

POSITION STATEMENT
Reconciliation

May 10, 2019

The Saskatchewan Professional Planners Institute (SPPI) is committed to keeping members informed on items of national, provincial, and local significance, which may affect Saskatchewan communities and the planning profession. This position statement is the third of a series of positions that SPPI will issue to members to state the Institute's official position. The focus of this position statement is reconciliation.

We would like to acknowledge the lands on which professional planners across Saskatchewan practice; Treaty Territories 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and the homelands of the Métis. The Treaty Territories are the traditional lands of over 70 Nations across Saskatchewan.

SPPI believes it is important to honour the spirit and intent of the treaties. As professional planners, we commit to sharing the true history of the lands and will work together with Indigenous people to ensure that the growth, development, opportunities, and prosperity of our communities within Saskatchewan is shared amongst all and embodied in the creation of future plans.

It is important to recognize Indigenous people have been taking care of the lands for generations. Professional planners have the unique privilege to connect land and people. The history of Indigenous people, their traditions, the legacy of residential schools, colonization, and the generational impact this has had is important for planners to understand to envision a better future.

Today, Indigenous roots are strong and growing in Saskatchewan. In 2016, there was 175,015 people who identified as Indigenous; a total of 16.3% of the population.¹ Based on growth trends from 2011 and 2016, the Indigenous population is predicted to increase from between 18.5% and 22.7% in Saskatchewan by 2036.²

Relationships and partnerships have been built with Indigenous communities across Saskatchewan to plan for the future. Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to create and adopt a commercial urban reserve within a major Canadian city, with many more that followed. This has created a proven framework for successful adoption and creation of urban reserves elsewhere.

In 2010, the Government of Saskatchewan adopted the *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework*. This Framework outlines the *government's commitment to fulfilling its legal duty to consult and accommodate First Nation and Metis communities in advance of decisions or actions that have potential to adversely impact the exercise of:*

¹ Statistics Canada. *Focus on Geography Series, Census 2016*. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/as-sa/fogs-spg/Facts-PR-Eng.cfm?TOPIC=9&LANG=Eng&GK=PR&GC=47>

² Statistics Canada. *Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036*. 2015. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-552-x/2015001/section08-eng.htm>

- *Treaty and Aboriginal rights such as the right to hunt, fish and trap for food on unoccupied Crown land and other land to which a community has a right-of-access for these purposes; and*
- *Traditional uses of land and resources such as the gathering of plants for food and medicinal purposes and carrying out ceremonial and spiritual observances and practices on unoccupied Crown land and other land to which a community has a right of access for these purposes.*³

In 2012, the Government of Saskatchewan also adopted the Statements of Provincial Interest (SPI) Regulations. These Regulations include 14 areas that are important to the government and professional planners must implement and write policies with respect to each applicable interest in community plans. One of the SPIs is First Nations and Métis Engagement, where *the province has an interest in enhancing the participation of First Nations and Métis communities in land use planning and development processes.*⁴

Through the development of planning tools, professional planners must:

1. *Encourage engagement with First Nations and Métis communities on local and regional planning and development initiatives where there is a common interest;*
2. *Minimize, mitigate or avoid adverse impacts on hunting, fishing and trapping on unoccupied Crown lands from developments; and*
3. *Consider social and economic development opportunities that achieve shared goals of the municipality and First Nations and Métis communities.*⁵

Engaging, planning, and building communities together are actions professional planners contribute to reconciliation.

In 2015, Canadian governments, education and religious institutions, and community groups and members were called to action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The final report which includes 94 calls to action was released. The calls to action are organized into the following topics:

³ <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-nations-citizens/duty-to-consult-first-nations-and-metis-communities#duty-to-consult>

⁴ Government of Saskatchewan. *Statements of Provincial Interest*. 2012.

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/P13-2R3.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/P13-2R3.pdf>

- Child Welfare
- Education
- Language and Culture
- Health
- Justice
- Canadian governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous
- Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation
- Settlement agreement parties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Equity for Aboriginal People in the legal system
- National Council for Reconciliation
- Professional development and training for public servants
- Church apologies and reconciliation
- Education and reconciliation
- Youth programs
- Museums and archives
- Missing children and burial information
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Commemoration
- Media and reconciliation
- Sports and reconciliation
- Business and reconciliation
- Newcomers to Canada

The Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) recognizes reconciliation as *the commitment to establish and maintain a mutually respectful relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It is a long-term relationship-building, learning, and healing process, as opposed to a specific outcome to be achieved. Reconciliation in planning will look different in every context, as it is shaped by the unique needs, experiences, and priorities of the Indigenous partners involved.*⁶

On January 30, 2019, the CIP released a policy on reconciliation and identifies three main roles planners play in reconciliation:

- ***Enhance Their Professional Practice***
- ***Engage Indigenous Peoples, Communities, and Nations***
- ***Participate in Mutual Capacity Building***

SPPI supports the objectives presented in the CIP policy and is committed to fulfilling the roles of professional planners in Saskatchewan.

The Government of Saskatchewan's First Nation and Metis Consultation Policy Framework may be found at: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/313/98187-Consultation%20Policy%20Framework.pdf>

The Saskatchewan Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations may be found at: <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Regulations/Regulations/P13-2R3.pdf>

First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework may be found at: <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/redirect.cfm?p=84792&i=98187>

⁶ Canadian Institute of Planners. *Policy on Planning Practice and Reconciliation*. January 2019. <http://www.cip-icu.ca/getattachment/Topics-in-Planning/Indigenous-Planning/policy-indigenous-eng.pdf.aspx>. Accessed February 2, 2019

The full CIP Policy may be found at: <http://www.cip-icu.ca/getattachment/Topics-in-Planning/Indigenous-Planning/policy-indigenous-eng.pdf.aspx>

The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action may be found at: https://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf