

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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Sent by email to: buildingcode.consultation@ontario.ca

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Proposed Code Change Form – Four-Storey Townhouses

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As provincial regulator for the practice of architecture, entrusted to protect the public interest, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) continues to closely monitor proposed changes to Ontario's Building Code (OBC). The OAA remains committed to a continually evolving Building Code that advances human life safety to the highest standards, and encourages government and its Ministries to do the same.

In that vein, the OAA is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on "Proposed Change to the 2024 Building Code O. Reg. 163/24," which, if passed as currently written, would introduce a new section in the OBC that contemplates changes to the requirements for four-storey, non-stacked row house (town house) buildings.

Creating greater clarity and consistency by modernizing provisions applicable to non-stacked four-storey townhouses, while maintaining life and fire safety standards, is a positive step toward increasing housing supply. Under the *Architects Act*, the design of four-storey townhouses requires involvement of either an Architect or Licensed Technologist, and OAA members stand ready to support implementation.

The Association is pleased to note the Ministry proposal points out the change "... would provide exceptions to the large building requirements to allow more house-like construction standards under Part 3 of the Building Code." The OAA enjoys a longstanding collaborative relationship with your Ministry and looks forward to continued work with you and your team to enable innovations in housing design and construction that serve the public interest. If you would like to discuss this submission, please reach out at your convenience.

Yours truly,



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