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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

You are receiving this eblast as OPPI has switched its monthly *The Planner* newsletter to a weekly eblast. We will share the most important information and resources with members every

Tuesday. If you have any questions, suggestions and ideas, please contact us at

info@ontarioplanners.ca.

Here's What You Need to Know Right Now

Member Updates for the Week of April 21

Here is what OPPI members need to know this week:

- **We are working on a follow-up survey to better understand the municipal experience.** Please stay tuned for this survey and thank you in advance for providing your feedback - we will share the results with the membership. While this survey is geared towards municipal planners, OPPI encourages all members, especially those who have municipal clients, to complete the survey and provide their feedback.
- **OPPI has a meeting scheduled with MMAH staff.** We will ask questions and receive clarification to your questions. Please stay tuned for updates.
- **OPPI is working with Denise Baker of WeirFoulds to develop a webinar for**



members. With this webinar, OPPI and WeirFoulds seeks to answer questions related to recent legislative changes and impacts. OPPI asks members to stay tuned as we will have more information to share in the coming days.

- **Supporting regulations for Bill 189, the *COVID-19 Support and Protection Act*, have been released.** Please see our Legislative Update for a link to the legislation and regulations.
- **CPL is one of the areas OPPI is getting many questions from members.** Please see our CPL section below for our latest blog post about the CPL program and also check out our question this week focusing on this topic.

OPPI wants to thank members for your assistance and patience during this time as we focus on providing the information you need to do your jobs. If you have any questions and suggestions about this weekly eblast, please contact OPPI at info@ontarioplanners.ca.

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OPPI Continuous Professional Learning

Continuous Professional Learning: More Important Than Ever Blog Post

One of the most frequent COVID-19 survey responses from members concerned CPL. As we think about the future, how to create resilient communities, we need to continue to sharpen our skills, leverage our collective knowledge and adapt to the ever evolving needs of the public.

Read more in our [latest blog post](#) on the Planning Exchange Blog from OPPI's Education Manager, Ryan Des Roches, about why CPL is more important now than ever.



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Legislative Corner Updates

ICYMI: Ontario Passes *COVID-19 Support and Protection Act* With Planning Amendments and Releases Related Regulations



Last week, OPPI sent members an eblast outlining some amendments and planning legislation changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the passage of Bill 189, the *COVID-19 Support and Protection Act*. In introducing and passing this legislation, the government is making it possible to suspend certain municipal planning decision timelines during the state of emergency, and change the *Development Charges Act* to ensure by-laws that were set to expire during the pandemic remain in force until shortly after the emergency has ended.

For more information on this legislation, please visit the [Ontario Legislature website](#) or refer to [OPPI's resource webpage](#). The supporting regulations for this legislation have been [posted online](#).

Thinking of Hiring a Planning Student? Learn More About Changes to the Canada Summer Jobs Program

The Federal Government announced changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program for those impacted by COVID-19. The changes to the Canada Summer Jobs program will help small businesses hire and keep the workers they need so they can continue to deliver essential services. As of this week, the program provides wage subsidies to employers from not-for-profit organizations, the public-sector, and private sector organizations with 50 or fewer full-time employees. This may change in the future and members should visit the program website for more information.

The temporary changes to the program for this year include:

- An increase to the wage subsidy, so that private and public sector employers can also receive up to 100 per cent of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage for each employee (*not-for-profits continue to receive 100% of the provincial or territorial hourly wage*)
- An extension to the end date for employment to February 28, 2021 (*all funded employers may offer job placements between May 11, 2020 and February 28, 2021*)
- Allowing employers to adapt their projects and job activities to support essential services
- Allowing employers to hire staff on a part-time basis

More information on the Canada Summer Jobs program update can be found on the [Government of Canada's website](#). Currently the website states that the application deadline

passed on February 28, 2020, but based on the Federal Government's recent announcement, we anticipate updated information regarding the application period.

In addition to this, OPPI is offering a further discounted rate of \$100 + HST for student job postings. If you are able to hire a planning student this year, and can post this on our Job Board, please contact OPPI at admin@ontarioplanners.ca. As a value-added service in addition to this, we will share your job posting with the Planning Program Directors to distribute among their students, along with targeted messages to OPPI student members.

Have Your Questions About Employment Support Answered



OPPI is partnering with our human resources provider, Pivotal Integrated HR Solutions, to offer a webinar to inform employers, members and students about the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario's employment support programs. Stay tuned for more information on this webinar.

If you have any questions about employment support programs, please contact us at info@ontarioplanners.ca and we can share them with Pivotal.

Regulations Open for Comment

Ontario's Environmental Registry website has posted an [important notice](#) temporarily exempting ministries from the minimum 30-day consultation requirements to post proposals for acts, regulations, policies and instruments to the Environmental Registry. OPPI will continue to monitor the registry website and provide items open for comment, when available.

