



ATLANTIC  
PLANNERS  
INSTITUTE  
INSTITUT DES  
URBANISTES DE  
L'ATLANTIQUE

# Call for Proposals



## *Marées* | *Rising* *Montantes* | *Tides*

Colloque de l'Institut des  
urbanistes de l'Atlantique 2024

Atlantic Planners Institute  
Conference 2024

16-18 octobre • Saint-Jean, N.B.

October 16-18 • Saint John, NB





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The 2024 API Conference will be hosted by the Delta Hotel by Marriott in Saint John, New Brunswick from Oct 16 – 18, 2024.

The Atlantic Planners Institute / Institut des Urbanistes de l'Atlantique (API), is a professional association that supports professional planners across three Provincial Associations in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada: New Brunswick Association of Professional Planners, Prince Edward Island Institute of Professional Planners and the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Professional Planners.

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**Michelle MacDonald**  
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## API 2024 CONFERENCE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The 2024 Annual Conference of the Atlantic Planners Institute (API) will be held **October 16th to 18th, 2024** in the beautiful, historic, and vibrantly urban city of Saint John, New Brunswick. To help us create an educational and memorable experience for all attendees, we are pleased to invite submissions for inclusion in the conference program.

Please take time to read the following Call for Proposals package to gain a better understanding of the conference and what the API Conference Committee will be looking for while reviewing proposals. We hope you can join us in Saint John, New Brunswick as we reflect on our progress and prepare to ride the wave into the next 100 years of planning in Atlantic Canada.

### THE CONFERENCE THEME - RISING TIDES

The theme for the 2024 API Conference is influenced by its location in Saint John, along the Bay of Fundy and the highest tides in the world. Whether it be the waves of population growth seen across Atlantic Canada, adapting to the tides of climate change, or navigating the complex challenges facing our communities, our profession is anchored in the desire to improve the quality of life for all community members, respecting the diversity of needs, values, and aspirations. As planners, we are committed to advocating for the public good and continue to be propelled by the goal of strengthening our communities.

### CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES

The following sub-themes have been identified to help focus proposals and highlight challenges the Committee believes to be topical or specifically relevant at this time. The sub-themes include:

- **Movements in Housing and Growth:** As many communities across Atlantic Canada are seeing significant population growth, the management of such growth has brought several challenges to the forefront including affordability, the delivery of services and infrastructure, and the overall desire for complete communities. This sub-theme is intended to focus on the challenges and opportunities that come with housing and population growth.

Not intended as a prescriptive list, possible topics to be considered in this sub-theme include:

- Housing policy and implementation strategies to address demand (e.g. approaches through the Housing Accelerator Fund)
  - Affordability and the housing continuum (e.g. encampments, homelessness, transitional housing, supportive housing, etc.)
  - Housing needs for immigration and newcomers
  - Challenges and opportunities with intensification
  - Innovative approaches to housing and neighbourhood design
  - Balancing growth with municipal sustainability
  - Context specific solutions and removing barriers to meet housing demand
- **Raising Resiliency:** With a changing climate, demographics, economies, technologies, and community needs, our communities and the planning profession need to quickly adapt to the changing tides. This sub-theme is intended to focus on planning for change, adapting to change, and raising resiliency.

Not intended as a prescriptive list, possible topics to be considered in this sub-theme include:

- Climate change adaptation and mitigation (what's working and what isn't)
  - Emergency preparedness or response programs and projects
  - Integrating natural systems and the built environment to enhance environmental resilience
  - Initiatives aimed at recognizing shifting demographics and increasing social equity
  - Building capacity and resiliency for the profession and planning practitioners
- **Anchored in Culture:** We want to hear about how your community has navigated the changing tides to become stronger. This sub-theme is intended to focus on authentically connecting to local culture, old or new, to share stories and support communities.

Not intended as a prescriptive list, possible topics to be considered in this sub-theme include:

- Respecting/reviving historic industries (e.g., fishing, forestry, mining, agriculture)
- Truth and Reconciliation projects or Indigenous-led planning
- Historic or cultural neighbourhoods and/or heritage resources
- Challenges for heritage preservation amidst housing pressures
- Context-specific tourism
- **Making Waves:** We've seen that rising tides don't lift all boats. How have practitioners and groups worked through complex problems to achieve surprising and inclusive outcomes? We want to hear stories about innovations that have made impacts on changing places and neighbourhoods. This sub-theme is intended to focus on collaboration, equitable engagement, and navigating barriers.

