
19

Annual Report

Ontario Association of Architects



Ontario Association of Architects

The Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is a self-regulating organization governed by the *Architects Act*, a statute of the Government of Ontario. Dedicated to serving and protecting the public interest, it seeks to promote and increase the knowledge, skill, and proficiency of its members, as well as administer the Act.

OAA membership comprises the Architects and Licensed Technologists OAA able to practise in Ontario. Intern Architects and Student Associates, and others along the path to licensure or retired from the profession, are among those who hold status with the Association.

At the end of December 2019, the OAA included:

- 4,302 Architects;
- 131 Licensed Technologists OAA;
- 49 Non-Practising Architects;
- 1,716 Intern Architects;
- 326 Life Members;
- 214 Retired Members;
- 819 Student Associates; and
- 35 Honorary Members.

There are 1,911 architectural practices in Ontario.

To serve the public interest and support the architectural profession, the Association offers a wide range of programs and services. This includes:

- establishing qualification standards for admission into the profession, including education, experience, and examination;
- establishing standards of skill and proficiency of members;
- maintaining professional ethics standards;
- providing professional liability insurance through Pro-Demnity Insurance Company;
- promoting architecture and the built environment for the benefit of Ontarians; and
- supporting Ontario's architects in meeting the standards of the profession.

The OAA is governed by a Council of 15 Architects and one Licensed Technologist OAA who have been elected by the membership, as well as up to five members of the public chosen by the Province of Ontario (Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointees [LGICs]). It also includes one Intern Architect as a non-voting member. The work of OAA Council is assisted by more than 200 volunteers working on diverse Committees and Task Groups, 14 regional societies throughout Ontario (with a society membership of 2,032), and an Association staff of 32.



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President's Message



Looking back on this year, there has been a great deal of change for the Ontario Association of Architects—but also many constants.

Protecting the public interest relative to the built environment remains the OAA's *raison d'être*. This places the architecture profession at the forefront of many of today's critical issues, including housing affordability and climate stability. The latter, of course, has become one of the defining challenges of our lives. Architects have a significant role to play as buildings are significant contributors to climate change. The OAA took a lead position when it embarked on its Renew + Refresh campaign to see the transformation of its headquarters into a zero net carbon project, saving on embodied energy, rather than constructing anew.

The work included adding photovoltaics to the existing structure, as well as high-efficiency occupancy lighting, displacement ventilation, geothermal heating, enhanced insulation, flexible work spaces, and dynamic glass that changes its tint with the sun. While enhancing the performance of the building, these active and passive technologies offset the building's energy use with energy creation, ultimately offering "free" electricity and hot water and rendering the building a "net zero" energy user.

Staff had been operating out of a temporary headquarters while construction was underway, and then transitioned to working from home, testing and validating the newly introduced technologies for mobile productivity. People moved back to the renovated OAA Headquarters in June, greeted by a new interior layout that doubled capacity, ensuring the building effectively got twice as much out of the carbon it was consuming. Since then, staff and volunteers have fully embraced the space, which is also intended for members to use.

At the same time, work continued on the Association's virtual home, with its website undergoing a substantial redesign project to better meet the objectives of member support and public protection/awareness, with improved accessibility, usability on mobile devices, streamlined information, and an enhanced member directory that includes discipline history. It will launch in 2020, along with a new logo for the OAA. This year, we also had our inaugural edition of our new awards program—the SHIFT 2019: Infrastructure/Architecture Challenge. Running in alternate years to our Design Excellence Awards, this aspirational program highlights to the public the distinct contribution architects and architectural thinking bring to addressing key societal issues. It invites Ontario architects, interns, and architecture students, and their collaborative teams, to respond to an identified area of concern using their skills and insights.

For its first year, the theme was "infrastructure," and the seven jury-selected choices showed how the architectural profession can offer new approaches to topics ranging from using railways for cycling pathways and linear parks to energy-producing buildings to redefined residential zoning. Over the years to come, SHIFT will play an important role in promoting an understanding of the profession among the general public.

At the same time, promoting a stronger understanding of architecture for the various levels of governments also continued to be important. This year, we had our annual event at Queen's Park celebrating World Architecture Day, where Members of Provincial Parliament were able to learn more about the profession and also share their favourite buildings in their riding.

We continued to liaise with all levels of government on crucial topics ranging from Ontario's broken site plan approval process to the need for an architecture policy for Canada. We also responded to a provincial consultation that included proposals that could radically change elements of the design/construction process by bringing in a "certified professionals" model. We continue to monitor the situation and stand ready to offer the profession's perspective in order to protect the public interest. To this end, also continued to develop our new partnership with Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) in regulating a restricted scope of practice in interior design under the *Architects Act*.

Throughout 2019, OAA Council relied on three major priorities to guide us in our mission to strengthen the architecture profession and protect the public interest: re-examine

our approach to comprehensive education for members and the public, strengthen membership engagement, and improve inclusivity and equity throughout the profession.

These priorities had important impacts already last year, but will continue to have even more significant effects in the years to come. The OAA's Continuing Education Committee evolved into the Comprehensive Education Committee, with an expanded mandate to oversee recommendations covering the whole spectrum of education from primary and secondary school to universities, internship, licensure and the various phases of practice, and retirement.

Comprehensive education includes everything from teaching students about what architecture is and how to become an architect to showing the public why they should work with one. It includes helping those in the profession understand how to keep current with emerging trends, building sciences, and technologies as well as how to share knowledge with their peers. It also includes providing resources so OAA members can continue to develop their financial literacy at all stages of their career, from how much to ask to be paid in a job interview out of school to how to prepare for retirement. Financial literacy benefits owners and the public by enabling reduction of project risks and improving project outcomes. While the work of the Comprehensive Education Committee has only just begun, it has been exciting watching it come together.

Council also made some headway on its priority to better engage the membership. The OAA looked for ways over the course of 2019 to promote the culture of volunteerism and humanize self-regulation as well as launching a comprehensive survey of our members and our practices to learn their needs and aspirations for the profession. We are now beginning to see the success of those efforts, with many new members joining Committees and Council itself for the first time, but there is still much work to do.

