OPPI's new updated Professional Code of Practice (to come into force January 1, 2027)
1. The Planner's Responsibility to the Public Interest *Members have a primary responsibility to define and serve the interests of the public. This requires the use of theories and techniques of planning that inform and structure debate, facilitate communication, and foster understanding. Accordingly, members shall:*
1.1 Treat all individuals with dignity and respect, including clients, colleagues, interested parties, and the public. This includes refraining from discriminatory, harassing, or exploitative behaviour.
1.2 Provide full, clear, and accurate information and advice on planning matters to decision makers and members of the public, recognizing the diverse needs, identities and lived experiences of different people and their communities.
1.3 Acknowledge the inter-related nature of planning decisions and the long-term consequences for natural and human environments.
1.4 Endeavour to engage with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and communities in a manner that is sustained, meaningful, and culturally appropriate whenever planning activities may affect Indigenous rights, interests, or lands. Engagement should be initiated early, carried out respectfully, and informed by Indigenous knowledge and guidance.
1.5 Provide opportunities for education and inclusive participation in planning processes for members of the public, equity-deserving communities, underserved populations, and those who have been historically marginalized. Engagement should be accessible, transparent and responsive to diverse perspectives, lived experiences and knowledge systems.
1.6 Exercise professional judgment and integrity by raising concerns about planning practices or decisions that may be inconsistent with this Code, and by supporting the public interest in a respectful and evidence-informed manner, appropriate to the member's role and context.
1.7 Use digital tools, data systems and emerging technologies in ways that are transparent, accurate, equitable and accountable, and do not reinforce systemic bias or discrimination.
2. The Planner's Responsibility to Clients and Employers *Members must provide diligent, creative, independent, and competent performance of work in pursuit of the client's or employer's interest. Accordingly, members shall:*
2.1 Provide independent professional opinion to clients, employers, the public, and tribunals.
2.2 Respect the values and objectives of the client or employer, while ensuring that professional advice and conduct remain consistent with this Code.
2.3 Not perform work outside of their professional competence.
2.4 Respect clients' and employers' right to confidentiality of information gathered through a professional relationship, unless such rights conflict with other aspects of this Code or the Code of Ethics.
2.5 Not neglect planning services which they have agreed to perform, nor render services without adequate preparation.
2.6 Disclose all potential, perceived and actual conflicts of interest in a transparent and timely manner.
2.7 Inform the client or employer in the event of a conflict between the values or actions of the client or employer and those of this Code in a timely manner.
2.8 Inform all relevant parties and provide the Member's professional recommendation in situations that may adversely affect the public interest.
2.9 Not accept any financial, personal or other benefits that could reasonably be perceived as influencing, or attempting to influence, the member's judgment, planning advice or conduct.
2.10 Not offer or provide any financial or other inducement intended to improperly influence, or that could reasonably be perceived as improperly influencing, professional decisions or opportunities, beyond standard compensation or employment practices.
2.11 Not as an employee of a public agency, give professional planning advice for compensation to a private client or employer within the jurisdiction of the public agency without disclosure to the agency and receipt of written consent.
2.12 Not, as a consultant to a public planning agency during the period of contract with the agency, give professional planning advice for compensation to others within the jurisdiction of the agency without disclosure to the agency and receipt of written consent in situations where there is the possibility of a conflict of interest arising.
2.13 Not, as a salaried employee of or consultant to any public planning agency, directly or indirectly advise the agency on the granting or refusal of an application which the Member has submitted or has an interest in to the agency; however, the Member may present the application.

2.14 Use digital platforms, data analytics and emerging technologies responsibly and transparently, ensuring that clients and decision-makers are informed of any limitations, assumptions and risks, and that all uses comply with applicable privacy, consent and data protection standards.
2.15 When using artificial intelligence or automated tools, remain fully responsible for the accuracy, integrity and ethical use of outputs.
2.16 Not, in order to obtain professional work, present themselves as, or permit themselves to be presented as, prepared to provide planning services where the quality of work is less than reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.
3. The Planner's Responsibility to the Profession and Other Members *The vitality and credibility of the planning profession and of the Institute are reflective of the quality of the Membership. To further the profession, Members will be expected to attain and maintain a high standard of professional competence and conduct, which extends to their relationship with other Members. Accordingly, members shall:*
3.1 Ensure that advertising, promotional materials and public representations accurately reflect the member's qualifications, credentials and affiliations. A member must not misrepresent or imply credentials they do not hold.
3.2 Undertake planning services with diligence and render services with appropriate due diligence and preparation.
3.3 Act toward other members and colleagues in a spirit of fairness and consideration, and not falsely or maliciously injure the professional reputation, prospects or practice of another member or other colleagues.
3.4 Respect colleagues in their professional capacity, and when evaluating the work of another member, show objectivity and fairness and avoid ill-considered or uninformed criticisms of the competence, conduct or advice of the member.
3.5 Refrain from soliciting or attempting to take over a contract, client, or employment opportunity that another member is already engaged in or retainer for, unless the arrangement has been formally ended or a new competitive process has been initiated. In doing so, members shall avoid any actions that would undermine or disparage that member's work or credibility.
3.6 Only sign or seal a final drawing, specification, plan, report or other document prepared or checked by the member.
3.7 Not in professional practice, extra-professional activities or private life, engage in dishonourable or questionable conduct that may cast doubt on the Member's professional competence or integrity or that may reflect adversely on the integrity of the profession.
3.8 Engage in good-faith discussions with a colleague regarding a suspected breach of this Code, where appropriate and feasible. If the matter cannot reasonably be raised with the colleague or is not adequately resolved by the colleague, and the member has reasonable ground that the colleague materially breached this Code, the member shall report such a breach to OPPI. This must be done in a timely, confidential, professional manner, and in accordance with PTIA procedures.
3.9 Only make public statements on behalf of OPPI or affiliated organizations if authorized to do so.
3.10 Cooperate with OPPI on professional inquiries and disciplinary processes.
3.11 Implement and give full effect to the disposition of any discipline proceeding affecting the Member.
3.12 Refrain from participating in unethical or unlawful practices by clients, employers or colleagues.