

BACKGROUNDER – 2019 OPPI Conference



What is OPPI?

- The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is the recognized voice of the province's planning profession.
- Our over 4,500 members (approx. 4,000 professional planners and 500 students) work in government, private practice, universities and academia, and not-for-profit organizations in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health, social services, heritage conservation, housing and economic development. Our student members attend undergraduate and graduate programs in six accredited planning programs across Ontario.
- 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").

What is our 2019 Conference (OPPI19: Beyond25) about?

- This year's event is being held at the Beanfield Centre in the City of Toronto from October 1-3, 2019. OPPI holds an annual event each year to bring together members of the planning profession to discuss a specific theme/topic – the theme for our 2019 event is Facing Change and Guiding Ontario.
- OPPI is facing change head on and guiding Ontario into the next quarter century by exploring the key issues that reach beyond borders - Uneven Growth, Climate Change and Technology. There is no better place than the City of Toronto to explore these issues.
 - **Uneven Growth** – Ontario's communities are in a constant state of change. Economic, social, technological and political issues affect growth in both rural and urban areas for better (healthy growth patterns that create sustainable, viable communities for the future) and worse (slow growth or no growth and, sometimes, fast growth that puts a worrying strain on infrastructure).
 - **Climate Change** – The list of things that need to be done to prepare communities for climate change seems to grow longer by the day. Planners offer support by finding the most sustainable way to align a community's diverse needs with the fragile needs of the environment, as Ontario continues to grow and change.
 - **Technology** – In today's age of social media, data collection and internet dominance, and tomorrow's age of technology yet-to-be-discovered, how will Ontario's communities fare? Technology speeds things up, it connects more people across broader regions, it can make systems and processes run smoother in all aspects of rural and urban living, but it can also make people feel more isolated and lonelier - so how does a planner factor this in with community development?

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- On October 1, OPPI is pleased to welcome Ward 19 Beaches-East York Councillor Brad Bradford to provide opening remarks and proclaim October 1 as Registered Professional Planner Day in Toronto.
- Over 100 interactive training workshops are available for members to participate in, including:
 - **Interactive breakout sessions** – 30 or 60-minute sessions designed to teach specific skills or concepts and addressing specific planning-related issues.
 - **Ignite sessions** – 15-minute, rapid-fire presentations that come in groupings of 2 or 3.
 - **Fishbowl sessions** – Designed to be a conversation, seats are arranged in a circular fashion, with 5 seats being left in the middle. These five seats are the “fishbowl” and anyone sitting in these seats is considered a speaker.
 - **Mobile workshops** – The most popular sessions each year. Attendees can learn about practical applications of planning by going outside to experience our host city.
 - **Tech Demos** – New for 2019, tech demos are intended to orient attendees to how technologies could compliment their existing skill set and aid in planner’s work in the public interest.

For more information, please contact:

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