



Rationale for New Legislation

Existing *Architects Act*:

- One of the oldest, if not the oldest professional regulation legislation extant in British Columbia
- Enacted April 17, 1920, the same day as the *Engineers Act* (*the provincial government has acknowledged that both need replacement*)
- Current building technology and materials were neither imagined nor anticipated
- Current development strategies were neither imagined nor anticipated
- Current business practices and models were neither imagined nor anticipated
- Current building uses neither imagined nor anticipated
- Current building standards neither imagined nor anticipated
- Current standards and expectations of public protection neither imagined nor anticipated
- Current standards of qualification to provide assurance neither imagined nor anticipated
- Current legislative requirements neither imagined nor anticipated
- Patchwork legislative amendments over time have rendered the *Act* complicated, restrictive and inadequate
- Current legislation neither includes nor recognizes all qualified participants in the built design community
- Current legislation is inflexible and contains too much of the detail of practice, which would be better addressed through bylaws

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Proposed New *Architectural Professions Act*:

To provide public assurance and protect the public interest by:

- Meeting current requirements for clarity as well as appropriate standards for professionals
- Meeting current standards and expectations of contemporary legislation
- Ensuring simplicity and clarity for members of the public seeking qualified designers of buildings
- Ensuring that all designers of buildings, other than single family or duplex, are included under government legislation
- Ensuring the ability of designers of buildings to participate fairly in the economy and contribute positively to BC's growth and reputation through contemporary business rules
- Ensuring designers of buildings meet expectations for their role in urban design
- Ensuring all designers of buildings maintain current qualifications and knowledge through required continuing education appropriate to their levels of qualification
- Ensuring continuing competence in professional development and standards of practice
- Recognizing specialty qualifications in the face of increasing complexity
- Ensuring the ability to recognize broadly-experienced designers of buildings
- Ensuring expeditious recognition of qualified designers of buildings from other jurisdictions
- Ensuring all buildings are designed by appropriately qualified individuals
- Harmonization with the Building Code, removing conflicts that currently exist
- Ensuring fairness in the discipline and professional conduct process for design professionals
- Ensuring representation of all members within the institute
- Reducing bureaucracy by removing two pieces of legislation
- Streamlining the current *Act* by transferring much of the detail to by-laws
- Ensuring the institute's ability to enter into partnerships and agreements through Memoranda of Agreement

Amended *Architects Act*:

- To try to achieve the above through modification of existing legislation