

**IN THE MATTER OF** the *Architects Act*, R.S.O.  
1990, c. A.26

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** the *Statutory Powers  
Procedure Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. S.22

**AND IN THE MATTER OF** a proceeding before  
the Registration Committee of the Ontario  
Association of Architects pursuant to Section 25  
of the *Architects Act* to hear the proposal of the  
Registrar of the Association to refuse the  
application for a License and Certificate of  
Practice by **Ryan Baker** as set out in the Notice  
of Hearing dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2023 and to  
refuse the application for a License by **Aaron  
Gowanlock** as set out in the Notice of Hearing  
dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023.

J. William Birdsell, Councillor (Chair)

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Shirley Lee, Member

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MONDAY THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
JUNE, 2024

)

Chris Montgomery, Member

)

Grant Worden, Counsel to the Tribunal

Ryan Baker

Aaron Gowanlock

Jimmy Gangadin, Representing Mr. Baker  
and Mr. Gowanlock

Erin MacQuarrie, Counsel to the Association

## **DECISION AND ORDER OF THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

This matter coming on for hearing before the Registration Committee on this date via videoconference hosted by Arbitration Place, in which the Registrar served:

1. a Notice of Proposal, dated June 7, 2023 to refuse to issue a Licence or Certificate of Practice to Ryan Baker.
2. a Notice of Proposal, dated September 6, 2023 to refuse to issue a Licence or Certificate of Practice to Aaron Gowanlock.

In the presence of the Registrar of the Association and of Mr. Baker and Mr. Gowanlock, and hearing the evidence adduced:

**THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE** having duly considered all the information placed before it with respect to the Applicants' applications for a Licence and Certificate of Practice **HEREWITH DIRECTS** the Registrar to:

- a) Issue to Mr. Baker a Licence and Certificate of Practice subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A;" and
- b) Issue to Mr. Gowanlock a Licence subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A."

DATED AT TORONTO THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2024.

  
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J. William Birdsell, Councillor (Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley Lee, Member

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Chris Montgomery, Member

- a) Issue to Mr. Baker a Licence and Certificate of Practice subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A;" and
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J. William Birdsell, Councillor (Chair)

*Shirley Lee*

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Shirley Lee, Member

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Chris Montgomery, Member

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Shirley Lee, Member



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Chris Montgomery, Member

**Appendix “A”**  
**Applicants’ Terms, Conditions and Limitations**

Terms, Conditions and Limitations of Licence

1. The Applicants may provide, and personally supervise and direct, architectural services for a building that:
  - a. as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than three storeys in height and not more than 600 square meters in gross area and is used or intended for one or more of the following occupancies:
    - i. Residential;
    - ii. Business;
    - iii. Personal Services;
    - iv. Mercantile;
    - v. Industrial; or
    - vi. a restaurant designed to accommodate not more than 100 persons consuming food or drink;
  - b. is used or intended for residential occupancy, and contains one dwelling unit or two attached dwelling units, and, as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than four storeys in height;
  - c. is used or intended for residential occupancy, that contains three or more attached dwelling units and as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than four storeys in height and not more than 600 square meters in building area; or
  - d. is excepted by the *Architects Act*, s. 11(3).

2. The Applicants shall ensure that their limited scope of practice is clearly indicated to the public in a manner set out and approved by the Registrar<sup>1</sup> (e.g., website, letterhead, business cards, social media profile).
3. The Applicants may act as the prime consultant for the construction, enlargement, or alteration of any building. However, where the Applicants have agreed to arrange for the provision of architectural services to a member of the public beyond those permitted in Paragraph 1, they must engage a holder of a Certificate of Practice not subject to these Terms, Conditions, and Limitations.

#### Terms, Conditions and Limitations of Certificate of Practice

4. The Certificate of Practice shall be subject to the same Terms, Conditions, and Limitations as the licence.
5. The Applicants may provide architectural services to the public as a sole proprietor, in a partnership, or through a corporation, providing that the proprietor, partnership, or corporation holds a Certificate of Practice. The Certificate of Practice shall be subject to the limitations of Paragraph 1
6. The Applicants shall not directly or indirectly own or control more than 49% of the voting shares and value of all the shares of a corporation, or directly or indirectly hold more than 49% of the voting and financial interest of a partnership, to which a Certificate of Practice not subject to the Terms, Limitations, and Conditions of this policy has been issued under Section 146 or 157 of the *Architects Act*.

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<sup>1</sup> Whatever title the Registrar selects should clearly convey the Applicants' limited scope of practice, e.g., "Architect (Limited Scope)", "Limited Scope Architect" or similar.

