



SASKATCHEWAN

PROFESSIONAL PLANNERS INSTITUTE

SPPI Annual Report

2019-2020

2019-2020 Executive Council

President:	Alan Wallace RPP, MCIP
President-Elect:	Ian Goeres RPP, MCIP
Past President	Jenna Schroeder RPP, MCIP
Secretary/Treasurer:	Samantha Mark RPP, MCIP
Advocacy & Public Relations:	Tony Woods RPP, MCIP Maggie Schwab RPP, MCIP
Professional Development	Eric MacDougall RPP, MCIP Adam Toth RPP, MCIP
Admin & Governance:	Alan Wallace RPP, MCIP Ian Goeres RPP, MCIP Samantha Mark RPP, MCIP
Student Representative:	Josh Campbell
Executive Director:	Marilyn Steranka
Member Services:	Sarah Taylor

Representatives:

University of Saskatchewan Senate	Twyla Bergstrom RPP, MCIP
University of Regina Senate	Charlie Toman RPP, MCIP
Professional Standards Board	Dana Kripki RPP, MCIP
Professional Standards Committee	Samantha Mark RPP, MCIP
Accreditation Program Committee	Christine Gutmann RPP, MCIP
Professional Educational and Examination Committee	Autumn Dawson RPP, MCIP

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

This will be my final report to the SPPI membership as President. It has been my privilege to represent SPPI at national meetings and in the media this past two years. I have spent the last four years on Council and will be stepping down and assuming the past-president title from Jenna Schroeder.

Working with a great group of volunteer councillors, we were able to accomplish many things over the past two years, such as:

1. a new Advocacy Policy;
2. new Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Councilors;
3. a member services survey;
4. more media attention in 2019/20;
5. adopted a new Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023);
6. new Operations Manual;
7. new Position Papers;
8. participated in new Provincial Statements of Provincial Interest
9. new contract for the Executive Director which ensures continuity for the next 2 years.

The year started off well but was upended by the Covid pandemic and several months were lost due to the workplace and home life adjustments which were required. Another casualty was our 2020 Conference which is always a highlight for our members across Saskatchewan. However, we were not alone. Conferences across the nation have been postponed indefinitely, even the 2021 CIP Conference in Halifax has already been cancelled.

The pandemic certainly stole the show in 2020, but it also brought with it an opportunity for planners to examine and re-assess priorities related to livability and public spaces. Planners were called upon to provide an expert viewpoint on what changes mean for our communities, what changes may become permanent, and creative ways to engage with citizens and stakeholders.

Besides the pandemic, there are other challenges emerging within our profession. SPPI will join other planning institutes across Canada, along with CIP in addressing the equity and diversity issues facing our profession. We cannot remain silent on these issues and need to pro-actively work together to solve the problems of equality, racism and diversity issues in our communities.

I have every confidence that our incoming President, Ian Goeres, and the new Council will provide excellent guidance and leadership for our Institute and address these issues to create a more equitable post-pandemic Saskatchewan.

To close, I want to thank Marilyn Steranka, our executive director, and Sarah Taylor for their hard work and diligence on behalf of SPPI Council and the membership. We simply could not operate effectively without their dedication and experience. In terms of continuity we are fortunate to have Sarah Taylor taking over for Marilyn on January 1, 2021.

Alan Wallace, RPP, MCIP

President, Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute

President-Elect

2020 has been a year like no other in recent memory with events taking place that will shape future generations. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the shift away from in-person workplaces and meetings could have an incredible impact on our profession and the shape of communities.

Discussions on race and inequality were brought to the forefront following appalling events in the United States. This has generated discussions by the CIP Board of Directors, and it will be up to us, as SPPI Council, to look at our province and address these issues within our profession.

Under my two-year term as President, SPPI Council will focus on our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and racial inequality. While the future remains uncertain, I will commit to being available to the membership at any time through the president@sppi.ca email.

