



Ontario Association of Architects

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Intern Architect Initiative Web site Launched

www.internarchitect.ca

*Providing opportunities for feedback and discussion
among all the groups involved in the Intern Architect process*

March 14, Toronto, ON – Today the OAA and its Future of the Profession / Interns Committee launched a new web site for Intern Architects, Students, Mentors, Architects and everyone interested in the path to the profession.

The first page of the site defines the issue: there are currently 2600 Ontario Architects and 1300 Intern Architects. The average age of an Intern is approximately 39. Many interns are staying in the internship process for many years rather than becoming licensed architects.

The high percentage of Interns (1300 persons) to Architects (2600 persons) is not a new problem. In the past 10 years, the OAA has studied the issues regarding the Intern process without achieving consensus. The issue is complex, touches on the health of the profession and what it means to be an Architect. In 2007, the OAA established the Committee on the Future of the Profession/Interns to propose possible solutions for improving the path to licensure.

“This year, it is Council's highest priority to address the problem,” says OAA President Sean O'Reilly. “We need to ensure that our profession has a meaningful internship that offers recognition of achievement and is not onerous for Interns, mentors, or practices. We hope this web site will become a virtual community for dialogue about the issues, the successes and the challenges.”

The time is right, as Associations across Canada are focused on this issue and changes can be coordinated. The web site includes a survey which outlines the Future of the Profession / Intern Committee's possible changes, reasoning for the change, and the current situation. The survey poses 10 questions to vote on and an opportunity to provide comments.

The site also features a forum to allow everyone to engage in a broader discussion on varied topics related to Intern Architects. Resource information (see: background) on the issue as well as the status of the new ExAC (Examination for Architects in Canada) is also provided.

Visit the Intern Architect Initiative at www.internarchitect.ca; learn more about the process, see what others are saying and share your thoughts.

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