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MONDAY THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
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Erin MacQuarrie, Counsel to the Association



## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Registration Committee of the Ontario Association of Architects (the “OAA”) met on this date via videoconference hosted by Arbitration Place, for the purpose of hearing the proposal of the Registrar of the Association to refuse to issue a licence and certificate of practice to Mr. Baker and the issuance of a license to Mr. Gowanlock (together, the “Applicants”). Mr. Gangadin represented both Applicants, and at the outset of the proceeding advised the Committee, jointly with the Counsel for the Registrar, that the parties consented to the Applicants’ applications proceeding together, pursuant to section 9.1(1) of the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act*.

### **Facts**

As described in greater detail below, each of the Applicants obtained a Licensed Technologist OAA designation from the OAA which they held until May 10, 2023, when their licences were voided upon the dissolution of the OAA’s former Licensed Technologist OAA Program.

There were two Agreed Statements of Facts (ASOF) submitted into evidence, both dated June 11, 2024.<sup>1</sup> The background facts set out in these Reasons for Decision reproduce and/or summarize relevant facts from the ASOFs, supplemented by additional evidence adduced at the hearing.

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<sup>1</sup> Baker ASOF (Exhibit 3); Gowanlock ASOF (Exhibit 4).

As described in greater detail below, the Applicants were educated and trained in architectural technology in Ontario and provided related services. In addition:

- a) Mr. Baker obtained a Licensed Technologist OAA designation from the OAA in February 2010; and
- b) Mr. Gowanlock obtained a Licensed Technologist OAA designation from the OAA in January 2017.

### **The OAA's Former Licensed Technologist OAA Program**

In May 2003, the OAA founded a program for architectural technology college graduates which continued until May 2023. In 2003, the initial iteration of the technology program was created by the OAA in partnership with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (the "OACETT"). Between 2003 and 2010, the technology program was administered by the Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences (the "OAAAS"), a not-for-profit organization owned equally by the OAA and the OACETT. In 2011, the OAA assumed full ownership of the OAAAS. In 2022, the OAA brought the technology program in-house and administered it directly until May 2023.<sup>2</sup>

Applicants to the technology program were required to meet education, experience and examination requirements which included tendering documentation about their education, recording their experience hours, completing a qualifying examination, and participating in

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<sup>2</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraphs 7-10; Gowanlock ASOF, paragraphs 6-9.

the OAA's Admission Course. Upon successful completion of the program, applicants received certification and were referred to the OAA's Office of the Registrar to apply for licensure as "Licensed Technologists OAA."<sup>3</sup>

The Licensed Technologist OAA licensing structure was created by the OAA in 2010 via Council policy.<sup>4</sup> That policy purported to do certain things, including:

- a) Authorizing the Registrar to issue licences to Licensed Technologists OAA pursuant to subsection 13(1) of the *Act*;
- b) Exempting Licensed Technologists OAA from the required academic and experience requirements set out in the *General Regulation*, RRO 1990, Reg 27, made under the *Act* (the "*Regulation*");
- c) Specifying terms, conditions, and limitations to be placed on both the licence and certificate of practice of Licensed Technologists OAA, restricting their scope of practice;
- d) Authorizing Licensed Technologists OAA to engage in certain specified acts within the practice of architecture, including to provide, personally supervise and direct architectural services for a building that:
  - a. as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than three storeys in height and not more than 600 square metres in gross area and is used or intended for one or more of the following occupancies: 1. Residential; 2. Business; 3. Personal services; 4. Mercantile; 5. Industrial; or 6. a restaurant designed to accommodate not more than 100 persons consuming food or drink;

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<sup>3</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraphs 11-12; Gowanlock ASOF, paragraphs 10-11.

<sup>4</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 13, and Tab E; Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 12, and Tab E.

- b. is used or intended for residential occupancy, and contains one dwelling unit or two attached dwelling units, and, as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than four storeys in height;
  - c. is used or intended for residential occupancy, which contains three or more attached dwelling units and as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than four storeys in height and not more than six hundred square metres in building area;
  - d. is excepted by section 11(3) of the *Act*; and
- e) Authorizing Licensed Technologists OAA to apply for a certificate of practice subject to the same terms, conditions, and limitations as the licence and in accordance with the following:
- a. The Licensed Technologist OAA may provide architectural services to the public as a sole proprietor, in a partnership, or through a corporation, providing that the proprietor, partnership, or corporation holds a certificate of practice. The certificate of practice shall be subject to the limitations of the licence.
  - b. The Licensed Technologist OAA shall not directly or indirectly own or control more than 49% of the voting shares and value of all the shares of a corporation, or directly or indirectly hold more than 49% of the voting and financial interest of a partnership, to which a certificate of practice not subject to the terms, limitations, and conditions of this policy has been issued under sections 14 or 15 of the *Act*.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 14; Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 13.

