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# Architects Licensed in the United States

(Mutual Recognition Agreement between the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and the Regulatory Organizations for Architecture in Canada)

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## IMPORTANT

The approval of an application for licence entitles an individual to become and Architect licensed by the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA).

In order to offer or provide architectural services to the public in Ontario, as defined in the [Architects Act](#), an individual or entity must be the holder of a certificate of practice. The provision of architectural services, prior to the issuance of a licence and certificate of practice, may be prejudicial to the granting of a licence and/or a certificate of practice.

Until an application for a certificate of practice is approved by the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), it is a contravention of the *Architects Act* to promote, offer, or provide architectural services in Ontario in the name of the new practice, and items such as letterhead, cheques, signs, etc. should not be ordered. The OAA must be notified in writing in advance of being considered for a commission in Ontario. Compliance with the requirements for licence must be undertaken immediately upon obtaining the commission.

The use of the term “certificate of practice” in this document shall always refer to a certificate of practice issued by the OAA unless otherwise stated.



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# General

## When filing an application for licence, include the following:

- Completed, signed application for licence;
  - Proof of Citizenship or lawful permanent residency status in the United States of America (USA) or Canada;
  - Contact the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) to apply for a NCARB Certificate and/or have your current records updated; NCARB will send certificate directly to the OAA:
  - Proof of licensure in good standing with one or more NCARB Participants (Member Boards) to the current Agreement (template attached);
  - Signed affidavit attesting to the completion of 2,000 cumulative hours of post-licensure experience, practising as an architect in the USA (template attached);
  - Payment of applicable fees (refer to Payment of Fees Form); and
  - Completed, signed Consent Form (under PIPEDA).
1. Allow approximately **four to six weeks** of processing time from the date of receipt of the completed application and all required documentation. An incomplete application will be delayed as it may be returned for completion. **NOTE: ENSURE YOU HAVE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS OR YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DEEMED INCOMPLETE.**
  2. All sections of the application are to be completed. The terms "Not Applicable" and "N/A" may be used where sections do not apply.
  3. All documentation submitted will be verified.
  4. The Licence term is January 1 to December 31 each year. The onus is on the OAA member to pay the fee within the time prescribed. Non-payment may lead to licence cancellation.
  5. Applications received after December 1 will not be finalized in that calendar year (unless otherwise requested). Applicants should contact the Office of the Registrar after December 1 for information with respect to fees.
  6. All documents prepared by an Architect licensed in Ontario that govern a project's construction, alteration, or enlargement must be sealed with an OAA seal issued to an Architect by the OAA. For more information regarding OAA professional seals, visit the OAA Website [here](#).
  7. Every OAA member shall display their licence certificate prominently in their place of business (Subsection 49(7), Regulation 27).
  8. The OAA has a mandatory Continuing Education program. Detailed information can be found on the [OAA Website](#).
  9. There are application fees and annual fees for each licence and certificate of practice. These are set out on the separate Payment of Fees Form that are attached to the separate applications.



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# Completion of the Application

## A. IDENTIFICATION

Question 7 requires proof of date of birth. Photocopies of birth certificate, passport, or driver's licence are accepted.

## B. LICENCE HISTORY

Indicate licence status in all jurisdictions where a licence is currently held or was previously held. Identify any licence not currently in good standing and give the particulars. Attach supplementary sheets if necessary.

## C. DECLARATION

The solemn declaration serves as a formal attestation by the applicant that all the information provided is truthful and accurate. This verification helps ensure the integrity of the registration process by preventing the submission of false information. Additionally, it holds the applicant legally accountable, as providing misleading details can result in legal consequences.

The declaration underscores the seriousness and professionalism of the application process. By signing, applicants confirm their understanding of and commitment to adhering to the relevant laws, regulations, and ethical standards governing their profession once licensed.

Where the Registrar proposes to refuse to issue a licence based on good character (which includes past conduct and the belief the applicant will not engage in the practice of architecture in accordance with the law, and with honesty and integrity) the *Architects Act* provides that the Applicant is entitled to a hearing by the Registration Committee. If the Applicant chooses to attend a hearing with the Registration Committee, they must deliver to the Registrar, within 30 days from the dated Notice of Proposal, a written notice of their intent to attend the hearing, coupled with the reasons that had been served upon them. A Decision by the Registration Committee may be appealed through the courts.



