

2026 Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Note: Proposed amendments are shown in **red font**. Strikeout indicates wording proposed for removal.

Proposed Amendment	Comments/Rationale
2.0 GOVERNANCE BYLAWS	
<p>Elections: General</p> <p>2.48 Subject to any adjustment to the number of positions for an election required to address temporary Board appointments, Board elections must be held on the following cycle:</p> <p>2.48.1 in 2023 and every three years thereafter, an election for three Registrant Board Member positions;</p> <p>2.48.2 in 2024 and every three years thereafter, an election for four Registrant Board Member positions; and</p> <p>2.48.3 in 2025 and every three years thereafter, no Board election will be held.</p>	<p>This amendment allows the 2026 election to go forward with a different number of vacancies than indicated in 2.48.1.</p> <p>In 2024, a Board temporary appointment was made for a two-year term rather than the standard three-year term. As a result, there will be an election for four positions in 2026, instead of three as indicated in Bylaw 2.48.1.</p> <p>This should be the only time the number of vacancies will be different than prescribed in the Bylaws as the temporary appointment bylaws were amended in 2025.</p>
8.0 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE	
<p>Notification of Illegal Practice</p> <p>8.32 The Registrar may Publish notices of Proceedings or resolutions of matters relating to the unlawful illegal use of a reserved title or illegal provision of services in the Reserved Practice by non-Registrants or Former Registrants, and may determine the duration and manner of such Publication.</p>	<p>Amendment added for clarity and to align with <i>Professional Governance Act</i> sections 53 and 54.</p>

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SCHEDULE A: CODE OF ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT	
<p>2.0 Specific Obligations to Clients and Colleagues</p> <p>2.1 Registrants must maintain the confidentiality of confidential Client information and not disclose such information except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) with Client consent; (b) where required to deliver such information to the AIBC; (c) as may be required by law; or (d) in the event the Registrant believes on reasonable grounds that there is an imminent risk of serious public harm. <p><i>This Professional Standard reinforces the expectation that as trusted professional advisers and service providers, Registrants will protect confidential Client information. Many professions have similar standards. Most Client-Architect Contracts also address confidentiality as a contractual obligation. Registrants should be aware of and comply with both professional and contractual confidentiality obligations.</i></p> <p><i>The standard does not provide a definition of confidential Client information. That information may vary with the Client-Architect relationship, timing of the Project, the nature of the commission, and contract language, among other variables. For example, unless specifically agreed to by the parties (most effectively in the Client-Architect Contract or confidentiality agreement), confidential information would not normally include the fact that an Architect has obtained a commission. The architectural fee and Project budget information, however, would normally be considered confidential. <i>Similarly, any information obtained during the bidding</i></i></p>	<p>Updated commentary to address confidentiality of client information during bidding processes and when using social media. Also, added a reminder to educate architectural firm staff regarding client confidentiality.</p> <p>The additions reflect inquiries and experience with these issues in the professional practice and professional conduct processes.</p>

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<p><i>process is inherently confidential, and inappropriate disclosure can be a serious matter.</i></p> <p><i>The essence of the standard is recognition that a Registrant is likely to become aware of confidential Client information and must protect it, subject to the exceptions. The hallmarks of confidential information are that it:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Was obtained by virtue of the professional relationship between Client and Registrant;</i> <i>• May be expressly identified by the Client as confidential, or would be considered as such by a reasonable Registrant;</i> <i>• Is not in the public realm; and</i> <i>• Carries with it some economic benefit to the Client, such that its unauthorized disclosure has potential to damage the Client’s Project, business, reputation, and/ or prospects.</i> <p><i>Social media postings and other internet publications amplify the risk of confidentiality breaches. Registrants should exercise additional caution when publishing any project or client information, including ‘anonymous’ publication. Consider internet publication of any Client and Project information to be public and permanent.</i></p> <p><i>While an understanding of many Professional Standards by Firm staff is important, the confidentiality obligation and the ease of information-sharing create particular vulnerabilities. Architects are reminded that staff should be educated on the boundaries for use and disclosure of Clients’ confidential information.</i></p>	
<p>6.0 Architectural Services: Supervision</p> <p>6.2 Each office offering architectural service to the public must have an Architect available who has direct knowledge of the services</p>	<p>Repeal of the Professional Standard as it is outdated. Architects and staff have been confused about how this standard applies to home offices, remote work, etc. Staff and the Professional Standards Advisory Group recommend repeal; the</p>