## Dissolution of the Licensed Technologist OAA Program

In December 2022, the Association of Architectural Technologists of Ontario (the “AATO”) brought an application to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for an injunction challenging the OAA’s authority to issue licences and certificates of practice to individuals under the Council policy. In particular, the AATO asserted that the OAA’s authority to issue licences and certificates of practice was limited to the powers set out in the *Act* and *Regulation* and could not be expanded by policy.<sup>6</sup>

On May 10, 2023, the Ontario Superior Court ordered on consent, among other things, that:

- a) the OAA has no lawful authority to issue licences or certificates of practice based on the policy or similar policy not set out in a regulation under the *Act*, including the licences and certificates of practice described as “Licensed Technologist OAA” or “Licensed Architectural Technologist OAA;”
- b) any licences or certificates of practice issued by the OAA based on the policy or similar policy not set out in a regulation under the *Act*, including the licences and certificates of practice described as “Licensed Technologist OAA” or “Licensed Architectural Technologist OAA,” are void *ab initio* and of no force and effect; and
- c) the OAA is prohibited from issuing licences or certificates of practice based on the policy or similar policy not set out in a regulation under the *Act*, including the licences and certificates of practice described as “Licensed Technologist OAA” or “Licensed Architectural Technologist OAA.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraphs 16-17; Gowanlock ASOF, paragraphs 15-16.

<sup>7</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 18; Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 17.

As a result of the above-noted order, the Licensed Technologist OAA designations and certificate of practices held by the Applicants were voided on May 10, 2023.<sup>8</sup>

### **Mr. Baker's Application for a Licence and a Certificate of Practice**

On or about May 18, 2023, the Registrar of the OAA (the "Registrar") received from Mr. Baker an application to be to be licenced as an Architect and an application for a certificate of practice for Mr. Baker and his corporation, a2b Architecture. Mr. Baker submitted a revised application for a certificate of practice on or about May 26, 2023 which corrected minor errors in the first application but otherwise included the same information.<sup>9</sup>

The applications demonstrate that Mr. Baker was educated and trained in architectural technology in Ontario. Among other things he:

- a) graduated from the 4-year Architectural Technology Program at Fanshawe College in 2000;
- b) was certified with OACETT as an A. Sc.T. from March 5, 2008, to approximately July 2011;
- c) completed the required continuing education units for Cycle 5;
- d) gained 7,200 hours of work experience in the specified categories under the responsible control or personal supervision and direction of an architect;
- e) 1,880 of the above hours were accumulated while registered in the Technologist OAAAS category;

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<sup>8</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 19; Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 18.

<sup>9</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 2.

- f) 940 of the above hours were gained in Ontario within the last three years prior to applying for licensure and were under the personal supervision and direction of a person licensed to engage in the practice of architecture in Ontario;
- g) completed sufficient hours for admission to the Technologist OAAAS category on October 6, 2008;
- h) completed the OAA Admission Course in May 2009;
- i) passed the Licensed Technologist OAA examination on July 2, 2009;
- j) from June 2005 to August 2005, worked as a Junior Technologist at [REDACTED] in Ottawa, Ontario;
- k) from January 2003 to April 2003, worked as Manager of Plans, Examination Assistant at the [REDACTED];
- l) from January 2002 to August 2022, worked as Computer Aided Drafting Technician at the [REDACTED];
- m) from August 2005 to October 2011, worked as a Team Lead, Senior Technologist at [REDACTED];
- n) from October 2011 to July 2015, worked as a Senior Technologist at [REDACTED];
- o) was a Board Member of the [REDACTED] from January 2021 to October 2022;
- p) has worked at the [REDACTED] in various roles since July of 2015: as a Project Manager (July 2015 to May 2022), Manager, Project Implementation (Acting) (October 2022 to January 2023), and Capital Programs Officer (May 2022 to present);
- q) was Principal, Licensed Technologist, OAA at a2b Architecture in Ottawa, Ontario from September 2021 to May 2023;

- r) was Principal, Licensed Technologist, OAA at [REDACTED] in Ottawa, Ontario from May 2015 to March 2016;
- s) volunteered as a Technologist with [REDACTED] from July 2012 to September 2012 in Ottawa, Ontario;
- t) volunteered as Architectural Career Mentor for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from August 2019 to October 2020;
- u) volunteered as Intern Technologist Mentor at the Ontario Association of Architects from March 2021 to May 2023 in Ottawa, Ontario; and
- v) obtained a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) with the Project Management Institute from November 2018.<sup>10</sup>

On or about June 7, 2023, the Registrar proposed to refuse the Applicant's application for a licence pursuant to section 25(1)(a) of the *Act*.<sup>11</sup>

As explained in the Registrar's Notice of Proposal and Reasons for Decision,<sup>12</sup> the Registrar determined that the Applicant had completed the Admission Course offered by the OAA, but had not met the requisite educational, experience and examination requirements.

