



JOINT TASK FORCE FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

10 Reasons to Update the *Architects Act*

1. Better Protection of the Public

- By meeting current standards and expectations of public protection that were neither imagined nor anticipated when the legislation was acclaimed in 1920
- By setting standards of education, examination and experience that ensure accountability across the architectural community
- By reducing the area of unregulated design of buildings, especially those for public use, to single and duplex residences

2. Quality Assurance

- By ensuring buildings are designed by appropriately qualified individuals
- By ensuring all architects and related professionals maintain current qualifications and knowledge through mandatory continuing education appropriate to their level of responsibility and practice
- By enshrining the principles and fundamentals of administrative law
- By entrenching representation by all registered member categories on all AIBC boards (Professional Development, Professional Conduct & Illegal Practice, Professional Practice, Registration & Licensing, Communications) with requirements for public representation
- By offering peer review as a component of public protection and ensuring best practices
- By requiring the maintenance of individual competency and practice
- By supporting an outcomes/results/performance-based regulatory system that applies to all members, in keeping with other government initiatives

3. Clarity

- By removing the patchwork of legislative amendments that have made the *Architects Act* inefficient, confusing and difficult to enforce
- By reconciling differences with the British Columbia Building Code
- By establishing the AIBC as the sole source of qualified architectural professionals in B.C.
- By reducing regulation through the removal of two pieces of related legislation: the *Building Designers Act* and the *Interior Designers Act*

4. Conformity

- With contemporary legislation, language, standards and expectations
- With rules of administrative law and principles of natural justice
- With expectations of public representation
- With current business law, practices and competition
- With expectations of a self-governing profession
- With expectations of fair and equal representation

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5. Modernization

- By recognizing new and emerging building technology, roles and responsibilities, materials, development strategies, business practices, and qualification standards that were neither imagined nor anticipated in 1920
- By enabling recognition of practitioners through alternate methods of qualification such as competency-based assessment
- By recognizing public expectations of professional liability
- By permitting participation in the contemporary business environment, meeting competitive expectations, and providing necessary protections
- By permitting new technological methodology such as electronic voting and digital communication, as well as providing sufficient flexibility to recognize emerging forms of technology

6. Fairness

- By ensuring consistency and transparency in the administration of professional conduct
- By making continuing education compliance a condition of registration rather than a matter of professional conduct
- By ensuring all architectural professionals participate in continuing education and meet standards of practice

7. Flexibility

- To recognize broadly experienced designers of buildings
- To recognize enhanced qualifications
- To permit the institute to enter into partnerships and memoranda of agreement
- To anticipate new and developing disciplines and expectations
- To react responsibly to changing business, technology, governance and regulatory standards

8. Simplicity

- By placing the majority of decision making within the bylaw process
- By replacing dated language and structure

9. Economy

- By ensuring that architects are able to responsibly and competitively participate in local, provincial and national economies
- By enabling contemporary business standards, rules and practices
- By ensuring mobility between jurisdictions, regions and countries

10. Community

- To ensure that members of the architectural profession are able to fulfill their key role in urban design and community development
- To ensure members of the architectural profession meet evolving community standards and expectations
- To permit architectural professionals to participate in the various non-traditional aspects of their community