

Biographical Profile, AIBC Council Candidate

Pierre E. Gallant, MAIBC AAA MRAIC

Without being presumptuous, I am seeking a position on Council to continue to give back to the profession, however small that contribution might be. The architectural profession is only as good as our combined efforts.

I am seeking a third 2 year term on the AIBC Council. Last year, I was privileged to be Council President, a position that admittedly was more demanding than anticipated but certainly rewarding. In addition to commitments to Council, I have maintained my participation to the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) as one of 3 architects representing our profession. My “real” job is a principal in the firm Morrison Hershfield. I am a holder of a certificate of practice with other architects within the firm.

Last year, Council continued to develop the Leadership, Advocacy, Regulation and Knowledge (LARK) filters through which Council policies are tested. The competency based matrix (thanks to Scott Kemp MAIBC and Gordon Richards MAIBC) used to assess broadly experienced foreign trained architects (BEFA) has been further developed and adopted in principle across the land. Five guiding principles have been adopted by Council as a useful tool for helping discussions. Significant efforts were being conducted to better participate in discussions with Provincial Government, and, most importantly, considerable engagement efforts are on-going with our members so that Council can better understand challenges and opportunities for all members. To date, the views expressed are far from unanimous, are generally measured, and expressed with the necessary desire to serve the public while making architects more successful. I would like to have the opportunity to continue the work that we started.

Much has been said on legislative renewal. Council is reducing efforts toward legislative renewal until, hopefully, a reasonable consensus is achieved among the membership. Whatever the outcome, it is in the public interest (and indeed our own) that we speak collectively on major issues, including legislation that gives us the privilege of self regulation. To have such a privilege is not universal, and it is disappearing in several jurisdictions in the western world.

My vision of architecture is: our profession, with all its members, is recognized by the public and the government as the “go-to” source for anything to do with buildings. Our conduct is such that self-regulation is the obvious choice for the best interest of the public. And since the public interest varies over time, we need to respond. We need to evolve with a culture of continuing improvement.