

16th Annual General Meeting – April 6, 2017

President's Report

I am pleased and inspired to report this year that we are experiencing a new wave of involvement in the Association by its local members and interns. While we feel the gaps left by long-time resident members who have retired or relocated, we are gaining new members via reciprocity with other jurisdictions, as well as through interns successfully completing their experience and examination requirements. These members are increasingly getting involved in the Association through council and through committee work. There is a renewed sense that we will continue to maintain and grow our profession here in the Northwest Territories. It remains of utmost importance that our members continue to mentor newer members, openly discuss succession planning, and encourage broad participation. Likewise, it is important that we as an Association provide opportunities to network, discuss architecture, and celebrate the work we do in the North.

The Association has been operating smoothly, and we have been busy addressing local priorities and initiatives. Thank you for the privilege to represent you locally and nationally. It has been a pleasure to work with the dedicated and enthusiastic council members and committee members. Given our size, it's important to note that our sustainability depends on the continued service of our small pool of professionals in a volunteer capacity, so my thanks go out to all of you for your contributions.

LOCAL PRIORITIES AND INITIATIVES

Each year, after the AGM, Council begins their tenure by meeting to review the priority list of the previous Council, and develop an updated priority list. It is a working document, a running list, and items not completed often get carried over to the next year.

Here I present to you our priorities, in order that I may report on any progress in these areas, and also so that you can voice your opinions if there are items that do not appear on this list but ought to.

1. **Construction Site Signage**

This is a topic that has been explored in the past, and we felt it should be revisited. The idea is for NWTAA-regulated Construction Site Signage to serve as a “stamp” of sorts on the construction site, to signal to the public that what is under construction in a given location is being done so under the design and review of a registered professional.

2. **Office of the Fire Marshal**

NWTAA worked in consultation with NNCA and NAPEG to assist in a review of the Fire Prevention Act. Items discussed included implementing a formal early review for projects; clarity around roles and responsibilities; development of a fee schedule.

We need to continue to liaise with the OFM to secure a monitoring gateway for the practice of architecture.

3. **Letters of Assurance/GNWT contract** – as they relate to an architect’s liability coverage.

Dialogue has been started with GNWT PWS with regards to the Consultant Agreement. Similar dialogue has not begun relative to Letters of Assurance.

4. **Copyright and Intellectual Property**

We need to confirm a position on copyright with regard to drawings and intellectual property, possibly using AAA’s Practice Bulletin PB11-017 as a reference.

This has been discussed with GNWT PWS, as their contract specifically requires that they retain Copyright on projects they procure. Their intent is understood to give them the ability to maintain and update their projects over time, not to reuse documents for future projects without remuneration to the design team. We will continue to liaise with them on the language of the contract.

5. **Government Contracts / Statute of Limitations**

We engaged our legal counsel to review the relevant legislation and report on the obligations imposed on Architects by statute of limitations legislation in the NWT. From that, a draft Practice Bulletin #6, titled “Archiving and Destruction of Records”, will be approved by Council in the very near future.

6. **Building Standards Act** – participate in GNWT engagement and work alongside other stakeholders to develop and enact a NWT *Building Standards Act*.

For many years we have been lobbying for the creation of a Northern Building Standards Act; while our larger centres have solid regulatory framework (building bylaws) that work hand-in-hand with the *Architects Act*, smaller communities that comprise the vast geography of our territory are left to fend for themselves in a labyrinth of codes, standards and regulations, all of them crucial to ensuring safety of the public in the context of buildings. A building standards act would provide a simple, legible road map for local authorities whose capacity is stretched and yet upon whom the responsibility for building infrastructure is being devolved in ever increasing measures. Nunavut is in the process of developing one. I believe we need one to ensure northern registered architects alone are practicing in the north and that they have the regulatory support to do their jobs properly.

