Strong connections with practice in policy and governance.

One of the largest and oldest planning programs in North America, the School of Urban and Regional Planning offers a bachelor of urban and regional planning degree and a master of planning degree. Both programs are accredited by the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI).

Faculty members maintain strong connections with practice by continuing to work in the planning profession, and by holding leadership positions in policy and governance. Students, meanwhile, make a real-world impact by undertaking hands-on assignments in studio courses and completing projects for actual clients in professional placement courses. Students also have numerous opportunities to increase their knowledge by participating in field trips to such cities as Montreal, Vancouver, Chicago, Boston, New York, Lima, Glasgow and Prague.

FAST FACTS
- Founded in 1969, the highly competitive undergraduate program in Urban and Regional Planning receives approximately 700 applications annually to fill 110 places.
- The graduate program in Urban Development, which leads to a master of planning degree, was founded in 2008 and receives approximately 250 applications for just 30 places. This program focuses on issues of culture and nature in planning.
- The school offers a two-year post-baccalaureate program and a degree completion program leading to a bachelor of urban and regional planning degree.
Faculty Spotlight

Christopher De Sousa, MCIP, RPP, became the school’s director in 2011. Prior to joining Ryerson, he was the chair of urban planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as well as a member of the geography and urban studies faculty. De Sousa’s research activities focus on various aspects of brownfield redevelopment, urban environmental management, parks planning and sustainability reporting in Canada and the United States. He is currently involved in a collaborative research project, which is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, to examine best management practices in sustainable brownfield redevelopment. His recent publications include a book entitled Brownfields Redevelopment and the Quest for Sustainability (Elsevier/Emerald Group), and Brownfield Development: A Comparison of North American and British Approaches in the peer-reviewed journal Urban Studies (co-authored by David Adams and Steven Tiesdell). De Sousa has worked with government agencies and non-profit groups across North America to address urban issues such as brownfield policy, sustainability, foreclosure prevention, comprehensive planning and green building.

Nina-Marie Lister, MCIP (Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners), RPP (Registered Professional Planner), is an associate professor in Ryerson’s School of Urban and Regional Planning, and a visiting associate professor at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. During winter 2012, Lister engaged students in the planning process by challenging them to create a new landscape that would enable the campus community to actively interact with underused spaces. Called Winterscape, the project’s goal was to integrate the university’s master plan, revitalize the campus, and act as a catalyst for change and renewal in the unique downtown community surrounding the university. At Harvard, Lister works with the Departments of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning on her Critical Ecologies Project, and an associated book, Projective Ecologies, which is being co-edited with Chris Reed and will be published by ACTAR press in 2013. She was recently appointed a senior scholar at Chicago’s Center for Humans and Nature (www.humansandnature.org), a role that involves contributing to the center’s dialogue on “Big Questions” related to the interactions between humans and nature. Lister is currently guest editor of a special issue of the Journal of Ecological Restoration (in press), which focuses on landscape infrastructure and wildlife conservation in the Animal Road Crossing Project (www.arc-solutions.org), for which she is currently developing and curating an international exhibition.

Alumni Achievements

Bruce McCuaig ’84 is president and chief executive officer of Metrolinx, the regional transportation authority for the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton. Over the next 25 years, Metrolinx will implement the Big Move, an ambitious plan that will expand and transform the region’s transit landscape. During his lengthy public-service career, McCuaig has held many roles, including that of the deputy minister of transportation. He has also dealt with land-use issues while working in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. With projects like the rejuvenation of Union Station, McCuaig hopes to deliver a responsive and balanced transportation system that addresses the diverse needs of growing communities.

Anthony Biglieri ’83 is president of The Biglieri Group Ltd. (a planning and project management consulting firm) and The Living Wall Inc. (an ecological sound barrier and fencing solution that was awarded the Green Toronto Award for Green Design in 2008). As founder and past chair of the Ryerson Planning Alumni Association (RPA), Biglieri created the largest faculty alumni event at the university. The group’s many accomplishments include annual newsletters that feature stories and updates from the School of Urban and Regional Planning, and an annual spring reception for urban and regional planning alumni and industry professionals. As a result of his dedication to the school, Biglieri received the 2008 Alumni Achievement Award for Outstanding Volunteer. He continues to serve Ryerson as vice-president of Ryerson University’s Alumni Association.