Respectively submitted

Ian Goeres, RPP, MCIP

REGISTRAR

This has been another active year for membership in the association. We have seen an increase in candidates and, in particular, students (91), bringing our total membership to 343

2019-20 Membership Profile

The SPPI currently comprises 343 (net +21 in 2018-2019) members in the following membership categories:

<u>Membership Category</u>	<u>Number</u>
RPP	145
Candidate	53
Pre-Candidate	15
Non-Practicing	8
Out-of-Affiliate	23
Retired	5
Student	91
Public Subscriber	3

The following individuals were granted membership during the past year:

RPP Members

- Jonathan Derworiz (October 7, 2019)
- Adefemi Adegeye (March 16, 2020)
- Cory Boudreau (March 16, 2020)
- Joel Bird (March 16, 2020)
- Jordan Olmstead (March 16, 2020)
- Daniel McLaren (March 16, 2020)
- Riley Stefanik (March 16, 2020)

Pre-Candidate Members

- Kyle Pickett
- Maria Cole-Gayle
- Luke Brossart
- Alex Popoff
- Frank Carpentieri

Candidate Members

- Casey Shields
- Kenneth Weddige
- Eliakim Longaquit
- Stephanie Sharp
- Todd Mitchell
- Kristie Muzyka
- Raquel Wenarchuk
- Tanner Halonen
- Heather Kindermann
- Zoe Hagen
- Alex Popoff
- Tanner Traves
- Janine Fletcher
- Christian Valdez

Student Members

- Celestin Usengumuremyi
- Wyatt Shew
- Carson Mackonka
- Brooke Switzer
- Anastasia Mysak
- Michael Lu
- Georgia Smith
- Ross Zimmermann
- Jamal Abbasi
- Elvis Obi
- Amna Tahir
- Nathan Favreau
- Tyler Kopp
- Damon Widynowski
- Kate Meger
- Cole Bissonnette
- Adam Brown
- Gregory Pearse
- Carter Ruff
- Princes Guzman
- Samuel Loran
- Wyatt Shew
- Kara Lindel
- Tanner Cantin
- Donn Angelo
- Madison Zablocki
- Richard Stoik
- Matthew Kuziak
- Derek Vangool

SPPI would like to welcome the following members that have transferred to SPPI during the past year:

- Neal Sarnecki (Full Member from APPI)
- Robyn Rechenmacher (Full Member from APPI)

SPPI would like to thank the following members for their contribution to planning in Saskatchewan, and wish them success in their planning careers as they have transferred to another affiliate from SPPI during the past year:

- Jonathan Derworiz (Full Member to OPPI)
- Stephanie Sharp (Candidate to OPPI)
- Danny Roy (Full to OPPI)

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Steranka, Executive Director

Secretary/Treasurer Report

In my role as secretary and treasurer, I maintain a record of our Council meetings and business arising, participate in the Administration and Governance Committee, and support my fellow Council members and committees as required. I also participate on two of SPPI committees, PLAN North West and the CIP Standards Committee.

This past year was a little different than most. As Council, professional planners, and individuals, we had to adapt to a new way of being. Like many, we transitioned our Council meetings from in-person to virtual.

Prior to COVID-19, I was able to participate on behalf SPPI in the consultation process for the amendments to *The Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI) Regulations*. Proposed amendments were circulated to the membership for

further input. The amended SPIs will be in effect January 1, 2021.

The Administration and Governance Committee was active on reviewing and drafting policy, procedures, and correspondence to the membership. This includes, though is not limited to:

- A Conflict of Interest Policy;
- Council Orientation Manual; and
- Exploring SPPI's role and options such as license to contract in the development of Official Community Plans and Zoning Bylaws.

This year, there were some impacts to the budget due to COVID-19 and unfortunately, we had to cancel many events and training opportunities. In 2019, there was a small deficit of \$2,943.02. There was a \$4,907.75 deficit from the operating budget and \$1,964.73 surplus from the discretionary budget. 2019 investments were in GICs and totaled \$154,347.57 (\$40,741.97 discipline reserve + 113,605.60 operating reserve).

In 2020, there is an operating budget forecast with a surplus of \$50.00. The Discretionary Budget is forecasted to have a deficit of \$7,500 mainly due to lost revenue from the 2020 Conference. 2020 is forecasted to have an overall deficit of \$7,450.00.

It's been a pleasure serving you as the membership working alongside my fellow Council members. Many thanks to each of them for their contribution and efforts, and to our Executive Director for all that she does for the Institute.

