



## Elections for OAA Council

### Find Out What You Need to Know

**OAA Council** sets policy direction, making critical decisions regarding the future of the profession and directly, tangibly affecting practices and the individual careers of members. **With Council elections coming in the fall**, this email offers additional insight into the roles of Councillors, and shares some of the individual skills and competencies sought to complement the current Council.

**There are seven seats on Council up for election or re-election for 2021; these include five seats for Architects, a seat for a Licensed Technologist OAA, and a non-voting seat for an Intern Architect.** While elections are based on geographic representation across the province, it is important to note Councillors do not represent a member constituency—**rather, they govern on behalf of the public interest.**

Serving on Council is an excellent opportunity to participate in the privilege and responsibility of self-governance that the provincial government entrusts to the profession. From developing educational requirements and expected standards of practice to Act enforcement, Continuing Education, and government relations, you can help shape the future of the architecture profession.

An effective OAA Council must have diversity among its members and skills, and be representative of the profession. A good Councillor is able to:

- focus on the big picture and material issues;
- consider issues and make decisions without being influenced by pressure from external sources; and
- participate effectively at the Council table, which includes respecting alternative viewpoints.

Members of the current OAA Council recently participated in a self-assessment exercise that asked them to rate their knowledge, skills, and expertise in various areas of competencies. To complement the current Council, experience in the following areas has been identified as being particularly important:

- education and teaching;
- environment and ecology;
- marketing and communications;
- insurance; and
- large practices.

In keeping with the OAA and Council's position on equity, diversity, and inclusion, additional cultural, racial, gender, and age diversity of membership is also highly valued.

**If you feel you have strength in any of these areas, consider running for Council this fall. If you know someone else who might be ideal, please encourage them to**

**participate.**

The OAA Council elections process occurs using a dedicated online system, with an email sent out on October 5 and the nomination period open until October 26. Voting takes place in November, with new terms beginning on January 1, 2021. Additional information can be found on the [OAA Website](#) and further details will be shared in upcoming editions of the *OAA News* newsletter and on social media.

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