The concepts of "inclusivity" and "equity" were also woven through every decision the OAA Council made. When we returned to the headquarters building in June, one of the first events hosted for Council, the Pro-Demnity board, and OAA staff was a talk from an expert with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) on "unconscious bias." Throughout the year, there has been ongoing conversation on how to make the profession more open and equitable, and this continues into 2020 beyond.

The annual report you are now reading touches on these and many more aspects about the OAA's initiatives and accomplishments throughout the year, but it cannot begin to comprehensively cover the Association's many programs and achievements or, indeed, its challenges. I encourage all members to become more involved with the OAA and learn more, embracing the responsibility of self-regulation.

I want to congratulate and thank my Council colleagues, those volunteers on Committees and Task Groups, and the incredible staff of the OAA for all that we have accomplished together over the past year in the name of advancing the architecture profession and protecting the public interest.



Kathleen Kurtin, Architect
OAA, FRAIC
President

Postscript:

Please note that my message, and the entirety of the 2019 Annual Report, presents the OAA's activities from January 1 to December 31, 2019. Of course, since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted all of our lives, professionally and personally. The world changed suddenly, leading to OAA staff, Council, and Committees working remotely, the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) being postponed, and the OAA Conference being cancelled. Quickly, we all had to find ways to manage our lives while taking care of ourselves, our families, our friends, and our colleagues, as well as to ensure our health and well-being. I want to personally express my sincere condolences and concern to all those who suffered and those who were emotionally, mentally, physically, and financially impacted by the pandemic. Professionally, we will use our skills and knowledge to build safe and resilient communities responding to the needs of the new 'normal' as we all come together to create our future. - KK



As this decade comes to a close, I echo the sentiment shared by OAA President Kathleen Kurtin on page 1—the year 2019 meant considerable change for the OAA. Of course, every year means change—whether that’s the composition of OAA Council, the ever-evolving aspects of our programs and services, or the introductions of some initiatives and the sunsetting of others. However, over and above those ‘typical’ changes, the year 2019 saw some exceptional shifts, particularly in operations and administration.

Of course, it goes without saying that the completion of the “Renew + Refresh” renovation of the OAA’s Headquarters represented the most significant change. I congratulate the Council, and previous Councils, for their ongoing commitment to this project as well as their perseverance to see the renovation through. Member support and feedback—from the original planning stages right through to our move back to the building in June 2019—has also played a critical role in this project.

As responsible building owners, Council has made the necessary investment back into the building. It directed the Association to modernize the interiors, update and replace aging mechanical, electrical, and lighting systems, and also improve the headquarters’ performance to achieve zero net carbon. This will all pay back over time in a variety of ways.

After having been relocated to temporary office space for 18 months, it has been a wonderful experience watching staff settle back into the newly renovated space. Our team now moves around the open-concept building, relying on wireless capabilities and new collaboration spaces to work in groups, or take a break and recharge in the new café space. This represents a major change for the OAA’s day to day operations.

As is the case with most renovation projects, though, the work was not without its challenges. I suppose one of the most interesting and unintended results of the renovation was that it gave us the chance to test our updated Business Continuity Plan prior to our moving back into the building. During the month of May, as the building was being readied for occupancy, the majority of OAA staff worked remotely to ensure that the Association’s programs and services continued in a relatively seamless manner. By early June, after much anticipation, all staff were back at 111 Moatfield Drive and our usual schedule of committee meetings resumed shortly thereafter.

Having planned well in advanced for the much-needed renovation, coupled with detailed consideration of a variety of financing options, I am happy to report that the OAA continues to be in a solid financial position. (To learn more, see the Senior Vice President and Treasurer’s report on page 21.)

As major as our return to the building was, there were other important actions happening. I want to take this opportunity to address a number of our changes that speak directly to the OAA’s role as a professional regulator, and the changing regulatory landscape.

OAA staff and Council work daily to ensure that our regulatory roles and responsibilities as set out under the *Architects Act* are met, effectively and efficiently. However, with heightened scrutiny from both government and the public, specific regulators being targeted for review, and a call for additional regulatory checks and balances, we have been proactively ensuring we are keeping pace with evolving

expectations. The OAA continues to operate in an open, fair, and transparent manner to serve and protect the public interest.

Responding to specific recommendations that stem from regulatory reviews levelled against other regulators across the country, the OAA has made changes. With the launch of the OAA's new website in summer 2020, there will be increased transparency for the public as it relates to disciplinary measures. We have adopted annual training for Council strictly focused on good governance and the roles and responsibilities of a professional regulator. And we have established a Governance Committee to ensure an appropriate level of oversight and participation by the Council in fulfilling its roles and responsibility for governance of the OAA in accordance with the *Architects Act*.

Within its mandate, the Committee works to ensure that the activities and decisions of the Council meet the objects of the Association as defined in the *Architects Act*. The Committee will also ensure that Council is functioning in a manner consistent with recognized principles of governance such that its role is focused on fiduciary and policy-making duties and staff is responsible for implementation of day to day operations. The Committee is also responsible for making sure the principles of diversity, inclusion, and equity are reflected throughout the Association's policies and procedures.

Speaking of these policies and procedures, thank you to all the members who participated in the comprehensive Survey of Members in the fall. Change should be driven by information, knowledge, and real data. For this reason, the information received through this form of member engagement is vital to the work that the OAA does. The depth of the data provides important insight which helps inform and shape our future policy directions—by answering our survey, you are driving change based on real data. I was thrilled to hear that, based on the survey results, members' general satisfaction with the OAA has increased by 24 per cent!

On a final note, members will likely notice that the format of this year's Annual Report has changed. With more changes coming in 2020—including a new website and a new logo—it was time to refresh, refocus, and streamline the document.

As always, my sincere thanks to the hundreds of volunteers that help carry out the work of the OAA. Your support, feedback, and input help make the OAA the rich and robust organization that it is. My heartfelt thanks as well to the OAA staff team who carry out the Association's daily work with dedication and passion.



Kristi Doyle,
Hons. B.A.(PPA), Hon. MRAIC
Executive Director

In early February, OAA Council held its annual Planning Session. It reviewed the current state of Association initiatives and projects in the context of the OAA's Vision, Mission, and Mandate to ensure their appropriateness and also explored its priorities for the year ahead.

