



ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



**BUILDING
DESIGNERS
INSTITUTE OF
BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BC
AND
THE BUILDING DESIGNERS INSTITUTE OF BC

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is made and entered into by and between the Building Designers Institute of BC, hereinafter referred to as BDIBC, (*which is an institute of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, hereinafter referred to as ASTTBC*) and the Architectural Institute of BC, hereinafter referred to as AIBC.

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to develop a framework for on-going discussions between the BDIBC and AIBC regarding the possible incorporation of their memberships into a single self-governed and self-regulated entity established under the provincial legislation currently known as the *Architects Act*, and, in so doing, to further enhance the professional recognition and defined rights to practice for building designers.

The MOU will also provide a basis for cooperative efforts in communicating with, and soliciting feedback from, the AIBC and BDIBC memberships, the public, government and other industry stakeholders on this proposed incorporation of their memberships.

As part of this process the AIBC and BDIBC will seek to:

- A. ensure public protection, health, safety and welfare, and safeguard the interest of society, architecture, the environment, sustainability and culture;
- B. establish mutually acceptable scopes and standards for practice, including expertise, autonomy, commitment and accountability;
- C. set standards in recognizing qualifications;
- D. prevent practice by unqualified persons;
- E. establish a system of governance to properly monitor performance, facilitate implementation, (including the audit of) qualification standards and systems of continuing professional education and resolve disagreements;
- F. represent the interests of building designers and architects in the interaction with municipal, provincial and federal authorities and regulators;

- G. restrict the use of the term “Architectural Technologist” and/or “Architectural Technician” to those persons who are qualified and registered under The Act;
- H. create an appendix which would provide the specifics of agreement.

B. BACKGROUND

Members of the AIBC currently enjoy both rights to title (architect) and exclusive rights to practice as granted under The *Architects Act*. Members of the BDIBC currently enjoy rights to title as granted by the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC under their legislation, the ASTT Act and Regulations, which also provides for the regulation of the practice of its members. Members of both organizations are significant contributors to the design of the built form industry and environment in the province of British Columbia.

In 2004, a Joint Task Force of AIBC and ASTTBC members began meeting to discuss the possible incorporation of both memberships into a single self-governing and self-regulating entity. An attempt was made to identify shared principles, as well as potential benefits of such an incorporation of their respective memberships, to members of the public, architects, building designers and other industry stakeholder groups. The JTF concluded its efforts in summer of 2006, having failed to achieve consensus on a model for achieving its goals for the future professional recognition of building design technologists and technicians.

By virtue of this Memorandum, the dialogue around the possible future incorporation of our respective memberships and the furtherance of practice rights for building designers will have focused entirely and specifically on the BDIBC and its members, as those primarily engaged in the design of buildings, other than AIBC members. ASTTBC and its general membership are not party to this MOU.

C. SHARED PRINCIPLES

Principles of Professionalism

Members of the AIBC and the BDIBC are dedicated to high standards of professionalism, integrity and competence, and bring unique skills and aptitudes essential to the sustainable development of the built environment and the welfare of their societies and cultures. Principles of professionalism are established in legislation, as well as in codes of ethics and regulations defining professional conduct.

Expertise

Architects and Registered members of BDIBC possess a systematic body of knowledge, skills and theory developed through education, training, and experience. The process of education, training and examination is structured to assure the public that, when an architect or building designer is engaged to perform professional services, that architect or building designer has met acceptable standards enabling competent performance of those services. Furthermore, members of AIBC and BDIBC are charged to maintain and advance their knowledge, to respect the body of architectural design accomplishment and to contribute to its growth.

Professional Education: AIBC members are certified by national representative organizations, the Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB). BDIBC members are currently certified by ASTTBC through a combination of education and experiential equivalencies.

Experience: AIBC requires a minimum number of hours of specified experience in all aspects of architectural design practice completed under the direction of a licensed/registered member of AIBC. BDIBC currently requires a minimum level of proven broad experience in that level of certification granted as a Certified Residential Designer or Registered Building Designer.

Examination: AIBC requires successful completion of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) as produced by the National Committee of Architectural Certification Boards (NCARB) for Architects. BDIBC currently requires a detailed board review of education and experience with supporting documentation; where applicable, certification by ASTTBC for a Certified Technician (CTech) or Applied Science Technologist (AScT).

Professional Autonomy

Architects and building designers provide objective expert advice to the client and/or users. Architects and building designers are charged to uphold the ideal that learned and uncompromised professional judgment should take precedence over any other motive in the pursuit of the art and science of architecture. Architects and building designers are also charged to embrace the spirit and letter of the laws governing their professional affairs and to consider thoughtfully the social, urban and environmental impact of their professional activities.

Commitment

Architects and building designers bring a high level of selfless dedication to the professional services done on behalf of their clients and society. Members of the profession are charged to serve their clients and the public in a competent and professional manner and to exercise unprejudiced and unbiased judgment on their behalf.

Accountability

Architects and building designers are aware of their responsibility for the independent and, if necessary, critical advice provided to their clients and for the effects of their work on society and the environment. Architects and building designers undertake to perform professional services only when they, together with those whom they may engage as consultants, are qualified by education, training and/or experience in the specific area of professional service involved.

D. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITY – This instrument in no way restricts the AIBC or the BDIBC from pursuing similar discussions with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals, but agree to so notify in the event that they do.

COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION – This MOU takes effect upon the approval by the respective governing council/board of the AIBC and the BDIBC and shall remain in effect until terminated by either party with a 30 day written notice.


PRINCIPAL CONTACTS – The principal contacts for this instrument are:

AIBC Contact:


Dorothy L. Barkley, Executive Director

DD BARKLEY
Please print

BDIBC Contact:


Carson Nettle AScT, RBD, Past President

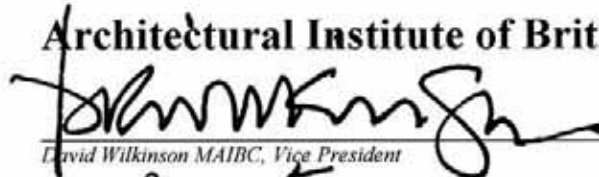
CARSON NETTLE
Please print

NON-FUNDING OBLIGATIONS – Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the AIBC or the BDIBC to dedicate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds or services will require separate agreements.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY – This MOU is not intended to and does not create any binding rights, benefits, fiduciary or trust responsibility for the AIBC or the BDIBC.

THE PARTIES BELOW HAVE EXECUTED THIS INSTRUMENT

Architectural Institute of British Columbia


David Wilkinson MAIBC, Vice President

SEPT 19, 2006
Date

Building Designers Institute of British Columbia


John Schloesser AScT, RBD, President

SEPT 16, 2006
Date