As part of the consultation process with MACA related to the function and processes of the OFM, we discussed the need for a Building Standards Act. They were open to having a mechanism for review of building design and construction outside the mandate of fire protection/prevention, but admitted it would not be a priority until the OFM procedures were ratified to meet current needs. ***We need a volunteer to continue to pursue this.***

7. **Design Builds** – monitor RFP’s for improper DB procurement methods, and issue a letter to stakeholders / client groups when direction is needed.

Ongoing.

8. **Public Promotion and Advocacy for Architects** – Develop an ongoing strategy or dialogue to engage and inform the public by way of scholarship advertisement, award & competition exposure, various career days and school engagement, and other initiatives.

Ongoing

9. **Bylaw Review**

Ben is in the process of completing a preliminary review for discussion. There are no amendments pending for this AGM.

10. **Syllabus Students**

Monitor the progress of Syllabus students, and their ability to log CERB hours outside of Part 2 of the Syllabus program for possible amendment to Appendix B of the IAP.

We are aware of one Syllabus student who is enrolled in Part 2 of the program, and who is now registered as a student with the NWTAA. No concerns have been raised by this student to date.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In association with the other CALA jurisdictions, a number of files have been completed or continue as works in progress.

RAIC Practice Committee

The RAIC Practice Committee has completed the re-write of RAIC Document 6, and is in circulation. Thank you to Rod Kirkwood for chairing the Practice Committee, and representing us well.

Architectural Education Update

As a follow-up to the Ste-Sauveur validation conference, the CACB is re-wrote its Conditions and Procedures for the accreditation of schools of architecture. CACB is in the final cycle of review for the revised Student Performance Criteria. It is the goal that the rewrite will be introduced for the 2019 cycle of accreditation. This will allow the schools a full year to rework curriculum to address any new requirements.

Committee on the Future of the Profession of Architecture

As further follow-up to the Ste-Sauveur validation conference, a committee has been struck with members of CACB, CALA and CCUSA to explore the Future of the Profession of Architecture. The mandate of the committee is to develop a process whereby the profession and public could be engaged in a conversation about the future of Architecture. The committee will be presenting recommendations to CALA in May 2017 for a path forward, which will include some form of public consultation and analysis.

CHOP

The RAIC 'Canadian Handbook of Practice' was last updated in 2009. A great deal has happened in the industry since then: delivery methods and tools have evolved while 'RAIC DOC 6' has been re-visited,

CCDC has developed a series of new contract forms, the Schools of Architecture and CALA are re-working the basic tenets of accreditation and the Intern Architect Program is being updated. These changes will force others, like a second look at the RAIC Fee Guide. Informed by the above, but at the same time underlying all of our collective effort, is the CHOP.

CALA and the RAIC have agreed to make its re-write a top priority. The RAIC has prepared a proposal for this undertaking, and has the support of CALA. Initial budgets and schedules have been distributed, and we expect an update at upcoming CALA meetings in May.

AAA Practice Advisory

Early in 2016, the AAA issued a Practice Advisory warning members to understand the risks associated with rogue basic services agreements, especially supplementary conditions applied to RAIC DOC 6 so numerous as to render the contract un-noticeable. NWTAA Councilor Tim Turner-Davis has noted that this practice is alive and well in the Yukon; notwithstanding the requirement for a RAIC Seal, the Yukon Government continues to re-word the document beyond recognition. Tim has requested that RAIC Practice Support review the legal implications of the use of the RAIC Seal on a document so-modified. At the same time, all members are cautioned to be aware of the inherent risks associated with the contracts they sign, including the GNWT basic Services Agreement which assigns the balance of risk to the consultant.

BEFA

The Broadly Experienced Foreign Architects Program is fully operational. The NWT has 3 assessors: Darrel Vikse (a Chair of National Assessment Teams), Daniel Adam (also a Chair of National Assessment Teams) and Kayhan Nadji.

There continues to be concern about the financial sustainability of the BEFA program, which continues to run at a deficit. Further debt is anticipated this year, and funding from CALA has been earmarked to cover this. Funding has been requested from the Federal Government to undertake a review of the program and investigate what services the CACB may be able to further provide contributing to the immigration process.

