

Professional Standards Registrant Consultation and Information Session

November 12, 2025



**ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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Land Gratitude

From coast to coast to coast, the Architectural Institute of British Columbia is grateful to live, learn, and work on the traditional and ancestral territories of the Indigenous peoples who have been, and continue to be, the stewards of the land.

The AIBC head office is located on x^wməθk^wəy'əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations lands, in Coast Salish Territory.

Welcome

- > This is a live broadcast, and there may be some slight delays throughout the presentation.
- > **Housekeeping Notes**
 - There will be dedicated time for questions regarding the proposed new Professional Standards at the end of the presentation, but we will also take questions as they arise.
 - Questions can be asked through the **Q&A feature** found along the bottom of the screen.

Recording and Privacy

- > This presentation is being recorded and will be posted on the AIBC website for consultation purposes for up to six months.
- > Note that only the presenters will be visible on screen.
- > The microphone and camera features have been turned off for all attendees.

Recording and Privacy

- > By signing up for and joining this presentation you are consenting to information that may be identified to you to be included in the recording.
- > Attendee recording of the presentation is not permitted.
- > Please ensure you have not joined the session with any AI notetaking tools as these will be removed from the webinar, which may affect your participation.

Background

- > Foundation for AIBC and Professional Standards generally:

“to serve and protect the public interest with respect to the exercise of a profession ... and the conduct of registrants in the registrants’ regulated practice”

Professional Governance Act Section 22

Background

- > Since 2011, the Bylaw Review Committee (now the Professional Standards Advisory Group - PSAG) has been engaged in a comprehensive review of both the AIBC Bylaws and Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

PSAG Members

Brian Hart



Brent North



Alex Chang



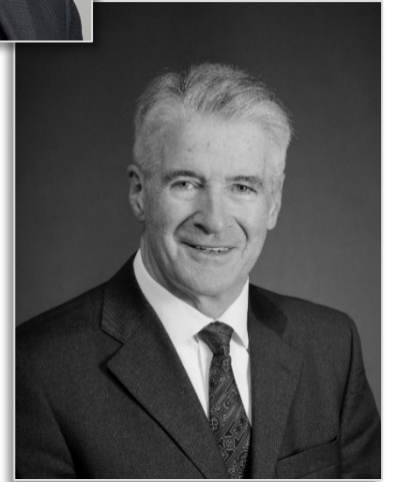
Brian Sim



Patrick Yue



Robert Worden



John McCormack

Background

- > As part of the *PGA* transition, the standards in the Code of Ethics were renamed from Bylaws and Council Rulings to **Professional Standards**.

Background

- > Professional Standards are defined in the AIBC Bylaws as:

“the standards of competence and professional and ethical conduct for Registrants established and published by the AIBC, in the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct under these Bylaws.”

Background

- > Under the *PGA* (in force since February 2023), the AIBC Board is authorized to amend the AIBC Bylaws and the Code of Ethics, with final approval required from the Superintendent of Professional Governance.



Competence

New Professional Standard

> Competence

3.7 An Architect's services in preparation for construction must be sufficiently complete, correct, comprehensive, and coordinated for the purpose stated.

Competence

- > Currently six Professional Standards specifically related to competence and continuing education in the Code of Ethics
- > Professional Standard 3.1 establishes the baseline concept of acting with reasonable care and competence, skill and judgment ordinarily practised in BC
- > Others address limiting your practice to fields where you're competent and maintaining competence where you are holding yourself out as having enhanced qualifications.

Competence

- > The intent of the proposed standard is to reinforce expectations that documents that are relied upon to construct a building are prepared competently.

Competence

- > The language in the standard is intended to reflect the profession's historic and current understanding of the nature and quality of this core architectural service.
- > This is not a new or “higher” standard of service.

New Professional Standard

This Professional Standard is directed at helping make sure that ~~construction documentation~~ documents that are relied upon to construct building services are ~~provided~~ prepared competently. This standard is not 'new' but reflects the historic and current standard for services in relation to documents in a more direct statement.

New Professional Standard

Completeness means documents that are thorough; correct means that they are as accurate as reasonably possible and meet design criteria and applicable requirements; comprehensive means they encompass the necessary information to render a complete representation of the design at the relevant stage; and coordinated means the work produced under the Architect's supervision and control is internally coordinated and integrated appropriately with other disciplines.

New Professional Standard

The goal of competently-prepared instruments of service is that they become a reliable foundation for successful construction projects, minimizing errors, reducing costs, and confirming that the completed building aligns with the original design intent and substantially complies with the applicable building regulations.

Competence

> The four C's:

- **Complete**
- **Coordinated**
- **Correct**
- **Comprehensive**

How to comply...

- > **Complete:** finished, reviewed as such and ready to be sealed;
- > **Coordinated:** no conflicts in architectural, engineering and other documents;

How to comply...

