



OPPI Council Meeting Recap

September 19, 2025

The September 2025 Council Meeting marked the first meeting of the 2025/2026 Council year and the first for Andria Leigh, RPP, Town of Innisfil, as Chair of the Board. This meeting began with the induction of several new Council members serving two-year terms from 2025–2027. New Council members include:

Beverley Hillier, RPP, City of North Bay, **Chair-Elect**
Rosa Bustamante, RPP, City of Kitchener, **Director**
Dave Aston, RPP, MHBC, **Director**
Rajbir Sian, RPP, County of Dufferin, **Director**
Scott Thompson, **Director, Public Interest Representative**

The Council moved to appoint current Council member Chris Tyrrell to the position of Secretary-Treasurer and to appoint Aimee Powell as a Director-at-large on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee also includes Chair, Andria Leigh and Chair-Elect, Beverley Hillier.

The first order of business for Council members was to participate in a workshop on Board Governance, led by Heather Terrence of [Pinpoint Governance Group](#). Following this presentation, [Counsel Public Affairs](#) (OPPI's newly appointed Government Relations Firm) shared their government relations strategy with the Board. The presentation focussed on strengthening relationships with government and industry associations using a solutions-based approach – solutions related to the Government's priorities including efficiencies in planning processes, as well as housing and infrastructure solutions.

The balance of the meeting was focussed on the Staff Leadership Team's presentation on the 2026 Operational Plan and Budget. The presentation was led by Susan Wiggins, Executive Director and included:

- a summary of 2025 progress towards OPPI's current Strategic Plan
- a proposed Operational Plan for 2026 against the existing Strategic Plan and the newly approved Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Reconciliation & Social Justice Workplan
- a proposed membership fee structure for 2026

- a proposed 2026 Operational Budget incorporating the above plans and fee structure
- a request for use of Strategic Funds and Scholarships Funds for specific items included in the Plan

After a structured engagement and discussion on the above elements, Council moved to accept the proposed fee structure and the 2026 Operational Plan and Budget as presented.

Additionally, Council approved the use of Strategic Funds in the amount of \$100,000 for partnerships, paid media, the development of Practice Guides and a Planning 101 training course for delivery to AMO and other like organizations.

Andria Leigh reviewed the status of the rebranding exercise for the benefit of all new Council members. OPPI Council directed the staff to engage with the membership on the potential opportunity to rename OPPI as part of the branding process.

The final item was tabled by Registrar, Ryan Des Roches. The Professional Standards Board (PSB) recently released a revised Code of Ethics (aka Practice) to all provincial associations for a 60-day review. Ryan is scheduling a meeting of OPPI's Professional Standards & Registration Committee (PS&RC) to undertake this review which is due back to PSB on October 6th. Given the timing with the next Council meeting in November, Ryan will be issuing PS&RC's recommendations on the draft Code to Council for review and approval via e-mail vote.

Further information related to the rebranding and the 2026 Operational Plan & Budget will be shared in the coming weeks.