



Council Response to 2019 Member Motion

At its July 2019 meeting, AIBC Council reviewed the motion-from-the-floor (MFTF) that was supported at the 2019 Annual Meeting. While noting that any such motion is advisory and non-binding to council, council reiterated its commitment to giving it due consideration. The approved motion is provided below, along with council's response.

MFTF:

That the AIBC Council be requested to consider:

Whereas members may go on vacation, retire, take extended leave etc., will the Institute work with the municipalities to facilitate the transfer/substitution of Letters of Assurance between members sharing the same Certificate of Practice.

Moved: Derek Neale Architect AIBC

Seconded: Brian Dust Architect AIBC

CARRIED

(92 In Favour, 10 Opposed)

Response to MFTF:

The AIBC-endorsed letters of assurance are in the BC Building Code (referred to within the codes as Schedules A, B, C-A and C-B). Although they are provided to municipalities, it is the provincial government, through the Building and Safety Standards Branch along with the AIBC and the Engineers and Geoscientists of BC (EGBC) which determines how they are used.

Current BC Building Code provisions allow for the transfer of responsibilities between architects within a firm. The procedure is relatively simply. Here is an example:

- Architect 1 has signed Schedules A and B. The project is not complete, but she now will be on an extended leave. Architect 2, within the same firm, is prepared to take over responsibilities in her absence.
- Architect 1 prepares a brief letter to the authority stating she is going on leave and architect 2 is taking over.
- Architect 2 and the owner complete a new schedule A, and architect 2 completes a new schedule B.
- The three documents are delivered by architect 2 to the authority.
- Architect 2 continues to coordinate consultants and provide field review until the project is completed.
- When complete, architect 2 provides Schedules C-A and C-B.

This scenario of transition is permitted under 2.2.7.4(2) of Division C of the BC Building Code.

What is not acceptable is for architect 2 to take over architect 1's commitments and provide Schedules C-A and /or C-B without notifying the authority of the transition at the time it occurs.

The AIBC, along with EGBC, are planning to review the Guide to Letters of Assurance in the Fall 2019. A new section could be proposed that specifically addresses this 'in-firm' transfer of responsibilities. AIBC Council will defer any further response to the MFTF until after this review has taken place.

Members' efforts to bring forward informed, well-formulated suggestions and recommendations for council's consideration are sincerely appreciated.