Specifically, the Registrar determined that Mr. Baker has not:

- a) completed a degree in architecture from a post-secondary institution, or completed the Royal Architecture Institute Syllabus;

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<sup>10</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 1.

<sup>11</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 4.

<sup>12</sup> Baker ASOF, Tab B.



- b) received a Certificate of Certification issued by the Canadian Architectural Certification Board;
- c) successfully completed one of the following:
  - a. the Examination for Architects in Canada published by the OAA;
  - b. the Architect Registration Examination of the National Council of Architectural Certification Boards;
  - c. any combination of the components of the Examination for Architects in Canada published by the OAA and of the Architect Registration Examination of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards that, considered as a whole, is considered equivalent to one of those examinations, as approved by the Council;
- d) completed a total of 3,720 hours of experience that meets the requirements of the Intern Architect Program published by the OAA, which must include:
  - 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 Ontario, which must be completed within the three years before the date on which the person applies for the licence, and
  - b. at least 2,780 additional hours of experience under the personal supervision and direction of a person authorized to engage in the practice of architecture.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 4.

With respect to the application for a certificate of practice, the Registrar determined that the primary function of a2b Architecture is to engage in the practice of architecture. However, the ownership and control of the corporation is not held nor directed by a member of the Ontario Association of Architects, or a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario as required for the issuance of a certificate of practice to a corporation. The Registrar noted that the Applicant currently meets the requirements set out at s. 34(a)(i) of the *Act* to be insured against professional liability by an insurance corporation referred to in subsection 2(5) of the *Act*.<sup>14</sup>

### **Mr. Gowanlock's Application for a License**

On or about August 15, 2023, the Registrar of the OAA (the "Registrar") received from Mr. Gowanlock an application to be to be licenced as an Architect. Mr. Gowanlock submitted a revised application for a licence on or about August 16, 2023 which corrected minor errors in the first application but otherwise included the same information.<sup>15</sup>

The application demonstrates that Mr. Gowanlock was educated and trained in architectural technology in Ontario. Among other things he:

- a) graduated from the 3-year Architectural Technology Program at Fanshawe College in 2004;
- b) successfully completed the Advanced Standing Interview process on October 23, 2014;

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<sup>14</sup> Baker ASOF, paragraph 5.

<sup>15</sup> Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 2.

- c) completed the OAA Admission Course in May 2015;
- d) passed the Licensed Technologist OAA examination on June 19, 2015;
- e) has the equivalent of 940 hours of work experience under the personal supervision and direction of an Architect, within the three consecutive years immediately prior to submitting an application for Advanced Standing.<sup>16</sup>

On or about September 6, 2023, the Registrar proposed to refuse Mr. Gowanlock's application for a licence pursuant to section 25(1)(a) of the *Act*.<sup>17</sup>

As explained in the Registrar's Notice of Proposal and Reasons for Decision,<sup>18</sup> the Registrar determined that Mr. Gowanlock had completed the Admission Course offered by the OAA, but had not met the requisite educational, experience and examination requirements.

Specifically, the Registrar determined that Mr. Gowanlock has not:

- a) completed a degree in architecture from a post-secondary institution, or completed the Royal Architecture Institute Syllabus;
- b) received a Certificate of Certification issued by the Canadian Architectural Certification Board;
- c) successfully completed one of the following:
  - a. the Examination for Architects in Canada published by the OAA;
  - b. the Architect Registration Examination of the National Council of Architectural Certification Boards;

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<sup>16</sup> Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 1.

<sup>17</sup> Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 4.

<sup>18</sup> Gowanlock ASOF, Tab B.

- c. any combination of the components of the Examination for Architects in Canada published by the OAA and of the Architect Registration Examination of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards that, considered as a whole, is considered equivalent to one of those examinations, as approved by the Council;
- d) completed a total of 3,720 hours of experience that meets the requirements of the Intern Architect Program published by the OAA, which must include:
  - 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 Ontario, which must be completed within the three years before the date on which the person applies for the licence, and
  - b. at least 2,780 additional hours of experience under the personal supervision and direction of a person authorized to engage in the practice of architecture.<sup>19</sup>

### **Additional Evidence Adduced by Mr. Baker at the Hearing**

In addition to the information in the ASOF, Mr. Baker testified about his education, certifications and accreditations, including graduating from the 4-year Architectural Technology Program at Fanshawe College in 2000, completing the OAA admission course in 2009, obtaining his Licensed Technologist OAA designation in 2010 and since then fulfilling mandatory continuing education requirements, and obtaining a certified Project Management Professional with the Project Management Institute in 2018. He also testified

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<sup>19</sup> Gowanlock ASOF, paragraph 4.

about his experience as an architectural technologist for 13 years as well as his work experience as a Junior Technologist at [REDACTED]; as Manager of Plans, Examination Assistant at the [REDACTED]; as Computer Aided Drafting Technician at the [REDACTED], Ontario; as Team Lead, Senior Technologist at [REDACTED]; as Senior Technologist at [REDACTED]; and at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in various roles including Project Manager, Manager, Project Implementation (Acting), and Capital Programs Officer. Mr. Baker also testified about his volunteer experience as a Technologist for [REDACTED]; as Architectural Career Mentor for [REDACTED]; and as Intern Technologist Mentor at the Ontario Association of Architects. Mr. Baker also shared with the Committee letters of recommendation he had received and examples of his work.