On the evening of February 7, guest speaker Cathi Mietkiewicz (Mietkiewicz Law) spoke about good governance as it pertains to the roles and responsibilities of OAA Councillors. This theme was continued by Hari Panday, Chair of Pro-Demnity Insurance Company, with his presentation on the work of ProDem Board members.

The following day, OAA President Kathleen Kurtin led the assembled Councillors and OAA staff in a look back at the previous year's accomplishments, goals and strategies. The four Vice Presidents—Mélisa Audet (Regulatory), Amir Azadeh (Communications), J. Gordon Erskine (Strategic), and David Sin (Practice)—also provided quick overviews of their portfolios. The Association's various projects were then considered in the context of the OAA's Vision, Mission, and Mandate to ensure their appropriateness, as well as in the context of what was on the horizon for both the Council and the profession.

Big-picture discussions and brainstorming took place, with Councillors examining various aspects of ensuring a strong future for not only the OAA, but also Ontario architects on the whole. Conversations ranged from how to engage the diversity of the membership in decision making to other subjects like supporting practices, a need for improved financial literacy, and how to best work with municipal and provincial bodies.

Topics such as the internship program, the OAA's role in addressing climate change and sustainability, and the profession's impact on the economy were also addressed.

2019 Priorities:



1. Engaging the membership



2. Improving the education continuum



3. Ensuring diversity and equity



Vision:

An Ontario in which architects are valued contributors to society, by creating a safe and healthy built environment that performs at the highest levels and elevates the human spirit.



Mission:

To serve the public interest through the regulation, support, and promotion of the profession of architecture in Ontario.



Mandate:

To regulate and govern the practice of architecture in Ontario in the service and protection of the public interest in accordance with the *Architects Act*, its Regulations and By-laws; to develop and uphold standard of skill, knowledge, qualification, practice, and professional ethics among architects; and to promote the appreciation of architecture within the broader society.

The Business Portfolio provides oversight to key areas of the operations of the Association. These include the work of the Audit, Budget, Governance, and Education (scholarships and awards) Committees and OAA Trustees to ensure policies, procedures, and internal controls are established and followed. The OAA President and Senior Vice President and Treasurer oversee this portfolio.

Throughout 2019, the work of the OAA Building Committee continued to be a major focus. This group was responsible for overseeing the Renew + Refresh project, which involved renovating the OAA Headquarters, the largest asset of the Association. This year, the Committee's guidance was imperative in finalizing the project to allow for the return of staff from the temporary headquarters.

Key Accomplishments

OAA Renew + Refresh Project

This summer, as the climate crisis continued to escalate, the OAA moved back to its headquarters, which had been retrofitted to achieve zero net carbon, from its temporary location. As the regulator of the profession in the province, the OAA not only talks about the leadership role architects must play, but also demonstrates first-hand how existing buildings should and can be addressed in order to minimize environmental impacts and help ensure a sustainable future.

The goal of the Renew + Refresh project is to provide a strong example that architects could use in their own work and outreach with clients. OAA Council also felt that the carbon neutral renovation has education value for the public, members, and students.

The OAA Headquarters is more than offices and meetings spaces—it is also the public and physical embodiment of an architect's skill and aspirations to the community. Therefore, it was crucial the Renew + Refresh renovation project be responsible in its approach to sustainable design.

A number of products and systems were chosen for optimizing the building's performance and improving the interior environment for OAA staff and Ontario architects using the space for meetings and events. These include high-efficiency occupancy lighting, displacement ventilation, geothermal heating, photovoltaic and solar panels, enhanced insulation, flexible work spaces, and View dynamic glass that changes its tint with the sun.

Throughout the commissioning phase, the building operations will continue to be monitored and fine-tuned to ensure the OAA HQ remains on target for maintaining zero net carbon.

The official opening of the building is scheduled for 2020.

OAA 2019 Member Survey Completed

The OAA Member Survey relates directly to the OAA Council priority of member engagement. Member participation is critical as it provides feedback for the OAA to chart the direction of its programs, services, and policies. Member surveys like the one conducted in late 2019—ensures the Association continues to evolve to support the profession

and protect the public. The survey had a 25 per cent response, allowing the association to better understand the membership's demographics and needs.

The OAA once again engaged the services of Framework Partners—a consulting firm with expertise in survey research—to administer and tabulate the results of this important initiative. All responses were maintained as confidential to ensure the quality and openness of the answers and comments.

In conjunction with this initiative, the OAA will also be conducting a comprehensive Survey of Practices, which will be used to understand current demographics and trends of architectural practices in Ontario. This information is of paramount importance to the Association, as it is engaged in the development of tools and resources to assist practices.

The Membership survey results indicated progress had been made since the last survey in 2011. There was significant improvement in intern architects' perception of the OAA and in membership service, but noted that there was a call for better communication, education, outreach, and advocacy.

Some members perceive the OAA as bureaucratic. The challenge to finding the balance between membership services and the administration of OAA responsibilities as a self-regulating profession is constant.

Reflective of the Association's commitment to inclusivity, equity, and accessibility in the profession, two new questions were added to the survey specifically about bias and harassment. Thirty per cent of the membership have experienced harassment and bias in the workplace. This number comprised 60 per cent women and 40 per cent men. The issues ran the full spectrum of possibilities from gender bias and sexual harassment, to race and religion, age and appearance biases, and harassment. Council acknowledged that while there are no quick fixes to this issue, there is a need for continued diligence, awareness and action.

The OAA will be issuing a series of reports on specific issues and sharing the survey report and the complete survey data for members in 2020.

Moving Strategic Priorities Forward

With respect to membership, one of OAA Council's priorities for the year involved ensuring inclusivity and diversity were kept at the forefront of policies, programs, and discussions. In July, an article by President Kathleen Kurtin explored the concept of unconscious bias. The piece, "[Architecture should be an accessible, inclusive, equitable profession.](#)" was published on *Canadian Architect's* website and was also picked up on Toronto.com. This conversation continued in features on the OAA blOAAg throughout the year that focused on diversity and inclusion. This theme was also integrated into speaking engagements, visits to the Local Architectural Societies, events at the OAA Conference, and numerous opportunities throughout the year.

