**J. William Birdsell**

**CANDIDATE STATEMENT**

Fellow Architects, thank you for the confidence you have shown me as your Councillor and Past President.

It is a very great honour to represent Ontario's Architects on OAA Council. The work I have been privileged to undertake on your behalf, while challenging, is extremely rewarding. My travels representing the profession have spanned Ontario and Canada. This has allowed me to speak with our construction, design and industry partners, all levels of government, the schools of Architecture and Architectural Regulators from across Canada and around the world. I am gratified to hear the high regard that these organizations hold the OAA. They recognize our professionalism and our ability to lead construction through quality design.

My greatest goal remains advocacy for the profession and the promotion of architect's work. Our voice needs to be clearly heard by the media and government. I have maintained a network of influencers within both of these realms. I continue to write and speak with media to promote architectural ideas and items of importance to architects. The focus of my work on OAA council to be ever responsive to the concerns of members. My role as Past Chair of ProDemnity Insurance assisted it to become more able to serve all of us. One of my recent actions on Council was to make a motion to rescind the requirement for mandatory electronic seals. Delivery of services electronically is part of the future but members should be able to choose their own path forward.

As a self-governing profession, the OAA represents architecture for the public. Part of that role is to educate people on the value of good architecture and the quality of architect's services. Architects design the built environment and then it shapes the lives of everyone. Building technology is blended through skill to create beauty. Good design of our world is a solemn responsibility and we owe it to future generations to get it right. The appreciation of architecture requires education on the language and design choices. It comes at a reasonable cost. The creation of good architecture requires good clients that appreciate our efforts and select us based on our skill and not by cost only. Part of the OAA's function is to present this guidance to the public.

Despite my accomplishments, representing the architects and architectural technologists of Ontario remains a work in progress. Large firms, small studios and sole practitioners require greater support from the OAA. The downward spiral of fees need to stop. OAA documents, defense against bad contracts, representation to the government and media do not just happen. They require guidance to come to fruition. All Architects, Interns, Technologists and Students require the OAA to speak confidently and with clarity. I have developed the voice of seasoned leadership. Please return me to Council to continue to use the skills I have developed over the past many years to be an effective advocate for you.

Bill Birdsell, Architect