

**CPAA**COMMUNITY PLANNING  
ASSOCIATION of ALBERTA

E-NOTICE

**January 20, 2021**

### CPAA Message from Alisha Mody, Chair

2020 has come and gone, and as for many other organizations, it was quite a year for the CPAA. Our 2020 conference was cancelled, our recurring conference location – the Black Knight Inn – closed permanently, and Tom Burton, long time board member, Chair, and champion of CPAA stepped down and handed over leadership of CPAA.

Steering CPAA through these challenging times will be no small task but 2021 promises to be a year of rejuvenation. I would like to welcome the new members to our board – Katherine Currie – Town of Bonnyville, Cody Lowry – Chandos Construction, Geoff Tiffin – County of Newell, Mary-Ellen Tyler – University of Calgary, and Student members Tara Slater and Oliver Pricic, and thank our remaining members – Candace Banack-Town of Cochrane, Nick Pryce – V3 Companies of Canada, Hillary Janzen – Lethbridge County, Nathan Petherick – B&A Planning Group, Nick Lapp – County of Grande Prairie, Kelly Vandenberghe – Leduc County and our CPAA Secretary Vicki Hackl for continuing to share their energy and expertise with CPAA.

Our annual strategic retreat was held in December of 2020. Our board members came together (virtually) to get to know each other and strategize about this coming years' activities. At the strategic retreat, the Board reviewed and updated the organizational vision. The new vision nails the core focus of CPAA:

*"CPAA shall be a leader in facilitating an inclusive and productive conversation about community planning across the political, educational and professional realms in Alberta, to preserve and enhance quality of life and community viability."*

With this in mind, the Board is refocusing on the following strategic priorities:

- delivering an online conference. After an unexpected year off, our annual conference will return, moving online to adapt to the challenges of our current circumstances. Our educational session and keynote speaker Chris Hughes, brings unique perspective to place and experience-making in rural and small communities. We are very excited about our speaker line up and hope you will join us.
- expanding our awards to celebrate quality community planning activities and planning education across Alberta.
- reaching out to connect with current and future members to increase our membership numbers. CPAA relies on membership dues from both organizations and individuals to support our activities and ongoing operations.
- developing a new webinar series to introduce and explain planning to elected officials, supporting Council training efforts.

As Chair of CPAA, I look forward to working in collaboration with the board and our membership to guide CPAA throughout my term and the advancement of the strategic priorities identified.

### 2021 CPAA Virtual Conference May 3 - May 5, 2021

#### Take the Initiative! Exploring Innovations & Resiliency in Community Planning

[Registration Form  
available here](#)

We know 2020 has been a tough year but CPAA is back for 2021! We look forward to creating opportunities to bring our diverse stakeholders back together. In response to the ongoing unknowns surrounding the coming months, the CPAA Board has decided to hold the 2021 CPAA Annual Conference as a virtual event from **May 3-5, 2021**.

The Board and Conference Attendees alike were disappointed that we were not able to hear the great speakers we had lined up for the 2020 Conference, so we are working at bringing as many of those same speakers back for 2021 in addition to adding even more exciting sessions!

The theme for the 2020 Conference was "Take the Initiative! Exploring Innovations & Resiliency in Community Planning" and upon review by the Conference Committee we have decided to keep that the same theme for 2021 as 2020 has shown us that the need to be innovative and resilient has never been more important.

You can expect this year's conference to highlight a wide variety of examples that illustrate innovations and resiliency in community planning. We encourage elected officials, planners, Development Officers, Economic Development Officers, and administrators from across Alberta and beyond to attend and participate in the conference.

**Topics that are being planned for the 2021 Conference include\*:**

- Live-Work-Play'd Out - the New Era of Recruitment & Retention
- Balancing regulations and economic development through the land use bylaw
- Supporting local through procurement and key community partners
- Adaptive planning processes through a global pandemic
- Municipal Boundary Battles - Annexations in small Alberta communities
- Local innovations in stormwater management
- Thriving, Not Surviving - Community Building Through School Revitalization
- Small town transit opportunities - A demand driven approach

\* Session topics are proposed and subject to change as needed

CPAA is pleased to confirm that BC Hughes Destination Development & Marketing will be joining us to speak on **"Rural Destinations Do It Differently – 10 Steps to Becoming a Place People Want to Visit"** for the Monday morning Education Session.

The Sponsorship Program and Form is now [available here](#). Sponsorship greatly assists CPAA in putting on our conference each year as well as funding student scholarships.

If you have any questions regarding sponsorship or registration for the annual conference you can contact Vicki Hackl, CPAA Secretary at 780-432-6387 or at [cpaa@cpaa.biz](mailto:cpaa@cpaa.biz). Keep up to date as details become available: [2021 CPAA Virtual Conference | CPA Alberta](#)

### Scholarship and Awards Committee Update

As a result of the December 13, 2020 Committee Meeting, the Committee has identified four primary tasks for the coming year.

The first is a review and updating of the current scholarship terms of reference.

The second is to create an information package related to Conference student scholarships and work with the Communications Committee to ensure a broader circulation of Conference scholarship opportunities in advance of the Conference.

Given the development of Planning Programs at both the University of Alberta and the University of Lethbridge, in addition to the University of Calgary, the Committee would like to work on seeking funds to create CPAA Scholarships at both the U of A and U of L similar to the existing CPAA Tom Baldwin Scholarship at Calgary.

Our fourth and final task is to explore the potential for developing a new community awards category to complement our current academic awards.

Mary-Ellen Tyler, Scholarship and Awards Committee Chair

### 2021 Board Nominations

The CPAA board is comprised of elected officials, planning and administrative representation from throughout Alberta and plays a key role in guiding and implementing the strategic priorities of CPAA to help facilitate inclusive and comprehensive conversations pertaining to community planning amongst our membership.

CPAA will be seeking nominations for the Board to be elected at the May 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM). As per the updated bylaws, nomination need to be submitted a minimum of 15 days prior to the AGM. There are presently 4 positions open for the 2021 – 2024 terms.

If you have any questions regarding board positions available or are interested in becoming a board member of CPAA please contact Hilary Janzen, CPAA Chair of Membership and Nominations committee at [hjanzen@lethcounty.ca](mailto:hjanzen@lethcounty.ca).

### 2021 CPAA Member Renewals

Group, Individual and Student member renewal invoices have been issued to current members. For Group memberships the invoices are emailed to the person that has been identified as the contact person on the application form, or subsequent information received by the CPAA office. Member fees are due by February 28, 2021. Cheques, e transfers and direct deposit payments are accepted.

We appreciate that the unexpected COVID-19 situation continues to impact everyone personally and professionally. CPAA asks for your continued support to provide a conference, virtually in 2021, and operations required to maintain the Association.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Hilary Janzen, CPAA Chair of Membership and Nominations at [hjanzen@lethcounty.ca](mailto:hjanzen@lethcounty.ca).

Contact Vicki Hackl, CPAA Secretary [cpaa@cpaa.biz](mailto:cpaa@cpaa.biz), with updates to your contact information.

Thank you!

COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA  
Our mission is to provide opportunities to share, promote and encourage  
community planning among a full range of stakeholders.

#### CONTACT

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