### **Additional Evidence Adduced by Mr. Gowanlock at the Hearing**

In addition to the information in the ASOF, Mr. Gowanlock testified about his education, certifications and accreditations including completing the 3-year Architectural Technology Program at Fanshawe College in 2004; completing the qualifications for designation as an Applied Science Technologist, Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists in 2007; completing the BCIN – House and Small Buildings in 2007; completing the qualifications for designation as Technologist OAAAS, Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences; and completing the OAA admission course and obtaining his Licensed Technologist OAA designation in 2017 and since then fulfilling mandatory continuing education requirements. Mr. Gowanlock testified that since he has been working as a Licensed Technologist OAA he has always worked as an employee of a firm under the

supervision of an architect or engineer. He shared with the Committee examples of his work, including (among others) fertilizer distribution facilities for the [REDACTED]; an [REDACTED]; an [REDACTED] manufacturing and warehouse addition in London, Ontario for a scoreboard manufacturing facility; and a new facility consisting of 2-storey sales, showroom, and vehicle service garage for [REDACTED], in Grand Bend, Ontario. Mr. Gowanlock also shared with the Committee letters of recommendation he had received.

## **THE PARTIES' SUBMISSIONS**

The Committee heard submissions from counsel for the Registrar on the scope of the Committee's exemption powers, and from Mr. Gangadin on behalf of Mr. Baker and Mr. Gowanlock as to why the Committee should exercise its discretion to exempt them from the relevant licensing requirements.

### **The Association's Submissions**

At the outset of her submissions, counsel for the Association described the provisions of the *Architects Act* that set out the academic, experience and examination requirements for a person to be licenced as an architect and a corporation to be issued a certificate of practice. She noted that section 25(8) of the *Act* provides that the Committee may exempt any of the licensing requirements set out in the *Act* and *Regulation* if it concludes that it is appropriate to do so.

Counsel for the Association reviewed two decisions of the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board<sup>20</sup> which speak to the ability of registration committees to exempt licensing requirements, and the factors committees should consider in exercising their exemption powers. She noted that while the cases were neither factually similar to the Applicant's circumstances nor binding on the panel, they offered principles articulated by other registration committees which the Committee might find useful. First, Counsel for the Association observed that the onus is always on an applicant to meet the registration requirements and does not rest with the regulator to prove they do not. Second, she submitted that in granting a license, the relevant regulator is verifying to the public that the individual has demonstrated that they meet the standards of the profession as set by the college.<sup>21</sup> Counsel for the Association submitted that exemptions can and should be granted – and there are no requirements that have been flagged in the *Act* or *Regulation* as non-exemptible – but only if they are appropriate. Third, Counsel for the Association noted that exemptions are warranted where an applicant meets the spirit of a registration requirement though not the specific requirement itself.<sup>22</sup> She submitted that to grant an exemption the Committee will want some evidence that the intent, the pith, and substance of the legislative and regulatory requirements have been met, albeit in an alternative way.

Counsel for the Association also briefly reviewed three previous decisions of the Committee which she noted are not binding on this panel. In the first, a Decision and Order dated November 2, 2023, the Committee concluded that it was not prepared to exempt the

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<sup>20</sup> *Keen v College of Registered Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario*, 2021 CanLII 108446 (ON HPARB); *CLC v College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario*, 2019 CanLII 24916 (ON HPARB)

<sup>21</sup> *Keen*, para. 49. See also *CLC*, paras. 26-27, 52.

<sup>22</sup> *Keen*, para. 56.

relevant licensing requirements based on the information the applicant had proffered and the Committee's interpretation of section 25(8) of the *Act*.<sup>23</sup> In the second, a Decision and Order dated February 29, 2024, the Committee determined that section 25(8) of the *Act* permitted it to grant an exemption and order with terms, conditions, and limitations and decided that the Applicants had met the spirit and intention of the educational and training requirements. The Committee in that case exercised its power to grant an exemption and order with terms, conditions, and limitations that were substantially similar to the terms, conditions, and limitations under the Licensed Technologist OAA Licence. The Committee directed the Registrar to develop a title that satisfactorily communicated to the public the limitation that the Registration Committee was imposing on these licences.<sup>24</sup> In the third, a Decision and Order dated May 14, 2024, the Committee determined that the Applicant had not met the spirit and intent of the educational, examination and training requirements, and therefore did not consider whether a licence with terms, conditions and limitations would be appropriate in the circumstances.<sup>25</sup>

Finally, counsel for the Association noted that the OAA has been working to implement a legislative solution to the dissolution of the Licensed Technologist OAA program and that, while the proposed amendments to the *Act* have been passed by the Legislature, they have not yet been implemented, meaning they do not yet have the force of law.

