effective tools and methods to predict or monitor demographics and demographic change?3. What are the key drivers of population dynamics in your community?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are key elements of the housing crisis and what are effective responses?2. In what ways does housing as a basic human need influence planning?



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<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Do generational identities matter to planners?5. What trends in demographics do we need to be planning for?6. In what ways can planning interact with underrepresented demographics, such as urban Indigenous populations?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. What does planning consider to be the key factors in housing demand/supply and how do we interact with those factors?4. How has the issue of affordable housing evolved over time, and how has planning responded, either domestically or internationally?5. In what ways does the sharing economy influence housing availability, and what planning methods exist to mitigate or adapt to these changes?6. Should the government be responsible for the provision and regulation of housing and if so – what are the effective options?7. How can we more effectively ensure all populations have their housing needs met?