Solutions to which are being examined by CACB. The flow of candidates through the process does not facilitate even distribution of fees – there are currently a number of applicants who are stalled mid-way through the process.

International Relations Committee (IRC):

- **Canada/US Inter Recognition Agreement:** The Canada/USA IRA remains in place and currently endorsed by 42 US jurisdictions (States) and all 11 Canadian jurisdictions. Outstanding states have generally not signed on because their legislation does not allow it. That said, there are provisions in the agreement to prevent architects resident in a non-signatory jurisdiction to register in Canada through a signatory state.
- **APEC:** A mutual recognition agreement was signed between Canada, Australia and New Zealand. New signatories are being sought, including Japan, Korea, Malaysia, China and Hong Kong.
- **Tri-National Agreement (Canada/US/Mexico):** No new developments.

- **ACE:** Draft MRA has been written. Outline for online course has been developed (intended to cover education on the differences between Europe and Canada – building science and contractual). There is no committed funding for developing the online course material yet. IRC pursuing a meeting with the Minister of Employment.

CANADIAN CONFERENCES UPCOMING

- **RAIC Festival of Architecture** – Ottawa, May 24-27, 2017 <https://festival2017.raic.org/>
- **World Design Summit** – Montreal, October 16-25, 2017 www.worlddesignsummit.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Don Jossa Architectural Scholarship

In 2012, the NWTAA introduced this grant for NWT high school graduates seeking post-secondary education in Architecture. This year, scholarships were awarded to Ian Dayagbil, Tai Huu Nguyenha, and Nancy Ngo.

ExAC

Congratulations are due to Christopher Oland and Cailean Cameron, who passed their examinations in the fall of 2016. We send our encouragement to any of our interns who are preparing to write the exam in the fall of 2017.

IAP

There are currently 10 Intern Architects registered with the NWTAA.

THANK-YOU

I would like to thank council members Wayne Guy (Vice President), Kayhan Nadji (Secretary), Doug Townsend (Treasurer) and Tim Turner-Davis, as well as Rod Kirkwood (Past President), for their ongoing commitment. Deborah Montgomery will be completing her time with us as our Intern Representative on Council, and has worked hard to provide networking and support for our interns in the territories. The terms for Wayne and Kayhan end this year. Both have kindly put their names forward for another two-year term.

Melani Pigat has taken on the role of Registrar, and has been diligently learning the ropes, and keeping us in order. Chris Clark, Ceazar Galasinao, Kris Schlagintweit, Bronwyn Rorke, Alina Rakhmatullina, Jerry Jaud, Dan Korver, and Manon Savignac have all been willing to participate in committee work. Vince Barter has been responsible for reviewing the Intern Architect Program logbook submissions, for our interns recording hours toward their registration. **Participation from our small membership is vital, and I'm grateful for everyone's many contributions.**

Our Continuing Education Committee organized a public "Pecha Kucha" style evening event around the topic of Tiny Homes, which was well-attended. There is a "Wine and Design" evening in the planning, and on May 20th we will have representatives from NRC travelling to Yellowknife to present the 2015 National Building Code revisions.

Dan Daniels continues in the position of Minister's Representative on Council and brings a passion about the North, an understanding of the contract environment we all work in, and a calm wisdom to our discussions. We are fortunate to have his counsel.

Rod Kirkwood continues to represent us in a strong way in the national forum. He has been appointed to the CACB Board, and is the Chair of RAIC Practice Committee, most recently involved in the review and revision of RAIC Doc 6, and is travelling to Sri Lanka at the end of the month related to the Canberra Accord. As Past President, Rod also participated as the Nominations Committee.

Last but certainly not least, Ben Russo continues to impress as our Executive Director. He keeps us organized, keeps us in communication and consultation with our colleagues in other jurisdictions, coordinates events, and manages the Association in the day-to-day operations. He has established a strong knowledge of our business and our regulations, as well as the national issues that affect us. Ben keeps us effective, informed, and the respect he garners from his counterparts across Canada reflects well on this association. Thank you, from all of us.

Sincerely,


Celeste MacKay