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<p>provided and is able to provide Direct Supervision of such services:</p> <p><i>This Professional Standard requires oversight, care, control, and supervision, but not necessarily physical presence by an Architect. The level of supervision and general management of an office will vary with many factors, including size, number of employees and contractors and the scale and methodology of services provided.</i></p> <p><i>An Architect's site (or auxiliary) office for a specific project is a convenient extension of the base office for a single Project and is not itself permitted to offer or to provide independent architectural services to the public.</i></p> <p><i>Whereas a site office does not offer services to the public, a branch or secondary office may. The public is entitled to expect that the services offered and provided by an Architect's office, including a branch, are supervised and controlled by an Architect.</i></p> <p><i>In branch offices as much as elsewhere, it is important to be cautious to ensure that the public, including Clients, are not misled by any misrepresentations as to staff qualifications and professional status.</i></p>	<p>remaining professional standards related to supervision and marketing of services are sufficient to protect the public, and this is now outdated and superfluous.</p> <p>Commentary (italicized) to be moved to Professional Standard 6.1 that relates to Direct Supervision (below).</p>
<p>6.1 An Architect providing Direct Supervision of non-Architects in the Regulated Practice and Reserved Practice is accountable and responsible for all architectural services provided.</p> <p><i>The PGA, Architects Regulation and Bylaws reinforce that only Architects are entitled to engage in the Reserved Practice. Architects practising outside the Reserved Practice in the Regulated Practice (e.g., on a single-family dwelling, where non-Architects can provide</i></p>	<p>Updated commentary from Professional Standard 6.2 (above).</p>

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<p><i>service) are still held to all Professional Standards, including supervision expectations. Smaller buildings do not imply lesser standards.</i></p> <p><i>While the delegation of certain aspects of work to non-Architects within the practice of the architectural profession is normal, non-Architects are only permitted to undertake the Reserved Practice under Direct Supervision of an Architect.</i></p> <p><i>Direct Supervision expectations vary with the nature of the service. However, the ability to delegate work under Direct Supervision does not diminish other obligations and Professional Standards, such as allowing Architects to practice in areas where they are not qualified. Architects are expected to have knowledge of and involvement with all stages of their Projects. Delegation of certain work on a Project does not permit 'absentee architecture' nor allow non-Architects, whether Registrants or not, to make crucial decisions and act or be seen as the face of a Project.</i></p> <p><i>Delegation to Intern Architects is a crucial aspect of their development and education leading to registration as Architects, but requires diligent oversight.</i></p> <p><i>Direct Supervision does not necessarily require physical presence. Architects must exercise professional judgment in determining the level of review, oversight, direction, correction, and communication with non-Architects when providing Direct Supervision.</i></p> <p><i>An Architect's site (or auxiliary) office for a specific project is a convenient extension of the base office for a single Project and is not itself permitted to offer or to provide independent architectural services to the public.</i></p>	

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<p><i>Whereas a site office does not offer services to the public, a branch or secondary office may. The public is entitled to expect that the services offered and provided by an Architect's office, including a branch, are supervised and controlled by an Architect.</i></p> <p><i>In branch offices as much as elsewhere, it is important to be cautious to ensure that the public, including Clients, are not misled by any misrepresentations as to staff qualifications and professional status.</i></p> <p><i>In all cases, Architects must make sure that evidence of supervision is recorded in their files. Architects' input on drafts, iterative design work, review, email, meeting, and phone consultation are all examples of documented supervision.</i></p> <p><i>Those aspects of practice that only Architects can provide (e.g., application of the Seal, making proposals and official submissions per PS: 6.3 and 6.4) must be undertaken by Architects.</i></p>	
<p>6.4 All formal presentations presented by an Architectural Firm to an authority on an architectural matter must be made by or under the attending Direct Supervision of an Architect.</p> <p><i>The public is entitled to expect that formal representations, including at public hearings, design panels, advisory commissions or to elected bodies on architectural matters by an Architectural Firm be made by an Architect.</i></p> <p><i>Under appropriate terms of engagement, it is permissible for an Architect from another Firm to fulfil the 'attending Architect' role to satisfy this standard. Such Architect should be adequately prepared and briefed so that the Client is aware of the appointment, the Client's interests are preserved, and any non-Architect</i></p>	<p>Amendment to add clarity that Architects only need to make a formal presentation or provide Direct Supervision of the presentation if the Architectural Firm is providing the presentation.</p> <p>The current wording has created confusion and enforcement uncertainty in that presentations on 'architectural matters' to authorities can and do occur by others, and architectural discussions should not be constrained to the presence of an Architect.</p> <p>The intention behind this standard is ensuring that when an architectural project is being advanced in <u>public by a Firm</u>, an Architect is present. The updated commentary reflects the importance of public discussion of architecture.</p>