Respectfully submitted Samantha Mark, RPP, MCIP

Advocacy and Public Relations Committee

1 - 2019 SPPI Conference Follow-up

The 2019 SPPI Conference "Good Neighbours Strong Communities" occurred on September 16th and 17th, 2019.

Overall feedback from the conference was largely positive, and we are happy to report a net profit of approximately \$12,000 for 2019.

The 2019 SPPI Conference delegate survey returned 37 responses (roughly 46% of our attendees). Delegates were polled on the 2019 conference's execution (thoughts on presenters, accommodations, AGM, etc.), future conference execution and SPPI promotional items. The conference received positive feedback overall, however there were some notable trends and comments:

- Many attendees were very satisfied with the "Curbside Chat" opening keynote, as presented by John Reuter of the Strong Towns organization;
- Many attendees were very satisfied with locally oriented presentations (ie. NIMBY panel discussion and CPTED presentation);
- A few attendees felt that some of the presentations felt unprepared;
- Some attendees felt that First Nations-oriented content could have been strengthened, and that neighboring communities should have been sent the call for abstracts directly;
- Most attendees were generally supportive of having an increased amount of mobile tours;
- Some attendees felt that candidates for SPPI Council should have been given the opportunity to speak, many attendees did not understand who the candidates were and why they were running for Council;
- Some attendees felt that the breakout room should not have been located off-site;
- Most of the survey respondents did not have any interest in new SPPI promotional items (53% of 37 responses);
- Several delegates suggested that SPPI host a collaborative conference with APPI in Lloydminster;
- Many respondents felt that more thought should have been put into the conference's environmental impact (ie. lessen printed material, more presentations speaking to the importance of environmentalism, etc.).

The 2021 SPPI Conference Planning Committee will make use of these responses to inform their decision-making processes.

2 - 2020 SPPI Conference Cancellation

The 2020 SPPI Conference Planning Committee (CPC) made the decision to cancel the Annual Conference.

During the months of April and May, it was believed that many social distancing requirements would have been lifted by October, however the fact remained that the conference planning process requires several months to secure a keynote speaker, organize mobile tours, and secure sponsors (among other tasks). Nobody could commit to traveling, let alone participating in a conference and associated activities during this time of uncertainty.

Furthermore, the likelihood of obtaining adequate sponsorship funding (which our previous conferences have relied on) was low, as both private and public organizations curtailed non-essential spending in light of the recent economic recession. Should we have chosen to postpone the conference into winter 2020 or spring 2021, we would have been one of many organizations choosing to do so (potentially including the City of Regina's Reimagine Conference and the Saskatchewan Economic Development Authority's Annual Conference). At that time, there will likely be increased competition for attendees and sponsorship dollars between conferences.

For all of the reasons noted above we agreed, as a committee and council, that it is in SPPI's best interest to focus our efforts on organizing the 2021 conference with as much enthusiasm and ambition as we had for the 2020 conference, rather than try and postpone the 2020 conference to a later date.

This decision has been reflected by many related conferences and organizations, including but not limited to the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP), Manitoba Professional Planners Institute (MPPI) and Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) annual conferences. Lastly, there have been no financial penalties incurred as a result of this decision; most notably, we thank Delta Hotels Regina for their understanding during this unusual time.

3 - Webinar Series In-Lieu of the 2020 SPPI Conference

The Advocacy and Public Relations (APR) Committee has been working closely with the Professional Development Committee (PDC) to organize and promote virtual continuous professional learning opportunities; these are intended to provide learning units to those members who would have typically satisfied their learning unit requirement by attending the SPPI Annual Conference.

At the time of this report, three webinars have been offered:

- The **Planning 101** webinar, hosted by **Jenna Schroeder, RPP, MCIP** (Director of Regional Planning for the Community Planning Branch), was presented on July 9th, 2020. The presentation provided an overview of the planning practice in Saskatchewan, orienting new practitioners and refreshing the knowledge of seasoned professionals. A follow-up survey was provided to the 54 registrants and 18 responses were acquired, all of which were very positive.
- A webinar panel discussion, **Sidewalk and Parking Patios Before and After COVID**, was hosted on September 3rd, 2020. Through both structured and unstructured forum, panelists **Mark Wilson MCIP, RPP** (Licensing and Permitting Manager for the City of Saskatoon), **Judith Veresuk** (Executive Director of the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District) and **Brent Penner** (Executive Director of the Saskatoon Downtown Business Improvement District) shared their expertise in sidewalk/parking patio policy development and implementation both pre and post COVID. 43 people registered for this event.
- **Professor Ehab Diab** from the University of Saskatchewan Department of Geography and Planning hosted a webinar on September 24th from 3:00pm - 4:00pm, titled: **Canadian Transit Agencies Response to COVID-19**. This webinar provided planners and policymakers with comprehensive information on how

Canadian transit agencies-maintained operations during the initial stages of the COVID-19 outbreak. 19 people registered for this event.

