



**Ontario
Professional
Planners
Institute**



Essential Questions for the Joint 2022 OPPI x OALA Conference

Essential questions exist to stimulate thought and promote **lifelong learning**. A question may be essential if it:

- Invites genuine and relevant inquiry into big ideas, core content and lived experiences
- Inspires deep thought and reflection, lively discussion, new awareness and understanding
- Motivates consideration of alternatives, evidence, support for ideas, and justification for conclusions
- Stimulates vital, on-going rethinking of big ideas, assumptions, and prior learning
- Sparks meaningful connections with prior learning and personal experiences
- Connects varied situations, subjects and experiences

| 2022 Essential Questions |
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| 1. How have our societal and/or professional roles evolved? What of the future? |
| 2. What are our responsibilities in working with others: professionals, politicians, clients? |
| 3. How does our work and professional perspectives bring value to the design and development of places and spaces, and how can we help decision-makers see the value in the recommendations we make? |
| 4. How can we address the concerns of/opposition from communities/politicians/decision-makers to plans or designs that are disruptive to the status quo or that create conflicts with majority interests? |
| 5. How can we ensure that our professional voices represent the range of public interest and center the needs of the most vulnerable in the communities we work in, and that we are heard? |

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| 6. How does our approach to practice translate to the sectors we work in, be it in the public, private, academic, or not-for-profit sectors; how can we maintain professional and ethical accountability regardless of the setting of practice? |
| 7. How can we influence and incorporate more equitable practices in public education, engagement, relationship building or consultation with the public, towards ensuring that systematically marginalized persons are heard? |
| 8. How can we work together to eliminate racism in our planning and design processes, and move towards transformative justice? |
| 9. How do we incorporate the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action in our work, and expand on the associated ideas of Indigenous sovereignty, right to self-determination, and inherent land rights? |
| 10. In what ways can we support greater diversity and inclusion in our fields, address discrimination and barriers to success, and center the work of LGBTQ2S+, disabled, low-income, Black, Indigenous, or other racialized professionals? |
| 11. In what ways are our practices informed by the pandemic? |
| 12. How does the need and responsibility to equitably address climate change and its impacts inform your work? |
| 13. How can we equitably plan for the full life cycle (from birth to death) of people in urban, suburban and rural communities to address the increased need for cemetery land uses/aging infrastructure as community assets, in creating safe, accessible, age-friendly, healthy, and complete communities? |