Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Essential Questions for the 2021 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.

Technology	Economic Development & Sustainability
1. In what ways are demographics and investment changing the application of technology in the planning profession? 2. How does technology transform our workplaces and/or communities, and what are the implications for planning and planners? 3. How do we determine what is an ethical or unethical use of technology in our professional practice? 4. What challenges and opportunities does new technology bring to public engagement and the planning profession, more notably in the digital/COVID/post-COVID age?	1. What trends or issues, such as the introduction of new technology, demographics, and the COVID-19 pandemic, are influencing economic development and planning, either positively or negatively? 2. To what degree can the fields of economic development and planning work together to achieve mutually beneficial results, versus to what degree is separation still necessary? 3. How can planning policy pivot to meet market demand and economic trends in an expeditious fashion, while still maintaining the public interest and sustainable communities?

5. How does technology play a role in remote communities?
6. In what ways does technology play a role with underrepresented, marginalized, or racialized people/communities and planning?
7. How does digital transformation impact how planners practice and learn?
8. How are Indigenous Peoples and/or underrepresented populations/communities using technology to protect or share Indigenous knowledge and culture?
9. How can technology in our communities and profession lead to greater sustainability?
10. How will the changing nature of the workplace such as increasing work/study from home impact planning?

4. What is the role of planners in creating welcoming communities and equitable opportunities for underrepresented, marginalized, and/or racialized persons, within economic development?
5. To what degree are changes in economic development shaping planning policy (i.e. expansion in on-line retail, home-based businesses, shop local movements, start-up companies, shift away from 'smoke-stack chasers', etc.)?
6. What is the role of planning and economic development in slow or no growth communities?
7. What is the role of planners in business retention and expansion versus their role in business attraction?
8. How does planning differ in facilitating urban vs. rural economic development (e.g. downtowns and business parks vs. on-farm diversification, manufacturing)?
9. Are planners addressing the infrastructure gaps crucial to sustainable economic development?