We know members are busy working through other priorities, but for those who can provide comments the following regulatory items are open for public comment (deadlines in brackets):

- [Proposed regulatory matters pertaining to community benefits authority under the Planning Act, the Development Charges Act, and the Building Code Act \(April 20, 2020\)](#)
- [Early Access to Land for Environmental Studies on Transmission Project \(April 30, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposal to identify and protect a corridor of land for future electricity infrastructure in the Greater Toronto Area \(May 7, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposed agricultural land use amendment for Hearst and Kapuskasing \(May 15, 2020\)](#)
- [Proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 244/97 and the Aggregate Resources of Ontario Provincial Standards under the Aggregate Resources Act \(May 15, 2020\)](#)
- [New Statement of Environmental Values for Ministry of Infrastructure \(May 25, 2020\)](#)

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Frequently Asked Questions

Each week we will share questions received from the membership with answers (if we have them). When we don't have the answer, we will open it up to you to share any best practices and solutions you've found that work. We will share all of these answers, solutions and

everything else with members and a complete list can be found on our [resource webpage](#).

Q: Should I Track My CPL During COVID-19?

A: We understand and appreciate members are very busy during this period but OPPI encourages members to undertake an appropriate mix of CPL activities regarding both the functional competencies (theoretical knowledge) and the enabling competencies (practical skills). Members should also make sure to regularly refresh their knowledge of the core topics of professionalism, ethics, and the public interest.



We also encourage you to look into important new issues and areas of planning knowledge and practice that arise from time to time, as you may notice them or as profiled by OPPI.

As OPPI continues to support members during this period, we will continue to promote CPL activities and opportunities so members can stay up-to-date. This includes [Digital Learning](#), [Planning Exchange Blog](#), [Y Magazine](#), and the [Indigenous Planning Perspectives Task Force Report](#) and [resource list](#).

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Member Resources

Each week we will share resources with members for your benefit and interest. If you have any resources, best practices or guides you would like to share with members, please contact OPPI at info@ontarioplanners.ca and we will feature it in this weekly newsletter and add it to our resource list.

Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) City Building Platforms

The Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) launched several new platforms to help city builders stay connected to critical information during the COVID-19 crisis. Please see the list below for links and descriptions:

- CUI's [City Share Canada website](#) - a real-time, crowdsourcing platform that houses resources, tools and stories on how city builders and residents are responding to COVID-19
- CUI's [City Watch Canada website](#) - an interactive platform that tracks emergency response measures put in place by local governments across Canada (updated daily)
- CUI's [City Talk Canada website](#) - candid conversations, analysis and commentary on the new urban reality under COVID-19

Members can also visit [OPPI's COVID-19 resource webpage](#) for a complete list of resources and information.

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OPPI Digitizes the Entire *Ontario Planning Journal* Library



OPPI is pleased to announce that it has digitized the entire *Ontario Planning Journal* collection going back to its launch in 1986.

Previously, digitized copies were available from 2004 until 2019. Hard copies of each issue continue to be stored at OPPI's office.

In digitizing the entire collection, members can now reference previous issues and take a stroll down memory lane and find out what some of the key issues were in any given year.

OPPI would like to thank Alain Pinard for donating his copies of the *Ontario Planning Journal* to OPPI to digitize for members. To access these issues, please log in to the Member Portal and click on the "Y Magazine Online" link.

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Share Your Home Office Setup/Happy Place with OPPI

Each week we want to share a little bit of good news with members. OPPI is asking members to snap photos of their work space (at home or elsewhere) or of their happy place and provide a sentence or two describing what makes your space or happy place so great. Please email your photos and information to communications@ontarioplanners.ca and we will share it each week. Selected members will receive some OPPI swag as a thank you once the office reopens.

This week's photos come from OPPI's Editor, Carolyn Camilleri. *"My home office is tucked into a corner of my apartment, and it is a very quiet, comfortable set up — perfect for the type of work I do. What I enjoy most is having plenty of my favourite coffee on hand, the door to my balcony right next my desk, and my dog Duke with me all day, every day."*



OPPI Job Postings

Targeted to planners, search the [OPPI Job Ads](#) to save you time and effort when looking for a new position. Please see the current active postings below:

- Planning & Administrative Assistant - Town of Mono (full time)
- Urban Planner - Sajecki Planning (full time)
- Land Use Planner - UrbanSolutions Planning & Land Development Consultants Inc. (full time)
- Planner - Municipality of Hastings Highlands (full time)
- Director of Planning and Development - Municipality of Brighton (full time)
- Municipal Specialist Planner - FONTUR International (contract)
- Senior Urban Planner - DIALOG (full time)
- Intermediate Planner - Toronto Lands Corporation (full time)

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FOLLOW OPPI ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow OPPI for updates and information related to COVID-19.



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