Liaising with the Policy Advocacy Coordination Team (PACT) and the Sustainable Built Environments Committee (SBEC), the OAA's Policy and Government Relations Department is mandated to coordinate the means in which policy and governmental concerns are addressed by the Association. The year 2019 was busy and successful in this regard, including an extensive number of policy meetings, consultations, and proposals to all levels of government. The OAA is also a founding member of the Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO), and sits on various boards and committees including Infrastructure Ontario, the City of Toronto, the Toronto 2030 District, and the Compass energy benchmarking tool.

Key Accomplishments

Through the work of PACT and SBEC, the OAA effectively engaged with decision-makers, sending many letters and responding to nearly a dozen consultations on topics including environment and sustainability, housing affordability, Ontario Building Code, Site Plan Approval, and tourism. To complement these submissions, the OAA met with officials at all levels of government throughout the year in order to provide architectural recommendations on policy, legislation, and regulations.

All the submissions that the OAA made in 2019 were significant, but some in particular addressed issues with the potential to impact or infringe on the practice of architecture. The OAA is proud of the firm stance it took on these matters:

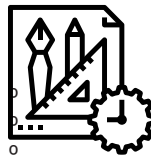
1. Bill 70, *Registered Professional Planners Act* – This Bill proposed to expand the scope of register professional planners and, in doing so, limit architects' ability to refer to themselves as professional planners. The OAA expressed concerns about this both to government and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI). A solution to address these concerns has yet to be identified.
2. Transformation and Modernization of Ontario's Building Code Service Delivery – Late in the year, the government put a proposal forward to modernize service delivery of the Ontario Building Code. Among the many other facets of this proposal, it contained the introduction of a Certified Professionals program, similar to the model applied in British Columbia. The OAA responded to this consultation with an extensive submission outlining the Association's objection to the proposal, and positioned itself as a key stakeholder for future consultations on this issue.
3. Improvements to Site Plan Approval – Throughout the year, the OAA continued to leverage the research that the Association funded in 2013 and 2018 about the province's broken Site Plan Approval (SPA) process. In meetings, consultations, and submissions, this research contributed to the OAA's position that SPA has to be fixed; it quantified the cost of the current SPA process at around more than \$900 million annually.

At the federal level, the government's qualifications-based selection (QBS) pilot project continued in 2019—an initiative that the OAA has been extensively involved in planning and supporting.

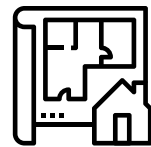


In addition to the numerous submissions made on behalf of the OAA and as part of the Association’s ongoing commitment to deliver independent research, the OAA published a new report in February 2019, [Housing Affordability in Growing Urban Areas](#). Well-received by municipal and provincial policy makers, elements of this report were picked up in the Ontario government’s *Housing Supply Action Plan* released in May of 2019, and the report continued to garner media attention as the year came to a close. Through the CDAO, the OAA also remains engaged in a study to determine the *Impacts of Upfront Investment on Delivery Efficiencies of Public Construction Projects*.

To further advance the OAA’s understanding of existing and emerging issues, as well as meeting the membership engagement priority, the Association hosted three member roundtables on the following topics:



- o Project Management Service Provision;



- o Urban Design and Site Plan Approval; and



- o Designing for Resiliency.

Each were well-attended, with such events continuing to play valuable roles in helping the OAA shape its outward policy recommendations.

As part of the OAA’s ongoing and expanding commitment to sustainability, SBEC worked with the Association to further integrate sustainability measures into the Design Excellence Awards criteria. The Association has committed to including total energy use intensity (EUI) as a requirement for 2020 awards submissions.

Additionally, as part of SBEC’s ongoing commitment to educate members, the Committee’s [Four-Walls project](#), which explores the design of high-performance wall assemblies, was published on the OAA website and presented at a Northern Ontario Society of Architects (NOSA) event.

Communications

OAA Communications effectively creates and maintains the awareness of programs and activities authorized by Council through the direction of the OAA Communications Committee and the Vice President, Communications. The OAA communicates to its internal and external audiences—including members, government, the building industry, and the public—to ensure the Association’s mission is fulfilled and its mandate is understood. The OAA Website continues to be the Association’s main communications vehicle.

Key Accomplishments

The OAA’s SHIFT Architecture Challenge program’s very first selections were introduced in March, engaging the public to take part in a dialogue about the power of creative-thinking to address some of our communities’ biggest issues.

The SHIFT Architecture Challenge program highlights the contribution architects and architectural thinking bring to addressing key societal issues. The theme of inaugural edition of the program was Infrastructure. Submissions were received in January 2019 and juried in February. The selected submissions were featured in the media, and presented at the OAA 2019 Conference in Quebec City, on the Shiftchallenge.ca website, in Toronto at a PechaKucha event at the Downtown YMCA, and in an accompanying publication.



70 Submissions received
7 Selections
4 Honourable Mentions

New Website Development

Now in its second year of a two-year development plan, Communications continued its work with web consultants Enginss and Sputnik. The new site is on schedule for launch in 2020 and has been designed to provide member support and public awareness, creating a clear distinction between public and member content.

Objectives of the new site include:



- ensuring accessibility (AODA standards);
- reflecting the OAA’s current goals;
- aligning with the OAA current priorities;
- separating member and public content;
- offering dynamic, engaging presentation;
- being user-friendly; and
- integrated social media.

New Logo + Visual Identity Program Developed

Together with the new OAA website, the OAA Headquarter’s Renew + Refresh project, and Ontario’s *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, the timing to revisit the 20-year-old original logo design was ideal. Council approved the project in mid 2018.

Communications

Leo Burnett Toronto created the new OAA logo to ensure it met the Association's current and future needs, addressing new technologies as well as accessibility, bilingual and design use requirements. Development of the new logo, applications, and guidelines continued throughout 2019 with Leo Burnett, the Communications Committee, and Council. Integration of the new logo and new designs for internal documents, forms, templates, stationery, and products continue to be developed as the OAA prepares for a full launch of the new identity in tandem with the launch of the new website in 2020.

SOCIAL MEDIA stats

Followers:



3914 Instagram



7314 Twitter



2001 Facebook



52 bIOAAg posts

OAA Conference 2019 – Empowering Change Quebec City, Quebec

This year's Conference, Empowering Change, was held in Quebec City, at the Quebec City Convention Centre and the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac from May 22– 24. Almost 600 people attended the three days of Continuing Education, special events, and tours.



