
20

Annual Report



Ontario Association
of Architects



Photo Credit: Morgan Solar

About the 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, the OAA administers the Act while promoting and increasing the knowledge, skill, and proficiency of its members.

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 standards of skill, knowledge, qualification, practice, and professional ethics among architects; and to promote the appreciation of architecture within the broader society.

OAA Composition

OAA membership comprises the Architects and Licensed Technologists OAA able to practise in Ontario. Other groups holding status with the Association include those on the path to licensure such as Intern Architects and Student Associates, and those retired from the profession.

At the end of December 2020, the OAA included:

4407	Architects;
134	Licensed Technologists OAA;
51	Non-Practising Architects;
1830	Intern Architects;
342	Life Members;
248	Retired Members;
402	Student Associates; and
33	Honorary Members.

There are **1914** architectural practices in Ontario.

To serve the public interest and support the architectural profession, the Association offers a range of programs and services including:

- 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 Local Architectural Societies throughout Ontario, and an Association staff of 36.



Photo Credit: Michael Tenaglia, Mike T Photography and Design

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President's Message



When I look back on the events of 2020, it is difficult to offer a tidy synopsis. An unprecedented year in so many ways, its full impact will continue to be felt in the coming months and years.

Fortunately, before the pandemic first hit Ontario in March, Council had set its priorities for the upcoming year, and so we were able to stay focused on longer term issues including Climate Stability, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity, Education, and Member Participation, while responding to the immediate and evolving crisis of COVID-19 as the year progressed.

The OAA quickly recognized the impact COVID-19 was having on the membership and responded with a series of strategies to help us all through this period. The OAA's Executive Committee, Council, and staff promptly transitioned to working from home while offering support and minimizing impacts on member services. Swift decisions were made about how to continue operations and offer membership support. Conference was cancelled and the Continuing Education (ConEd) cycle and Certificate of Practice fee payment deadlines were extended.

We then leveraged our existing online assets and experimented with new ones. Having cancelled the Conference, we moved the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Celebration of Excellence awards presentations online and launched a highly successful virtual ConEd webinar series. To help navigate changing information and best practices, we added a new, comprehensive COVID-19 Updates page to the OAA Website. We even offered opportunities for connection by trialing OAA.chat as a platform for community.

Despite the difficulties brought on by the pandemic, I was honoured to be OAA President for a second term in 2020, helping lead our governing Council in fulfilling our mandate under the *Architects Act*. As we review and highlight our achievements in this 2020 Annual Report, **I stand firm that protecting the public interest, as set out in the *Architects Act*, continues to be at the forefront of our actions.**

While the pandemic was undoubtedly both traumatic and a major disruption, we were resolute in addressing our set priorities. **The OAA remains committed to applying the lens of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion across its programs, priorities, and initiatives.** Improving the accessibility to our profession was one of the reasons why I first ran for President back in 2018.

Our Membership Survey results, as well as raw membership data and anecdotal feedback, told us our profession continues to be inaccessible to many and fraught with issues of discrimination. Throughout 2020, the OAA received candid, constructive criticism on how to do better—both collectively and individually—to confront unconscious biases.

We hosted free webinars on topics like addressing diversity and harassment in the workplace, along with virtual roundtables on equity, diversity, and inclusion. The OAA held Indigenous cultural competency training for Council, staff, and members of our Reconciliation Working Group while continuing important work on an environmental survey of the profession. We also updated

the OAA website to meet *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) standards and introduced closed captioning for webinars. As well, the OAA changed registration forms and standards for correspondence to remove prefixes and gender binary language.

The ultimate goal is to ensure all voices are represented and members of our profession reflect the population of Ontario. More work will take place in 2021 in this regard (such as our first demographic survey, which will enable us to set a baseline to measure positive change), and I am encouraged that actions taken in 2020 will lay a solid foundation for the work ahead.

Self-regulated professions continue to face increased scrutiny in the eye of the public and government, and I am happy to say we remain diligent and focused on ensuring our house is in order. In addition to continuing to liaise with different government Ministries to promote legislation reflecting the public interest relative to the built environment, we installed a new Registrar and Deputy Registrar, introduced a new Governance Committee, formalized succession planning, and improved transparency by building a new feature into the online OAA Member Registry that allows the public to see individual members' and practices' discipline history.

We also remain vigilant in our efforts to promote climate stability. Buildings continue to be significant contributors to our current climate crisis. **As leaders charged with protecting the public interest, architects must play a significant role in improving the environmental impacts of both existing and new buildings.** To this end, the OAA has been collaborating with experts in the field, integrating sustainability criteria into its awards programs and other initiatives, and adding its voice to the call for climate action. I am eager for the time when we can finally welcome members and the public to view our new OAA Headquarters as a vision for what is possible in sustainable design.

The OAA continued to focus on expanding knowledge within the profession in 2020. Our comprehensive education approach ensures students have the information they need to become great architects, provides resources to members to augment their skills, and expands outreach efforts to build public awareness. A well-rounded, highly skilled profession is best equipped to support the best interests of the public.

Throughout the year, we continued to find ways to engage the membership, but we do hear feedback that some feel disconnected from the OAA. This information signals that we must continue to work to find a balance between membership services and our primary responsibilities as the regulator of the profession. Certainly, **the privilege of self-regulation is only possible with the direct involvement of our members.** The OAA continues to strive to increase participation, while understanding the challenge inherent in achieving this goal.

I am pleased to note that amid all this, we also successfully launched our new visual identity as planned, complete with a new logo and website. These assets will be key tools for sharing information with the membership as we find our way to a post-COVID reality.

On a personal note, I am delighted with how OAA staff, Council, and the many volunteers on our Committees worked together throughout the year to ensure the Association's mandate and priorities continued to be a focus in spite of the challenges posed by COVID-19. All are to be congratulated!

In 2021, this continues. We still have much further to go and I look forward to continuing to support those efforts on Council as the OAA's Immediate Past-President.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Kurtin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Kurtin, Architect
OAA, FRAIC
President, 2019–2020

Executive Director's Report



What started out to be a seemingly normal year turned abruptly on its head as the pandemic settled over Ontario, along with the rest of the world. To suggest this year was an anomaly is an understatement, to say the least. While we have all been affected in one way or another by COVID-19, I would like to start this message by offering my sincerest thoughts to our members, our colleagues, and industry partners who may have fallen ill or, worse, lost a loved one this past year.

As I began drafting this message, I referred to my entry in last year's annual report and took particular note of the following statement: "... *over and above those 'typical' changes, the year 2019 saw some exceptional shifts, particularly in operations and administration.*" This was perhaps an exaggeration at the time now that I'm reflecting on 2020, which was more deserving of the title 'exceptional!'

On March 16, 2020, the OAA's office doors closed and operations moved to remote capacity with staff working from home. Fortunately, the transition to remote work was relatively seamless and staff were equipped to respond, having already had a month-long 'practice run' in June 2019 as we finalized occupancy after the renovation of the OAA Headquarters.

While I will not suggest it was business as usual, the OAA continued to fulfil its roles and responsibilities through the use of technology, coupled with a new attitude toward this approach. Operations and staff have stayed connected through the implementation of additional 'intra-office' communication technology, through additional virtual service area and team meetings, as well as introducing weekly virtual meetings of the full staff complement.

As was the case for most everyone, much of our activities for the first half of 2020 were focused on responding to the pandemic as it evolved on a daily basis. Through the combined efforts of various staff and OAA service areas, information and guidance for members was churned out at rapid pace via a dedicated webpage. The main objective was to assist our members in understanding the impacts of relevant government and public health restrictions and directives around the pandemic. Of paramount importance was ensuring our members continued to fulfil their professional responsibilities to protect the public interest.

Despite the disruption and a level of uncertainty during 2020, the OAA's finances remained solid (see the Treasurer's Report on page 37 for financial specifics).

Last year taught us many things. Amid much tragedy, new opportunities and positive thinking toward the future have arisen nevertheless. As the Executive Director, I want to reflect on what we have learned from 2020 and use it to strengthen the OAA, our operations, and the profession.

Through this crisis, we have been forced to shift quickly and expand beyond our comfort zone. For example, our organization was forced to embrace technology in ways we had previously only imagined. What might have otherwise been a five-year plan around technology was suddenly in place in

a matter of weeks. This fast-tracking toward increased online services had unforeseen benefits, increasing accessibility to OAA's programs and services as well as reducing our carbon footprint through an almost complete reduction in travel. As we made changes this year and adapted, the results of the previous years' Surveys of Members and Practices were also referenced and used to inform direction and decisions. And while recognizing that 2020 has likely been one of the most challenging years from an operational, functional, and policy perspective, it has also given rise to new opportunities to rethink our approach to work. The strain of an integrated home life and work life meant we all adopted a higher degree of flexibility, adaptability, and understanding. Care and compassion became pivotal to our operations and we worked to provide additional resources to support home-office needs and shifting schedules. Additional member supports through the Leave and Financial Hardship policies as well as extension to deadlines were put in place to help during this incredibly difficult year.

