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Regulatory Notice

December 6, 2023

Further Update on Legislation Regarding Limited Licences

The OAA is reaching out again to members and all those with Association status with another update regarding pending changes to the ***Architects Act***, which would allow the issuing of limited licences in the architectural discipline.

As mentioned in an ***email earlier this month***, the OAA has been seeking the necessary legislative amendments to allow it to issue limited licences in the architectural discipline, and create the title “Licensed Technologist” for those holding such status or Certificate of Practice. This was reflected in the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) omnibus ***Bill 157, Enhancing Access to Justice Act, 2023***, which includes changes to the OAA’s prevailing legislation, the ***Architects Act***.

Yesterday, on **December 5**, the Bill underwent Second Reading and has now been referred to the provincial government’s ***Standing Committee on Justice Policy***. At the moment, the Committee has not indicated if it will hold public consultations related to this matter. However, anyone is free to make a written submission to ***the Committee*** and request an opportunity to give an oral deputation. (The OAA is currently preparing its own response in praise of Bill 157, and encourages others to voice their strong support.)

During the Second Reading, some MPPs had questions regarding whether this change would present a duplication of work being done by the *Association of Architectural Technologists of Ontario (AATO)*. **The OAA will be focused on clearing up some misunderstandings regarding the *Architects Act* and the *AATO Act*.**

The OAA and the AATO have very distinct roles. The OAA is the statutory regulator that governs the practice of architecture in Ontario in order to serve and protect the public interest in accordance with the *Architect Act*. The AATO is a voluntary professional association for architectural technologists. The *AATO Act* is a private member's act, which, unlike public acts, deals with matters of a private interest to specific corporations or individuals.

Schedule 1 of Bill 157 does not create duplication of legislation because the AATO does not grant licences to practise architecture. The *AATO Act* is title legislation that establishes exclusive use of the designations "architectural technologist" and "architectural technician" (and their French equivalents), as provided in the *Architects Act*. The *Architects Act*, on the other hand, sets out the scope of the practice of architecture and establishes that the OAA "regulate the practice of architecture and to govern its members, holders of certificates of practice, and holders of temporary licences in accordance with this Act, the regulations and the bylaws in order that the public interest may be served and protected."

Should Bill 157 become law, the Act would change, followed by updates to **Regulation 27** to prescribe details for limited licences. The OAA will continue to keep you updated as things progress.

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