

*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.*

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Chetan,

Thank you for speaking with me last week regarding the outcome from the recent Court Order resulting from an application advanced by the Association of Architectural Technologists of Ontario (AATO) to challenge the OAA's authority to issue licences via policy rather than statute.

**As discussed on our call, we are requesting the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing consider grandfathering those individuals who held status as a Licensed Technologist OAA (Lic.Tech.OAA) into the Ministry's qualification system and grant them a Building Code Identification Number (BCIN).** As you are aware, individuals licensed and regulated by the OAA are not required to obtain a BCIN given their extensive education, examination, and experience requirements to obtain licensure, which includes focused Building Code knowledge.

For more than two decades, the OAA has been issuing licences to technologists in the architectural discipline under the OAA Technology Program. The OAA was first made aware of AATO's court application late last year. Our Council agreed to pursue good-faith negotiations with AATO to find an equitable and fair resolution in the public interest. Unfortunately, these negotiations were unsuccessful.

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice issued an order that took effect on May 10, 2023. The result is that 150 Lic.Tech.OAA licenses and 44 Certificates of Practice previously issued are void. **It is important to note there is no risk to the public inherent in these licences or certificates being voided—the high level of education and competencies of these individuals remain the same. The OAA firmly believes in the value of the OAA Technology Program and in the value of the skills and abilities of these individuals.**

The academic, experience, and examination requirements for the former Lic.Tech.OAA members include:

- holding an advanced diploma/degree from a three-year Ontario college architectural technology program approved by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities;
- passing both the OAA's Admission Course and its full-day, two-part examination which includes testing of Building Code knowledge; and

- completing a total of 5,580 hours of experience that meet the requirements of the OAA—that is, (a) at least 940 hours of experience in Ontario under the personal supervision and direction of a person licensed to engage in the practice of architecture in the province, within the three years before the date on which the person applies for the licence; and (b) at least 4,640 additional hours of experience under the personal supervision and direction of a person authorized to engage in the practice of architecture.

These individuals were also subject to 35 required hours of learning under the Association's mandatory Continuing Education Program. Further, Pro-Demnity Insurance Company continues to insure those that held a Lic.Tech.OAA Certificate of Practice.

Of the 150 Lic.Tech.OAAs that have had their licences voided, 44 were operating architectural design firms, offering services to the public. **This means there are also many members of the public in Ontario that have also been affected, given their projects have been dramatically impacted by this outcome.**

The contribution of these professionals in carrying out the work within Ontario's architectural practices is significant. Most of those 44 that had been operating a practice were providing critical design services specifically related to housing. **It is important, and certainly in the public interest, that these individuals be permitted to resume services as quickly as possible given the housing crisis in this province.**

**While the OAA seeks the necessary legislative amendments to establish a Limited Licence for these qualified individuals, the issuance of a BCIN will help to bridge a gap so that they can continue to deliver services to the public.**

The OAA enjoys a longstanding, collaborative relationship with government and looks forward to working with you and your team to protect and promote the public interest, and hopefully address the immediate need for these qualified individuals to continue to provide necessary services through a BCIN. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kristi Doyle, Hons. BA (PPA)  
Executive Director

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