



Practice Advisory

Practice Advisory brings to members' attention topics that have an impact on either management of the practice or management of the project.



New White Paper Outlines Benefits of Digital Bonds

Digital Bonds: Their Role During COVID-19 and Beyond

Digital bonds are being identified by the Surety Association of Canada (SAC) as an industry best practice—not only in the midst of the pandemic, but also moving forward. Back in March 2020, SAC issued the white paper, “[Digital Bonds the Way of the Future – and the Present.](#)” The document provides a detailed overview of digital bonds.

Bonds are often submitted with bids and again prior to construction starting. Members should know what a digital bond is and how a printed copy of a digital bond differs from the older paper bonds. For more information, please consult the recent [SAC media release](#) and the group’s [website](#).





Best Practices for Review of RFP Language and Supplementary Conditions to OAA 600 and Other Client-Architect Contracts—Excerpt 8

The OAA continues to review RFPs and contracts with the intent of identifying requirements and provisions that:

- may be uninsurable;
- require an Architect or Licensed Technologist OAA to contract out of their professional obligations as set out in the *Architects Act* and Regulation 27;
- are a contravention of either piece of legislation; or
- unreasonably increase their obligations beyond those at law.

The article in the link below does not constitute legal advice. It is the eighth in a series of excerpts from [Practice Tip 39.1](#) that should assist practices in making a go/no-go decision with respect to responding to an RFP or in contract negotiations. Members should familiarize themselves with all of 39.1 and refer to it when reviewing RFPs, and bid and contract documents.

To read previous excerpts in this series, [click here](#).



[READ MORE](#)



Pro Bono Services: What Should Your Practice Consider?

Pro bono work for non-profit or charitable organizations involves many factors that require careful consideration prior to their provision by an architectural practice. Firms should review [Practice Tip 32](#), which presents the client's expectations, along with recommended procedures for the architect.





OAA Council Elections: Voting Period Ends Monday

The voting period for OAA Council elections closes on Monday, November 23—make your voice heard now before it's too late. All eligible members are strongly encouraged to learn about the candidates and use their ballot to make their selection at their earliest opportunity. With the privilege of self-regulation comes the responsibility of good governance to protect the public interest, and having a strong Council is critical. Decisions made by Council have a direct impact on OAA members and the practice and profession of architecture in Ontario.

Ballots were sent on Monday, November 9. [Candidate statements](#), and more information on the elections process, can be found on the [OAA Website](#). Those elected to join Council will be announced in a special e-bulletin and on the OAA's [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#) channels on Tuesday, November 24.



Qualifications-Based Selection: New webpage and content available

The OAA is pleased to present its new page on [Qualifications-Based Selection](#) (QBS), which can be found on the public side of the OAA Website under the menu item, Working with an Architect. (On the member side, it can be found under Resources.)

The OAA has been a long-standing advocate for QBS, and has worked in partnership with other industry associations and through the Construction Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO) to try to secure a broader adoption of QBS in the industry. As part of these early efforts, the OAA had developed a "QBS Kit" with templates for procurement officials. Over the years, these had grown a bit antiquated and seemed to have very little uptake. OAA Council retained a consultant to coordinate a review and rewrite with more of a focus on marketing QBS.

This consulting work was undertaken through the spring, and the new webpage provides an overview of what QBS is (and isn't), advocates for it as the best practice for procuring professional services, and provides links to various related resources. The former "QBS Kit" has been archived, but can still be accessed via this page. For more information, contact [Adam Tracey](#), the OAA's Manager, Policy & Government Relations.



OSGOODE
OSGOODE HALL LAW SCHOOL

YORK
UNIVERSITÉ
UNIVERSITY

U

ConEd Opportunity: Legal Guide to Managing Contracts & Risks in Design Projects

Osgoode Hall Law School Professional Program at York University is offering two all-day virtual modules on December 4 and 11 (with replay in late January) on the topic of contracts and risks in design projects.

The program will leverage the expertise of lawyers and practitioners in the design & construction industry, including OAA President Kathleen Kurtin, OAA Practice Advisor Allen N. Humphries, and Pro-Demnity CEO Bruce H. Palmer.

For information on cost and registration, consult [click here](#).

The program is eligible for 11 Structured Learning hours under the OAA ConEd Program.



Update on publication of the next editions of Canada's National Model Codes

The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) anticipates that the next editions of the National Building Code, National Fire Code, National Plumbing Code, and the National Energy Code for Buildings will be available in December 2021. The group is reviewing and addressing the feedback received from the latest public review process of Fall 2019 and Winter 2020.

To order the free electronic documents or the printed format, visit the National Research Council of Canada's [Virtual Store](#) or contact them via [email](#) or phone at 613-993-9960.





National Housing Supply Challenge Opens

Applications are now open for the first round of the Government of Canada's Housing Supply Challenge. For this data-driven round, applicants must submit technology solutions or methodologies that improve the collection, sharing, analysis, and integration, and/or presentation of data in regards to housing supply.

Up to \$25 million in funding is available in this round of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) initiative invites applicants to develop data solutions that improve decision-making on housing supply. Initial submissions must be submitted by January 20, 2021. For more information: <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/nhs/housing-supply-challenge>



You are subscribed as **INSERT_EMAIL**

Click here to unsubscribe or update your email preferences

The OAA office is located at 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto, ON M3B 3L6