- > **Correct:** no errors – documents meet design criteria and applicable requirements, comply with codes and the owner's requirements; and
- > **Comprehensive:** no omissions – nothing a builder must know is missing and nothing is implied that a building could infer incorrectly.

Field Services

EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY OF ART + DESIGN, DIAMOND SCHMITT ARCHITECTS INC.
PHOTO: EMA PETER



New Professional Standard

> Field Services

7.8 An Architect must provide field services for all building design or building alteration commissions leading to construction to determine whether the work substantially complies with the instruments of service, including but not limited to documents the sealed for permit drawings, and with applicable building regulations.

Field Services

- > The proposed standard reinforces that field services, including field review, is a foundational service expectation on projects under construction, regardless of:
 - size;
 - complexity; or
 - client preference.

Field Review

- > BCBC 2024 and VBBL 2025 define field review as:

Field review means a review of the work

- at a *building* site, and
- where applicable, at locations where *building* components are fabricated for use at the *building* site

that a *registered professional* in their professional discretion considers necessary to ascertain whether the work substantially complies in all material respects with the plans and supporting documents prepared by a *registered professional*.

Field Services

- > This field review services standard is not limited to Part 3 buildings – they are also a professional service requirement for Part 9 buildings.

Field Services

- > Many recent Part 9 buildings are as complex as Part 3 buildings. Professional design and documentation necessitates field services, including field review.
- > Concerns expressed by building officials about the lack of field review in smaller buildings has informed the proposed standard.

Field Services

- > The proposed standard will not constrain Architects' professional judgement in relation to the frequency, number, or extent of field reviews on each project.

Field Review

- > Based on the CHOP, general review is:
 - a review conducted by the architect and consultants during visits to the place of work; and
 - where applicable, to locations where building components are fabricated for use at the place of work;

Field Review

- at intervals appropriate to the stage of the construction that the architect and consultants consider necessary to:
 - i. become familiar with the progress and quality of work;
 - ii. determine that the work is in general conformity with the construction documents; and
 - iii. report in writing to the client, constructor and local authority.

New Professional Standard

This Professional Standard is intended to reinforce the expectation that field services, including field review as defined by building codes, are conducted on Projects under construction, regardless of size, complexity, or client preference. Field review requirements are not limited to Building Code or Letters of Assurance expectations; both building code Part 3 buildings and Part 9 buildings require field review.

New Professional Standard

*For purposes of this standard, field review is as defined in the BC Building Code. Field services include field review, field review reports and other record keeping, **change orders, coordination of consultant services**, and review of shop drawings. An Architect's field services may include more comprehensive services during construction, such as construction contract administration or enhanced site review for specific purposes; these services are not mandatory under this standard.*

New Professional Standard

This standard does not diminish the Architect's discretion ~~and professional responsibility~~ nor their exercise of professional judgement in relation to the frequency, number, or extent of field review on each building commission. However, it is intended to emphasize that field services are a basic service ~~expectation~~ requirement. Whether an Architect has exercised appropriate professional judgment in providing field services is project-specific, but building size does not eliminate this required service.

New Professional Standard

While field review reports must be sealed by an Architect, on-site attendance to conduct physical field review can be delegated to a competent employee or agent supervised by the Architect.

New Professional Standard

Field review requires ~~some~~ physical attendance at a site. ~~While~~ tools such as video, drones, and robots can ~~be of great assistance in~~ ~~with field~~ reviews and ~~documentation reports, an architect's the mere delivery~~ ~~and review of photos sent by~~ ~~from~~ a contractor, for example, does not constitute field review under this standard. For sealing field review reports, see AIBC Professional Standard 8.3(d) and Practice Guideline: Use of the Architect's Seal.

New Professional Standard

The standard does not apply in circumstances where field services cannot be provided by the Architect, such as a design commission that does not lead to construction, or termination of the Client-Architect Contract prior to field review being carried out.

New Professional Standard

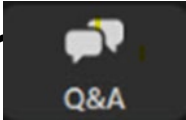
Field review that has been committed to in a Letter of Assurance to an authority must be performed until the authority has been informed in writing, per 2.2.7 of Division C of the BC Building Code of the termination of the Client-Architect Contract, regardless of the date of termination of the Client-Architect Contract.

Questions

MAIN STREET – SCIENCE WORLD SKYTRAIN STATION, VIA ARCHITECTURE INC.
PHOTO: ED WHITE




Questions?

- > Type your question into the Q&A feature, found along the bottom of your screen 
- > Questions typed into this feature will be read aloud by the moderator.

Consultation

- > Proposed amendments and supporting rationales are on the AIBC website.
- > Email bylawfeedback@aibc.ca



Thank you for attending.



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