With all of this change underway, discussions began mid-year around the concept of an operational review—something never before undertaken by the Association. The OAA has matured and evolved considerably over the last 15 years—as did public and government scrutiny of regulatory bodies. While we continue to stay abreast of the regulatory trends across the country—noting specific changes that are occurring around self regulation and oversight—it is critical that we keep pace and be proactive in responding to this changing landscape.

With the support of the Governance Committee and Council, the decision was made to conduct a review of the OAA's operations in 2021. The overarching goal of this review is to ensure that the Association is organized, resourced, and administered in an optimal manner in order to support the legislative mandate of the OAA along with the vision, mission, and strategic objectives of the OAA and Council. I look forward to the results of that review and the opportunities that lie ahead to strengthen our operations and continue to advance the profession of architecture.

Please take time to review the rest of the OAA's Annual Report to learn about the depth and breadth of activities that have taken place over 2020.

Special thanks to our OAA staff team for their resilience, and for quickly adapting to the new reality of operations. And thank you to the members of OAA Council for their continued support throughout 2020.

OAA staff and Council work daily to ensure our regulatory roles and responsibilities as set out under the *Architects Act* are met, effectively and efficiently.



Kristi Doyle
Executive Director

Strategic Planning + Priorities

The OAA regulates the architecture profession in Ontario. Its primary objective is to administer the *Architects Act* in order to serve and protect the public interest, while likewise promoting and increasing the knowledge, skill, and proficiency of its members.

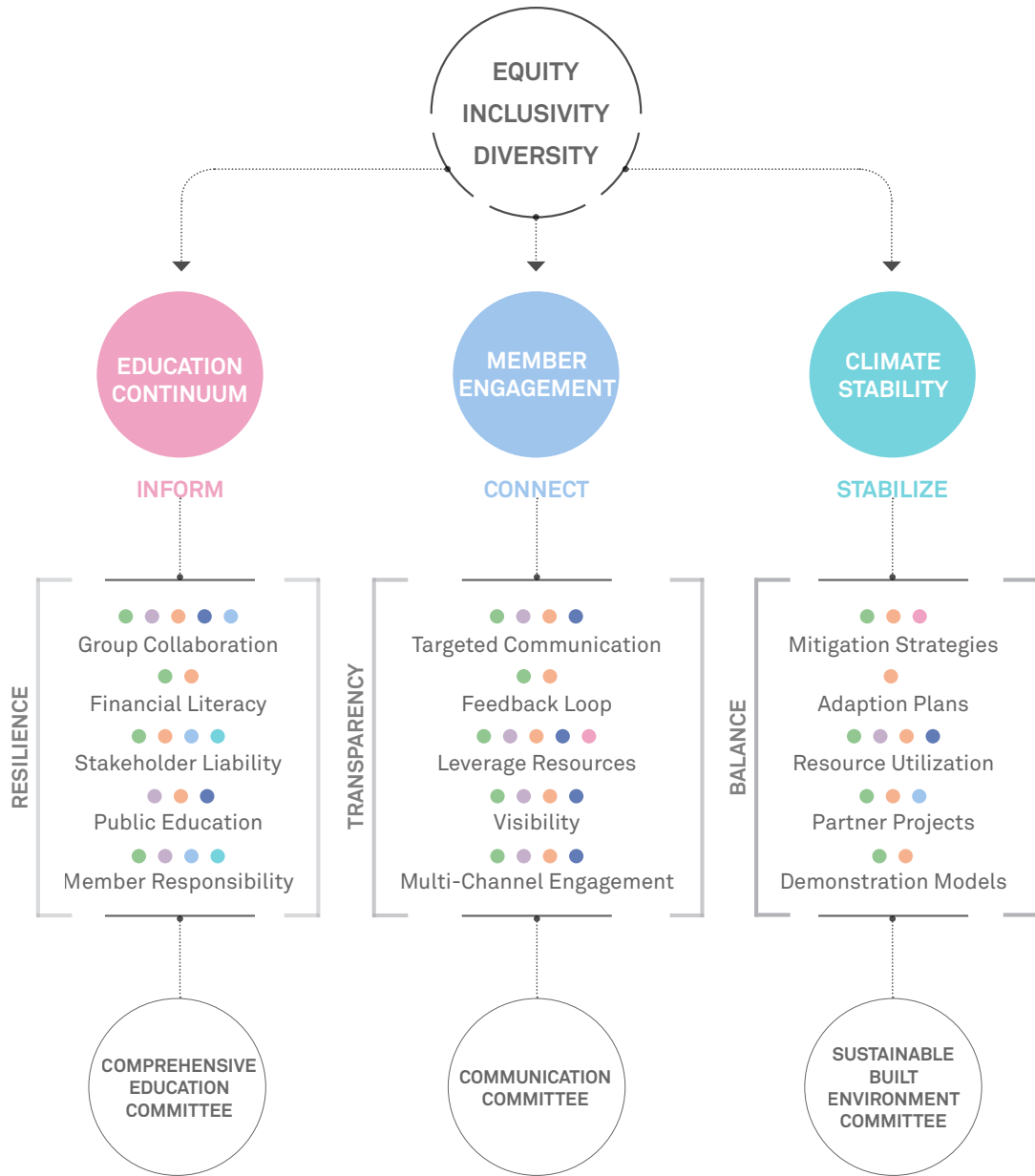
Each year, the Association's governing Council also sets a number of focused strategic priorities to direct activities for the year ahead. In early February, OAA Council held its annual Planning Session. It reviewed the current state of Association initiatives and projects in the context of the OAA's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

In 2020, OAA Council set three priorities:

- **Education Continuum;**
- **Member Engagement;** and
- **Climate Stability.**

These priorities would further be viewed through the lens of **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity.**

2020 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



STAKEHOLDERS



Moving Strategic Priorities Forward

Education Continuum

The Council priority of the Education Continuum encompasses a range of activities from teaching students how to become architects to providing resources so OAA members can further develop their knowledge. This approach ensures a well-rounded profession that is equipped to meet the needs of communities.

In 2020, OAA education-related actions included:

- creating the Vice President Education portfolio (including the Comprehensive Education Committee);
- introducing a biweekly seminar series, thereby increasing accessibility for members to OAA learning opportunities;
- reaching an agreement to begin development of the “Fundamentals of Architectural Practice” course (formerly “Starting an Architectural Practice”) to online modules; and
- enhancing the *Practice Advisory* and *OAA News* e-newsletters with more updated information relative to practice.

Membership Engagement

A primary focus in 2020 was gathering feedback from members regarding their perceptions of the OAA. The information collected revealed some areas of disconnection, signalling the need to improve the balance between member services and the OAA’s primary responsibilities as a regulator.

In 2020, OAA member-engagement actions included:

- increasing information sharing about OAA elections and Council roles and responsibilities, resulting in a record number of nominations and volunteers for Committee positions;
- moving the President’s Local Architectural Society visits online to increase engagement opportunities;
- holding a “Meet the OAA” online event for students; and
- enhancing use of main social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and relaunching LinkedIn and YouTube.

Climate Stability

Given that buildings are significant contributors to the climate crisis, architects must play a role in reducing the environmental impacts of both new and existing buildings.

In 2020, OAA climate stability actions included:

- developing a web-based Total Energy Use Intensity (TEUI) Calculator;
- joining the Workforce 2030 Coalition as a founding member alongside allied industry groups;
- adding mandatory eligibility criteria of Energy Use Intensity (EUI) calculations for OAA Design Excellence Awards;
- changing criteria for Student Scholarship awards to include an environmental component; and
- directing Pro-Demnity Insurance Co. to divest from fossil fuels.

*Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity:
The Overarching Lens*

Using results from both the OAA's 2019 Membership Survey, as well as raw membership data and constructive and candid feedback as guides, the OAA continued to explore and act in ways to begin to address deep-rooted biases and lack of true representation in the architecture profession. More work will take place in 2021 in this regard, but actions taken in 2020 include:

- hosting free webinars on the topics of unconscious bias, harassment in the workplace, and addressing diversity through leadership;
- increasing accessibility to ConEd and special events through virtual formats;
- holding Indigenous cultural competency training for OAA Council, staff, and members of the OAA Reconciliation Working Group;
- hosting virtual roundtables on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) for licensed OAA members, Intern Architects, and students in Ontario's schools of architecture;
- updating the OAA website to meet *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* standards and introducing closed captioning for webinars;
- changing registration forms and standards for correspondence to remove prefixes and gender binary language; and
- commissioning a 2021 survey on membership demographics to provide a baseline for future EDI work.