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<sup>23</sup> Decision and Order of the Registration Committee and Reasons for Decision dated November 2, 2023 (redacted)

<sup>24</sup> Decision and Order of the Registration Committee and Reasons for Decision dated February 29, 2024 (redacted)

<sup>25</sup> Decision and Order of the Registration Committee and Reasons for Decision dated May 14, 2024 (redacted)



## **The Applicants' Submissions**

Mr. Gangadin for the Applicants emphasized that both Mr. Baker and Mr. Gowanlock had met all the OAA requirements to be licenced as technologists and had been in good standing when they lost their ability to practice due to a challenge from a third-party group and through no fault of their own.

Mr. Gangadin observed that Mr. Baker had 7,200 hours of relevant work experience, far exceeding the 3,720 hours required under the *Regulation*, and that Council had deemed Mr. Gowanlock exempt of the experience requirement through the Advance Standing process.

Mr. Gangadin also submitted that both of the Applicants' years of relevant experience should be considered in determining whether to exempt each of them from the academic and examination requirements for licensure. He also submitted that each Applicant had demonstrated their competency and integrity through their testimony, and that neither of them had ever exceeded the limits of their licence or faced disciplinary sanctions.

Mr. Gangadin asked the Committee to grant to Mr. Baker a licence and certificate of practice with terms, conditions, and limitations identical to those imposed on the Applicants in the Decision and Order of the Registration Committee and Reasons for Decision dated February 29, 2024. He also asked the Committee to grant to Mr. Gowanlock a licence with terms, conditions, and limitations identical to those imposed on the Applicants in the Decision and Order of the Registration Committee and Reasons for Decision dated February 29, 2024

## ANALYSIS

The Committee has carefully considered the Applicants' evidence, including their testimony, the ASOFs and their and the Association's submissions. In the Committee's view, the Applicants' circumstances are similar to other applicants who have recently been granted limited licenses by the Registration Committee.

The Committee is satisfied that it is appropriate to exempt Mr. Baker from the experience, academic and examination requirements set out in the *Regulation* and to issue to him a licence and certificate of practice subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in **Schedule "A."**

The Committee is also satisfied that it is appropriate to exempt Mr. Gowanlock from the experience, academic and examination requirements set out in the *Regulation* and to issue to him a licence subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in **Schedule "A."**

As a preliminary matter, the Committee agrees with the interpretation of section 25(8) of the *Act* set out in the Decision and Order of the Registration Committee and Reasons for Decision dated February 29, 2024 (redacted). Specifically, the Committee agrees that the *Act* permits the Committee to utilize both the exemption power set out in section 25(8)(b)(ii) and the power to impose terms, conditions, and limitations pursuant to section 25(8)(c)(iii), substantially for the reasons set out in the February 29<sup>th</sup> decision. For ease of reference, we have reproduced the relevant paragraphs from the Analysis section of the February 29<sup>th</sup> decision in **Schedule "B"** and adopt that analysis as our own.

## **Mr. Baker**

The evidence demonstrates that Mr. Baker has significant and relevant education and experience. He completed the four-year Architectural Technology Program at Fanshawe College in 2002, was certified with OACETT as an A. Sc.T. from March 5, 2008 to approximately July 2011, completed the required continuing education units for Cycle 5, completed the OAA Admission Course in May 2009 and passed the Licensed Technologist OAA examination on July 2, 2009. As to his qualifications, among other things Mr. Baker gained 7,200 hours of work experience in the specified categories under the responsible control or personal supervision and direction of an architect, 1,880 of which were accumulated while registered in the Technologist OAAAS category and 940 of the above hours were gained in Ontario within the last three years prior to applying for licensure and were under the personal supervision and direction of a person licensed to engage in the practice of architecture in Ontario. He has had no discipline or complaints brought against him, fulfilled all continuing education requirements, paid all fees, and held the required professional liability insurance during that time. He has not exceeded his previously defined scope of practice and has worked with a licensed architect holder of a certificate of practice whenever one was required. The Committee has no reason to believe that Mr. Baker could not continue to do so going forward.

