**The Professional Standards Board (PSB)**

The Professional Standards Board for the planning profession in Canada (or PSB) is the new national arms-length administrative assessment body established by CIP and Affiliate Institutes (including MPPI) to provide services in the assessment of applicants for professional membership and the accreditation of university planning programs, all based on the new membership and accreditation standards established through the PFF. This approach ensures that the application of the standards in terms of membership applicants and university planning programs is done effectively, efficiently, consistently and somewhat at arms-length. The relationship between MPPI and the PSB is established through a bilateral “Shared Services Agreement” whereby MPPI agrees to utilize the assessment services of the PSB, and by which the PSB is accountable for the delivery of those services.

An important factor to understand is that legally provincial and regional Affiliate Institutes are still formally responsible for the admission of members, so the PSB only *assesses* applicants’ qualifications and technically makes recommendations, while the Affiliate Institutes still make the final decision to *admit* new members. Another important point to understand is that the PSB administers the standards, but does not make, set or amend the standards – their role is purely administrative in nature.

**The Professional Standards Committee (PSC)**

The Professional Standards Committee (or PSC) is the new national membership and accreditation standards policy-making body for the profession. It is a joint committee established by CIP and Affiliate Institutes (including MPPI) to oversee the establishment and maintenance of the shared national membership and accreditation standards for the profession. This is the body (and forum) for the *policy making* function of membership and accreditation standards. The PSC also provides any answers and direction with respect to any matters of interpretation of the standards that may be required. (These functions are distinct and separate from the *administrative* functions by which the PSB applies the standards).

Changes to the shared membership and accreditation standards are discussed and recommended by the PSC, and then must be unanimously ratified by CIP and Affiliate Institutes to come into effect. This consensus-based approach ensures that CIP and Affiliate Institutes have the “final say” and also ensures the consistency of national standards by requiring all parties to be “on board” with any changes to the standards.

The relationship between MPPI and the PSC is established through a multilateral “Joint Agreement” whereby MPPI, CIP and all other participating Affiliate Institutes jointly agreed to the establishment of this committee and process for setting and maintaining the national standards.