



17th Annual General Meeting
April 5, 2018 – Yellowknife, NT

President's Report

I am pleased and inspired to report 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.

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

1. **Public Outreach / Promotion:** Council intends to 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. This year we were fortunate to have two successful events attended by the public – the Pecha Kucha on *Subarctic Architecture*, and the full-day workshop *Changing Climates Changing Buildings*. Both of these were well-attended by our own membership and by the public.
2. **Statutes of Limitation:** 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, titled “Archiving and Destruction of Records”, will be approved by Council in the very near future.

3. **Stamping of Documents Prepared by Others:** There are situations where local architects are approached by clients to review and stamp their drawings to meet jurisdictional requirements. Our Act requires that documents only be stamped if the work was completed by, or under the direct supervision of, an authorized practitioner. We are in ongoing discussions about this topic as it relates to our Code of Ethics, liability, and the extent of review and oversight.
4. **Bylaw Review:** Ben will be presenting pending changes to Bylaws at this AGM. This will be an introduction to the proposed changes/updates, and a special meeting will be called to vote on this once everyone has a chance to review thoroughly.
5. **Risk Register:** Ben and Doug have been reviewing our corporate risks and researching approaches to managing those risks. These include items like reviewing our insurance coverage, setting up a back-up package containing relevant passwords to our accounts, etc. This is ongoing.
6. **Policy and Procedure Development:** We are in the process of reviewing and developing a set of policies and procedures to cover unwritten rules of thumb in the daily operations of the association, including items such as handling travel expenses, public communications & relations, management of finances, office management, complaint review procedures and education activities.

Council is also reviewing a number of Practice Bulletins to ascertain if they are necessary. Currently in review is a Practice Bulletin addressing Proposal Calls and Related Issues, as well as another addressing Attribution.

7. **Procedure for Accepting Charitable Donations:** We have been working with our accountant/auditor to review avenues for accepting Charitable Donations and our ability to issue tax receipts. The advice we have received to date indicates we are not able to do this ourselves, nor work with relevant agents to facilitate a transaction.
8. **Letters of Assurance / GNWT Contract** (as they relate to an architect's liability coverage): Dialogue has been started with GNWT Infrastructure with regards to the Consultant Agreement. Similar dialogue is required relative to Letters of Assurance.
9. **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 an authorized practitioner.
10. **Office of the Fire Marshal:** We continue to liaise with the OFM to keep an open dialogue on issues that mutually affect our work.
11. **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 Infrastructure, 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.

12. **Building Standards Act:** We await the opportunity to 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.***

13. **Rogue RFP's:** We continue to review these issues as they are brought to our attention.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

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

RAIC Canadian Handbook of Practice (CHOP)

The RAIC, with the support of CALA, has undertaken a major re-write of the Canadian Handbook of Practice (CHOP). This will be a multi-year undertaking that is now underway. Thank you to Ben Russo and Kris Schlagintweit, who are both representing us on various committees associated with this project.

Architectural Education Update

As a follow-up to the Ste-Sauveur validation conference, the CACB has revised its *Terms and Conditions* and *Procedures* for the accreditation of schools of architecture. The review of the *Student Performance Criteria* is complete, and the rewrite will be introduced for the 2019 cycle of accreditation.

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 committee is currently in review of the first phase, which is the development of a draft national architecture policy, which will be presented at CALA in May 2018.

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. 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 Mutual Recognition Agreement:** This MRA remains in place and is 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. At this time, it has been determined that an agreement with Japan will be back-burnered.
- **Tri-National Agreement (Canada/US/Mexico):** No new developments.
- **ACE:** A draft MRA has been written. An outline for an online course has been developed, and is 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 is pursuing a meeting with the Minister of Employment in this regard.

CANADIAN CONFERENCES UPCOMING

- **RAIC Festival of Architecture** – St John NB, May 30-June 2
<https://festival2018.raic.org/>

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, one scholarship was awarded to Ian Dayagbil.

ExAC

Congratulations are due to Becca Denley, Bronwyn Rorke and J. Warren Borg, who passed their examinations in the fall of 2017. We send our encouragement to any of our interns who are preparing to write the exam in the fall of 2018.

IAP

There are currently 10 Intern Architects registered with the NWTAA.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank councillors Wayne Guy (Vice President), Kayhan Nadji (Secretary), Doug Townsend (Treasurer) and Tim Turner-Davis for their ongoing commitment. Bronwyn Rorke will be completing her term as Intern Representative and has worked hard to provide networking and support for our interns in the territories. The terms for Tim and Doug end this year, and both have been nominated to serve another two-year term.

Thank you to Melani Korver for her ongoing work as the Registrar. Chris Clarke, Bronwyn Rorke, Alina Rakhmatullina and others have made great efforts towards providing interesting Continuing Education for our members, and have agreed to continue in the coming year. Jerry Jaud and Manon Savignac have also been doing extensive committee work. Vince Barter has been responsible for reviewing the Internship in Architecture 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 thanks goes out to Dan Daniels, who completed his term as our Minister's Representative on Council, and has relocated to Alberta. We were fortunate to have his counsel. A recommendation has gone to the Minister recommending a new appointment, and we await his official appointment.

Rod Kirkwood continues to represent us in a strong way in the national forum, as a member of the CACB Board, and as the Chair of RAIC Practice Committee.

Most importantly, 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. A sincere thank you, from all of us.

Sincerely,

Celeste MacKay