Business

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

The year 2020, of course, was far from “business as usual.” At the start of the year, the OAA was on the verge of launching a new logo and website, and had just returned to its newly renovated zero-carbon headquarters. Poised to celebrate new beginnings with a grand reopening for members and the public alike, the OAA—along with the rest of the world—was blindsided by the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the regulator of the architecture profession, the OAA responded swiftly in order to continue to protect the public interest. The entire OAA team quickly pivoted to digital, harnessing technology to allow Council, Committees, and staff to continue to work amid stay-at-home orders and physical-distancing recommendations. Prior experience working remotely during the OAA Headquarters Renew+Refresh helped staff to transition effectively.

Key Accomplishments

COVID-19 Response

In an effort to curb the uncertainty brought on by the pandemic, the Association developed a **COVID-19 Updates page** on the OAA website to provide up-to-the-minute strategies for navigating the pandemic. These updates offered resources and information to members in order that they could continue their practices while upholding the ever-evolving health and safety guidelines laid out by the Province of Ontario.

Behind the scenes, the OAA also worked with all levels of government to encourage new approaches for overseeing permits and site inspections. These efforts eventually gave way to improved processes and a willingness to move toward a more streamlined and consistent system across the province.

The OAA Conference Reimagined

In consideration of COVID-19 physical distancing measures, the 2020 OAA Conference was cancelled, but its elements were transformed into reimagined programs. **The Annual General Meeting** was hosted online in August, where members could vote safely and securely from across the province. The **Celebration of Excellence**, which honours the work of Ontario practices, became a series of video vignettes and an awards ceremony on YouTube, opening the event not only to all OAA members, but also to their families and the public.

The Conference’s **Continuing Education** sessions were adapted into a highly popular webinar series, which will continue to expand in 2021. To ensure all

Architects, Non-Practising Architects, and Licensed Technologists OAA could access educational opportunities amid physical distancing orders, the OAA and other Canadian regulators also extended the ConEd cycle until the end of the year.

Awards Programs

The **SHIFT2021 Challenge** was launched as planned, with the particularly apt theme of *resiliency*. This aspirational awards program seeks to highlight the unique contributions architectural thinking can bring to key societal issues. Exemplary projects selected by an esteemed jury panel will be announced in Spring 2021.

The OAA also debuted new criteria for the **Design Excellence Awards**, introducing a mandatory requirement for Energy Use Intensity (EUI) data. The student awards and scholarships now recognize exceptional leadership in design excellence and innovation in sustainability.

Regulatory Responsibilities

In addition to continuing to liaise with different government Ministries to promote legislation reflecting the public interest relative to the built environment, the OAA installed a new Registrar and Deputy Registrar, introduced a new Governance Committee, formalized succession planning, and improved transparency by building a new feature into the online OAA Member Registry that allows the public to see individual members' and practices' discipline history.

Policy + Government Relations

Liaising with the Policy Advocacy Coordination Team (PACT) and the Sustainable Built Environments Committee (SBEC), the **OAA's Policy and Government Relations Team** is mandated to coordinate the means in which policy and governmental concerns are addressed by the Association. The COVID-19 threat was identified and flagged early on in the OAA's media monitoring, and proved to be even more significant and detrimental than ever imagined. Throughout 2020, the team worked with various external and internal partners—in particular the Association's Communications team and Practice Advisory Services (PAS)—to ensure that critical information was identified and shared with members in a timely manner.

Through the work of PACT and SBEC, the OAA effectively engaged with decision-makers by sending letters and participating in meetings, briefings, and consultations at both the municipal and provincial levels. In keeping with recent years, legislative and regulatory developments continued at a frenetic pace, but the OAA stayed on top of developments through a proactive and multi-faceted monitoring program.

Key Accomplishments

Relationship-Building

As ever, in 2020, collaboration was essential to the OAA's work. Central to this mission was the OAA's ongoing participation as a founding member of the [Construction Design Alliance of Ontario](#) (CDAO). The OAA also continued its participation with the City of Toronto's Broader Construction Association Consultation Group, the [Toronto 2030 District](#), and the [Compass project](#). In 2020, the OAA also joined the [Workforce 2030 Coalition](#) as a founding member. These partnerships ensure strong relationships across the industry.

Work in late 2019 and early 2020 on the government's plan to transform and modernize the delivery of Ontario's Building Code services yielded important results, as the government withdrew a contentious part of the proposal. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has led ongoing consultations around the remaining elements, and the OAA has been actively involved in each of these meetings.

Member Engagement

A **Large Firms Roundtable** was held in early 2020, shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic caused a province-wide shutdown. As the full impact of COVID-19 started to become known and physical-distancing protocols became widespread, the OAA reached out to the City of Toronto's Chief Building Official to share knowledge and collaborate on permitting and inspection services. These early interactions led to ongoing working groups with the City of Toronto Chief Building Official and with the Chief Planner. This group met twice in 2020 and, following a very positive response from both the City and participants, has planned meetings set to occur throughout 2021. Following up from a few years ago, the OAA also reconvened a Corporate and Publicly-Employed Architects Roundtable to gain insight on recent developments.

Thought Leadership

The OAA continued its push to clarify that **Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS)** is in the best interests of the public. The so-called “QBS Kit” from more than a decade ago was replaced [with a new page on the OAA website](#) providing information on using and adopting QBS, with supplemental links to various resources. Equipped with these tools, the OAA participated in meetings with the public sector and also continued its support for the Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) QBS pilot. The OAA also agreed to fund an update to a landmark 2009 study on QBS usage and benefits by the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). This update will now include findings specific to the Canadian market.

Building on its concern that key recommendations from the Elliot Lake Inquiry remain outstanding, the OAA also submitted targeted advice to the MMAH to help respond to the Commission, including proposed legislative and regulatory amendments. The OAA expects this work to continue in 2021.

Working Toward Climate Stability

Building on a long legacy of environmental leadership, the OAA Council added Climate Stability to its list of strategic priorities in 2020. SBEC worked collaboratively with other OAA Committees to ensure that climate stability was woven broadly into all aspects of the OAA. SBEC joined forces with the Comprehensive Education Committee to ensure that more learning modules about climate stability are offered to the membership in 2021, including the main plenary session planned for the 2021 OAA Conference. Consistent with these strategic priorities, 2020 was also the first year that **Energy Use Intensity (EUI)** was a requirement for all Design Excellence Awards, and SBEC members made up the technical jury that reviewed all award submissions and verified energy use data.

SBEC also continued its evolution into a specialized technical committee, commencing development on a number of member resources including an update to the **High-Performance Wall Assemblies** (“Four Walls”) bulletin and a **Total Energy Use Intensity (TEUI) Calculator**—both of which are expected to be delivered in early 2021. The TEUI Calculator provides users with a simple and easy way to determine the energy performance of a home or building requiring no more than the square footage and some utility bills. Service to the members expanded well beyond these key initiatives, and the Committee initiated a series of **blOAAg posts** and articles to be shared with members, industry, and the broader public.

Raising Architectural Awareness and Appreciation

The OAA ended the year on a positive note with the launch of a virtual exhibit of the annual **Queen’s Park Picks**. Each year, Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) are asked to nominate an outstanding architectural work within their riding. Nine Queen’s Park Picks (“QP Picks”) were selected in 2020 for research and mounting in an exhibit. While the OAA was unable to celebrate World Architecture Day at Queen’s Park due to COVID-19, the exhibit was moved to an [online portal](#) that retroactively incorporated selections from past years. The 2020 QP Picks garnered unprecedented public, media, and political attention for diverse architectural projects throughout Ontario. The Association hopes to carry the energy from that successful event across its programs in 2021.

Communications

The **OAA Communications team** works to create awareness of the Association's programs and activities not only for the membership and the architecture profession, but also for the general public. Conducted through numerous channels and vehicles, this outreach and information-sharing is overseen by the OAA Communications Committee.

The OAA communicates to internal and external audiences—including licensed members, Intern Architects and Student Associates, the building industry, the media, all levels of government, and the public—to ensure the Association's mission is fulfilled and its mandate is clear. Under the direction of its Communications Committee, it also supports the Local Architectural Societies with **Special Project Funding** opportunities and, with its **Public Awareness Sponsorship** program, allocates financial assistance to carry out projects or events that promote Ontario architecture.

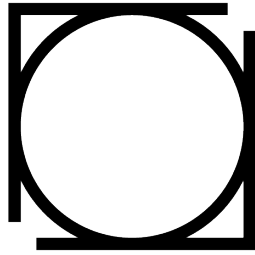
The **OAA Website**, which underwent a substantial redevelopment in 2020, continues to be the Association's main communications vehicle. In addition, this year also saw increased use of Special News Bulletin emails, a strengthening of *OAA News* and *Practice Advisory* e-newsletters, and an exponential rise in social media, with respect to both use and audience growth.