## **Mr. Gowanlock**

The evidence similarly demonstrates that Mr. Gowanlock has significant and relevant education and experience. He completed the 3-year Architectural Technology Program at Fanshawe College in 2004, successfully completed the Advanced Standing Interview

process in October, 2014, completed the OAA Admission Course in May 2015 and passed the Licensed Technologist OAA examination on June 19, 2015. In addition, he completed the qualifications for designation as an Applied Science Technologist, Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists in 2007, completed the BCIN – House and Small Buildings in 2007 and completed the qualifications for designation as Technologist OAAAS, Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences. Like Mr. Baker, he has had no discipline or complaints brought against him, fulfilled all continuing education requirements, paid all fees, and held the required professional liability insurance during that time. He has not exceeded his previously defined scope of practice and has worked with a licensed architect holder of a certificate of practice whenever one was required. The Committee has no reason to believe that Mr. Gowanlock could not continue to do so going forward.

Based on the evidence, the Committee finds it is appropriate to direct the Registrar to issue to Mr. Baker a licence and certificate of practice with terms, conditions, and limitations, and to Mr. Gowanlock a licence with terms, conditions, and limitations. Both Applicants have been providing architectural services to the public under their previous limited licenses, and in Mr. Baker's case under a limited certificate of practice, without complaints or disciplinary issues and were in good standing up to the date their licenses and Mr. Baker's certificate of practice were declared void. The Committee is of the view that both Mr. Baker and Mr. Gowanlock will engage in the practice of architecture with competence and integrity within the limits of architectural practice they are permitted to perform. Issuing them licenses with terms, conditions, and limitations and issuing to Mr. Baker a certificate of practice with terms, conditions and limitations would allow them to continue to provide the same architectural services to the public they provided prior to May 2023. Not issuing them

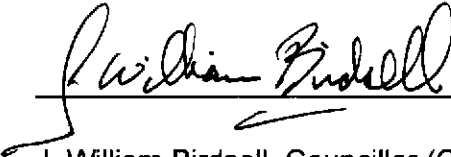
licenses, and in Mr. Baker's case a certificate of practice, would neither serve nor protect the public interest.

Given the Applicants' experience, education, and long history of service without complaints or disciplinary issues, the Committee finds that the terms, conditions, and limitations set out in Appendix "A" are necessary and appropriate to serve and protect the public interest. Mr. Baker and Mr. Gowanlock will be required to meet the full Continuing Education requirements and pay all fees at the rate of full scope practicing members and corresponding certificates of practice. If, in the future, a different class of licence and/or certificate of practice becomes available through regulation or legislative amendment, the Applicants may elect to maintain the licence and certificate of practice resulting from this decision or to apply for new designations.

**THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE** having duly considered all the information placed before it with respect to the Applicants' applications for a Licence and Certificate of Practice **HEREWITH DIRECTS** the Registrar to:

- a) Issue to Mr. Baker a Licence and Certificate of Practice subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A;" and
- b) Issue to Mr. Gowanlock a Licence subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A."

DATED AT TORONTO THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. William Birdsell, Councillor (Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shirley Lee, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Montgomery, Member

**THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE** having duly considered all the information placed before it with respect to the Applicants' applications for a Licence and Certificate of Practice **HEREWITH DIRECTS** the Registrar to:

- a) Issue to Mr. Baker a Licence and Certificate of Practice subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A;" and
- b) Issue to Mr. Gowanlock a Licence subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A."

DATED AT TORONTO THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2024

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J. William Birdsell, Councillor (Chair)

*Shirley Lee*

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Shirley Lee, Member

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Chris Montgomery, Member

**THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE** having duly considered all the information placed before it with respect to the Applicants' applications for a Licence and Certificate of Practice **HEREWITH DIRECTS** the Registrar to:

- a) Issue to Mr. Baker a Licence and Certificate of Practice subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A;" and
- b) Issue to Mr. Gowanlock a Licence subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set out in Schedule "A."

DATED AT TORONTO THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY 2024

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J. William Birdsell, Councillor (Chair)

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Shirley Lee, Member



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Chris Montgomery, Member



## Schedule "A"

### Applicants' Terms, Conditions and Limitations

#### Terms, Conditions and Limitations of Licence

1. The Applicant may provide, and personally supervise and direct, architectural services for a building that:
  - a. as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than three storeys in height and not more than 600 square meters in gross area and is used or intended for one or more of the following occupancies:
    - i. Residential;
    - ii. Business;
    - iii. Personal Services;
    - iv. Mercantile;
    - v. Industrial; or
    - vi. a restaurant designed to accommodate not more than 100 persons consuming food or drink;
  - b. is used or intended for residential occupancy, and contains one dwelling unit or two attached dwelling units, and, as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than four storeys in height;
  - c. is used or intended for residential occupancy, that contains three or more attached dwelling units and as constructed, enlarged, or altered, is not more than four storeys in height and not more than 600 square meters in building area; or
  - d. is excepted by the *Architects Act*, s. 11(3).

