



Ontario Association of Architects

January 23, 2015

To the Members of the OAA,

At the December 5, 2014 OAA Council meeting, OAA Council passed the motion to send a letter to all members regarding unpaid internships.

In March 2014, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada made the following statement in response to a Quebec media outlet inquiry. It was also circulated to all RAIC members and the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) and the Association des Architectes en pratique privée du Québec (AAPRQ).

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) upholds the right of architectural interns to receive payment for their work.

The profession has a responsibility to encourage students and graduates. A fair wage shows young people that their work is valued and recognizes the contribution they make to an office.

Compensation creates respect between present-day architects and future architects. It is essential, ethical practice.

Unpaid internships contradict the RAIC's mission – to affirm that architecture matters and to support architects in achieving excellence.

The OAA endorses the RAIC statement on paid internships. The OAA believes that intern architects must be valued – it is part of a bigger picture reflecting how the profession values architecture as well as our desire that society values architects and architecture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toon Dreessen', written in a cursive style.

Toon Dreessen, Architect
OAA, MRAIC, AIA, LEED AP
President