

News Release – For Immediate Release



Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Is Your Community Ready? Ontario's planners gather in Sudbury to answer this question

Greater Sudbury – The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) kicks off its [2018 Symposium \(OPPI18\)](#) on October 11 and 12 at Laurentian University in the City of Greater Sudbury to discuss the topic of community readiness, and how Registered Professional Planners (RPPs) in communities across Ontario can act and address this topic locally.

OPPI18 brings together RPPs and stakeholders from across Ontario to discuss and learn how other communities and RPPs are preparing for a variety of uncertainties in the key areas of:

- **Infrastructure Resiliency** – focusing on what good infrastructure planning looks like and the keys to success, discussing how uncertainty influences community plans and the planning process, and much more.
- **Economics and Finance** – focusing on how economic uncertainty impacts community planning and readiness, the relationship between infrastructure investment and economic performance in communities across Ontario, how can planners make local economies more resilient, and much more.
- **Culture and Diversity** – focusing on the impact of multiculturalism on communities and the work of planners, what does traditional Indigenous knowledge bring to our understanding of community and how can it inform planning practices, and much more.

“We’re asking our Registered Professional Planners to answer the question ‘is your community ready?’ Are communities across Ontario ready for challenges that extend past borders like climate change, or local like economic uncertainty, infrastructure renewal, welcoming newcomers, and everything else in between?” said OPPI President, Jason Ferrigan, RPP. “Our membership is gathering in Sudbury to discuss these challenges and discuss potential solutions so our RPPs can take this knowledge back and inform the choices that are being made in their communities on these issues.”

OPPI is pleased to announce that broadcaster, advocate and pop culture philosopher, Jesse Wentz, will be our keynote speaker at OPPI18. Jesse's keynote talk will focus on issues of diversity and inclusion are front and centre in today's culture, especially as they relate to breaking down barriers and encouraging inclusion on all levels. Jesse will also speak to the importance of working with Indigenous communities across Ontario and incorporating their perspectives into the planning process.

“From our keynote speaker to our student members, our collection of speakers will challenge our RPPs to really think about how they can inspire their local communities in addressing the

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challenges we face together,” said OPPI Executive Director, Mary Ann Rangam. “It’s important for the planning profession in Ontario to gather yearly and discuss the issues that affect everyone, so they can inspire our members and communities across Ontario.”

RPPs from across Ontario are expected to attend the two-day event featuring over 60 interactive training sessions that will inform their work and provide best practices, case studies and research that can be adopted in all areas of the province. OPPI18 is the biggest annual educational and networking event for professional planners in Ontario.

For more information on OPPI’s 2018 Symposium, [please visit our website](#).

About the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI)

OPPI is the recognized voice of the Province’s planning profession. Our almost 4,500 members work in government, private practice, universities, and not-for-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, community design, environmental planning, transportation, health, social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. Members meet quality practice requirements and are accountable to OPPI and the public to practice ethically and to abide by a Professional Code of Practice. Only Full Members are authorized by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Act, 1994, to use the title “Registered Professional Planner” (or “RPP”).

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