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# Mobility of Architects to Ontario

**ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES IN ONTARIO** can only be provided by an Architect licensed by the OAA and the holder of a certificate of practice issued by the OAA.

**COMMISSIONS** – Notify the OAA in writing in advance of being considered for a commission in Ontario. Comply with the requirements for licence immediately upon obtaining the commission. Do not practise architecture without a licence and certificate of practice in Ontario.

**COLLABORATION AND TEMPORARY LICENCES** – As an alternative to the process of licence as an Architect and issuance of a certificate of practice, or in the case of an Architect who is licensed in a jurisdiction that does not have reciprocity with the OAA, the process of Temporary Licence and Limited Certificate of Practice under Section 23 of the *Architects Act* is available for the purpose of providing architectural services on a **specific project**. This option requires collaboration with an Ontario Architect/holder.



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# Appendix 1 – List of Documents

## OAA Official Documents

Acquired **specific** knowledge:

1. The *Architects Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.A.26  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90a26>
2. Ontario Regulation 27, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 27  
<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/900027>
3. [Bylaws of the Ontario Association of Architects](#)
4. [OAA 600-2021 A \(OAA Standard Form of Contract for Architect's Services\)](#)
5. [OAA 600-2021 GUIDE to the Standard Form of Contract for Licensed Member's Services](#)
6. [OAA 800-2021 A \(OAA Standard Short Form of Contract for Architect's Services\)](#)
7. [OAA 800-2021 GUIDE to the Standard Short Form of Contract for Licensed Member's Services](#)
8. [OAA 900-2021 A \(OAA Standard Form of Subcontract Between Architect and Subconsultant\)](#)
9. [OAA 900-2021 GUIDE to the Standard Form of Subcontract Between Licensed Member and Subconsultant](#)

Acquired **general** knowledge:

10. [Regulatory Notices](#)
11. [Practice Tips](#)

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## **Ontario Building Code Act 1992, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 23 and the Building Code, O. Reg 332/12**

Acquired **general** knowledge of **provincial statutes, regulations, and codes** applicable to the design, construction, enlargement, or alteration of buildings, such as but not limited to:

- *Construction Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c .C. 30;
- *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13;
- *Occupational Health & Safety Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1;
- *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4 and the *Ontario Fire Code*, O. Reg 213/07;
- *Health Protection & Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.7;
- *Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.31; and
- *Technical Standards and Safety Act*, 2000, S.O. 2000, c. 16.

Note: All Provincial statutes, regulations, and codes are as amended.

The above documents are available for download at [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca) or may be purchased by contacting the **Ontario Government Bookstore** at College Park Building, 777 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 2C8 (416) 326-5300 or through **ServiceOntario Publications** at [www.publications.serviceontario.ca](http://www.publications.serviceontario.ca)



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# Appendix 2 – Excerpts from the Mutual Recognition Agreement (Canada/USA)

The following is a summary of the requirements as set out in the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) and the Regulatory Organizations for Architecture in Canada (ROAC) which took effect January 1, 2014. The below is for general reference purposes only and applicants should refer to the most current version of the agreement via the [ROAC website](#).

## 1. Mutual Recognition Agreement

### Definitions:

- (a) **Demonstration of Required Experience:** 2,000 cumulative hours of post-licensure experience shall be demonstrated by individual applicants through the provision of proof of licensure in good standing and a signed affidavit attesting to the experience.
- (b) **Principal Place of Practice:** The address declared by the Architect to be the address at which the Architect is predominantly offering architectural services. The Architect may only identify one principal place of practice.
- (c) **Limitations:** Nothing in the agreement limits the ability of an NCARB Member Board or ROAC jurisdiction to refuse to license/register an Architect or impose terms, conditions, or restrictions on their licence/registration.

## 2. Eligibility and Conditions

All applicants for registration in the Province of Ontario, and all architectural practices, must comply with the local requirements.

### A. Eligibility

- (a) Architects able to benefit from the provisions of this agreement must be citizens of the United States or Canada or have lawful permanent residency status in either country in order to seek licensure/registration under this Agreement. Architects shall not be required to establish citizenship or permanent residency status in the host country in which they seek licensure/registration under this Agreement.
- (b) Architects must also be licensed/registered in a signatory jurisdiction of their home country and must have completed at least 2,000 hours of post-licensure/registration experience practising as an Architect in their home country.
- (c) Architects who have been licensed by means of a Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (BEFA) program of either two countries or other foreign reciprocal licensing agreement are not eligible under this agreement.

