



OAA Council Elections **Ask the Candidates!**



Learn About Your Candidates and Your Council

With election ballots being distributed to all eligible voting OAA members on **Monday, November 9**, this Regulatory Notice offers additional insight into the roles of Councillors, and shares some of the individual skills and competencies sought to complement the current Council.

Many candidates have put their names forward this year, and the OAA strongly encourages its members to learn more about them before voting. You can check out their [Candidate Statements](#) online and, until Monday, submit questions via the [Ask the Candidates](#) page.

With the privilege and responsibility of architecture being a self-regulated profession in Ontario, it is particularly critical all eligible voters take the time to not only learn about their candidates, but also the roles and responsibilities of the Association's governing Council.

The Role of Council

As related to the practice of architecture in Ontario, the importance of OAA Councillors cannot be understated. From developing educational requirements and expected standards of practice to enforcing the *Architects Act*, outlining Continuing Education, and maintaining government relations, Council shapes the future of the profession. Every policy decision and direction it sets has a direct and tangible effect on members and

practices in the province. (To read more about Council, [click here.](#))

There are seven seats on Council up for election or re-election for 2021, with new terms beginning on January 1. 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. The OAA is enabled by the Government of Ontario, under provincial statute ([Architects Act](#), R.S.O. 1990, c. A.26), to regulate the profession of architecture, with a mandate to protect the public interest. The OAA has the sole official responsibility to ensure the provisions of the *Architects Act* are upheld.

Considering This Year's Candidates

An effective OAA Council must have diversity among its members and their skill sets, and be representative of the profession. A good Councillor:

- focuses on the big picture and material issues;
- considers issues and makes decisions without being influenced by pressure from external sources; and
- participates effectively at the Council table, which includes respecting alternative viewpoints.

Earlier this year, Councillors 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 Council's position on equity, diversity, and inclusion, the OAA also recognizes its public interest mandate is best realized when its members reflect the society it serves. To that end, the OAA must continuously strive to eliminate barriers to work and advance within the profession on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or religious practices. **The OAA encourages all eligible voters to participate and contribute to the future of the profession of architecture in Ontario.**

Ballots will be sent out to all eligible voters on **Monday, November 9**—remember to check your spam folders in case the email goes astray. If you don't receive your ballot, and you are an OAA Architect, Licensed Technologist OAA, or Intern Architect, please contact the [Office of the Registrar](#). Voting closes on **Monday, November 23**, with results announced shortly thereafter on the [OAA Website](#), as well as its [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) channels.

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