Alex M. O'Hara

Phone W: (902) 368-6178 E-Mail: amohara@gov.pe.ca

Experience

Land Use and Planning Act Specialist

Dept. Agriculture & Land, Charlottetown, PE

July 2021 - Present

To provide guidance, research and recommendations to senior management and senior development officers on planning related matters. Represent the department on interdepartmental committees, as well as at public meetings and hearings on planning appeals. The development, interpretation, amendment, and monitoring of planning legislation, regulation, and policies, including the *Planning Act*, *Province-wide Minimum Development Standards* and the *Subdivision and Development Regulations*. Evaluate the effectiveness of the provincial land use planning framework based on the resulting land use patterns that have been created over time, focusing on its strengths and weaknesses, and provide recommendations. The review of documentation on land use policies and conduct a cost-benefit analysis relating to the impact of having overarching provincial land use policies to guide both provincial and municipal land use planning.

Safety Standards Officer (Property Development Officer)

Dept. Agriculture & Land, Charlottetown, PE

April 2021 – July 2021

To process, review, and provide decisions on applications for development and subdivision of property assessed against sound planning principles, policies, statutes, and regulations. Consultation with statutory governmental stakeholders such as the Dept. of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Dept. of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action, and the Dept. of Justice and Public Safety, namely the Provincial Fire Marshal's Office and the 911 Office and quasi-autonomous governmental organizations such as the Island Regulatory Commission. Provide information to external land use professionals such as, engineers, surveyors, and lawyers. Conduct site visits to investigate suspected infractions or non-compliance with approved uses or development conditions.

Survey & Planning Technician

Island Surveying and Engineering Ltd. – Charlottetown, PE

June 2017 – April 2021

Conducting conventional and GPS field surveys to collect relevant built and natural form land data to be processed, interpreted, and used for the purpose of creating survey plans. Review of architectural and engineering drawings for the purpose of accurately laying out and locating proposed structures. Creating subdivision plans for review by the provincial planning department and other municipal planning authorities. Attend council meetings with regards to rezoning proposals. Maintaining In-depth knowledge provincial land use statutes and regulations and numerous municipal official plans and bylaws.

Assistant Land Surveyor and Planning Advisor

May 2015 - June 2016

ABO Wind N.I. Ltd – Belfast, Northern Ireland (UK)

Identified appropriate sites for large scale wind turbine infrastructure projects by using GIS and CAD software to perform desk-based research and analysis, aided by on site investigation, consultation with statutory stakeholders, and engagement with property owners and the local community. Facilitate public meetings and oversee the planning application process. Identify the most efficient route for material

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delivery from the point of delivery to the site of construction. Investigate areas of required road widening and compensate landowners for necessary easements.

Mapping & Charting Officer

May 2014 - May 2015

Dept. Agriculture and Rural Development – Belfast, Northern Ireland (UK)

Review of agricultural lands across Northern Ireland using GIS software, site visits, and farmer-notified changes in order to determine areas of eligibility for European agricultural subsidies (equalization payments) for local farmers. The identification and recording of boundary changes and suspected non-approved development not currently registered with the regional planning department.

Planning Officer (Summer placement – Unpaid)

Summer 2011-2012

Northern Ireland Planning Service – Belfast, Northern Ireland (UK)

Summer placement with duties that included; report writing of application decisions, application validations, site investigations, third-party consultee meetings, liaising with statutory stakeholders, and general administrative duties.

Education

Master of Science - Planning and Property Development (Distinction)

September 2009 – July 2013

University of Ulster – Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland

Graduating Top of my academic year and achieved awards for best dissertation research piece (Joanne Mather's Award) and various other awards over the four-year course for outstanding performance.

Skills & Achievements

- The 'Joanne Mather's Memorial Award' from the RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute) for best research piece of my final academic year (2013).
- Environmental and Planning Law Association of Northern Ireland Award for best research piece 2012 titled; 'Mental Health, Well-Being and the Built Environment'.
- Dean's list Award for general academic excellence throughout University course
- Environmental and Planning Law Association of Northern Ireland Award for best research/dissertation 2013 titled, "Planning on Health: Re-Building Relationships - Capacity Building in Northern Ireland".
- Class Representative 2009-2011 University of Ulster

Memberships and Affiliations_

Licentiate member of the Royal Town Planning Institute

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- Candidate member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
- Pre-Candidate member of the Atlantic Planners Institute
- Member of the Municipal Development Officers Association of Nova Scotia