![Ontario Professional Planners Institute logo]

2024 Essential Questions

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.

The following questions were developed with the advancement of the strategic directions of OPPI's Strategic Plan 2025 in mind.

The Pressures of Planning	Housing
1. What are the external pressures (changes in legislation, technology, housing, mobility, climate change, societal shifts, and the changing world around us, etc.) and internal pressures (mental health and wellbeing, changes in the work environment, work-life balance, etc.) that planners face, and how do they respond to these pressures? 2. In what ways are demographics, ableism, racism, sexism or genderism changing the perception or practice of planning? 3. What are the responsibilities of planners and the profession in response to frequent changes in legislation and policy (either at the draft legislation/policy stage or following Royal Assent)? 4. Has the relationship between planning and the public changed (based on technology, legislation, societal changes, NIMBYism, etc.) and is the public interest evolving? 5. In what ways do planners act as integrators or educators to address underrepresented planning issues, or to drive change? 6. What opportunities can external pressures present to planners and the profession?	1. What long lasting housing solutions are in place by any level of government (including domestic and international), and what is the planner's role in these solutions? 2. How does gentrification cause erasure of diversity in communities and neighbourhoods with re-developments and how can planners combat this problem? 3. What are the responsibilities and obligations of the planner in considering land rights, Indigenous rights, and self-determination in the context of housing? 4. What can planners learn from housing case studies in different municipalities, provinces, or even different countries, with respect to ending chronic homelessness? 5. How does legislation Municipal Act, Planning Act, Strong Mayors, etc. or tools such as Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator (CIHA) / MZOs / inclusionary zoning affect the planning process for housing and the ability to provide housing? 6. The housing crisis is a critical issue in Canada, and new ideas from various locations around the world are being brought to Council's table. What legislation / policy changes are needed at the Provincial / municipal/regional level, to improve affordable housing provision in Ontario and what role do planners have in assisting Council's review different options?

7. In what ways have we learned from our history, and how does that get reflected in modern practice (either in a positive, negative, or other fashion)? 8. Where are the middle-aged planners in considering the national shortage of planners, what techniques can our profession adopt to mitigate burnout? 9. In what ways can we improve public education, engagement, and consultation to mitigate confusion / misinformation and build trust? 10. What challenges or opportunities can a crisis (housing shortage, climate change, pandemic, etc.) present to planners and the profession?	7. Given the constraint of the capitalist society we live in; how can planners provide framework and incentive to make the provision of affordable housing in rural communities or small municipalities a feasible option for for-profit developers? 8. What is the role of planners in facilitating partnerships (e.g., public/private, for profit/non-profit) and social financing options to drive housing solutions? 9. What case studies or tools can be presented that demonstrate successful balance between climate risk and provision of housing? 10. How can planners navigate the disconnect between public opinion of appropriate density with provincial policy direction for marked increase in housing and intensification?