



## **Your PFF Questions – The Doctor is in!**

Lots of great discussion is happening on PFF and many students have been raising important questions. This part of the journal will be dedicated to answering some of your questions.

Recently President Sue Cumming, President – Elect Mary Lou Tanner and Student Delegate on OPPI Council Daniel Woolfson had an opportunity to talk with the members of the Student Liaison Committee about PFF and answer their many questions. For all of us who participated, the Q&A was incredibly informative and a great dialogue on PFF. In fact, it was so informative that we thought we would share some of the key points from the discussion with all members of OPPI.

### **Q: Does PFF force university planning programs to standardize their curriculum?**

A: No. The PFF reports identify the types of skills and technical training that all future planners will need. How each university planning program meets the skills and technical education is up to them. The university program has the right, and the opportunity, to demonstrate this through the accreditation process. Recently, one university program did a test run of the accreditation documentation under PFF and found it wasn't onerous whatsoever. That same program found it was completely able to demonstrate how their curriculum met the skills and technical education for planners.

### **Q: What kind of consultation has been done throughout the PFF process?**

A: The entire process started in 2006 and CIP and the affiliates put forward the very best and most knowledgeable people to be on the various task forces responsible for creating the 3 main reports that build the basis of PFF. The actual work for PFF began in 2005 with the release of the "New Horizon report". OPPI set up a review team to assist Council and provide Ontario's perspective on the issues, which was done through OPPI Council. The National Affiliate Membership Committee had consultation with over 1,000 planners online that addressed various issues on the "New Horizon report". It is also important to note that the planning profession's legislation has been changing province by province for a few years now so making sure our PFF work reflects provincial legislation for planners has been part of the PFF work. This process has been worked on by people who have the trust and respect of CIP and OPPI Councils, which led to the production of the three main reports that make up the foundation of PFF. OPPI will continue to work with all levels of membership throughout the province to consult, share information and receive feedback on PFF.

### **Q: Why are students status proposed to change from "Corporate" to "Non - Corporate" status?**

A: The corporate class of membership brings certain rights and obligations with it. The most important of these obligations is that the member, in this case, the student member must follow the Code of

Practice. We all believe in ethics and ethically based planning practice. However, for students, this means that they are also subject to the Disciplinary Process if there is a complaint about their practice.

Think of it this way – you’re working as an intern in a planning office. A citizen, or an applicant, doesn’t like your point of view. A complaint is filed and you must provide information and possibly attend a hearing of the Discipline Committee. Is this fair? Is it right for students to be at such risk? The answer is a clear NO.

**Q: Will students lose privileges by being a non-corporate class of member?**

A: No. And this is the most important part of the issue. Students will still receive the same benefits that you have always experienced without being subjected to the Code of Practice or the Discipline Process.

Thanks to the Student Liaison Committee members for bringing forward their suggestions, comments and questions. But wait, there’s more . Here are a few more questions about PFF.

**Q: Will the Professional Standards Board set the policy and requirements for planners?**

A: No. The Professional Standards Board (PSB) is an administrative organization to deliver the membership examination process and the accreditation process for university planning programs. The policies and requirements will be set by CIP, the Affiliates, and ACUPP (Association of Canadian University Planning Programs) representatives who make up CIP’s National Membership Standards Committee.

**Q: How will the PSB be run – won’t this take staff?**

A: This is a great question! Yes, there will be staff assigned to run the membership and accreditation processes. There are a number of ways to do this – through the CIP office, through an outsourced organization (yes they do exist), or through a consortium of affiliates. No decision has been made yet. But what does matter is that the PSB will be both effective and efficient, delivering fair, consistent affordable services to members in the professional standards process and to university planning programs in the accreditation process.

**Q: One of the PFF brochures mentions standardizing criteria for selecting fellows. I thought we already had standard criteria?**

A: Thanks for asking this. Yes, there are standardized criteria – the point is to ensure consistency in their application. With a yes vote on PFF, the membership category of Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners (FCIP) will be an honorary designation that will replace the membership category. All CIP members who meet the criteria will continue to be eligible for this honour. Those granted the Fellows designation will be considered as Full Members of the Institute with an honorary title permitting them to use FCIP instead of MCIP.

Do you have a PFF Question? If so, we want to hear it so we can provide you and all members with the answer. Send your questions to: [planningforthefuture@ontarioplanners.on.ca](mailto:planningforthefuture@ontarioplanners.on.ca) Watch for answers in the e-newsletter and the OPPI website [www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)

## **The PFF Webinar**

Lots and lots of information is available on Planning for the Future – online, in the Journal, and through mailings. OPPI is committed to providing you with the information you need to make an informed decision as well as how you can participate in PFF and the decision making process. We are planning a webinar in November to connect with you and talk about this important project. The date and time will be posted on the website and advertised in the e-newsletter.