Not intended as a prescriptive list, possible topics to be considered in this sub-theme include:

- Multi-disciplinary efforts, partnerships, or unexpected collaborators with exciting outcomes
- Changing dynamics and expectations of public hearings and possible alternatives
- Successful or challenging community engagement processes
- Incremental revitalization of existing areas
- Equity oriented urban design initiatives
- **Embracing New Directions:** Communities have had to adjust to the changing tides and take ideas, processes, and procedures in new directions. This sub-theme is intended to focus on topics related to how communities have adapted and innovated to changing economic circumstances and new technologies.

Not intended as a prescriptive list, possible topics to be considered in this sub-theme include:

- Shifting dynamics of local economies and industries
- Rural or remote economic challenges and/or opportunities
- Investing in our communities
- Integration of AI

The Conference Committee will be looking for presentations in these themes that go beyond a simple “show and tell” format and display innovation in planning theory and practice.

While submissions on the themes listed will be given priority, other topics may also be submitted.

## WHO'S COMING?

**Rising Tides 2024** will attract professional planners, planning students, municipal staff, elected officials, those in interconnected fields and others with an interest in planning. The conference will provide an important opportunity for professionals from diverse fields to come together to network and explore ways to further integrate the relationship between planning, our communities, and the new environment.

## WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The Conference Committee is seeking diverse, original, practical, and engaging proposals to fulfill the following program elements, which collectively are intended to provide a range of learning opportunities for attendees. Proposals for conference content may include the following:

- **Concurrent Session** - a complete 75 to 90 minute panel presentation exploring examples or best practices related to one of the conference sub-themes.
- **Workshop** - deeper explorations of a conference sub-theme providing an opportunity to learn about best practice, develop skills, and engage with your colleagues. Workshops may extend from 2 hours to a half day.
- **Learning Tour** - less formal learning activity, which takes place offsite. This may be a walking or bus tour that visits one or more sites.

- **Walking Workshop** - this conference strongly encourages the submission of complete workshops that combine the opportunity to learn with the chance to get some exercise and get to know the city by foot.
- **Mobile Workshop** - get conference attendees further afield and outdoors to explore the region.
- **Poster Gallery** - an opportunity to highlight successful projects and research in a gallery setting.
- **Fast or Funny Planning Presentation** - an opportunity to present a fast and/or funny planning presentation - make 'em laugh or make 'em think (10 minutes).

The Committee also encourages student presentations.

## SELECTION CRITERIA & REVIEW PROCESS

It is the API Conference Committee's goal to design a conference that provides interest and value to all attendees. While we strive to include all proposals submitted, the Conference Committee reserves the right to select those proposals that best reflect the conference theme and format. The Conference Committee will review all proposals, and selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Relevance and alignment to the conference theme and sub-themes.
- Describe how your session will challenge, engage, and give attendees an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. Demonstrate how the conversation will offer practical solutions to challenges facing planners today.
- Submit a clear and concise proposal that highlights top learning outcomes for participants. Be sure to adhere to the minimum information and format requirements listed under how to submit a proposal.
- Ability to exemplify and articulate a specific activity or approach and have real world application.
- Provide content that will be appealing to an Atlantic audience.

## HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

The API Conference Committee invites proposals from all interested proponents. Potential presenters should:

- Review this Call for Proposals carefully, including the criteria listed above.
- Be sure to coordinate and collaborate with colleagues to fully explore your topic, including related professionals and those that represent different stakeholders, specialities, and perspectives.
- Propose content for an entire conference element; a complete concurrent session, workshop, etc. Proposals for a panel of speakers may be submitted without the full panel of presenters included, but if selected, the proposer (working with the Conference Committee) will be responsible for identifying the full slate of panelists.

An individual should submit, or be involved in, no more than two proposals.

All submissions must include the following information:

- Contact Details (include all presenters): Name, Position/Title, Email, Phone
- Type of Content: indicate the type of session for your topic (concurrent session, workshop, learning tour, walking workshop, mobile workshop, poster gallery, fast or funny planning presentation)
- Presenter Biography: 100 word maximum per presenter
- Short Description: 100 word maximum (provide a brief and captivating overview of your topic, to be used in advertising your presentation during the conference).
- Long Description: 250 words maximum (provide a more in-depth description of your presentation to help the API Conference Committee understand your topic).
- Learning Outcomes: List 3 learning outcomes.



- Meeting the Vision: 100 words max (what makes your proposal unique and how does it support the conference theme/sub-themes).
- Include photo/headshot of the presenter(s), to be used in advertising the conference program.

**Apply online at:**

<https://atlanticplanners.org/events/api-conference-2024/>

**The deadline for receipt of all proposals is April 8, 2024.**

Successful proponents will be contacted regarding selected proposals in the weeks following the submission deadline. **Only online submission will be considered. The Atlantic Planners Institute thanks you for your interest in our conference.**



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