



## OPPI Council Meeting Recap

June 6-7, 2024

OPPI Council held their quarterly meeting at OPPI headquarters on June 6-7. We are pleased to share the following highlights from the meeting.

The first day focused on two strategic conversations. The first area of discussion was to reflect on member practice areas and how they have evolved over time. Insights into our current membership tell us that while we are still a community of professionals who work for private firms, municipal or provincial government and developers with a foundation and commitment to land use planning, there is a layer beyond these categories that more clearly defines the broad scope of planning today. We have members who specialize in transportation planning, environmental planning, heritage planning, engagement, economics, Indigenous consultation and engagement, and more.

As a member-based organization, it is important that we delve into our evolving demographics to ensure we are programming content and building relationships with government and industry partners that meet our members' needs.

For our second strategic discussion we were joined by the Program Directors of Ontario's accredited planning programs. Together, we reflected on current budget challenges being faced by Ontario's universities and challenges facing students enrolled in planning programs. We talked about the shortage of planners and work we are doing with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to obtain funding support for planning program expansion. We also spent time reflecting on how OPPI can continue to collaborate with planning programs and their students as part of the OPPI community. It was agreed that our annual meeting with planning program coordinators would be supported by quarterly meetings with OPPI's staff leadership team to provide more opportunities for collaboration, coordination and evolution.

We learned that an increasing number of planning graduates do not stay in the planning field thinking that their only option is land use planning for a municipality or private firm. This is a misunderstanding of the planning profession today and the many opportunities within the planning profession (as reflected in our first conversation).

Council determined at the end of the day's strategic discussions that OPPI would retain a researcher or consultant to conduct a member census to better understand the work our members currently do and anticipate doing in the future. The census will include students and non-members to help us better understand the potential RPP population in Ontario. The census results will inform OPPI's new strategic and operational plans as well as a marketing campaign related to careers in planning. There is also an expectation that the collection of member data would serve as the basis for future updates and ensure that we are continually understanding our membership and their needs.

Day two marked the business portion of the meeting. During this time, the following items were received, discussed, and endorsed (staff led) or approved (where indicated):

- Thomas Kriens of Kriens LaRose presented the Audited Statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. The Audit Committee report on their review of the statements was also received (approved).
- 2024 Q1 Financial Statements were presented by E. Park, Director of Finance & Operations.
- OPPI Job Board pricing with a focus on reducing current pricing plans (endorsed).
- Uzo Rossouw, Chair of the Governance & Nominating Committee, presented the Report of the Nominating Committee for 2024/25 Council year (approved).
- S. Wiggins, Executive Director, presented the first draft of OPPI Risk Register in accordance with Risk Management Policy.
- S. Wiggins, Executive Director, presented a proposal for increased transparency related to Council Meetings (approved).
- Reports of OPPI Committees and Appointed Representatives (approved).
- Special Meeting of PSB has been called for June 19 to approve the revised mandate of PSB, incorporating the Standards Committee, and a new shared services agreement.
- C. Basinski, Chair, A. Leigh, Chair-Elect and S. Wiggins, Executive Director met with senior staff in Minister Calandra's office to share our thoughts on V2 of the Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) and final legislative and regulatory changes that may be necessary to ensure the planning system continues to operate efficiently and in a timely manner.
- Members of OPPI Executive Committee met with members of the Board of [Shared Path Consultation Initiative](#) about potential collaborations going forward.
- Council received a letter from Anthony Usher, RPP, recommending potential changes to the complaints and discipline process. Council referred the matter to our Professional Standards & Registration Committee for exploration and response after consulting with legal counsel.