Key Accomplishments

The New Look: Logo and Website

Despite the turbulence of the COVID-19 pandemic, two Communications projects that had long been in development made their debut for both the public and the membership at the end of June 2020—a new logo and visual identity, as well as a completely redesigned website with a new user experience. These new brand properties are a welcome update to the Association's public-facing image and, more importantly, reflect the OAA's commitment to accessibility and inclusivity across its communications channels.

In 2018, the OAA Council agreed to have the 20-year old logo redesigned to ensure it met current and future accessibility, linguistic, and design-use requirements. The new logo, developed by **Leo Burnett Canada**, was envisioned to symbolize the OAA's role as a place to bridge communities. The central circle, which doubles as an O for "Ontario," represents community and inclusivity of the membership. The outer pieces framing this circle represent the architect's space, and visually create the two As from the Association's acronym. Throughout the year, the logo led the charge for an entirely new visual identity across the OAA's internal and external documents and resources.



Ontario Association
of Architects

Ordre des architectes
de l'Ontario

Launched concurrently with the logo, the [OAA Website's](#) new look and new design experience were realized through a collaboration with two Toronto companies—**Enginess.io**, a digital strategy consultancy and software development firm, and **Sputnik Design Partners**, a full-service design agency. The new OAA website offers several improvements from the decade-old version including improved structure, accessible design, improved clarity and transparency, and a contemporary aesthetic with which to showcase architecture projects and the people behind them. It also leverages updated web technology such as responsive design for tablets and smartphones. The new site is designed to meet the objectives of improved member support and public awareness, creating a clear distinction between public and member content. The new OAA website will continue to evolve and grow in the coming months and years.

The [bIOAAg](#), a member-driven section of the site, was used to showcase numerous themes throughout the year. The popular recurring series, “Summer Sketches,” spotlighted members’ architectural drawings, from the speculative to the fully realized. Another returning campaign, “Queen’s Park Picks,” offered profiles of favourite buildings selected by Members of Provincial Parliament. Finally, “Shifting Paradigms” shared glimpses of how the architecture profession was responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, from building bunny houses to manufacturing personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline workers to changing perspectives on how to practise.

OAA Awards Programs

The 2020 **OAA Annual Conference** had been scheduled to take place in Toronto in late May, but was cancelled 10 weeks prior due to growing concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. Traditionally, the Conference is where the Association honours the recipients of its awards programs, so a new plan was envisioned to ensure honourees could be recognized safely.

The restrictions created by COVID-19 fostered new and unexpected opportunities—for the first time, the OAA’s awards ceremony was open to not only the winners, but also their colleagues, friends, families, and the broader public. The **Celebration of Excellence** was reimagined as a special virtual event hosted via YouTube on October 1. It revealed the winner of the People’s Choice Award (through online voting) and included special guests like the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

For the biennial **Design Excellence** program, 2020's short-listed selections ranged from innovative public swimming pools to sustainably designed education spaces in the United States. This program offers Ontario architects an opportunity to present their work to colleagues and the public, demonstrating the excellence of both their practice and the profession as a whole. This year, in response to the collective call for climate action, the program introduced Energy Use Intensity (EUI) metrics criteria for all submissions, reflecting a shift to incorporate sustainable design as a critical component of all building projects rather than a niche specialty.

Ultimately, 10 winners were selected by a special jury from 79 eligible submissions, using criteria such as creativity, context, sustainability, business, and legacy.

2020 OAA Award Winners



Order of da Vinci

Toon Dreessen



Lifetime Design Achievement

Blanche Lemco van Ginkel



G. Randy Roberts Service Award

Joe Lobko



Best Emerging Practice

Office Ou

Design Excellence



Semi Semi (Toronto, Ont.) COMN Architects Inc.



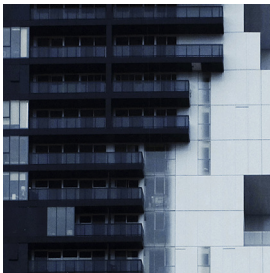
The Brearley School (New York City, N.Y.) KPMB Architects



Essex Centre of Research (Windsor, Ont.) Hariri Pontarini Architects



Woodhouse (Singhampton, Ont.) Superkül Inc.



River City Phase 3 (Toronto, Ont.) Saucier + Perotte Architectes in joint venture with ZAS Architects



The Rob and Cheryl McEwen Graduate Study & Research Building, Schulich School of Business (Toronto, Ont.) Baird Sampson Neuert Architects Inc.



Ronald O. Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Pa.) KPMB Architects



Senate of Canada Building (Ottawa, Ont.) Diamond and Schmitt Architects Incorporated and KWC Architects Inc. in Joint Venture



Borden Park Natural Swimming Pool (Edmonton, Alta.) gh3 inc.



Trent University Student Centre (Peterborough, Ont.) Teeple Architects Inc.

A Resilient SHIFT

During the summer, the OAA announced the theme for its second biennial **SHIFT Challenge: resiliency**. While the theme was chosen the previous year, it was a very prescient topic for 2020. Debuted as the *SHIFT2019: Infrastructure/Architecture Challenge*, this OAA awards program is an aspirational and inspirational competition that seeks to demonstrate how architectural thinking can offer new approaches to key societal problems. The results of this second *SHIFT Challenge* will be shared in 2021.



Social Media

Due to both the pandemic and the OAA's increased use of social media to share information, the Association's online audiences grew steadily throughout the year.

Instagram Followers

5702
(3266 in 2019)

Twitter Followers

7512
(7105 in 2019)

Facebook Followers

2245
(1853 in 2019)

In addition to increased use of Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, the OAA revived its LinkedIn and YouTube accounts, deploying the latter to share video vignettes of OAA highlights such as:

- the Design Excellence winners;
- the logo and website launch;
- interviews with past SHIFT participants; and
- online events like the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Meet the OAA webinar that introduced the Association to students at architecture schools across the province.

In addition to spreading news about the OAA, Council directed Association staff to elevate the voices of those working at the intersection of design and anti-racism. Webinars, podcasts, and articles were highlighted through social media in an effort to support equity, diversity, and inclusivity in the profession. Council also encouraged staff to share information about the important role architects and Licensed Technologists OAA can play in congregate spaces, in light of lessons learned during the pandemic regarding the impact of the built environment on vulnerable populations.

Office of the Registrar

The work of the **Office of the Registrar** is accomplished by OAA staff with the assistance of members who volunteer to 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. It does so 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 Office of the Registrar oversees a number of regulatory and membership functions, which include licensing, authorizing practices, Act enforcement, investigations, complaints and discipline, elections, and the Internship in Architecture Program (IAP), in addition to working with the regulatory committees and Vice President Regulatory to fulfil its mandate. Beyond the mandate-driven activities, the Office of the Registrar also works alongside the OAA Executive Director on initiatives with the [Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities](#) (CALA), the [Canadian Architectural Certification Board](#) (CACB), [Examination for Architects in Canada](#) (ExAC), the [Office of Fairness Commission](#), the [Ministry of the Attorney General](#), other professional regulators and organizations, and schools of architecture across the country.

Key Accomplishments

Despite the myriad challenges presented by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of the Registrar experienced a relatively seamless transition to remote working conditions, with little to no interruption in overall efficiency and output. As a result of this resiliency, a number of strides were made in the Office in 2020.

New Leadership

In March 2020, just as the pandemic began to take hold in Ontario, the Office of the Registrar underwent a change in leadership. Former OAA Registrar **Nedra Brown**, who held the position from 2011 to 2020, stepped down and was succeeded by Deputy Registrar **Christie Mills**, who began in early March. That same month, the OAA welcomed **Claire Hepburn** to the role of Deputy Registrar.

Right-Touch Regulation

As a result of the 2019 [Supreme Court of Canada decision in Vavilov](#), more scrutiny has been placed on regulators to ensure their decisions are logical, coherent, and defensible. Since then, and throughout 2020, the Office of the Registrar has been putting a framework in place to ensure the OAA's regulatory activities—which includes investigation and prosecution of professional misconduct of its members—are evolving in line with the jurisprudence. To that end, the OAA is adopting principles of **Right-Touch Regulation**. This approach, which comes from regulators in the United Kingdom, seeks to understand the problem before jumping to the solution. It is a means of ensuring that the level of regulation is proportionate to the level of risk to the public.

In practical terms, this means the OAA is enhancing its triaging and intake procedures, quantifying and qualifying risk, improving training to committee members, and taking an overall approach to problem-solving that is outcome-focused, proportionate, and responsive to change. The overall goal of Right-Touch regulation is to apply the correct amount of regulatory force to the most targeted areas of risk; this will allow the OAA to fulfil its public-protection mandate in the most efficient and effective manner.

Outreach and Engagement

As the pandemic shifted the OAA's approach to work, the Office of the Registrar quickly adapted to ensure it provided successful events and outreach initiatives. Under the guidance of the Interns Committee, the OAA hosted a successful "Meet the OAA" virtual event, released a [Mentorship Guide](#), and expanded website content outlining the pathway to licensure—including a new [FAQ page](#). The Office of the Registrar also supported the release of the national **Internship in Architecture Program (IAP)** update at the end of 2020 to coincide with expanded online **Canadian Experience Record Book (CERB)** portal capabilities (inclusive of Student Hours consideration in the new IAP).

Following Council's 2018/2019 commitment to align with the evolving self-regulatory landscape, efforts to increase transparency and access to information was prioritized during 2020. The Office of the Registrar expanded its online visibility by updating and increasing the regulatory content to align with the new website launch in 2020, which will continue to develop in the coming months.

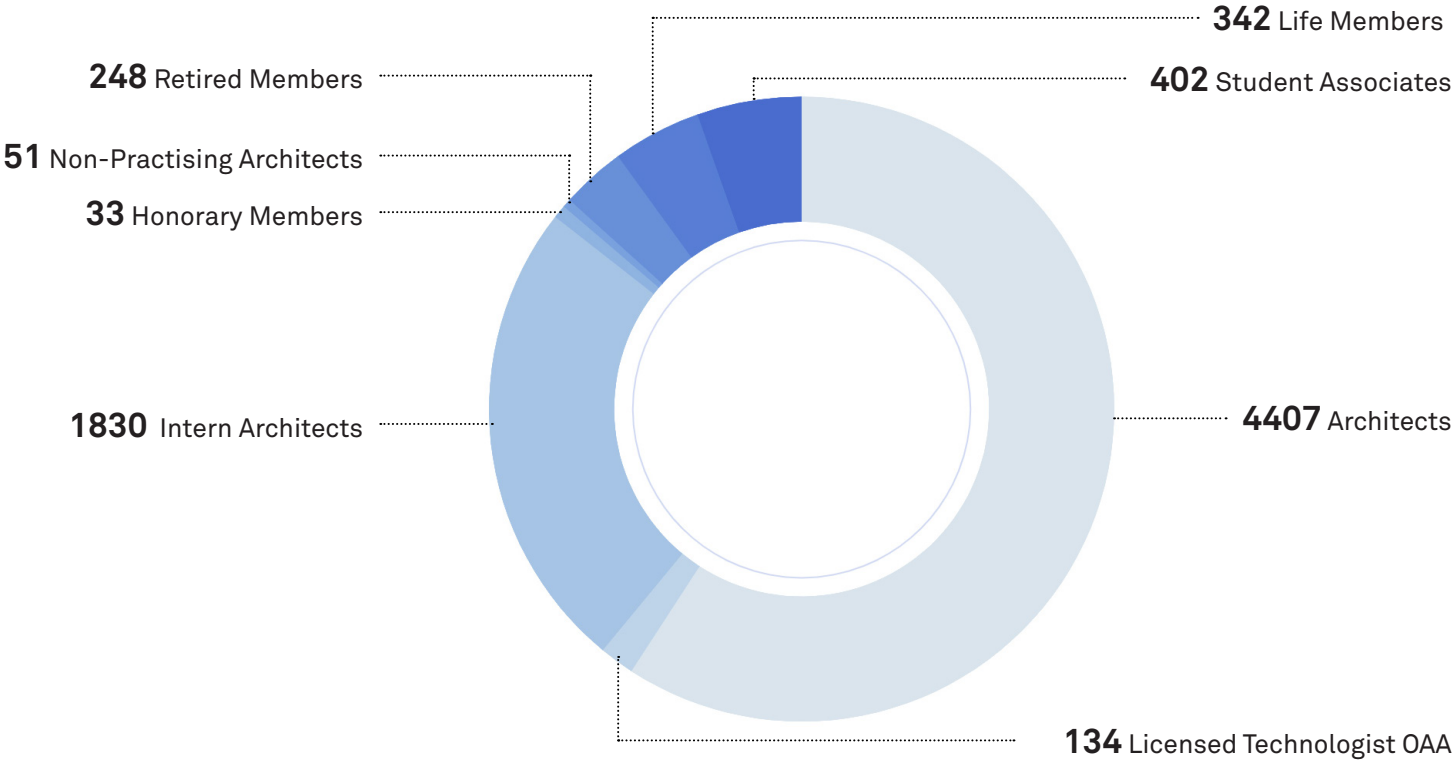
Statutory Committees

The events of 2020 necessitated change to how the OAA typically conducts its in-person regulatory hearings, meetings, and interviews. Fortunately, the statutory committees were well-suited to pivot to a remote environment. Discipline and Registration hearings, like many legal proceedings, continued in a virtual setting. The Complaints Committee easily transitioned to full remote work and investigation. The Experience Requirements Committee (ERC) adapted to conduct its interviews in either a hybrid or fully remote format depending on provincial health regulations. Additionally, the Ontario Divisional Court prioritized virtual hearings for regulatory bodies given the inherent public interest nature of these matters.

2020 Association Statistics

New Licenses

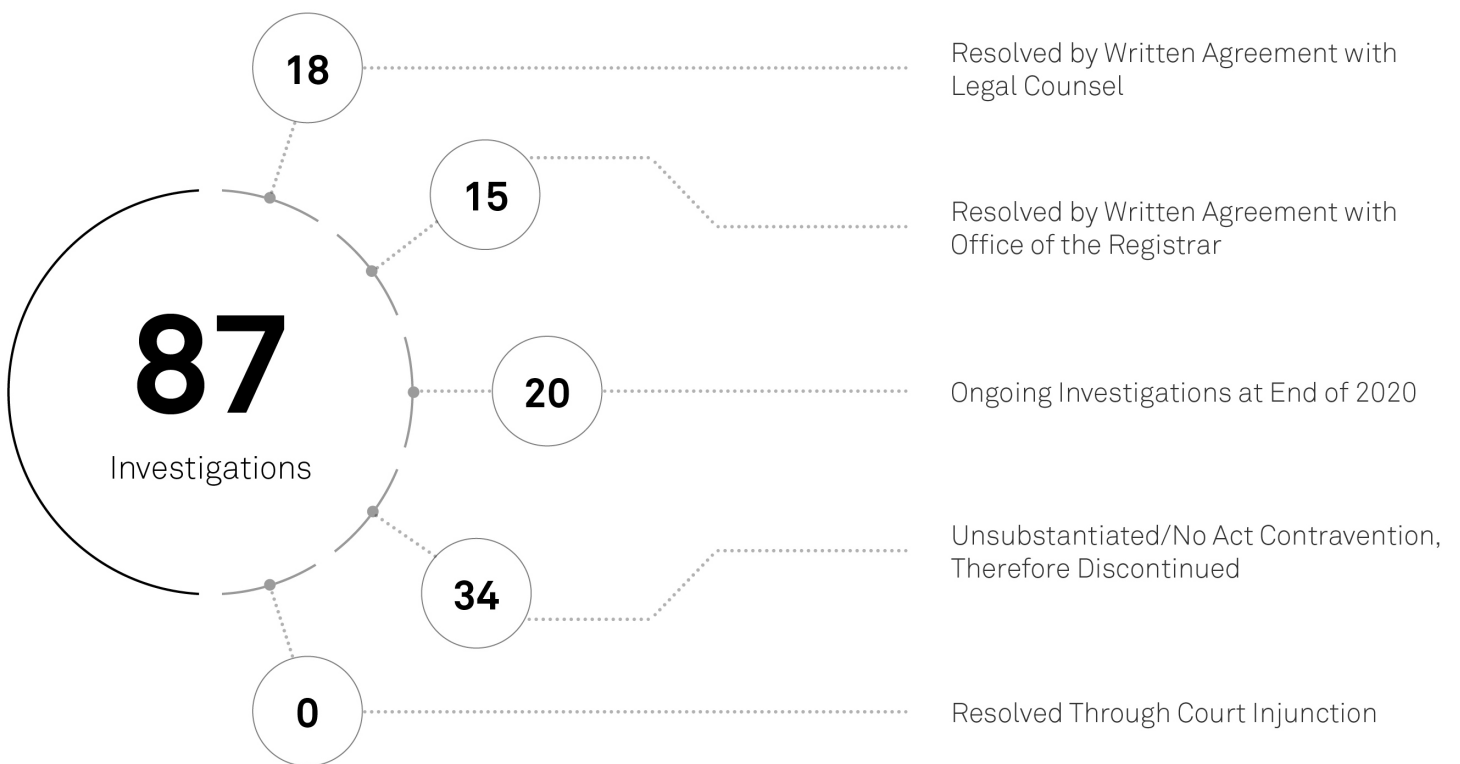
- 267** Architects
- 4** Licensed Technologists OAA
- 271** Total



Act Enforcement

The primary function of the Office of the Registrar is to enforce the OAA's governing legislation. This includes protecting the title "Architect" and any use of related words that suggest an individual is holding themselves out in a manner that might confuse or mislead the public into believing the individual is an Architect. The Registrar receives and evaluates information from members and the public alike, and oversees investigations. In 2020, 87 matters were reported to the Registrar related to misuse of the term "Architect" or "Architecture," or otherwise holding out.

OAA ILLEGAL PRACTICE/ACT ENFORCEMENT 2020



Examinations

Examinations are key step along the path to licensure and are administered by the Office of the Registrar as part of the **Internship in Architecture Program (IAP)**.

Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC)

The COVID-19 pandemic forced a large-scale rethink about the **ExAC** in 2020. Through the spring and early summer of 2020 the national **Committee for the ExAC (CExAC)** watched the developing pandemic situation, still actively planning for an in-person, pencil-and-paper examination in November 2020 while simultaneously discussing contingency planning in the event that this became untenable.

In early September, the CExAC, in consultation with the **Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities (CALA)**, engaged Yardstick Assessment Strategies to provide an electronic exam platform for the ExAC as pandemic conditions began to deteriorate again after receding earlier in the summer.

Work to transition to an electronic exam began in earnest in mid-October with the mandate to deliver an exam by the end of February, 2021. The sitting of the 2020 ExAC occurred on February 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2021.

Examination is one of the mandatory components for licensure in Ontario. 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).

Of a total of 809 interns from nine provincial/territorial Architectural Licensing Authorities who wrote the ExAC, 609 passed all the sections for which they were eligible. The overall success rate for all the sessions of the exams is 75.3 per cent.

Of the 41 intern architects (Ontario) who wrote the ARE through the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) in 2020, 16 passed all 6 divisions of ARE 5.0.

The overall success rate for all divisions of the ARE is 39 per cent.

Education

The Comprehensive Education Committee (CEC) was established by the OAA in 2019 to oversee matters related to the entire spectrum of education. The Committee provides thoughtful and responsible consideration of the complex and rapid changes in the field of architecture and the broader social context within which it exists—specifically in the fields of education, Continuing Education, and professional development.

The COVID-19 pandemic dominated the new Committee's first year of operation, challenging every aspect of the current education paradigm. Nevertheless, the Comprehensive Education Committee with support from the **Education and Development team** found innovative ways to address the challenge.

Key Accomplishments

Continuing Education Program

The [OAA's Continuing Education Program](#) reflects the OAA's dedication to promoting and increasing the knowledge, skill, and proficiency of its members 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.

In consideration of the impact of the COVID-19 virus, the OAA extended the 2018–2020 Continuing Education Cycle until December 31, 2020. This change had the following implications:

- Members had until December 31, 2020 to complete their continuing education requirements for the 2018-2020 Cycle;
- The cap on carryover hours was lifted, meaning Members who had completed their continuing education requirements were permitted to continue to accrue learning hours;
- Out-of-province members had until December 31, 2020 to complete their continuing education equivalency declaration form; and
- The 2021-2022 continuing education cycle was shortened to 18 months, that is, January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

There were approximately 200 Members who had not complied with the mandatory Continuing Education Program requirements. These noncompliance cases are then considered by the Public Interest Review Committee (PIRC).

Continuing Education Webinars Series

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 OAA Conference was cancelled. To ensure OAA members had plenty of learning opportunities to comply with the mandatory Continuing Education Program, the OAA launched a Series of Continuing Education Webinars. The “live” webinars were offered twice a month from April through December of 2020.

Webinars @ a Glance

18	Webinars
25	Subject Matter Experts
2800+	Webinars Series Enrollment

The OAA course “Fundamentals of Running an Architectural Practice” offers a comprehensive overview of the business side of architecture. It is ideal for members who are either starting their own practice or taking on an associate or partner role. It is also suitable for experienced architects looking for a refresh on the basics and the best practices.

Due to COVID-19, the course was not offered in-person, but converted instead into a series of webinars. Members were permitted to register for individual classes with no requirement to attend all course modules.

Course @ a Glance

13	Subject Matter Experts
11	Course Modules/Webinars
950+	Course Modules/Webinars Enrollment

Admission Course

The **OAA Admission Course** is a mandatory requirement for licensure in Ontario. It covers topics related to regulatory matters, legal issues, and information specific to the practice of architecture in Ontario. Historically, the Admission Course was offered in three delivery formats, but COVID-19 physical-distancing measures meant both the In-House Admission Course and the Conference Admission Course were cancelled. The Online Admission Course, which is offered in partnership with the University of Toronto’s School of Continuing Studies, successfully accommodated all Interns interested in taking the course in 2020.

AC Online @ a Glance

100	Winter Semester Enrollment
77	Spring Semester Enrollment
82	Fall Semester Enrollment

Self-Study Learning Series

In 2020, the OAA launched the **Self-Study Learning Series**, which was made available through a partnership with the University of Toronto’s School of Continuing Studies. The new Self-Study Series comprises training modules drawn from the mandatory OAA Admission Course. This material, while not new to those who have completed the Admission Course, is valuable to practising architects and related audiences. OAA members can select the modules of interest, cover the material at their own pace (over a three-month period), and successfully complete a quiz to complete the course.

Series @ a Glance

8	Self-Study Modules
27	Structured Learning hours
100+	Self-Study Series Participants

*Complementary Webinars on
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*

To reflect the Council priority to promote and encourage inclusivity in the profession, the Comprehensive Education Committee offered a series of complementary webinars on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, including:

- **“A Leadership Shift: From Diversity to Inclusion”** by Russell Pollard;
- **“Handling Workplace Discrimination and Harassment”** by Nicole Simes;
and
- **“Unconscious Bias in the Profession of Architecture”** by Renée Bazile-Jones.

To further underscore the importance of equity and diversity, OAA Council approved a recommendation by the Comprehensive Education Committee to introduce the mandatory requirement for a minimum of one learning hour of accredited programming focused on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) for the Continuing Education Cycle 2021–2022.

Practice

The OAA's [Practice Advisory Services \(PAS\)](#) draws on the experience of a team of architects and is a key support system for OAA Council and Ontario's architecture practices. The PAS team reviews issues of relevance to members and provides information and advice on best practices to meet the standards of the profession and the changing practice environment. PAS provides staff support to the [OAA Hotline](#), the Practice Review Committee (PRC), the Practice Resource Committee, the Sub-Committee on Building Codes and Regulation (SCOBCAR), and the OAA/OGCA Best Practice Committee. PAS also administers the [OAA Practice Consultation Survey program](#).

As was the case across the OAA, PAS adapted quickly to the events of 2020, pivoting its focus to provide increased services to members to assist in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Accomplishments

COVID-19 Response

In March 2020, COVID-19 had an immediate and significant impact on the design and construction industry. As a means to support and address common questions that were surfacing through the **PAS Hotline** and through the Office of the Registrar (OOTR), the OAA created the [COVID-19 webpage](#). The PAS team continues to provide timely updates to the webpage as further questions arise and authorities update legislation and responses.

The OAA also issued the [COVID-19 Practice Survey](#) in August 2020 to learn how members were faring and how practices were planning for the immediate future. More than 400 members answered the anonymous email questionnaire.

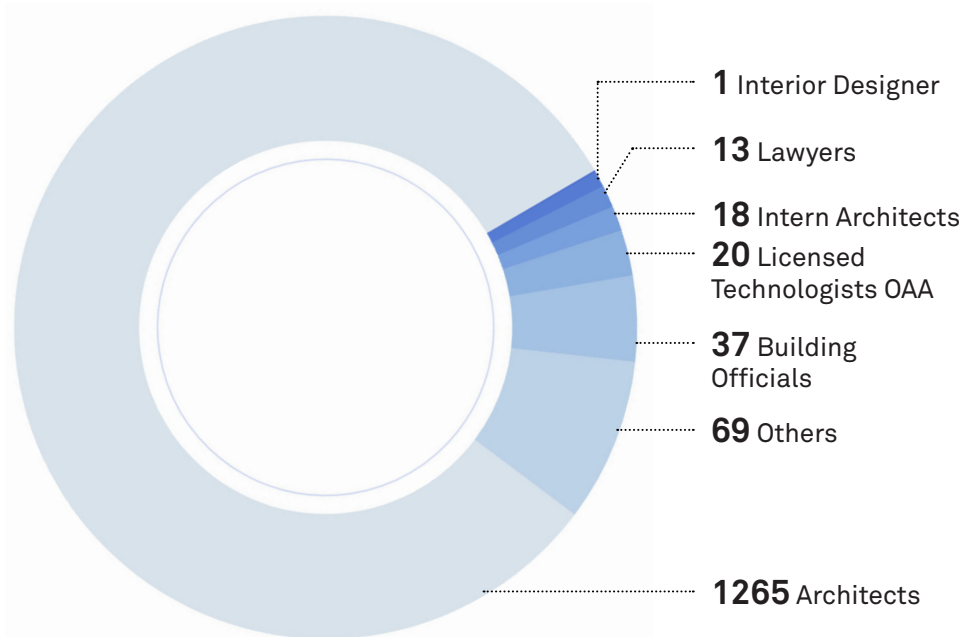
Practice Hotline Stats

The Hotline service addresses questions related to a wide range of issues pertaining to the architectural profession and to the practice of architecture. The service is used by OAA Members (Architects and Licensed Technologists OAA) and their employees, as well as Intern Architects, clients, building officials, lawyers, procurement departments, contractors, consultants, and other construction-related entities to obtain assistance on various matters.