600 Conference Attendees

The work of the Office of the Registrar is accomplished by OAA staff with the assistance of members who volunteer and share their time and expertise.

The Office of the Registrar supports the OAA Council in fulfilling its responsibility to govern members and regulate the practice of architecture in order that the public interest is protected in accordance with the *Architects Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c.A. 26, the Regulations R.R.O 1990, Reg 27, the OAA By-laws, and OAA Council Policies.

The regulatory function includes licensing, authorizing practices, complaints and discipline, and the Intern Architect Program (IAP), and works with the Vice President Regulatory and regulatory committees to fulfil its mandate.

Key Highlights

There are positive trends toward equality in the profession, as the number of women in the profession continues to grow. Fifty per cent of OAA intern architects are female, which will sustain this trend. In comparison, the number of women in the profession is nearing 30 per cent.

Digital Seals

Council instructed the Registrar to begin the transition to digital seals February 1. The use of digital seals applied to architectural drawings helps protect the general public in making certain all seals are from OAA members in good standing. Notarius partnered with the OAA to provide the digital signature and technical support. The OAA continues to provide the only image that can be used in conjunction with the digital signature as part of the seal. All OAA Architects must have a digital seal by January 2022.

Act Enforcement

The Registrar enforces the OAA's governing legislation. This includes protecting the word "Architect" and any use of related words that suggest an individual is holding themselves out in a manner that might confuse the public into believing the individual is an Architect. The Registrar receives information from the public and members for investigation. In 2019, 89 matters were reported to the Registrar related to misuse of the term "Architect" or "Architecture," or otherwise holding out.

There is an appeal to divisional court as the result of a decision of the Discipline Committee. The Committee members make up a formal tribunal that holds hearings and makes determinations relating to professional misconduct. OAA Discipline decisions will be published and available online to facilitate public access to this information. This will begin with the launch of the new OAA website in 2020.

Regulatory / Membership



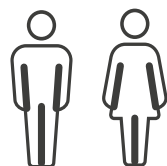
Licensed: **287** this year



281 Architects

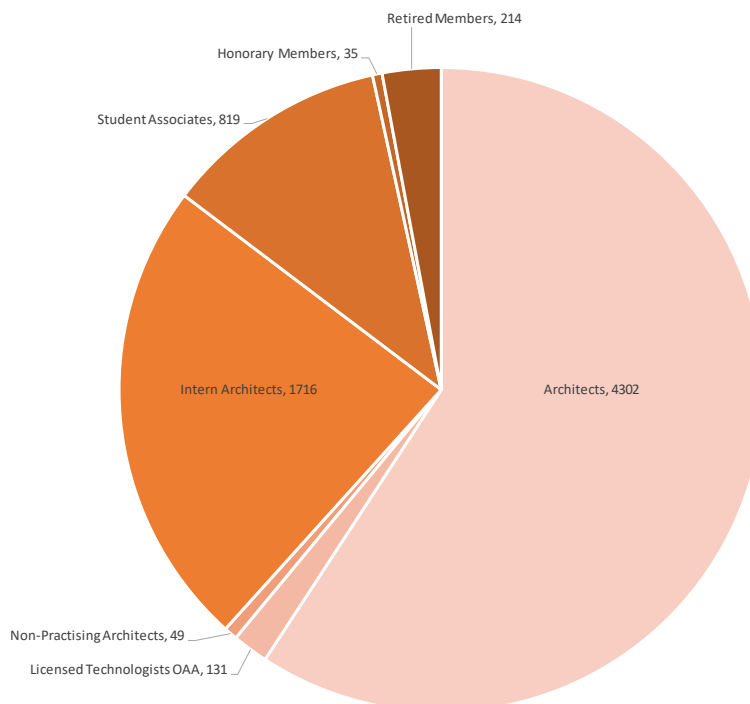


6 Licensed Technologists OAA



TOTAL MEMBERS **4482**

2019 Member Statistics



TOTAL CERTIFICATES OF PRACTICE **1911**

Practice

Providing staff support to the Practice Review Committee (PRC), the Practice Resource Committee, and the Sub-Committee on Building Codes and Regulation (SCOBCAR), the OAA's Practice Advisory Team supports OAA Council and Ontario's architecture practices by reviewing issues that impact them, and advising and informing members on best practices to meet the standards of the profession and the changing environment in which they practise.

Key Accomplishments

1. Practice Hotline Stats



2170 phone calls and emails

The Hotline service addresses questions related to a wide range of issues pertaining to the architectural profession. The service is utilized by: architects and employees, clients, building officials, lawyers, contractors, consultants and other construction related entities to obtain assistance on practice-related issues.

2. RFP Alerts and updates continued to be issued this year

The RFP Alerts and updates are based on the OAA's responsibility to bring to the attention of architects and architectural practices circumstances that could result in allegations of professional misconduct. In many instances, onerous conditions transfer obligations and liability onto the architect that is uninsurable under any professional liability insurance. Clearly not in the interest of the public or of architects.



46 RFP and Supplementary Conditions Reviewed

A total of **13** RFP Alerts issued

3. Hiring of a new PAS team member/manager

In December, the OAA created a new staff position—Manager, Practice Advisory Services—to coordinate the delivery of a broad range of practice services that support members and architectural firms within the public interest. Architect Mélisa Audet assumed this full-time staff role, working alongside the OAA's Practice Advisors, Allen Humphries and Colm Murphy, and Administrator Gaynor Kim-Sing.

Practice

4. Launch of *Practice Advisory* newsletter

In the fall, the first issue of [Practice Advisory](#)—a new e-newsletter for OAA members—was launched. This bimonthly communication brings to members' attention topics that have an impact on either management of the practice or management of the project. In addition to excerpting the new Practice Tip 39.1, it shares other practice-related information relevant to members. There were three issues of the newsletter issued in 2019. Back issues are posted on the OAA Website.

5. New Practice Tip published

In May, the OAA published its latest [Practice Tip—PT.39.1](#), Best Practices for Review of RFP Language and Supplementary Conditions to OAA 600 and Other Client-Architect Contracts. The resource, produced by Practice Advisory Services (PAS) in conjunction with the OAA Practice Committee, informs architects “what you should know, what to look for, and what to be wary of” when it comes to RFP terms and conditions that in fact contravene the *Architects Act* and Regulation 27, are uninsurable, or inappropriately transfer risk. It has been well-received and has become a reference used by some lawyers.