### B. Conditions

#### U.S. Architect to Canadian Jurisdiction

Upon application, those ROAC jurisdictions who are signatories to this Agreement and so long as they remain signatories agree to license/register as an Architect in their respective province or territory any Architect who:

- (a) Is currently licensed/registered in good standing by one or more NCARB Member Board(s) that is a current signatory to this Agreement;
- (b) Holds a current NCARB Certificate;
- (c) Meets the eligibility requirements listed above; and
- (d) Whose principal place of practice is in a jurisdiction that is a current signatory to this Agreement.

### C. Applicant Must Provide:



- (a) a letter of good standing from the architectural licensing authority in the Architect's principal place of practice (template attached);
- (b) a letter of declaration from the applicant attesting to at least 2,000 hours of post-licensure experience (template attached); and
- (c) proof of citizenship/permanent residency.

**3. Practice (Certificate of Practice)**

- (a) To promote, offer, or provide architectural services in Ontario, a registered Architect must apply for and have approved a certificate of practice.
- (b) In order to obtain and continue to hold a certificate of practice, a registered Architect under the Mutual Recognition Agreement must maintain their Principal Place of Practice in a jurisdiction that allows an OAA member to become registered on a reciprocal basis.
- (c) In order to hold a certificate of practice, a registered Architect is subject to the local requirements including those relating to professional liability insurance coverage.

Permissible forms of practice are set out in the *Architects Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. A. 26 and Regulations. Information is available from the Office of the Registrar at 416-449-6898.





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## Schedule 1 – Signatory States/Territories

**Schedule 1** lists those State Licensing Boards that will accept NCARB Certificate Holders for registration to practise architecture in its jurisdiction without any further demonstration of qualification by the Certificate Holder other than, in the case of certain State Licensing Boards, a demonstration that the Certificate Holder is familiar with local laws, conditions, and practice requirements.

Alabama	Kansas	Puerto Rico
Alaska	Louisiana	Rhode Island
Arizona	Maryland	South Carolina
Arkansas	Massachusetts	Tennessee
California	Michigan	Texas
Colorado	Missouri	U.S. Virgin Islands
Connecticut	Montana	Vermont
Delaware	Nebraska	Virginia
District of Columbia	New Hampshire	Washington
Georgia	New Mexico	West Virginia
Guam	North Carolina	Wisconsin
Idaho	North Dakota	
Illinois	Ohio	
Indiana	Oregon	
Iowa	Pennsylvania	

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## Schedule 2 – Signatory Provinces/Territories

**Schedule 2** lists those Canadian Provincial Associations and Territories that will Register as Registered Architects those Certificate Holders whose Principal Place of Practice is in the jurisdiction of a Member Board listed in Schedule 1, without further demonstration of qualification by the Certificate Holder other than, in the case of certain Associations, a demonstration that the Certificate Holder is familiar with local laws, conditions, and practice requirements.

Alberta	Newfoundland & Labrador	Prince Edward Island
British Columbia	Northwest Territories	Quebec
Manitoba	Nova Scotia	Saskatchewan
New Brunswick	Ontario	





The Ontario Association of Architects accepts payment of fees with U.S. cheques. The fees listed below are in Canadian funds and include the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). Visit the OAA website page, [Methods of Payment](#), for U.S. cheques.

Licence Fees	Applications approved between Jan 1 & Jun 30	Applications approved between Jul 1 & Dec 31
Application fee ( <b>non-refundable</b> )	<input type="checkbox"/> \$376.29	<input type="checkbox"/> \$376.29
Annual Licence fee—submit <b>ONLY</b> the annual fee applicable to your application		
Annual Licence fee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,142.43	<input type="checkbox"/> \$571.22
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$

<b>NAME OF APPLICANT:</b>	
<b>PAYMENT METHOD:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque	<input type="checkbox"/> Online Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Interac e-Transfer
<input type="checkbox"/> Bank Draft	<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	

If you **already** have an OAA account/identification number, you may use online banking or Interac e-Transfers at this time.

### Online Banking

Online banking bill payment is available for major Canadian banks (*i.e.* CIBC, RBC, Scotia, TD, BMO, Credit Union, and National). Note: You must use your OAA account/ID number to ensure the OAA receives the correct information from the bank to process your payment. Visit the OAA Website ([Methods of Payment](#)) for online banking instructions.

