



# Practice Advisory

*Practice Advisory* brings to members' attention topics that have an impact on either management of the practice or management of the project.

# COVID -19

updates  
for  
practices

## COVID-19 Updates for Practices

### Continually Updated Information on the Pandemic and the Profession

The OAA is providing practices with information to help members stay informed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Practice Advisory Services (PAS) has received numerous questions from members, and is now consolidating some responses that may be helpful starting points for some of you. For example, are architects considered “an essential service?” Yes, the profession falls under Category 65 (“professional services”) and also plays a critical role in Categories 26 through 29.

For more on this, and other questions, visit the link below. The OAA will continually update this page with new questions, as well as answers that change as the situation progresses.

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### How Can the OAA's Practice Advisory Services Help You?

#### **Learning about Services and Resources Available to Members**

The recent Member and Practice Surveys have shown the Association's suite of Practice Advisory Services (PAS) tools and resources continue to be one of the most valued services offered by the OAA to its members, but not all architects are familiar with it.

From help hotlines and RFP Alerts to *Architects Act*-related consultations, learn more about the wide variety of resources available, [click here](#).

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### Best Practices for Review of RFP Language and Supplementary Conditions to OAA 600 and Other Client-Architect Contracts—Excerpt 4

#### **What You Should Know, What to Look For, and What to Be Wary Of**

The OAA continues to review RFPs and contracts with the intent of identifying requirements and/or provisions that:

- may be uninsurable;
- require an architect or Licensed Technologist OAA to contract out of their professional obligations as set out in the *Architects Act* and Regulation 27;

- are a contravention of either piece of legislation; or
- unreasonably increase their obligations beyond those at law.

The following does not constitute legal advice. It is one in a series of excerpts from [Practice Tip 39.1](#) that should assist practices in making a 'go/no go' decision with respect to responding to an RFP or in contract negotiations. Members should familiarize themselves with all of 39.1 and refer to it when reviewing RFPs, and bid and contract documents.

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### Changes Coming to CSA Standards Access

#### Selection of Code-Referenced Standards to Change

For the last few years, the OAA has made a package of 10 CSA standards, referenced in the Ontario Building Code (OBC), [available to its members for free](#). Architects should be aware that the selection of available standards is being changed and some standards that have been available are being dropped in favour of other standards.

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# Ontario



### National Code Change for Pickets in Guards

#### Adoption Expected in OBC

In old Westerns and cartoons, prisoners escaped from jails by prying the bars apart so they could squeeze through. The drafters of the proposed changes to the National Building Code must be fans of one or the other. They are proposing to add a requirement for pickets in guards to resist being forced apart by in-plane forces.

While this is currently proposed for the NBC, it can be expected to be adopted in the Ontario Building Code. It will take some manufacturers some time to bring compliant

guards to market. In the interim, architects should consider reviewing the resistance to in-plane forces in the guards they specify.

# CCDC

**CCDC Seminars Coming to Ontario This May  
Discussion on New Standard Documents**

## **Discussion on New Standard Documents**

CCDC members will be putting on a series of full-day seminars to provide training on three new standard documents that will be published this summer: the updated CCDC 2-2020 'Stipulated Price Contract' and the new CCDC Master Specification for Division 01 "General Requirements" and CCDC 31 "Service Contract Between Owner and Consultant."

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