6. Updating of OAA contracts

OAA Contracts and their associated guides were updated and issued at the end of October. The updates focused on conforming with prompt payment and adjudication under the October 1, 2019 revisions to the *Construction Act*.

Council established new Comprehensive Education Committee to support Council's key priority identified in February.

The Comprehensive Education Committee was approved in the summer to advise on the 'big picture' in regard to education and the profession. The Committee will oversee and respond to matters related to the entire spectrum of education. It encompasses primary and secondary education to higher education, followed by internship, licensure, the various phases of practice, and finally concluding with retirement. The Comprehensive Education Committee will provide thoughtful and responsible consideration of the complex and rapid changes in the field of architecture—specifically in the field of education, continuing education, and professional development. The Committee will also consider aspects of public education regarding the architectural profession and the contribution of architecture to society. The Committee will be active in 2020.

Comprehensive Education Committee Timeline

February	Education is declared a priority of the OAA Council
March	The Continuing Education Committee is sunset
April	The Comprehensive Education Committee is enacted
May	Terms of References presented to the OAA Council
August	Call for Members
September	Interviews are conducted and Committee formed
November	Inaugural meeting of the Comprehensive Education Committee

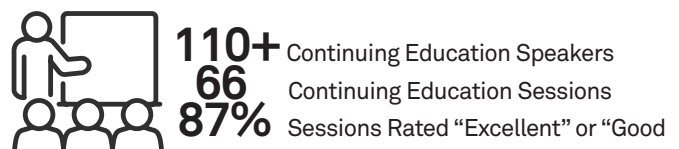
OAA Continuing Education Program

The OAA ConEd Program reflects the OAA's dedication to promoting and increasing the knowledge, skill and proficiency of its members, and administering the *Architects Act* in order to serve and protect the public interest. The program is a mandatory requirement for Ontario Architects, Non-Practising Architects, and Licensed Technologists OAA.

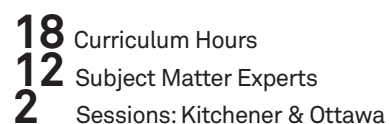
The Program is based on a two-year cycle beginning July 1 of even-numbered years. The reporting period runs from July 1 to June 30 biennially.

The ConEd staff work together with the members of the ConEd Committee to ensure the Program endeavours to meet the learning needs of Ontario's Architects.

In 2019:
ConEd courses at Conference



ConEd Course "Starting an Architectural Practice"



Admission Course – multiple formats offered throughout the year

More than 260 Interns, Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (BEFA) candidates, and Technologists OAAAS took the Admission Course as education sessions at the OAA Conference in Quebec City, at Beanfield Centre in Toronto, online, or in person at the OAA Headquarters in the fall. The course, which is a mandatory requirement for licensure, covers topics related to regulatory, legal, and practice issues specific to Ontario



260 Participants

Admission Course Online

74 Interns Winter Semester

80 Interns Spring/Summer Semester

54 Interns Fall Semester

Admission Course In-House @ OAA HQ

59 Interns

20 Curriculum Hours

11 Subject Matter Experts

Examinations

Interns can choose to write the ExAC in English or French, or the Architect Registration Examinations (ARE) in English (the latter is recognized in the United States and Canada).

ExAC

The sitting of the 2019 Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) took place across Canada in November. Examination is one of the mandatory components for licensure in Ontario.

Of a total of 769 interns from 11 provincial/territorial Architectural Licensing Authorities, 577 passed all the sections for which they were eligible. The overall success rate for all the sessions of the exams is 75 per cent.



75% success rate

Experience

Canadian Experience Record Book
OAA Online CERB @ GLANCE



1185 Interns

630+ Mentors

680+ Supervising Architects

2600+ CERB submissions

In December, changes to the criteria for the OAA scholarships provided annually to the Ontario Schools of Architecture will no longer be awarded based on academic standing, but rather in recognition of exceptional leadership through design excellence combined with innovative approaches to sustainability in an assignment or project.

Beginning with the 2020 academic year, the scholarships are to be awarded to the students who have best demonstrated design excellence involving exemplary responses to the climate crisis in a project or assignment. This specific criterion will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Education Committee prior to the start of the academic year. This better aligns scholarships with Council priorities.

2019 Recipients

The OAA provides annual scholarships to be awarded to architecture students with the highest overall grade in their first, second, third or fourth year at the following institutions. These scholarships are administered by the schools and awarded at their discretion.

University of Toronto—John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture,
Landscape and Design
Second year – Clara Bitter
Third year – Linnea Coveney

University of Waterloo, School of Architecture
Second year – Leela Keshav
Third year – Jing Liao

Carleton University - Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism
Third year – Hilary Romaniuk
Fourth year – Jonathan Caron

Ryerson University, Department of Architectural Science
Third year – Eileen Xiao
Fourth year – Lena Ma

Laurentian University – McEwen School of Architecture
Third year – Tristan O’Gorman
Fourth year – Simao Da Silva

Ontario College of Art & Design Scholarship
Scholarship is awarded to a student of Environmental Design.
Fourth year – Liz Sullivan

Architectural Guild Prize Fund
The Medals are awarded annually to the graduating students with the highest grade from each of the four schools of architecture in Ontario.

University of Toronto – Serafima Korovina
University of Waterloo – Meng Yi Dai
Carleton University – Kathryn J. Dekraker
Ryerson University – Kayla Murrell
Laurentian University - Sahana Dharmaraj

Scholarships

Milic Scholarship

The Milic Scholarship is awarded to a student of Crescent School, Toronto, who has demonstrated "pursuit of excellence in all their endeavours and helping others to achieve the same", "demonstrated academic excellence and leadership within the student body" and "who is pursuing post-secondary education immediately after graduation". This scholarship was set up in memory of Vladan Milic, past president of the OAA.

This year's scholarship recipient is Micah Jonker.