### Interac e-Transfer

Interac e-Transfers can be sent to [OAAFees@oaa.on.ca](mailto:OAAFees@oaa.on.ca). Note: You must enter your OAA ID in the message box to ensure the OAA receives the correct information from the bank to process your payment. Visit the OAA Website ([Methods of Payment](#)) for Interac e-Transfer instructions.

### Credit Card

Note: There is 2.5% convenience fee for Credit Card payments that is non-refundable once the payment has been made.

1. Complete the application package and submit by email to [officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca](mailto:officeoftheregistrar@oaa.on.ca).
2. Visit [secure.oaa.on.ca/store](https://secure.oaa.on.ca/store) to pay your Architect application fee by credit card.
3. Once the application fee and form are received, the Office of the Registrar will begin the review process.
4. When your application has been reviewed, OAA Finance will provide a link to pay your Architect Licence fee.

Once the Office of the Registrar receives notification of payment from OAA Finance, a letter of approval will be issued in due course.



Ontario Association  
of Architects

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Toronto, ON M3B 3L6 oaamail@oaa.on.ca  
Canada oaa.on.ca

# Personal Information Protection and Electronic Document Act (PIPEDA) Consent Form

**For the collection, use, disclosure, and retention of personal information by the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) in the course of its commercial activities.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal/ ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Through this Consent Form:

I hereby consent to the release of my name, address of correspondence, telephone number, and email address by the OAA to the organization offering the OAA Group Insurance Plan for architects licensed by the OAA and other classes of persons with the OAA for the purpose of enabling this organization to contact me.

Yes

No

I hereby consent to the release of my name, address of correspondence, telephone number, and email address by the OAA to the entities and/or individuals offering the OAA Conference, event planning, and/or event registration services for the purpose of enabling them to contact me.

Yes

No

I acknowledge that I have the right to amend this Consent Form in writing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Please Note – by opting out, you may not receive important information about your professional liability insurance requirements and/or opportunities to complete your continuing education requirement.*



A. IDENTIFICATION

1. Name in Full: Surname First Name Middle Name(s)

Please check one [ ] Woman [ ] Man [ ] Non Binary [ ] Prefer not to answer

The information will be used to prepare statistics about the architectural profession. It will allow the OAA to assess the representation of the profession, identify trends, and monitor progress as it relates to gender.

Name as it should appear on the Certificate:

2. Residence Address: Street Apt. No.

City Province/State/Territory Country Postal/Zip Code

3. Place of Business: or Employment Firm Name

Street Suite No.

City State Country Zip Code

4. (a) Address for Correspondence: Residence [ ] or Business [ ] (The selected address will be your Address of Record on the Ontario Association of Architects Register.)

(b) Permission to share contact information with public, upon request: Yes [ ] No [ ]

5. Residence Tel: ( ) Business Tel: ( )

6. Email:

7. Date of Birth: (Attach copy of proof) (mm/dd/yy)

8. Country of Origin

9. US Citizen or Permanent Resident (Attach copy of proof): Yes [ ] No [ ]

10. Language(s): English [ ] French [ ] Other

11. School of Architecture:

Degree/Diploma Received: Date Degree/Diploma Received:

**B. LICENCE HISTORY AND GOOD CHARACTER QUESTIONS** (Use supplementary sheets if necessary.)

1. Jurisdiction in which first licence issued:

Jurisdiction	Licence Number	Date Licence issued

2. List all jurisdictions in which you **currently** hold a licence:

Jurisdiction	Licence Number	Date Licence issued

3. List all jurisdictions in which you **previously** held a licence and provide the reason you no longer hold a licence in those jurisdictions:

Jurisdiction	Licence Number	Date Licence Issued	Date Resigned/Cancelled	Reason Resigned/Cancelled

4. Have you ever been denied a licence? Yes  No

5. (a) Has your licence ever been suspended or revoked? Yes  No   
 (b) Has your licence ever been cancelled? Yes  No

6. Have you resigned your membership in any organization of Architects that licenses or authorizes the practice of architecture in a jurisdiction other than Ontario or allowed your licence to lapse for any reason? Yes  No

6.1 Was your conduct or competence under review at the time of your resignation or cancellation? Yes  No

7. Have you ever been found guilty of, or convicted of, any offence under any statute? Yes  No

*Please exclude:*

*i) municipal bylaws or ordinances;*

*ii) speeding and parking tickets;*

*iii) offences for which more than one year has passed since you were discharged absolutely or more than three years have passed since you were discharged on conditions prescribed in a prohibition order; and*