At the time of this report, one additional webinar has been confirmed:

- **Professor Robert Patrick** from the University of Saskatchewan Department of Geography and Planning will be hosting a climate change adaptation webinar on September 28th from 2:00pm – 3:00pm.

We are also engaged in ongoing discussions with several members regarding potential webinars in October, November and December of 2020.

To further assist members with the achievement of their continuous professional learning requirements, SPPI has been promoting external webinars through our E-blasts and social media posts; this includes, but is not limited to the following:

- COVID-19 and Planning | Presented by CIP – April 29th, 2020
- Community Resilience Webinar Series | Presented by SEDA
- Land Use Planning for Flood Risk Areas | Presented by CIP – May 21st, 2020
- Wetlands 101 | Presented by Ducks Unlimited – June 30th, 2020
- One on One with Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark | Presented by CUI – May 29th, 2020
- Pedaling Through the Pandemic | Smart Growth Network – July 16th, 2020
- Beyond Success: Growth by Failure | APPI Annual Conference – September 21st - 23rd, 2020

It was communicated to the membership on June 3rd, 2020 that learning unit requirements are being maintained for 2020.

4 - 2021 SPPI Annual Conference

While many of the decisions relating to the 2021 Annual Conference will be made by next year's CPC and co-chairs, this year's volunteers requested that Council confirm the location of the 2021 conference ahead of time.

The APR Committee and CPC preferred that the 2021 conference be held Regina as opposed to Saskatoon (where it had been informally scheduled). This decision would ensure that each municipality would have the opportunity to host the Annual Conference in the order that has become understood by Council and the membership. Furthermore, there was an incredible amount of content that had begun to surface at the beginning of the conference planning process, and it would have been wasteful to withhold this timely material from future delegates.

For all of the reasons noted above, the APR Committee put forward the following motion:

“That the 2021 SPPI Annual Conference be held in Regina, Saskatchewan.”
(motion passed by Council at their May 2020 meeting)

Should the situation dictate, the APR Committee will continue to assist Promotions and the Public Relations Committee in providing a series of webinars to our members, in an effort to provide sufficient structured learning units to SPPI members.

5 - Professional Advocacy

5.1 - Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act Review Submission:

The Government of Saskatchewan Ministry of Government Relations Building Standards and Licensing Branch was in the process of reviewing the Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act and requested feedback from professionals who frequently reference this piece of legislation. In October of 2019, an unofficially recognized

group of Saskatchewan's rural planners drafted a response to the Ministry and requested that SPPI submit this feedback on behalf of Saskatchewan's planners. After their submission was reviewed by Council for accuracy, a submission was made to the Building Standards and Licensing Branch by SPPI.

This submission represents a benefit of SPPI's recently acknowledged advocacy function; the organization helped to provide a unified voice for planners in Saskatchewan and raise the profile of the discipline overall. We commend Saskatchewan's unofficially recognized group of rural planners for their work in drafting this submission.

5.2 - COVID-19 and Active Transportation Position Letter:

A position statement concerning active transportation was drafted by Ian Goeres and Alan Wallace, as well as the APR Committee. This letter was distributed to the membership, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, the Provincial Capital Commission, and the Meewasin Valley Authority in September 2020.

6 - Promotion of the Discipline

6.1 - SUMA Trade Show Brochures:

SPPI showed its presence at the 2020 SUMA convention through its trade show booth at the vendor showcase. APR Committee members created a brochure for the event, which helped to describe the planning practice and SPPI's function to convention delegates. It is our hope that these materials will help to spread awareness of the profession amongst urban municipalities across Saskatchewan. A finalized version of this brochure has been posted to the SPPI website.

