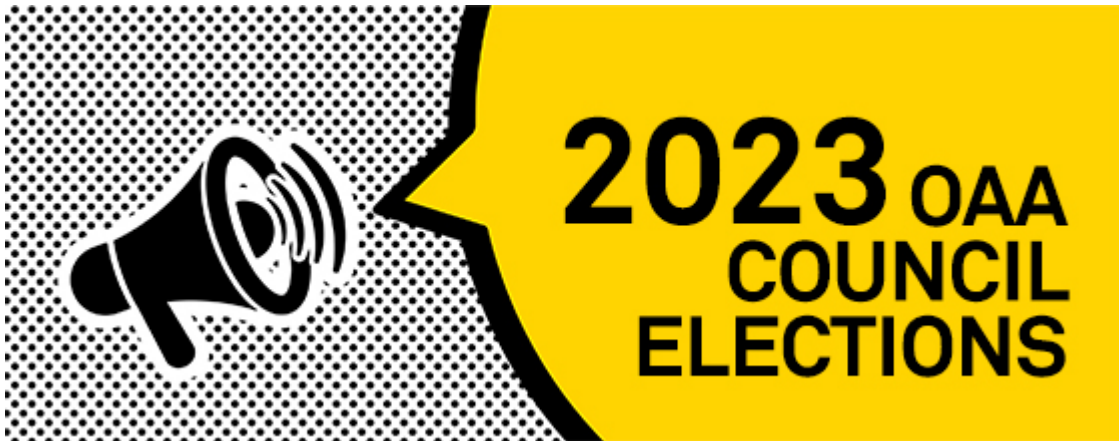




## Upcoming OAA Council Elections for 2023

### Important Information: What You Need to Know



**There will be six seats up for election or re-election on OAA Council this fall, comprising five seats for Architects and a non-voting seat for an Intern Architect.** Read this email to learn more about the roles of Councillors, ideal candidates for the coming election, and how you can participate in the electoral process.

#### **About Council**

**OAA Council** sets policy direction for the Association, making critical decisions regarding the future of the profession and directly, tangibly affecting practices and the individual careers of members. **The Council's work is guided by the new [Strategic Plan](#), which sets the OAA's direction for the next five years.**

While elections are based on geographic representation across the province, **Councillors do *not* represent a member constituency—rather, they govern on behalf of the public interest.** Serving on Council is an excellent opportunity to participate in the privilege and responsibility of self-governance the provincial government entrusts to the profession.

From developing educational requirements and expected standards of practice to Act enforcement, Continuing Education, and government relations, **you** can help shape the future of the architecture profession.

An effective OAA Council must have diversity among its members and skills, and be representative of the profession. Councillors must be able to focus on the big picture and material issues while considering regulatory issues. They need to make decisions without being influenced by pressure from external sources and also participate effectively at the Council table, which includes respecting alternative viewpoints.

**Council meetings are open to all members and are hosted simultaneously in-person at the OAA Headquarters and virtually over Zoom.** Attending the open session virtually

is a great way to learn more about how Council operates. If you are interested in watching the **September 22** or **November 24** meetings, contact Tina Carfa at [tinac@oaa.on.ca](mailto:tinac@oaa.on.ca). The [OAA Website](#) collects agendas, minutes, and information packages for all meetings.

### **Finding the Ideal Candidates**

To ensure good governance, it is critical to have a well-rounded Council that includes a diversity of voices, opinions, skills, and knowledge. Experience in any of the following areas can be particularly important:

- Corporate leadership/management;
- Strategic organizational change and development;
- Governance (including understanding the principle of self governance and the OAA's [provincial mandate](#));
- Financial literacy, accounting, and investment management;
- Previous volunteer work on OAA Committees;
- Legal issues and risks;
- Technology; and
- Area of Focus around architecture and practice.

**If you feel you have strength in any of these areas, consider running for Council this fall. If you know someone else who might be ideal, please encourage them to participate.**

In keeping with the OAA and Council's position on [equity, diversity, and inclusion](#), high value is also placed on additional cultural, racial, gender, and age diversity.

To see an FAQ on running for Council, [click here](#).

### **The Elections Process**

The [OAA Council elections](#) process occurs using a dedicated online system, with an email sent out on the first Monday of October (i.e. **October 3**); the nomination period is then open until the fourth Monday of that month (i.e. **October 24**).

**In an effort to continue to adopt best practices around good governance, there will be a virtual information session held with all eligible candidates.** This virtual meeting will ensure a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Council, as well as the mandate of the OAA.

As part of the nomination submission process, nominees will be able to provide a text-based candidate statement as well as links to other sources, such as social media or a brief video speaking to issues related to serving on Council. This will be available on the OAA Website after the nomination period. Voters will also be able to ask candidates questions by [clicking here](#).

Voting takes place in November, with new terms beginning on **January 1, 2023**.

Given the composition of available seats for this election, **Intern Architects will be able to cast their ballots for the Intern Architect Non-Voting Seat and Architects will be able to vote for all vacant Council seats.** Results will be announced by **December 1, 2022**. Additional information can be found on the [OAA Website](#), and further details will be shared in upcoming editions of the *OAA News* e-newsletter and on social media.

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The OAA offices are located at 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto, ON M3B 3L6