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## PIBC e-News Special

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## Call for Letters of Support Submit by September 15



### Proposal for a Master of Community Planning Program at the University of Victoria

To all PIBC Members:

As you may have seen in recent news coverage, Vancouver Island University is closing many of its graduate programs – including its [Master of Community Planning](#) program – due to the university's budget constraints. This [decision](#) comes at a time when British Columbia is facing a housing crisis and a growing shortage of professional planners, leaving a significant gap in planning education across the province.

In response, we are collaborating on a proposal for a **new Master of Community Planning (MCP) program** that, if approved, would be **offered by the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria (UVic)**. Building on the legacy of VIU's program, the proposed UVic MCP will emphasize applied learning, community-based research, and experiential education, with the option to include Co-op work placements as part of the degree.

The [proposed program](#) is designed to provide students with a hands-on education grounded in real-world challenges. Located in a region that includes 14 local governments, over 20 First Nations, and the provincial government, UVic offers a unique setting for studying planning theory and practice in a complex and dynamic environment. Our goal is to establish a fully accredited program that enables graduates to pursue full membership with the Professional Standards Board for the Planning Profession in Canada after completing the required professional experience.

As part of the Provincial Stage 1 Review process, we are currently seeking input from internal and external stakeholders as well as **gathering letters of support for the proposed program**. Attached is a [summary of the proposal](#), including details about the proposed curriculum and program structure.

If you are willing to provide a letter of support, **please send it to Dr. Reuben Rose-Redwood**, Professor of Geography and Associate Dean Academic, Faculty of Social Sciences, **at [soscasdn@uvic.ca](mailto:soscasdn@uvic.ca) by September 15, 2025**.

For those who work at an organization that employs planners, please include your organization's total staff numbers and how many of your current staff positions could be filled by UVic MCP program graduates as part of your letter of support.

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Warm regards,

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## Submit Letter of Support

### Contact Us



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#### Acknowledgement

*The Planning Institute of British Columbia recognizes, acknowledges, and appreciates that our head office operates on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We acknowledge the principles of truth and reconciliation and through our ongoing journey and work as an organization and profession, we continue to actively assist and advance the decolonization of the planning profession in BC and Yukon.*

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