The APR Committee is excited to continue improving member services and would like to thank all of those who have offered support and suggestions that have contributed to the strength of our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Wood and Maggie Schwab

Professional Development Committee

SPPI Council's Professional Development Committee (Committee) has had a busy year organizing events and undertaking work providing learning opportunities for members.

Design Week

SPPI recognizes the importance of promoting cross disciplines such as Architecture that relate to the Planning field. In this vein, the Committee worked to promote and provide communication to the membership on Design Week held from October 18th – 25th 2019 and encouraging attendance at the various events. The next Design week is planned for 2021.

Duty to Consult Workshop

In November 2019, a Duty to Consult Workshop was held in Saskatoon to explain the Province's responsibility to consult with First Nations when reviewing planning documents and decisions in proximity to First Nations lands or unoccupied Crown lands that may impact hunting, fishing, trapping, and ceremonial practices. The Committee also provided communication to the membership regarding the Proponent Handbook in a follow-up e-blast and added

the document to the online library.

While the event was well attended with 16 participants, the Membership requested that a Reconciliation Workshop be hosted as well to provide more general ways to approach First Nations communities at the municipal level (eg. development permitting) where the Province wouldn't necessarily be involved. This event did not occur in 2020 due to Covid19 but is planned to go ahead in 2021 provided that gatherings would be permitted and the presenters are comfortable in hosting.

Jane's Walk

Jane's Walk was intended to be held from May 1st – 3rd with communication intended to be sent prior. Due to Covid19, Jane's Walk was cancelled for 2020.

RUP Program – Plan 413

Term 1 (Fall 2019) – Term 1 saw twelve (12) students placed with 11 different employer hosts, with one employer host offering two student placements in both the Saskatoon and Regina Regions.

Term 2 (Winter 2020) – Term 2 saw eight (8) students placed with 7 employer hosts in both the Saskatoon and Regina regions.

Term 1 (Fall 2020) – Five (5) students were placed with 5 employer hosts in both the Saskatoon and Regina regions.

Additionally, the Committee met with the University of Saskatchewan's RUP program Chair and staff, Ryan Walker on May 15, 2020 to discuss upcoming events and potential partnerships over the next year as well as plans for the new RUP Co-op Work Term program that is to be implemented in 2021.

Student Orientation Fall 2020

Committee member representation was made at the PLAN 413 student orientation, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, to walk students through employer host expectations and student safety considerations prior to students beginning their placements.

Talks on Tap

A climate change theme for Regina and municipal collaboration/cooperation theme for Saskatoon were planned for May and June 2020 respectively. Due to Covid19 gathering restrictions these events were cancelled. The Committee remains in close contacts with these presenters in hopes that these events can be rescheduled for 2021.

Continuous Professional Learning

The PD Committee, with assistance from the Advocacy and Public Relations Committee (Tony Wood and Maggie Schwab), and President Elect Ian Goeres, has been continuing work on offering various webinar sessions to provide members with ample opportunities to achieve learning units for 2020. Past and future sessions are listed as follows:

- July 9th, 2020 – Planning 101 presented by: Jenna Schroeder, Direction of Regional Planning, Ministry of Government Relations, Community Planning Branch.
- September 3rd, 2020 – Sidewalk and Parking Patios presented by: Mike Ewen, Urban Planner – City of Saskatoon, Brent Penner – Executive Director of the Downtown Saskatoon Business Improvement District (DTN YXE), and Judith Veresuk – Executive Director of the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District.
- September 24th, 2020 – Access to Transit Post Covid19 presented by: Dr. Ehab Diab, Assistant Professor – Department of Geography and Planning, University of Saskatchewan.

- September 28th, 2020 – Community Adaptation to Climate Change: A New Role for Planners presented by: Dr. Bob Patrick, Associate Professor of Geography and Planning and Chair of Regional and Urban Planning program, University of Saskatchewan.

These events, along with the AGM, will account for a total of 7.5 structured learning units provided by SPPI. SPPI has also sent out membership e-blasts promoting and reminding members of the ability to attend National and International planning related webinars and events. Additional events and webinar learning opportunities are currently being planned to continue as a membership offering and to take place at the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021.

Eric MacDougall, RPP, MCIP; Adam Toth, RPP, MCIP
Professional Development Committee,
Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute