
Guidelines for Completion of an
Application for Certificate of Practice

Partnership

Licence Holders

(January 2025)

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IMPORTANT

In order to offer or provide architectural services to the public in Ontario, as defined in the [Architects Act](#), an individual or entity must be the holder of a certificate of practice. The provision of architectural services, prior to the issuance of a licence and certificate of practice, may be prejudicial to the granting of a licence and/or a certificate of practice.

Until an application for a certificate of practice is approved by the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), it is a contravention of the *Architects Act* to promote, offer, or provide architectural services in Ontario in the name of the new practice, and items such as letterhead, cheques, signs, etc. should not be ordered.

Architectural services provided under a certificate of practice must be personally supervised and directed by a member of the Association.

If personal supervision and direction of the practice of architecture performed under this certificate of practice will be provided by a limited licence holder or a limited licence holder holds any part of the certificate of practice, then the certificate of practice will be subject to the same terms, conditions and limitations to which the limited licence is subject. If architectural services performed by the certificate of practice are not restricted in accordance with the terms, conditions and limitations of the limited licence, then the holder of the certificate of practice, the limited licence holder, and any members of the Association or other limited licence holders who are involved in such practice (including by virtue of their ownership interest in the holder of the certificate of practice) may be subject to professional regulatory proceedings and/or other legal proceedings and liability.

The use of the term “certificate of practice” in this document shall at all times refer to a certificate of practice issued by the OAA unless otherwise stated.



General

When filing an Application for Certificate of Practice, include the following:

1. *Curriculum Vitae
2. *Notification to Employer
3. *Engineers – Certificate of Authorization
4. *Business Registration
5. Payment of Applicable Fees (refer to Payment of Fees form).

**submit copy*

1. Allow approximately four to six weeks of processing time from the date of receipt of the completed application and all required documentation. An incomplete application will be delayed as it may be returned for completion. **NOTE: ENSURE YOU HAVE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS OR YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DEEMED INCOMPLETE.**
2. All sections of the application are to be completed. The terms "Not Applicable" and "N/A" may be used where sections do not apply.
3. All documentation submitted will be verified.
4. To satisfy the currency requirement outlined in Subsection 17(2) of the *Architects Act*, the OAA architect who is a principal of this practice and who is not currently a holder of a certificate of practice, must enclose an updated curriculum vitae with a chronological record of work experience covering at least the five years immediately preceding the date of this application.
5. **Notification to Employer – Regulation 27 Subsection 34(b):** The OAA architect, who is a principal of this practice and is currently employed elsewhere must submit a copy of the notification provided to the employer (Notice) together with confirmation that the employer received the Notice. Confirmation can take the form of:
 - (a) an email to the employer attaching the notice and associated acknowledgement,
 - (b) a copy of the Notice signed by the employer, or
 - (c) such further and other evidence as deemed acceptable by OAA staff.
6. The **Standards of Practice** include, but are not limited to, Sections 47, 49 and 50 of Ontario GENERAL [Regulation 27](#) (the regulations), as amended.
7. **REAPPLICATION OR REINSTATEMENT REQUIREMENTS**
 - i. A former Architect who has voluntarily surrendered their certificate of practice may submit an application to **reapply** for a certificate of practice.
 - ii. A former Architect whose certificate of practice was cancelled may make application to **reinstate** the certificate of practice.
 - iii. Please note the applicant **must**:
 - a) provide evidence to the Registrar that the person who will personally supervise and direct the practice of architecture has, before the date of the application, completed a cycle of Continuing Education that meets the requirements of the Continuing Education program established under Section 54 of the Regulation.



- b) file with the Registrar an Undertaking in which they affirm they have not engaged in the practice of architecture in the Province of Ontario from the date of surrendering or cancellation of their certificate of practice, except as an employee of a holder of a certificate of practice or as an employee of an organization that did not offer architectural services to the public.
8. If this practice intends to provide engineering services, enclose a copy of the current Certificate of Authorization issued by the Association of Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) under the *Professional Engineers Act* of Ontario.
9. The **Business Names Act (BNA)** applies to all types of business that operate under a name other than the owner's name. For further details, contact the Companies and Personal Property Security Branch at 416-314-8880 or check the website www.ontario.ca. If applicable, enclose a copy of the Business Registration from the Companies and Personal Property Branch, Ministry of Government Services.

If the business operating under a certificate of practice uses a business name other than that contained on the certificate of practice, the holder of the certificate of practice and all OAA members working under it must ensure compliance with the following:

- a) The Office of the Registrar of the OAA must be notified of all other names used, including names that are adopted after the date of this application; this includes informal or shortened forms of the name of the practice or acronyms.
 - b) The other business names must be registered with the OAA as "DBA" (Doing Business As).
 - c) The name of the holder of the certificate of practice must be included in all significant documents (e.g. contracts, invoices, letterhead, business cards, architectural drawings, etc.) so that the public can identify the official name of the entity with whom they are dealing.
 - d) Accuracy in the OAA Register is critical to allow the OAA to regulate the profession of architecture and protect the public interest. Failure to provide all names to the Office of the Registrar may result in proceedings for professional misconduct based on making misrepresentations in this application or failing to update a relevant particular in this application.
10. **Mobility of Architectural Practices to Ontario (Reciprocal Applicants):** In order to hold a certificate of practice, an Architect licensed in Ontario is subject to the requirements of the *Architects Act*, the regulations, and OAA Bylaws, including those relating to professional liability insurance coverage.
11. All documents prepared by an Architect licensed in Ontario that govern a project's construction, alteration, or enlargement must be sealed with an OAA seal issued to a member by the OAA. For more information regarding OAA professional seals, visit the OAA Website [here](#).

Applying for an OAA Seal

1. An **applicant for a certificate of practice** may apply for a seal after their certificate of practice has been approved, or have a seal when making application for the certificate of practice.
2. For an **employee of a holder of a certificate of practice** to be eligible for a seal, the holder of the certificate of practice must provide confirmation in writing to the OAA indicating that the seal will be used only for projects under that holder.
3. For an **employee of other than a holder of a certificate of practice** (e.g. federal or provincial government, banks, etc.) to be eligible, the employer must provide confirmation in writing to the OAA indicating the seal will be used only for projects owned by the employer; the entity that owns the projects must be the one and the same that employs the licensee.

Once you have a seal

1. The employer must notify the Office of the Registrar at officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca of any changes to the certificate of practice.



2. The employee must immediately notify the Office of the Registrar at officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca of any changes to their employment status.

Questions regarding the seal can be directed to the Office of the Registrar at officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca.

Once complete, submit your application to the Office of the Registrar at officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca.

To accompany the issuance of a seal, the OAA will provide the applicant with high-resolution images of their seal to be used in conjunction with the official seal.

OAA Seals must remain under the sole control of the licensee; they cannot be shared or delegated under any circumstances.

12. All applicants for a certificate of practice with an office in Ontario must also submit an application for annual professional liability insurance coverage for the practice, unless the certificate of practice application represents a change in particulars of an existing holder of a certificate of practice with an office in Ontario.

Please contact [Pro-Demnity Insurance Company](#) for the appropriate forms.

All applicants for a certificate of practice with an office outside of Ontario or whose primary function is not to engage in the practice of architecture and whose certificate of practice was issued under Subsections 14(2) or 15(a)(ii) or Sections 18 or 19 of the *Architects Act* must submit an application for Exemption from annual professional liability insurance coverage with Pro-Demnity Insurance Company.

Note: If a holder of certificate of practice located outside of Ontario:

- a) moves to Ontario; or
- b) decides to open an office in Ontario;

the holder's office in Ontario is required to be insured under Pro-Demnity Insurance Company and an Application for annual practice insurance must be submitted.

13. The **fees** for certificate of practice are set out on the Payment of Fees form.



Completion of the Application

A. APPLICATION CATEGORIES

New Practice applies to an applicant who is not currently a holder of a certificate of practice, or who is currently a holder of a certificate of practice and this is a new and separate certificate of practice.

Change in Particulars of Existing Practice applies if the applicant is currently a holder of a certificate of practice and there is a change to the structure affecting the name of the certificate of practice.

If there are current projects for which architectural services are being provided by the existing practice, then:

- a) the certificate of practice for the existing practice must be maintained (*refer to page 1; item 6*) until completion of the architectural services; or
- b) these projects must be assigned to the holder of the new certificate of practice.

Note: Advise the OAA in writing whether a) or b) applies.

Personally Supervising and Directing: An Architect in this practice must personally supervise and direct the practice of architecture on a Full-Time basis.

B. IDENTIFICATION

When choosing the name of the certificate of practice, refer to Appendix 2 of the Guidelines.

OTHER OFFICE

If it is the intention of the practice to have more than one office registered with the OAA (i.e. the principal and 'other office[s]'), each registered office must comply with the Standards of Practice (General section, item 6) and payment must be submitted for each 'other office' (*refer to the Payment of Fees form*).

C. PRACTICE HISTORY

Identify any certificate of practice not currently in good standing and provide the particulars.

D. PRACTICE STRUCTURE

In order for the Association to maintain a current Register of its Architects and holders of certificates of practice, it is important to keep the practice structure correct and up to date. Report all changes in writing to the Office of the Registrar.

For ownership requirements, refer to Appendix 2 and Section 15 of the [Architects Act](#).

The Partnership cannot be an LLP.

E. DECLARATION

The solemn declaration serves as a formal attestation by the applicant that all the information provided is truthful and accurate. This verification helps ensure the integrity of the registration process by preventing the submission of false information. Additionally, it holds the applicant legally accountable, as providing misleading details can result in legal consequences.

The declaration underscores the seriousness and professionalism of the application process. By signing, applicants confirm their understanding of and commitment to adhering to the relevant laws, regulations, and ethical standards governing their profession once licensed.



Appendix 1 – List of Documents

OAA Official Documents

Acquired **specific** knowledge:

1. The *Architects Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.A.26
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90a26>
2. Ontario Regulation 27, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 27
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900027>
3. [Bylaws of the Ontario Association of Architects](#)
4. [OAA 600-2021 A \(OAA Standard Form of Contract for Architect's Services\)](#)
5. [OAA 600-2021 GUIDE to the Standard Form of Contract for Licensed Member's Services](#)
6. [OAA 800-2021 A \(OAA Standard Short Form of Contract for Architect's Services\)](#)
7. [OAA 800-2021 GUIDE to the Standard Short Form of Contract for Licensed Member's Services](#)
8. [OAA 900-2021 A \(OAA Standard Form of Subcontract Between Architect and Subconsultant\)](#)
9. [OAA 900-2021 GUIDE to the Standard Form of Subcontract Between Licensed Member and Subconsultant](#)

Acquired **general** knowledge:

10. [Regulatory Notices](#)
11. [Practice Tips](#)

Acquired **general** knowledge of **Ontario Building Code Act 1992, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 23 and the Building Code, O. Reg 332/12** and **provincial statutes, regulations, and codes** applicable to the design, construction, enlargement, or alteration of buildings, such as but not limited to:

- *Construction Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c .C. 30;
- *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13;
- *Occupational Health & Safety Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1;
- *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4 and the *Ontario Fire Code*, O. Reg 213/07;
- *Health Protection & Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.7;
- *Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.31; and
- *Technical Standards and Safety Act*, 2000, S.O. 2000, c. 16.

Note: All Provincial statutes, regulations, and codes are as amended.

The above documents are available for download at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca or may be purchased by contacting the **Ontario Government Bookstore** at College Park Building, 777 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 2C8 (416) 326-5300 or through **ServiceOntario Publications** at www.publications.serviceontario.ca



Appendix 2 – Voting Interest and Financial Interest of a Certificate of Practice for Partnerships

Section 15 of the Act:

Issuance of certificate of practice to partnership

(1) The Registrar shall issue a certificate of practice to a partnership that proposes to engage in or hold itself out as engaging in the practice of architecture if the partnership applies for the certificate in accordance with the regulations and,

- (a) at least 51 per cent, or such greater proportion as may be prescribed by the regulations, of the voting interest and of the financial interest in the partnership is directly or indirectly held by,
 - (i) one or more members of the Ontario Association of Architects,
 - (ii) one or more members of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, or
 - (iii) one or more members of the Ontario Association of Architects and one or more members of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario;
- (b) in the case of a partnership to which subclause (a) (ii) applies, the partnership employs at least one member of the Ontario Association of Architects who will personally supervise and direct on a full-time basis the practice of architecture by the partnership; and
- (c) in the case of a partnership to which subclause (a) (ii) or (iii) applies, the partnership holds a general certificate of authorization.

Voting Interest

Voting interests are generally set out in the partnership agreement. The following examples illustrate the rules requiring voting interests. In essence, OAA members and PEO professional engineers must own and control the majority of voting interest.

Example No. 1 – Acceptable

Holder of Certificate of Practice

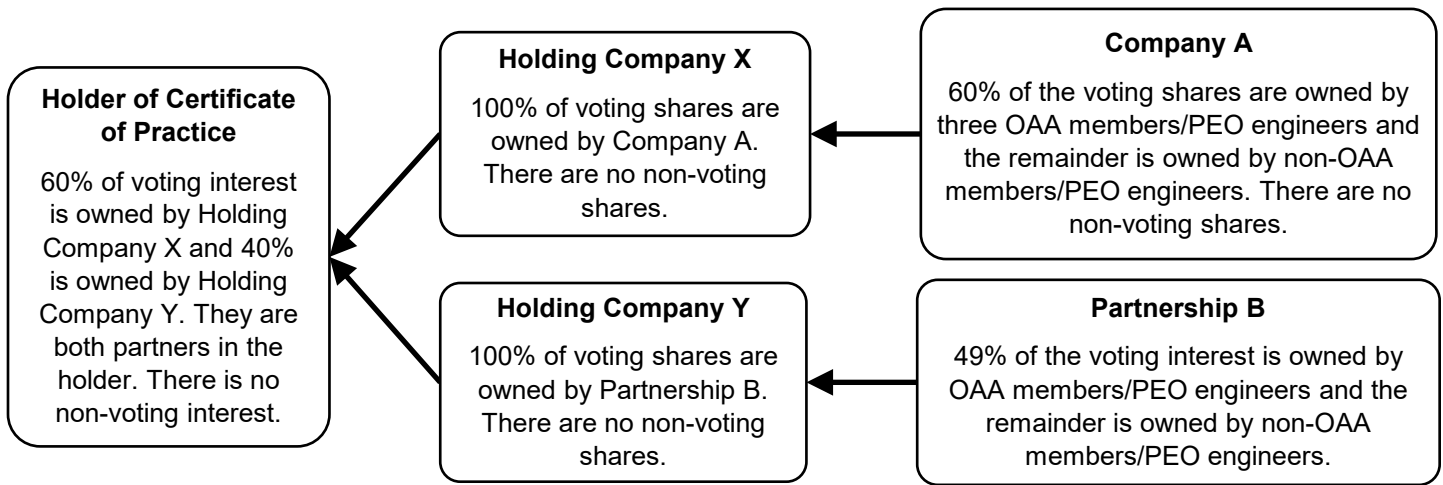
51% of voting interest is owned by OAA members/PEO professional engineers

49% of voting interest is owned by non-OAA members/non-PEO professional engineers

This example is acceptable because 51% of the voting interest is owned by OAA members and PEO professional engineers.

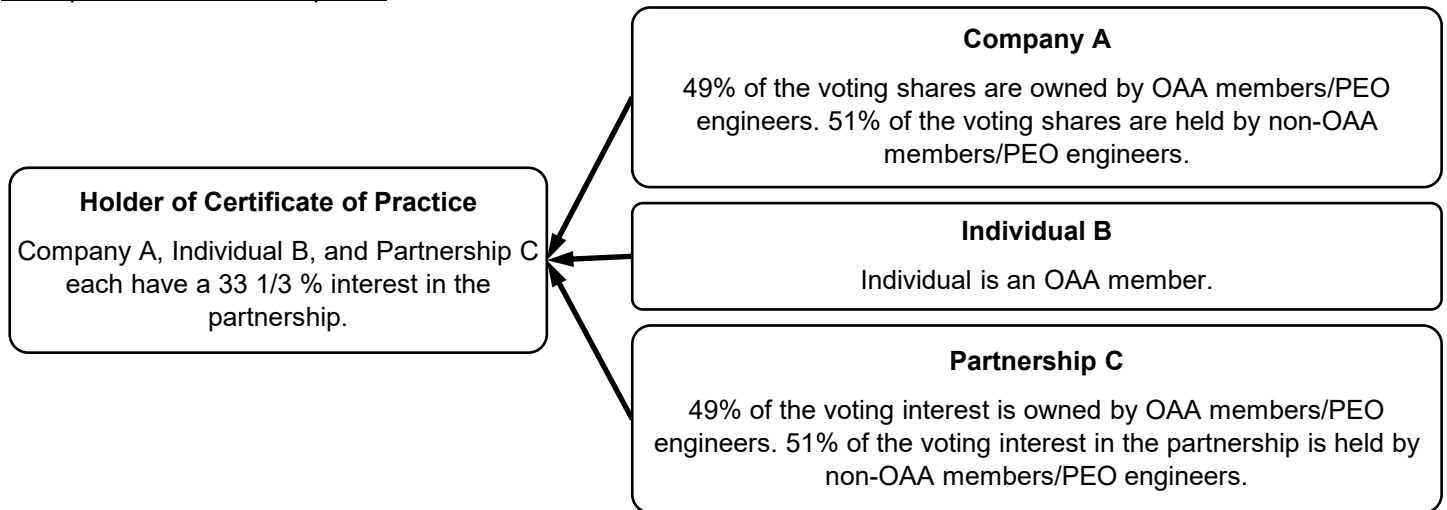


Example No. 2 – Acceptable



This example is acceptable because the OAA members/PEO professional engineers owning the interest of Company A own the majority of voting interest of the Holding Company X that owns the majority of the interest of the holder of the certificate of practice.

Example No. 3 – Not Acceptable



This example is not acceptable because two-thirds of the voting interest in the Holding Company (which owns all the voting interest of the holder of the certificate of practice) is controlled by entities that are under the majority control of non-OAA members and non-PEO professional engineers. Even though OAA members and PEO professional engineers hold substantial minority voting rights in all of the entities, this structure does not pass the voting interest test.



Financial Interest

Example No. 1 – Acceptable

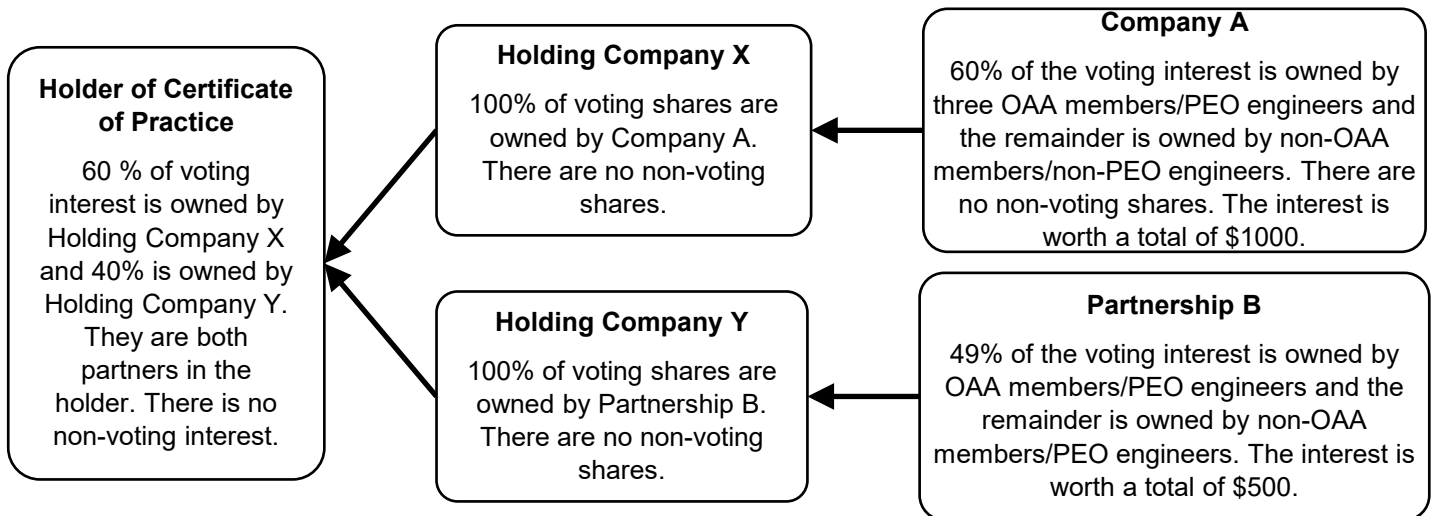
Holder of Certificate of Practice

100% of voting interest is owned by OAA members/PEO professional engineers and is valued at \$1000.

100% of non-voting interest is owned by non-OAA members/non-PEO professional engineers and are valued at \$500.

This example is acceptable because the value of the voting interest owned by OAA members/PEO professional engineers is twice that of the shares owned by the non-OAA members/non-PEO professional engineers.

Example No. 2 – Acceptable

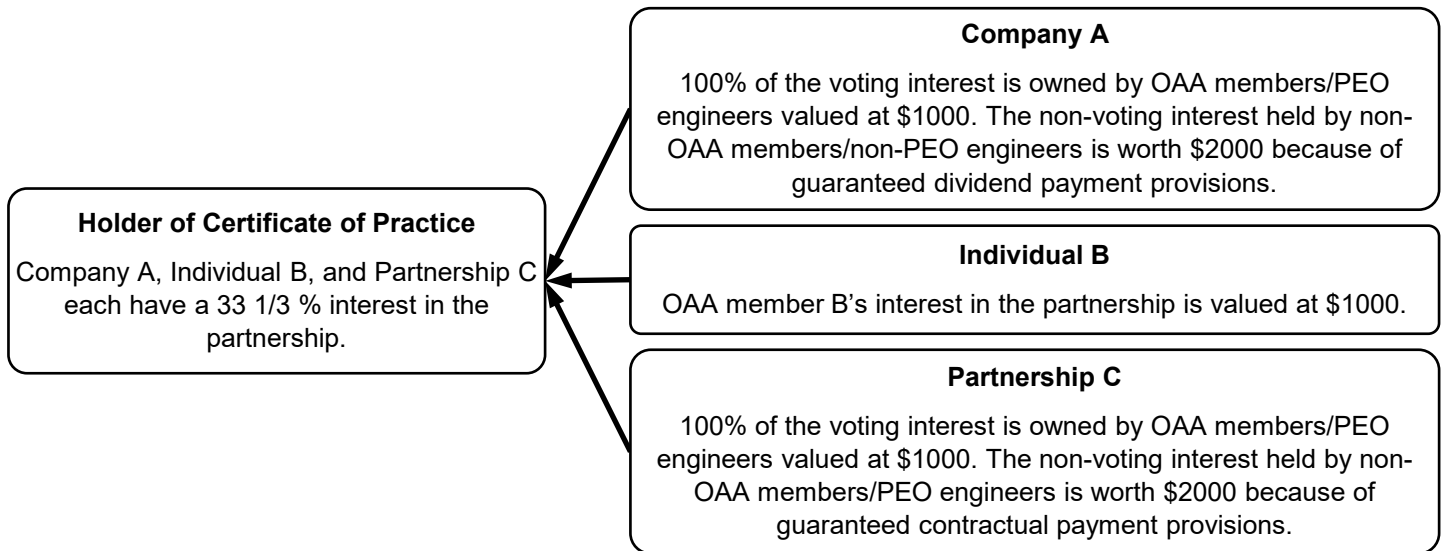


This example is acceptable because the total value owned by OAA members/PEO professional engineers is more than 51% of the value.

- Company A, OAA members/PEO professional engineers value total 60% of \$1000 = \$600.
- Partnership B, OAA members/PEO professional engineers value total 49% of \$500 = \$245.
- Thus OAA members/PEO professional engineers value is \$845 of \$1500 = 57%.



Example No. 3 – Not Acceptable



This example is not acceptable because the value of the non-voting interest, which are all held by non-OAA members/PEO professional engineers, are worth more than the voting shares owned by the OAA members/PEO professional engineers.





The Ontario Association of Architects accepts payment of fees with U.S. cheques. The fees listed below are in Canadian funds and include the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). Visit the OAA website page, [Methods of Payment](#), for U.S. cheques.

Fees	Applications approved between Jan 1 & Jul 31	Applications approved between Aug 1 & Dec 31
Application fee (non-refundable)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$342.39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$342.39
Annual fee (<i>based on number of OAA licensed members within the practice</i>):		
practice with one Architect (minimum fee); plus,	<input type="checkbox"/> \$581.95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$290.98
fee for each additional OAA member within the practice	__ x \$436.18	__ x \$218.09
Other Office	__ x \$136.73	__ x \$136.73
Total	\$	\$

NAME OF APPLICANT:		
PAYMENT METHOD:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> Interac e-Transfer
<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Online Banking	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Draft		

If you **already** have an OAA account/identification number, you may use online banking or Interac e-Transfers at this time.

Online Banking: Online banking bill payment is available for major Canadian banks (i.e. CIBC, RBC, Scotia, TD, BMO, Credit Union, and National). Note: You must use your OAA account/ID number to ensure the OAA receives the correct information from the bank to process your payment. Visit the OAA Website ([Methods of Payment](#)) for online banking instructions.

Interac e-Transfer: Interac e-Transfers can be sent to OAAFees@oaa.on.ca. Note: You must enter your OAA ID in the message box to ensure the OAA receives the correct information from the bank to process your payment. Visit the OAA Website ([Methods of Payment](#)) for Interac e-Transfer banking instructions.

Credit Card: Note: There is a 2.5% convenience fee for Credit Card payments that is non-refundable once the payment has been made.

1. Complete the application package and submit by email to officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca.
2. Visit secure.oaa.on.ca/store to pay your certificate of practice application fee by credit card.
3. Once the application fee and form are received, the Office of the Registrar will begin the review process.
4. When your application has been reviewed, OAA Finance will provide a link to pay your certificate of practice fee.
5. Once the Office of the Registrar receives notification of payment from OAA Finance, a letter of approval will be issued in due course.



A. BASIS OF APPLICATION (please check the appropriate application category)

- New Practice Reapplication (Certificate of Practice previously surrendered)
 Change in Particulars of Existing Practice Reinstatement (Certificate of Practice previously cancelled)

B. IDENTIFICATION (Use supplementary sheets if necessary)

1(a) Name of Practice: _____
(please print exactly how name should appear in OAA Register, including upper and lowercase)

1(b) Other Name(s) used: _____
(please print any other name used in connection with the business of the practice)

2. Principal Office: _____
 Street _____ Suite No. _____

 City _____ Province/State/Territory _____ Country _____ Postal/Zip Code _____
 Tel: () _____ Fax () _____
 Email: _____ Voice Mail: Yes No

3. Other Office: _____
(if applicable) Street _____ Suite No. _____

 City _____ Province/State/Territory _____ Country _____ Postal/Zip Code _____
 Tel: () _____ Fax () _____
 E-mail: _____ Voice Mail: Yes No

4. Principal Residence Address of Architect who is Personally Supervising and Directing (PSD) the holder's practice of architecture at each office (items 2. and 3. above):

OAA Architect's Name in Full	a) Office Location (city) where PSD	b) OAA Architect's Principal Residence Address and telephone number	Distance in km between a) & b)
(print)			
(signature)			
(print)			
(signature)			

C. PRACTICE HISTORY (Use supplementary sheets if necessary)

1. Have any of the members of the partnership previously held a certificate of practice issued by the OAA? Yes No
2. Are any of the members of the partnership or employees currently a Principal or employee of another certificate of practice issued by the OAA or an organization that is not the holder of a certificate of practice? Yes No
3. Is this partnership engaged in functions other than the practice of architecture? (If this practice provides engineering services, enclose a copy of the Certificate of Authorization issued under the Professional Engineers Act of Ontario.) Yes No
4. Has any member of the partnership or any employee ever been convicted of an offence in this or any other jurisdiction that may be relevant to whether the partnership will engage in the practice of architecture in accordance with the law and with honesty and integrity? Yes No
5. Has the partnership or any member of the partnership or employee ever been found guilty of professional misconduct or incompetence in this or any other jurisdiction, or is their conduct or competence presently the subject of an investigation, inquiry, or proceedings? Yes No

If you have answered "yes" to any of the above questions, use a supplementary sheet to provide dates and details.

D. PRACTICE STRUCTURE (This Practice Only. Use supplementary sheets if necessary.)

1. Ownership: Voting Interest and Financial Interest
 - 1) What percentage of the voting interest of the partnership is directly or indirectly controlled and owned by Architects? (See Appendix 2) _____%
 - 2) What percentage of the voting interest of the partnership is directly or indirectly controlled and owned by PEO professional engineers? (See Appendix 2) _____%
 - 3) What percentage of the financial interest of the partnership is directly or indirectly held by Architects? (See Appendix 2) _____%
 - 4) What percentage of the financial interest of the partnership is directly or indirectly held by PEO professional engineers? (See Appendix 2) _____%
2. List all OAA members and PEO professional engineers who will be employees of this certificate of practice. Check all appropriate categories.

Name in Full (please print)	Full-time	Part-time	OAA Architect	Licensed Technologists	PEO Engineer	Holds OAA Seal	Applying for Seal	Office Location (city only)



E. DECLARATION

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE:

THAT I am applying for a certificate of practice under the *Architects Act* of the Province of Ontario;

THAT in regard to the documents listed in the Guidelines for Completion of an Application for certificate of practice, I have and will continue to maintain:

- a. the OAA Official Documents;
- b. unrestricted access to all other listed documents;
- c. general knowledge of the contents of the documents identified under "General Knowledge;" and
- d. specific knowledge of the contents of the documents identified as "documents OAA members must be familiar with;"

THAT I agree to comply with the *Architects Act*, the regulations, and OAA Bylaws, all as amended from time to time;

THAT I understand that only an Architect who is a holder of a licence who also has a certificate of practice, or is employed by a certificate of practice, is permitted to offer and/or provide to a member of the public a service that is part of the practice of architecture;

THAT the facts set out in this application for certificate of practice are true and correct in every particular;

THAT I have an ongoing obligation to update the OAA if there have been any changes to the Good Character questions of this application and a failure to do so may constitute professional misconduct;

THAT I will respond within the timeframes specified by the OAA to any inquiries related to my licence or certificate of practice history and good character and I will cooperate with any investigation related thereto;

AND THAT I MAKE THIS solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath.

IN ADDITION, I consent and authorize other jurisdictions where I have been or continue to be licensed to practise architecture, to provide the OAA with all information and documents that relate to any past, current, or pending investigations or proceedings involving my conduct or competence;

AND, I consent and authorize the OAA to release and disclose to any other jurisdictions where I am seeking a licence, or currently hold a licence to practise architecture, all information and documents that relate to any past, current, or pending investigations or proceedings involving my conduct, competence, or good character.

Signature of a Member of the Partnership

Date

Signature of Architect who will Personally Supervise and Direct this practice

Date

Signature of Architect who will Personally Supervise and Direct other office

Date





Ontario Association
of Architects

111 Moatfield Drive 416-449-6898
Toronto, ON M3B 3L6 oaamail@oaa.on.ca
Canada oaa.on.ca

Undertaking to the Ontario Association of Architects

This will confirm THAT as a former holder of a certificate of practice, I have not engaged in or held myself out as engaging in the practice of architecture in Ontario, except:

1. as an employee of a holder of a certificate of practice; or
2. as an employee of an organization that did not offer architectural services to the public.

Name (*please print*)

Date

Signature
