



**MEMBER FORUM  
MAY 2, 2014**

**9:08 – 9:35 a.m.**

**ALBERTA / NEW BRUNSWICK ROOM  
FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS  
BANFF, ALBERTA**

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**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Don Davidson called the Member Forum to order at 9:08am. Don welcomed everyone and mentioned that Council specifically wants to ensure that we have the opportunity for several open discussions throughout the year with members on various issues that we are facing as a profession and as an Association. We thank you for attending and look forward to our discussion with you this morning.

Don mentioned there was only one item we would like to bring forward to the members; and to please reserve your questions to the end of the presentation and use the microphones on the floor and clearly state your name so that we can capture them in the minutes.

**ITEM 1      LEGISLATION SURVEY RESULTS**

Don Davidson stated the only item on the agenda is the 2014 Legislation Vote Results. He then introduced Mark Chambers, Past President, who presented the topic.

Mark told the members due to time, the results would not be read out one by one. The results are on the AAA website and were there a couple weeks prior to the Member Forum.

Mark read a letter from Doug Ramsey, Chair of the Legislation Committee. It is also on the AAA website with the results.

“The Government of Alberta (the Government) has asked the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) to provide input on what it would like to see included in the new *Architects Act* and *General Regulation*. To guide the process of developing the recommendations to be provided to the Government, the AAA Council created the Legislation Committee from AAA members. The Legislation Committee has formed task forces that are each charged with soliciting and articulating the input of the membership in a specific area.

Members were consulted in-person during October 2012 to discuss professional liability insurance and allied professions, and later in

February 2013 to discuss the work of all active task forces. Following this, an online survey was open for all members to complete from February-March 2013, which mirrored the questions asked during the February consultations. A webinar was presented to members in fall 2013 which focused specifically on the area of practice entities. The opportunities for member consultation were extensive and varied.

In March 2014, members were asked to vote on the 'guiding principles' that each task force had developed. The guiding principles were composed of high-level statements that asked members to consider changes to the *Architects Act* only. Members were provided with a document entitled "What's the Difference?" that helped explain how changes to the legislation would happen in tiers or stages; changes to the *General Regulation* and Bylaws will be occurring at a later date, in consultation with members."

Mark let the members know that "the next steps of the legislation review include: commencing negotiations with the Government, initiating the work of the Registration and Joint Board Task Forces, and continuing to consult members on legislative change to the *General Regulation* and Bylaws."

Mark thanked the Committee and Task Forces. "The work of the Legislation Committee and various task forces has been productive and positive. Members of these groups have done excellent work researching the issues, consulting the membership, and creating meaningful guiding principles.

For the task forces' hard work and dedication, we thank them. We would also like to thank you, the members, for participating in this historic process."

Lastly, Mark told the members that the AAA is in need of volunteers for the Joint Board Task Force. If one wishes to participate, email [research@aaa.ab.ca](mailto:research@aaa.ab.ca).

### ITEM 3

#### **MEMBER FORUM – QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

Don Davidson thanked Mark Chambers for his presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions.

- Donna Assaly, LID, AAA, commented that regarding the next steps, we should use the Guiding Principles' eloquent language when presenting them to the government.
- Ben Pond, Architect, AAA - Regarding the PLI requirement. Yes, everyone should have it; but members should have a choice on where they get it. This is more of policy, not a part of the *Act*. The vote should have been "should have" not "must have".

Mark explained that the requirement is at the lowest level of \$250,000 and the government may come back and say it is a must.

- Brad Kennedy, Architect, AAA, commented that before going to the government with the PLI suggestions; provide a follow up with members. Provide a description of the real positives and the unintentional consequences.

- Tom Cerkvenac, LID, AAA, commented on the poor quality of the AAA seals and asked if they could be improved.
- Interior design requirements – there is no recourse for an applicant to appeal the denial of their registration. It should be on a case by case basis and shouldn't be denied because they have no CIDA school.

Mark responded that an applicant can appeal to Council and it will be looked into.

- Louisa Zuilla commented on how it could be called a Member Forum when the majority of the members left in order to get continuing education hours at the keynote speaker.
- Tang Lee asked about the rumor of the Executive Director no longer with the AAA and when a new one would be in place.

Mark responded that as of April 1, 2014; the Executive Director position was vacant at Duggan House. In June, Council will meet and an advertisement for the job will be posted and Council hopes to have someone in the role by July. In the short term, please contact Michelle Morrell at Duggan House.

- Karl Pokorny commented that is awful that less than 30% of the eligible members voted on the Legislation document.

Mark commented that Council thought the number was positive. And it may look even more positive to members when we consider the number that voted that are in Alberta. Administration will provide that information shortly.

- Louisa Zuilla wanted to know how many that voted were LID's?

Mark noted that Administration will provide that information shortly.

#### **ITEM 4**

#### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Don Davidson thanked everyone for their input for Councils review in the next year.

The Members Forum adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

#### **Post Member Forum Notes:**

The number of Legislation votes received that were from Licensed Interior Designers was 25 votes or 8%.

The number of Legislation votes received that were from Members in Alberta was 248 or 77%.