2. The Applicant shall ensure that his limited scope of practice is clearly indicated to the public in a manner set out and approved by the Registrar<sup>26</sup> (e.g., website, letterhead, business cards, social media profile).
3. The Applicant may act as the prime consultant for the construction, enlargement, or alteration of any building. However, where the Applicant has agreed to arrange for the provision of architectural services to a member of the public beyond those permitted in Paragraph 1, he must engage a holder of a Certificate of Practice not subject to these Terms, Conditions, and Limitations.

#### Terms, Conditions and Limitations of Certificate of Practice

4. The Certificate of Practice shall be subject to the same Terms, Conditions, and Limitations as the licence.
5. The Applicant may provide architectural services to the public as a sole proprietor, in a partnership, or through a corporation, providing that the proprietor, partnership, or corporation holds a Certificate of Practice. The Certificate of Practice shall be subject to the limitations of Paragraph 1.
6. The Applicant shall not directly or indirectly own or control more than 49% of the voting shares and value of all the shares of a corporation, or directly or indirectly hold more than 49% of the voting and financial interest of a partnership, to which a Certificate of Practice not subject to the Terms, Limitations, and Conditions of this policy has been issued under Section 146 or 157 of the *Architects Act*.

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<sup>26</sup> Whatever title the Registrar selects should clearly convey the Applicant's limited scope of practice, e.g., "Architect (Limited Scope)," "Limited Scope Architect" or similar

## Schedule “B”

### Analysis of section 25(8) from the Decision and Order of the Registration Committee and Reasons for Decision dated February 29, 2024 (redacted)

Section 25(8) of the *Act* provides, in relevant part [emphasis added]:

#### Powers of Registration Committee

(8) Following upon a hearing under this section in respect of a proposal by the Registrar, the Registration Committee may, by order,

...

(b) where the committee is of the opinion upon reasonable grounds that the applicant does not meet the requirements and qualifications of this Act and the regulations,

...

(ii) where the committee is of the opinion upon reasonable grounds that the applicant will engage in the practice of architecture with competence and integrity, exempt the applicant from any of the requirements of this Act and the regulations and direct the Registrar to issue a licence, certificate of practice or temporary licence, as the case may be; **or**

(c) where the committee is of the opinion upon reasonable grounds that it is necessary in order to ensure that the applicant will engage in the practice of architecture with competence and integrity,

...

(iii) direct the Registrar to issue a licence, certificate of practice or temporary licence, as the case may be, subject to such terms, conditions or limitations as the Registration Committee specifies.

The Committee is aware of its obligation to read the words of the *Act* in their entire context and in their grammatical and ordinary sense harmoniously with the scheme of the *Act*, its object, and the intention of parliament, and in a way that does not produce absurd consequences. The Committee is also aware from reviewing the authorities and submissions on this issue that “or” may be read exclusively, in the sense of permitting only one option or another, or inclusively, in the sense of permitting several options. The authorities cited above explain this concept in different ways. These passages from the Ontario Court of Appeal’s decision in *Rooney v. ArcelorMittal S.A.*, 2016 ONCA 630 are particularly useful to illustrate this point:

*[46] As Ruth Sullivan explains, in ordinary usage, "or" can be either inclusive (A or B or both) or exclusive (A or B, but not both), and it is up to the reader to decide which one the writer intended: Sullivan, at 4.97. In other words, the default plain meaning of "or" is not exclusive.*

[47] In *Garner's Modern American Usage*, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Bryan Garner goes further, arguing that the default plain meaning of "or" is actually inclusive. In lamenting the popularity of what he regards as the unnecessary legal phrase "and/or", Garner explains, at pp. 45-46: "If you are offered a coffee or tea, you may pick either (or in this case, neither), or you may for whatever reason order both. This is the ordinary sense of the word, understood by everyone and universally accommodated by the simple or." Garner advises that, if a writer intends to use the exclusive "or", he or she should make this intention explicit.

The Committee finds that the word "or" between subparagraphs (b) and (c) of section 25(8) of the Act is to be read inclusively rather than exclusively. Therefore, in circumstances where the Committee determines that it is appropriate to "*exempt the applicant from any of the requirements of this Act and the regulations*" (section 25(8)(b)(ii)), it may direct the Registrar "*to issue a licence, certificate of practice or temporary licence, as the case may be, subject to such terms, conditions or limitations as the Registration Committee specifies*" (section 25(8)(c)(iii)).

Read together, subparagraphs (b) and (c) of section 25(8) of the Act permit the Committee to exempt an applicant from any of the requirements of the Act and regulations "*where the committee is of the opinion upon reasonable grounds that the applicant will engage in the practice of architecture with competence and integrity*" (section 25(8)(b)(ii)), and to impose

such terms, conditions and limitations as are necessary to ensure that they do so (section 25(8)(c)(iii)).