Senior Vice President and Treasurer's Report



Dear Colleagues,

The Ontario Association of Architects' Financial Statements (FS) for the fiscal year ended November 30, 2019, including the Independent Auditor's Report, is available on the OAA Website. These statements, prepared by Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, on page 1, state that "the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ontario Association of Architects as at November 30, 2019, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations." The Financial Statements and Auditor's Report were reviewed and recommended for approval by the OAA Audit Committee on February 21, 2020. OAA Council approved the 2019 Financial Statements on March 5, 2020.

Items of note from the detail of revenue over expenses on page 3 of the Financial Statements include:

- membership for the OAA continued to grow, as seen in prior years, resulting in increased income from member dues;
- the expected cyclical decrease in Conference revenue was in line with historical data for out-of-Toronto Conferences—the 2019 event took place in Quebec City; and
- the expense increased for the building, office services, and operating, and this had been anticipated as a result of moving back to the OAA Headquarters.

In June 2019, the OAA relocated back to its Headquarters as part of the OAA HQ Renew + Refresh Project, as reflected in the 2019 Financial Statements with increased capital gains and amortization recognized for Property and Equipment. Approximately 55 per cent of the funding for the renovations was financed by a mortgage amortized over 25 years with a yearly pay-down option of 10 per cent. It is anticipated the mortgage payments will be offset by the energy saving costs from of the renovation. The remaining portion has been funded from the Major Capital Reserve. OAA Council approved a transfer of the 2019 surplus to the Major Capital Reserve in order to ensure available funds for future maintenance and repairs. The investments made in the OAA Headquarters is correspondingly reflected as an increased asset value for 2019.

The primary goal of the 2019 OAA financial management plan was continued focus on internal organizational efficiencies in order to maximize the value derived from fee revenue. As a result, the Association is exiting the 2019 fiscal year with total Members' Equity at \$38,893,639. Of this total amount, \$28,652,539 is related to OAA's investment in Pro-Demnity. This represents a growth over 2020 of \$2,809,957, including the gain from Pro-Demnity. The remainder of Members' Equity is made up of the three dedicated reserve funds, the depreciated value of capital assets, and the unrestricted accumulated surplus.

For your reference on the balance sheet, the Major Capital Reserve Fund totals \$261,235, the Operating Reserve is at \$764,627, and the Legal Reserve is at \$52,500. The use of these funds is restricted by the Association's Reserve Fund Policies.

In addition to these restricted amounts, a further \$2,351,802 remains as unrestricted Members' Equity, which can be used

Senior Vice President and Treasurer's Report

as an additional contingency to offset shortfalls resulting from unbudgeted expenditures or unanticipated revenue fluctuations. It is generally accepted that not-for-profit organizations such as the OAA may accumulate surplus funds for operating purposes up to the equivalent of one year's operating expenses without jeopardizing their not-for-profit status. In accordance with OAA reserve fund policies, the total operating reserves are to be maintained at between six and 12 months of net operating costs. Twelve months of operating costs for 2020 are estimated to be \$7,676,637.

Total Members' Equity reflects the cumulative results of the years of operation of the OAA. At the end of each fiscal year, the net surplus or deficit is added to Members' Equity. This adjustment takes into consideration such items as depreciation on the building, computers and equipment, and other capital assets, as well as accruals for 2018 and prior year expenses.

In summary, I am pleased to report that, with the continued careful management of the fees you pay to the Association, the OAA finances are well-positioned for the future. To protect this sound financial position, Council has recommended an increase in fees for 2020 of 3.1 per cent, to allow the Association to keep pace with inflation. This is of course subject to ratification by the members at the 2020 AGM.

Respectfully submitted,



*Walter Derhak, Architect
B.Arch.(hons), OAA
Senior Vice President and Treasurer*

Read the complete, audited [Financial Statements](#) here.

Financial Summary



\$38,893,639

Members' Equity
(includes the OAA's investment in Pro-Demnity)

Reserves



\$261,235

Major Capital Reserve Fund



\$764,627

Operating Reserve



\$52,500

Legal Reserve



\$2,351,802

Unrestricted Members' Equity

In Memoriam

It was with deep sorrow that the Members of Council learned of the death of the following:

Mazen Alkhaddam

Sudhanshu Bansal

F. Lyndon Devaney

Edward Wilson Fullerton

Marvin Giller

Anthony J. Griffiths

John Innes

Stephen V. E. Irwin

Douglas Lee

Allan M. Levine

Ichiro Roy Matsui

Rene Menkes

Arthur Muscovitch

Victor Gerald Musselman

Venerino Panici

Oryst Harry Sawchuk

Rolf Seifert

Charles I. Shelley

Alexander R. Taylor

2019 Committee Lists

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Elaine Mintz, Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
Catherine Herman, Member at Large

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David C. Rich, Councillor

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Mazen Alkhaddam, Council Liaison
Sarah Jane Murray, Council Liaison
Gordon Erskine, Council Liaison
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Donald Chen, LGIC (from September)
Jose Castel-Branco, Member at Large
Ela Eroglu, Member at Large
Reza Hamidi, Member at Large
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Jeffrey Jerome, Member at Large
Rommel Lumbao, Member at Large
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Denis Rioux, Member at Large
Lida Mohammadi, Member at Large
Golchehr Monjazeb, Member at Large
Sandy Yeung, Member at Large
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Jakanah Sambavalingam, Coordinator, Act Enforcement

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Agata Mancini, Councillor
Magid Youssef, Councillor
Jennifer King, Licensed Technologist OAA
Joël León, Intern
Sadeq M. Sadeq, Member at Large
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Marcia Cooper, Communications Specialist
Tamara King, Administrator, Website and Communications
Chantelle Ng, Coordinator, Communications
Parham Karimi, Architectural Graduate

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Agata Mancini, Councillor
Susan Speigel, Councillor
Welming Chen, Member at Large
Maria Denegri, Member at Large
Christina Facey, Member at Large
Hadi Jafari, Member at Large
Janet Harrison, Member at Large
Shane Laptiste, Member at Large
Krystyna Ng, Member at Large
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Ellen Savitsky, Manager, Education and Development

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Catherine Friis, Member at Large
Leon Lubelski, Member at Large
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Elaine Mintz, LGIC
Peter Ortved, Member at Large
Reza Sadeghi, Member at Large
Robert Sirman, LGIC (to September)
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Gail Hanselman, Administrator, Certificate of Practice
Tina Carfa, Coordinator, Act Enforcement
Kristi Doyle, Executive Director

