

*Established in 1889, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is the self-regulating body for the province's architecture profession. It governs the practice of architecture and administers the Architects Act in order to serve and protect the public interest.*

Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development  
Strategic Policy Division

Sent by email to: [labourmobility@ontario.ca](mailto:labourmobility@ontario.ca)

June 4, 2025

**Re: Expanding Labour Mobility for Certified Workers from Other Canadian Jurisdictions**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) supports, in principle, the passage of Bill 2, *Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025*. The Association believes Canadian jurisdictions should work together to facilitate free trade and labour mobility nationally.

Since 1992, a national reciprocity agreement has been in place to ensure the labour mobility of Canadian Architects across the country. Updated most recently in 2015, the [Canadian Reciprocity Agreement](#) recognizes the professional accreditation of Architects across domestic jurisdictions, streamlining processes of registration and licensing. Being one of the first regulated professions to initiate this type of reciprocity agreement in Canada, the architecture profession is recognized as a national leader in labour mobility.

Under this agreement, each of the 11 [Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada](#) (ROAC) agree to license as an Architect, in their respective province or territory, any Architect holding such a licence in another province or territory.

The OAA has had the opportunity to take a close look at Bill 2. In the context of this consultation, the Association submits the following observations regarding Schedule 6 of the Bill, which contemplates amendments to the *Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009*, to ensure free trade and labour mobility do not impact the protection of public safety entrusted to professional regulators, including the OAA as it relates to the practice of architecture in Ontario.

**Schedule 6: Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009**

Schedule 6 creates a new Section—10.1 Deemed Certification, Individual Certified Out-of-Province—in the *Ontario Labour Mobility Act, 2009*. "Deemed certification" creates a formalized "as-of-right" system where prescribed regulated professionals from other Canadian jurisdictions can come to Ontario and be deemed certified for a one-time six-month period. To do so, professionals must provide their out-of-province authorizing certificate and meet other prescribed requirements.

If Architects are included within the "prescribed regulated professionals" of the regulations, this proposed Section may create a conflict with the *Architects Act*. Under the *Architects Act* and its General Regulation 27, no person shall engage in



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the practice of architecture or hold themselves out as engaging in the practice of architecture unless they are the holder of a licence under the *Architects Act*. Moreover, to provide services to the public in Ontario, an Architect must be the holder of an OAA certificate of practice (CoP), which comes with public protection requirements of its own, including professional liability insurance and a professional seal issued by the Association.

Once the regulations related to deemed certification have been made available, the Association is ready to work alongside government to ensure harmony between the *Ontario Labour Mobility Act* and the regulation of the practice of architecture in the province.

Appended to this letter are responses to the consultation questions that were posted on the Ontario Regulatory Registry.

The OAA enjoys a longstanding, collaborative relationship with government. On behalf of the Association, the architecture profession, and the wider Ontario public, I look forward to the opportunity to work alongside this Committee and all of government to protect the public interest.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, or would like to continue this dialogue, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

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

Ted Wilson, Architect, OAA  
President



## Implementation – As of Right Rules

### 1. What implementation considerations and supports should the Ministry be aware of with respect to the “As of Right” rules?

Under the *Architects Act* and its General Regulation 27, no person shall engage in the practice of architecture or hold themselves out as engaging in the practice of architecture unless they are the holder of a licence under the *Architects Act*. Moreover, to provide services to the public, an Architect must be the holder of an OAA certificate of practice (CoP), which comes with public protection requirements of its own, including professional liability insurance and a professional seal issued by the Association.

### 2. Are there scenarios in which “As of Right” would not be appropriate for a regulated occupation or particular work settings?

In instances where an Architect from another jurisdiction is subject to an ongoing discipline proceeding, that individual should be required to declare this in their domestic labour mobility application if they are to be “deemed certified” within 10 days of notification.

In instances where a reciprocal applicant is the subject of ongoing discipline proceedings, the regulator's established process to investigate good character concerns should be triggered (or be able to be triggered), and good character concerns should be cleared prior to deemed certification status being granted to a domestic labour applicant.

### 3. What are the considerations with respect to occupational standards and harmonization across provinces and territories?

The OAA does not have any concerns about this as the existing Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement that is in place for Architects in Canada is based on registration equivalency across the country.

## Implementation – Service Framework

### 4. What implementation considerations and supports should the Ministry be aware of with respect to the proposed service framework?

The OAA will need to invest in technological infrastructure and develop new administrative procedures to ensure compliance with the proposed service framework.



## Benefits and Risks

### 5. What are the benefits for workers, employers, and regulators associated with the proposals?

Architects already enjoy national reciprocity via the Canadian Mutual Recognition agreement that was first established in 1992. This streamlined process creates efficiencies for OAA staff, Architects, and the Canadian architectural regulators. It also benefits interprovincial clients and fast-paced project demands.

The Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement for Architects complies with the timelines of the *Fair Access to Regulated Professions and Compulsory Trades Act* (FARPACTA). Typically, there are no time-intensive steps to a reciprocal application that would necessitate a deemed certification framework. The risk of the as-of-right framework is that it may create confusion for professions that already have a streamlined reciprocal process.

### 6. Are there any risks associated with these proposals that you would like to highlight?

Yes, with “deemed certification,” there is the potential for domestic labour mobility applicants to begin working in Ontario without professional liability insurance. This could pose risk to the public in the short term while the individual is awaiting their complete registration (which will be granted within 30 days as required via FARPACTA).

As noted above, this may create applicant confusion for professions with existing streamlined national reciprocity.

### 7. What strategies would you propose to mitigate these risks?

The OAA will continue to focus on clear, transparent communication regarding the regulatory requirements in Ontario within the context of the different applicant frameworks.