1870 phone calls & e-mails

Yearly number of calls and estimated number of emails received was less than 2000 for the first time since 2017. This can most likely be attributed to the COVID-19 lockdown starting in March 2020 as well subsequent physical-distancing interventions by the government.

CALLERS TO PRACTICE ADVISORY SERVICES



Requests for Proposal: Alerts and Updates

The **RFP Alerts** emails to the membership support the OAA's objective to bring attention to circumstances that could result in allegations of professional misconduct for architects and architectural practices. In many instances, onerous conditions in Requests for Proposals can transfer obligations and liability onto the architect that are uninsurable under professional liability insurance. Clearly, this is not in the interest of the public or of OAA Members.

57 RFP and supplementary conditions reviewed

12 RFP alerts issued in total

In 2020, in addition to reviewing RFPs and integrating key findings into the forthcoming 2021 OAA contracts, PAS spent time talking to client-specific groups before RFPs were published. The exercise consisted of reviewing the proposed documents from client-groups as well as meetings (page-turns) to discuss some of the concerns the OAA had highlighted. This newer pilot initiative offers the OAA an opportunity to build relationships with client groups and engage proactively before RFPs hit the street.

<i>New Website & Documents Update</i>	With the launch of the new OAA website, the PAS team worked with the Communications team to make some general updates to the document.
<i>CCDC 2 – OAA-OGCA Supplementary Conditions and OAA Contracts</i>	Recommended supplementary conditions to the new Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) 2-2020 contract were updated in 2020 and are awaiting final review and approvals from Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) and the OAA. In response to the changes in CCDC 2-2020, PAS began the process to revise the standard OAA contracts to maintain consistency across the Architects' and Licensed Technologist OAAs' roles. OAA 600 will be updated first. The new version will respond to changes in legislation and practice with the intent of reducing the number of client authored supplementary conditions.
<i>Practice Advisory e-Newsletters</i>	The Practice Advisory e-newsletter is a bimonthly communication that brings topics to members' attention that have an impact on either management of the practice or management of the project. In addition to excerpting the Practice Tip 39.1, Best Practices for Review of RFP Language and Supplementary Conditions to OAA 600 and Other Client-Architect Contracts , it shares other practice-related information relevant to members. There were three issues of the newsletter issued in 2019 and six in 2020. Back issues are posted on the OAA Website.
<i>3rd Edition of CHOP</i>	Leading up to the publication of a new edition of the Canadian Handbook of Practice (CHOP), the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) requested assistance from OAA staff, resulting in a new chapter on prompt payment and adjudication. This chapter will likely be updated regularly as experience is gained across the country.
<i>Supporting other areas at the OAA</i>	PAS staff continue to support the development and updating of both the live and online versions of the OAA Admission Course. The team also worked with the Office of the Registrar to develop content for the OAA Webinar "Understanding Your Role as a Licensed Professional," which will be presented for the first time in early 2021. PAS continues to provide input to the Office of the Registrar relating to the evaluation of experience submitted by interns as part of the Canadian Experience Record Book (CERB).

Scholarships

For the five Ontario universities with architecture programs, the OAA provides two annual scholarships in the amount of \$2000 each to be awarded to two individual students in any year of the undergraduate program. It also provides one such scholarship to OCAD University. Beginning with the 2020 academic year, the scholarships—administered by the schools—are awarded to those students who best demonstrate design excellence and exemplary responses to the climate crisis in a project or assignment.

University of Toronto – John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design

Fourth year – **Ngoc Cuong Tran**
Fourth year – **Katharina Jasmine Vrolijk**

University of Waterloo – School of Architecture

Third year – **Cian Hrabí**
Third year – **Caroline Brodeur and Yi Ming Wu**

Carleton University – Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism

Second year – **Adonis Lau**
Third year – **Jessica Babe**
Third year – **Sideqa Haqani**

Ryerson University – Department of Architectural Science

Third year – **Sofia Makarova**
Third year – **Habiba Elmi**

Laurentian University – McEwen School of Architecture

Third year – **Grace Wilson**
Third year – **Rebecca Jacob**

Ontario College of Art & Design University

Scholarship is awarded to a student of Environmental Design.
Fourth year – **Elva Zhang**

Architectural Guild Prize Fund

These Medals are awarded annually to the graduating students from each of the five schools of architecture in Ontario who demonstrated exceptional leadership through design excellence combined with innovative approaches to sustainability in an assignment or project.

University of Toronto – **Isaac Neufeld**

University of Waterloo – **Jason McMillan**

Carleton University – **Jonathan Caron**

Ryerson University – **Michael Mazurkiewicz**

Laurentian University - **Henry Dyck**

Senior Vice President and Treasurer's Report

The Ontario Association of Architects' Financial Statements (FS) for the fiscal year ending November 30, 2020, including the Independent Auditor's Report, are available on the OAA [website](#). These statements, prepared by [Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants](#), state on page 1: "the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ontario Association of Architects as at November 30, 2020, 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 March 1, 2021. OAA Council approved the 2020 Financial Statements on March 4, 2021.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic as a result of the spread of COVID-19. Since that time, the pandemic has severely impacted local economies around the globe. Effective March 17, the Association temporarily closed its offices and all staff began working remotely while continuing to provide services. In-person events, including the annual OAA conference, exams, and Continuing Education (ConEd) classes, were either cancelled, deferred, or provided virtually. Related expenses also declined and management took action to reduce expenditures.

According to the Financial Statements, "The duration and impact of the pandemic, as well as the effectiveness of government and central bank responses, remains unclear at this time. It is not possible to reliably estimate the duration and severity of these consequences, as well as their impact on the financial position of the Association for future periods." Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on numerous aspects of the OAA's operations, most of which were not registered until after April 2020.

The following items are of note from the detail of revenue over expenses on page 3 of the Financial Statements:

- There was a slight decrease in the anticipated revenue from interest on investments, however given the market circumstances and the decision early in the year to move investments to a preferred high interest savings account the decrease was minimized;
- the Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) process was deferred until 2021, meaning registration fees collected in fiscal year 2020 will be accounted for in 2021;
- the OAA Conference was cancelled and thus generated no revenue in 2020, but also fewer expenses;
- ConEd-related revenue increased significantly as members accessed the Association's newly launched biweekly OAA Webinar series;
- in-house offerings such as the Admission Course and the Fundamentals of Running an Architectural Practice were cancelled, but the Admission Course continued to be offered online in partnership with the University of Toronto, and work has begun to move the Fundamentals of Running an Architectural Practice online as well; and

- Committee, Council, and direct program expenses were significantly decreased as a result of the move to virtual activities

Nevertheless, membership for the OAA continued to grow, as seen in prior years, resulting in increased income from member dues.

The OAA's finances are well-managed and positioned in such a way as to respond to unimaginable events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The Association is fortunate the pandemic has not negatively impacted the bottom line to this point, which has also allowed some member challenges to be addressed through deadline extensions for fee payments, deferrals, and offering relief under the OAA's Financial Hardship and Leave policies.

The Association is exiting the 2020 fiscal year with total Members' Equity at \$42,495,676 (compared to 2019 which was \$38,893,639). Of this total amount, \$31,081,920 is related to OAA's investment in Pro-Demnity Insurance Company. This represents a growth over 2020 of \$3,602,037. 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 \$519,735, the Operating Reserve is at \$848,127, and the Legal Reserve is at \$62,500. The use of these funds is restricted by the Association's Reserve Fund Policies. In 2020, \$613,500 of the revenue surplus was redirected to internally restricted funds: \$10,000 to the Legal reserve, \$520,000 to the Major Capital reserve, and \$83,500 to the Operating reserve.

In addition to these restricted amounts, a further \$2,916,310 remains as unrestricted Members' Equity, which can be used 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 2021 are estimated to be just over \$7 million.

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 2019 and prior year expenses.