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Kristi Doyle, Executive Director

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Basil J. Edmundson, Member at Large
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Michelle Grant, Member at Large
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Deo Paquette, Member at Large
Stefanie Siu Chong, Member at Large
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Bernard Watt, Member at Large
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Nedra Brown, OAA Registrar
Christie Mills, OAA Deputy Registrar
Kim Wray, Administrator, Licence

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Robin Darling, Administrator, Human Resources

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 Erin Broda, Architect
 Gordon Hunt, Architect
 Anna Richter, Architect
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 Lisa Spensieri, Intern
 Michael Stock, Intern
 Joël León, Communications Committee Intern Liaison
 Isabel Amos, Student Associate
 Kayla Murrell, Student Associate
 Cheryl Atkinson, School of Architecture Representative from the
 School of Architecture at Ryerson University
 Diane Schunk, School of Architecture Representative from the
 School of Architecture at University of Waterloo
 R. Shane Williamson, Program Director Master of Architecture
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 Program

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 Kristi Doyle, Executive Director
 ARIDO Representatives

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 Sheena Sharp, Member at Large
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 David Sin, Vice President Practice
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 Kristi Doyle, Executive Director
 OGCA Representatives

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 Magid Youssef, Councillor
 Staff Support:
 Kristi Doyle, Executive Director

OAA TRUSTEES

Barry Cline, Councillor	3 years
Jeremiah Gammond, Councillor	2 years
Sarah Murray, Councillor	1 year

Staff Support:
 Kristi Doyle, Executive Director

PACT

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 Kristiana Schuhmann, Member at Large
 Sheena Sharp, Past President and Member at Large
 David Sin, Vice President Practice
 John Stephenson, Immediate Past President
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 Arno van Dijk, Policy Analyst (January – April)
 Sara Trotta, Policy Analyst (April – December)

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 Jeffrey Laberge, Councillor
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 Paula Hamilton
 Gordon Hunt
 Rick MacEwen
 Rick Mateljan
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 Allen Humphries, Practice Advisor
 Gaynor Kim-Sing, Administrative Assistant

2019 Committee Lists

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Susan Speigel (from June 2019)

Jamie Wright

Debra Krakow

Peter Berton (from June 2019)

Barbara Haynes

Debbie Fischer

Binah Nathan

Lea Ray

Bruce Palmer, President and CEO (from May 2019)

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Leon Lubelski

Chris A. Montgomery

Siu-man Wong

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Gail Hanselman, Administrator, Certificate of Practice

SBEC

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Terri Boake, School Representative, University of Waterloo

Eric Anthony Charron, Industry Representative

Paul Dowsett, Non-Council Appointee

Mariana Esponda, School Representative, Carleton University

Dan Harvey, Industry Representative

Joy Henderson, Member at Large

Sheena Sharp, Member at Large

Andy Thomson, Member at Large

Ted Wilson, School Representative, Laurentian University

Staff Support:

Arno Van Dyck, Policy Analyst (to April)

Sara Trotta, Policy Analyst (from April)

SCOBCAR

David Sin, Chair, Vice President Practice

Jeremiah Gammond, Councillor

Wendy Barner

George Christoff

Gerald (Gerry) D. Conway

John Dorris

Carrie Hunter

Patrick Luckie

Stephen Pope

Elektra Vrachas

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Allen Humphries, Practice Advisor

Gaynor Kim-Sing, Administrative Assistant

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President
City of Toronto



Walter Derhak
Senior Vice President and Treasurer
Western Ontario



Mélisa Audet
Vice President Regulatory
Province of Ontario



Amir Azadeh
Vice President Communications
City of Toronto



J. Gordon Erskine
Vice President Strategic
Eastern Ontario



David Sin
Vice President Practice
Central Ontario



John Stephenson
Immediate Past President
Province of Ontario

Council



Mazen Alkhammad
Central Ontario



J. William Birdsell
Province of Ontario



Barry Cline
Province of Ontario



Jeremiah Gammond
Licensed Technologist OAA



Jeffrey Laberge
Northern Ontario



Elaine Mintz
Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee



Agata Mancini
Western Ontario

Council



Wayne Medford
Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee



Sarah Murray
Eastern Ontario



David C. Rich
City of Toronto



Robert Sirman
Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee



Susan Spiegel
City of Toronto



Alberto Temprano
Intern Representative
(Non-Voting Seat)



Magid Youssef
Central Ontario

OAA Staff

Abhishek Chaudhary
Information Systems Administrator

Adam Tracey
Manager, Policy & Government Relations

Allen Humphries
Practice Advisor

Catherine Reyes
Administrative Assistant, Internship in Architecture Program

Chantelle Ng
Coordinator, Communications

Christie Mills
Deputy Registrar

Colm Murphy
Practice Advisor

Donna-Mae Chapman
Receptionist

Dora Lui
Coordinator, Continuing Education

Ellen Savitsky
Manager, Education & Development

Erik Missio
Manager, Communications

Gail Hanselman
Administrator, Certificate of Practice

Gaynor Kim-Sing
Administrative Assistant, Practice

Garry Neil
OAAAS Executive Director

Gaynor Kim-Sing
Administrative Assistant, Practice

Jakanah Sambavalingam
Coordinator, Act Enforcement

John Thomas
Maintenance Technician

Jon Clark
National ExAC Co-Administrator

Kim Wray
Administrator, Licence

OAA Staff

Kristi Doyle
Executive Director

Lashmi Ollivierre
Administrator, Internship in Architecture Program

Marcia Cooper
Communications Specialist

Mei Chen
Office Assistant

Melanie Walsh
Manager, Finance

Mélisa Audet
Manager, Practice Advisor Services

Nedra Brown
Registrar

Parham Karimi
Architectural Graduate

Robin Darling
Administrator, Human Resources

Rommy Rodrigues
OAAAS Director

Sara Trotta
Policy Analyst

Tamara King
Administrator, Web Site & Communications

Tina Carfa
Executive Assistant, Executive Services

Violet Magowan
Administrative Assistant, Continuing Education

Wendy Ortega
Administrative Assistant, Finance



Photo Credit: Steven Evans

