

<b>Date:</b> May 7, 2022	<b>Venue:</b> Banff Springs & Via Zoom Webinar	<b>Time:</b> 1:07 pm
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## CALL TO ORDER

President and Chair, Keesa Hutchinson, called the 2022 Member Forum to order at 1:07 pm.

The annual Member Forum provides an opportunity to discuss various issues facing the professions. There were no formal presentations or set topics this year. Members were invited to share comments or raise questions using the Q&A or raise hand features in the Zoom Webinar control panel. Those in the live audience were asked to raise their hand and a sanitized microphone would be brought to them.

Jenine Cerny facilitated the Member Forum by bringing forward virtual questions and comments.

## COMMENTS / QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

### AAA Financial Investment Update

Jan Pierzchajlo asked about the Mercer investment fund and how it has performed since its inception.

Keesa reported that the transition to Mercer had only recently taken place.

Barbara Bruce approached the podium and added that it took awhile to go through the process of fund selection and transitioning the funds to Mercer which happened approximately two months prior to the AGM. At the time of the AGM, the AAA had not yet received their first quarterly report. These reports will be shared with Council and ultimately with the membership.

### User Guide for Professional Schedules

On behalf of Karen Muir, Jenine asked if there is a timeline for posting the user guide to the new professional schedules to the AAA website?

Barbara stated that the user guide is currently posted to the website. (<https://www.aaa.ab.ca/Professional-Resources/Practice-Support/Standards-of-Practice/Building-Code-Schedules>)

### Membership Stats

Allan Partridge stated that while we are seeing positive numbers for interns, he has a concern about the upward trend of retired members. He asked if the AAA is exploring getting ahead of this trend by fast-tracking interns or in other ways. He also indicated that the number of firms from outside of Alberta were over 200 and asked what the stable number of Alberta firms is. The membership may be interested in knowing what the demographic will look like in the next four years.

Barbara proposed that administration will pull up the statistics and publish those in a future monthly Bulletin.

### Bill 23 – New Legislation Funds and Resources

On behalf of Stephanie Clancy, Jenine asked if the new Bill 23 will require additional funds and resources.

Keesa stated that we have been anticipating this new legislation for some time and have set aside funds for legal review along with additional resources.

## COMMENTS / QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

### **Bill 23 – New Legislation Funds and Resources (cont'd)**

Barbara added that once we see the new legislation, we will get a better sense of the scope of what is involved and an understanding of the timing. There are several members and staff who are lined up to work on the new legislation. There may be a need for backfilling staff positions to keep the day-to-day going while senior staff focus on the new legislation.

### **Government Lobbying – Business Interests of Architects**

Bill Chomik asked if the new legislation will allow for the AAA to lobby with civil and provincial levels of government for the business interests of architects. One of the items not being checked is called "local factor." While we are concerned with carbon footprint and sustainability, far too many projects are being awarded to firms outside of Alberta. Those fees are going to Toronto, Vancouver, and overseas, while local architects are minimalized. He would like to see the AAA step up and start helping local firms get work.

Keesa appreciated Bill's comment as all are struggling within this economy. However, at this point, there is not enough knowledge about Bill 23 to be able to comment on the ability to lobby. Keesa encouraged all members to read through the Bill and provide the AAA with feedback, comments and concerns.

### **Indigenous-Focused Professional Development**

David Fortin asked that in the spirit of reconciliation, is the AAA looking at either working with the University of Alberta's Native Studies Department or implementing Indigenous-focused professional development so that there is a basic understanding of the treaties, languages, and peoples of Alberta? It would facilitate literacy among the professions.

Keesa thanked David for his extremely important comments. She indicated that Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan is to provide resources to our members. We are currently looking at several options for professional development that focuses on Indigenous perspectives.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Tiffany Shaw stated her curiosity about equity when it comes to practices for women and keeping women in the profession of architecture while childcare falls mainly on women to manage. How is the conversation evolving so that the professions may continue to meet the needs of their communities? She also indicated that it is good to see more women at the Council table. She was looking for actionable items.

Keesa replied that Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been an important topic of discussion around the Council table for the past couple of years. Council is constantly striving to find opportunities to make improvements in supporting all AAA members. As indicated previously, Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan is to continue with that support to foster and guide the discussions further. Keesa stated that administration could provide more information for consideration following the AGM.

### **Contingent Liability**

Jon Astolfi asked about the notice provided as item 11 in the financial statements. Is the information related to the claim filed against the AAA being provided to the membership and is there an update on the status of this matter?

Barbara stated that due to the confidential nature of the claim, she would be unable to divulge information about the legal action at this time.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

On behalf of Council, Keesa thanked everyone for their attendance at this year's AGM and Member Forum.

The Member Forum adjourned at 1:23 pm.

[Any questions or comments not addressed during the Member Forum, would be gathered by administration and responded to in a timely manner.]