*iv) convictions or findings of guilt under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act for possession of cannabis not exceeding 30 grams or cannabis resin not exceeding 1 gram that did not include a term of incarceration.*

*(If you are unsure of whether these exclusions apply to you, please contact a criminal lawyer. The OAA cannot conduct preliminary reviews of these issues.)*

7.1 Are you currently the subject of criminal proceedings? Yes  No

8. (a) Have you ever been found guilty of professional misconduct or incompetence? Yes  No

(b) Is your conduct or competence presently the subject of proceedings? Yes  No

**If you have answered "yes" to Questions 4. to 8., use a supplementary sheet to provide dates and details.**

**NOTE: ENSURE YOU HAVE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS OR YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DEEMED INCOMPLETE**



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**C. DECLARATION**

I DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE:

THAT I am applying for a licence under the *Architects Act* of the Province of Ontario;

THAT in regard to the documents listed in the Guidelines for Completion of an Application for Licence, I have and will continue to maintain:

- a. the OAA Official Documents;
- b. unrestricted access to all other listed documents;
- c. general knowledge of the contents of the documents identified under "General Knowledge;" and
- d. specific knowledge of the contents of the documents identified as "documents architects must be familiar with."

THAT I agree to comply with the *Architects Act*, the Regulation, and Bylaws, all as amended from time to time;

THAT I understand that only an architect who is a holder of a licence who also has a certificate of practice, or is employed by a certificate of practice, is permitted to offer and/or provide to a member of the public a service that is part of the practice of architecture;

THAT the facts set out in this Application for Licence are true and correct in every particular;

THAT I have an ongoing obligation to update the OAA if there have been any changes to the Good Character questions in this application and a failure to do so may constitute professional misconduct;

THAT I will respond within the timeframes specified by the OAA to any inquiries related to my licence history and good character and I will cooperate with any investigation related thereto;

AND THAT I MAKE THIS solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath.

IN ADDITION, I consent and authorize other jurisdictions where I have been or continue to be licensed to practise architecture, to provide the OAA with all information and documents that relate to any past, current, or pending investigations or proceedings involving my conduct or competence;

AND, I consent and authorize the OAA to release and disclose to any other jurisdictions where I am seeking a licence or currently hold a licence to practise architecture, all information and documents that relate to any past, current, or pending investigations or proceedings involving my conduct, competence, or good character.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**DECLARATION AND UNDERTAKING**  
**For The**  
**MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT**  
**Between The**  
**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION BOARDS (NCARB)**  
**And The**  
**REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA (ROAC)**

I, [ **NAME** ], declare and affirm that:

I am a citizen or hold permanent residency status in [**UNITED STATES or CANADA**];

I am a licensed/registered Architect, and currently a licensee/registrant in good standing with the [**NAME OF LICENSING AUTHORITY**] which is my principal place of practice;

I was licensed on [**MONTH / DAY / YEAR**] with the [**NAME OF LICENSING AUTHORITY**] who will separately be confirming that I am in good standing with that Authority, and I did not obtain licensure in that jurisdiction by means of a foreign reciprocal registration agreement or a Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (BEFA) program.

I have completed a minimum of 2,000 hours of post-licensure experience as an Architect engaged in the lawful practice of architecture; and

I meet all of the eligibility requirements of the Mutual Recognition Agreement for reciprocal licensing between NCARB and ROAC.

I have had a disciplinary action registered against me by a licensing authority.

(circle one) YES / NO

*(The accepting licensing authority has the right to request further details with respect to disciplinary actions.)*

*I affirm that the above statements are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Applicant*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name (print)*

DATE

NAME

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to confirm that **[NAME OF INDIVIDUAL]** was licensed/registered on **[MONTH / DAY / YEAR]** with the **[NAME OF LICENSING AUTHORITY]** and was not licensed by means of a foreign reciprocal registration agreement or a Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect (BEFA) program.

**[NAME OF INDIVIDUAL]** is currently a licensee/registrant in good standing with the **[NAME OF LICENSING AUTHORITY]**, and neither is the current subject of disciplinary action by this licensing authority nor has a record of unresolved disciplinary action on file with this licensing authority.

Sincerely,

NAME

Registrar