In summary, I am pleased to report that, with the continued careful management of member fees paid to the Association, the OAA finances have been resilient in the face of unprecedented threats and are well-positioned for the future. In recognition of the impact of the global pandemic, Council recommended placing a hold on increasing member fees in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Spiegel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susan Spiegel, Architect
BA, B.Arch., OAA, FRAIC
Senior Vice President and Treasurer

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

Financial Summary

TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY

\$42,495,676 (\$3,602,037 growth over 2019)

Investment in

\$31,081,920

Pro-Demnity Insurance Company

\$519,735

Major Capital Reserve Fund (**\$520,000** redirected from revenue surplus at the close of 2020)

\$848,127

Operating Reserve (**\$83,500** redirected from revenue surplus at the close of 2020)

\$62,500

Legal Reserve (**\$10,000** redirected from revenue surplus at the close of 2020)

\$7,067,084

Property and equipment

Unrestricted

\$2,916,310

In Memoriam (2020)

It is with deep sorrow that the Association learned of the deaths of these members in 2020:

Joseph Barna

Arthur Beitel

P. John Brunner

Anthony Butler

Paul Edward Dolan

Gerald S. Freedman

Peter A. Gabor

Joseph Gerskup

Bernard Gillespie

Joan Grierson

Mahdieh Haji-Ghassemi

William Lobban

Vladimir Losner

John B. Love

Paul G. Martel

William James Neish

G. Douglas Neville

Paul Ivan Ospalak

Renzo Angelo Pillon

Arthur John Russell

Barry W. Sampson

James Elmhurst Searle

Clive B. Smith

Toomas Tamm

Garry Watchorn

Rick Wink

Wieslaw Maciej Wodkiewicz

Peter E. Zurawel

2020 Committee Lists

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Susan Speigel, Senior Vice President and Treasurer
 Donald Chen, Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
 (from June 2020)
 Catherine Hermon, Member at Large
 Elaine Mintz, Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
 (to June 2020)

Staff Support

Peter Manu, Manager, Finance (Acting)
 Melanie Walsh, Manager, Finance

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Susan Speigel, Senior Vice President and Treasurer
 Gordon Erskine, Councillor
 David C. Rich, Councillor

Staff Support

Kristi Doyle, Executive Director
 Peter Manu, Manager, Finance (Acting)
 Melanie Walsh, Manager, Finance

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

Ela Eroglu, Chair
 Stewart Adams, Member at Large
 Jose Castel-Branco, Member at Large
 Donald Chen, Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
 Donata Delano, Member at Large
 Gord Erskine, Councillor
 Reza Hamidi, Member at Large
 Steven Hilditch, Member at Large
 Nick Jay, Member at Large
 Rommel Lumbao, Member at Large
 Isabelle Massicotte, Member at Large
 Paul William Mitchell, Member at Large
 Golchehr Monjazebeh, Member at Large
 Sarah Murray, Councillor
 Denis G. Rioux, Member at Large
 Amirreza Sadeghi, Member at Large
 Sandy Yeung, Member at Large

Staff Support

Claire Hepburn, Deputy Registrar
 Jakanah Sambavalingam, Coordinator, Act Enforcement

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Amir Azadeh, Chair, Vice President Communications
 J. William Birdsell, Councillor
 Jeremiah Gammond, Councillor
 Jennifer King, Licensed Technologist OAA
 Carl Knipfel, Member at Large
 Joël León, Intern Architect
 Elaine Mintz, Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
 Arezoo Talebzadeh-Rezaeeraad, Member at Large

Staff Support

Erik Missio, Manager, Communications
 Marcia Cooper, Communications Specialist (to June 2020)
 Vani Gopalkrishna, Architectural Graduate (from May 2020)
 Parham Karimi, Architectural Graduate (to May 2020)
 Tamara King, Administrator, Website and Communications
 Chantelle Ng, Coordinator, Communications (to May 2020)
 Golnaz Shekari, Coordinator, Communications (Acting from
 February 2020)

COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Agata Mancini, Chair, Vice President Education
 Kathleen Kurtin, President
 Welming Chen, Member at Large
 Maria Denegri, Member at Large
 Christina Facey, Member at Large
 Janet Harrison, Member at Large
 Jeffrey Laberge, Councillor
 Shane Laptiste, Member at Large
 Hadi Mehdizadeh Jafari, Member at Large
 Milda Miskinyte, Intern Representative on Council
 Krystyna Ng, Member at Large
 Susan Speigel, Senior Vice President & Treasurer

Staff Support

Ellen Savitsky, Manager, Education and Development

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Paul Hastings, Chair, Vice President Regulatory
 Vincent Alcaide, Member at Large
 Rick Bruynson, Member at Large
 Richard Dabrus, Member at Large
 B.J. (Eddie) Edmundson, Member at Large
 Catherine Friis, Member at Large

Leon Lubelski, Member at Large
 Elaine Mintz, Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee
 Peter Ortved, Member at Large
 Gaganjot (Gagan) Singh, Lieutenant Governor
 in Council Appointee
 Paul Surtel, Member at Large

Staff Support

Christie Mills, Registrar
 Gail Hanselman, Administrator, Certificate of Practice

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kathleen Kurtin, President
 Susan Speigel, Senior Vice President & Treasurer
 Settimo Vilardi, Vice President Practice

Staff Support

Kristi Doyle, Executive Director

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE (ERC)

Paul Hastings, Chair, Vice President Regulatory
 Monica Aggarwal, Member at Large
 Donald L. Ardiel, Councillor (to June 2020)
 J. William Birdsell, Councillor
 Andrea Rebeca Buchsbaum, Member at Large
 Suzanne Crysdale Graham, Member at Large
 Toon F. Dreessen, Member at Large
 Michelle Kay Grant, Member at Large
 Giuseppe Joe Iozzo, Member at Large
 Thea Karlavaris, Member at Large
 Izabela Kazanczuk, Member at Large
 Rommel Lumbao, Member at Large
 Deo M. Paquette, Member at Large
 Stefanie Siu Chong, Member at Large
 Bernard H. Watt, Member at Large

Staff Support

Christie Mills Registrar
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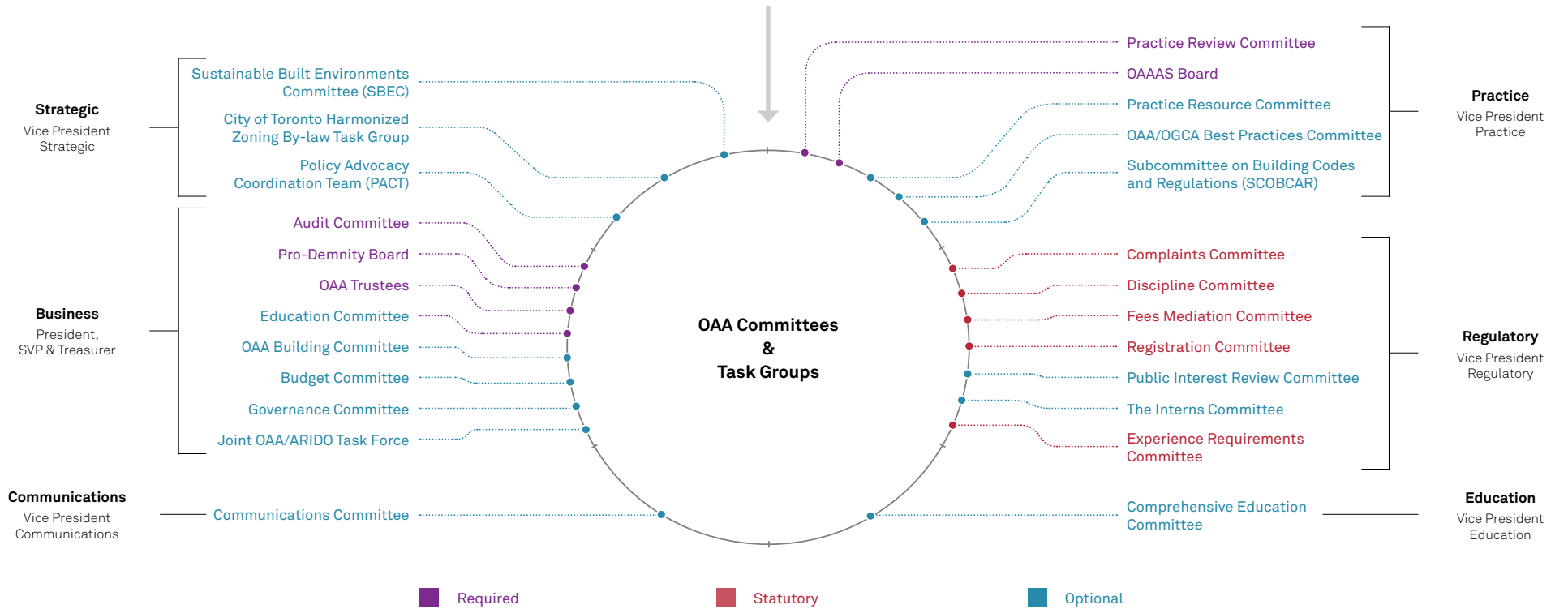
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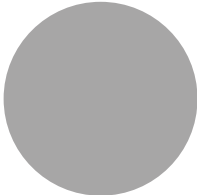
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Vice President Practice
Western Ontario



Donald Ardiel
Western Ontario



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Province of Ontario



Donald Chen (Image not available)
Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee



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