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<p><i>making the presentation, such as an Intern Architect or Retired Architect is appropriately supervised and supported.</i></p> <p><i>As with all AIBC Professional Standards, this applies to Registrants. It is not intended to limit discussion of architectural matters to Architects; public dialogue about architecture, including specific projects, is inherently in the public interest.</i></p>	
<p>8.0 Architectural Services: Use of Seal</p> <p>8.5 Architects transmitting documents electronically must apply their Seal with an AIBC-approved Digital Certificate.</p> <p><i>Applying an image (picture) of an Architect’s professional Seal and signature is not the same as digitally signing and sealing that document with a Digital Certificate. An image alone of a Seal is not secure, and any such document is vulnerable to being seamlessly modified by others without the issuing Architect’s knowledge. The application of a Seal graphic (such as JPEG, PDF, BMP, etc) to documents or the scanning of sealed paper documents does not constitute acceptable digital sealing of such documents.</i></p> <p><i>It is fundamental to the protection of the public that the Seal applied by an Architect is secure, i.e. that it can be reasonably relied upon as being accurate and not having been tampered with. For electronically transmitted documents, the only acceptable means of signing and sealing is with the AIBC digital signature “Digital Certificate”.</i></p> <p><i>The AIBC has secured digital document certification technology for use by Architects. Along with the Engineers and Geoscientists BC, the AIBC has contracted certification services for the issuance of the AIBC digital signature through Portage CyberTech (previously known as</i></p>	<p>Minor amendments to commentary only to reflect a corporate name change from ‘Notarius’ to ‘Portage CyberTech’.</p> <p>Notarius, the provider of digital seals to the AIBC for Architects AIBC, is undergoing a rebrand. Since January 23, 2026, Notarius has been operating under the name “Portage CyberTech”. This change does not affect member certificates, validation processes, or professional compliance requirements.</p>

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<p><i>Notarius</i>), a Certificate authority founded by the Quebec Society of Notaries Public (Chambre des Notaires du Québec).</p> <p>Notarius <i>Portage CyberTech</i> provides the technology and security services through which professionals can sign, Seal and deliver electronic documents safely and in a manner that meets AIBC regulatory requirements.</p> <p>Other methods of maintaining security, such as those provided by various proprietary computer applications, do not meet this Professional Standard. Only through Notarius <i>Portage CyberTech</i> process is a digitally sealed document acceptable.</p>	
SCHEDULES	
<p>Schedule I: Mutual Recognition Agreements for Registration</p> <p>Amendments are shown in the document that follows.</p>	<p>Amendments are shown in red and strikethrough and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the addition of the Canada/European Union Mutual Recognition Agreement; • the addition of the Canada / United Kingdom Mutual Recognition Agreement (Agreement); • updates to the Canada/ United States Reciprocity; and • updates to the Tri-National Mutual Recognition Agreement. <p>Consequential formatting changes, including re-sequencing, have not been tracked.</p>

Schedule I: Mutual Recognition Agreements for Registration

1.0 Background and Authority

- 1.1 These registration requirements are authorized under Bylaw 4.17. They set out the eligibility and registration requirements for registration as an Architect through Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs).
- 1.2 The AIBC is signatory to various MRAs, providing the framework for reciprocal registration and professional mobility among signatory jurisdictions. Each MRA has its specific eligibility requirements, and reflected ~~in~~ **under headings 2.0 and 3.0** of this Schedule, ~~under registration requirements~~. An amended MRA is effective and binding on the AIBC only upon its approval by the Board.
- 1.3 **Certain registration requirements in 3.0 below related to international agreements may be amended, suspended, or otherwise modified from time to time between AIBC Bylaw amendments. Applicants should consult the AIBC website and contact AIBC Registration and Licensing staff for updates.**

2.0 National Registration Requirements

[Canadian Reciprocity](#)

- 2.1 Architects registered in one Canadian jurisdiction, as confirmed by the respective Canadian regulatory authority, are eligible apply to register in other Canadian jurisdictions.

3.0 International Registration Requirements

[Canada, Australia, and New Zealand \(APEC\)](#)

- 3.1 Architects from Australia and New Zealand are eligible to apply if they meet the following requirements:
 - 3.1.1 **they** have at least seven years of professional experience as a licensed/registered architect; and
 - 3.1.2 **they have an** APEC Architect certificate from either Australia or New Zealand, or a letter from the respective registration authority verifying APEC Architect status.
- 3.2 Architects who meet the above eligibility requirements must also successfully complete a domain-specific assessment.

[Canada/European Union Mutual Recognition Agreement](#)

- 3.3 **Architects from a Member State of the European Union are eligible to apply if they meet the following requirements:**

- 3.3.1 a minimum of 12 years of education, training, and professional experience as an architect, attested to by evidence of:
 - 3.3.1.1 formal qualifications meeting the requirements of the Mutual Recognition Agreement; and
 - 3.3.1.2 a minimum of four years of professional experience in a Member State of the European Union obtained after registration, licensing or its equivalent;
 - 3.3.2 a valid professional registration or licence as an architect from a competent authority of a Member State of the European Union or its equivalent if there is no registration or licensing regime; and
 - 3.3.3 proof of good character.
- 3.4 Architects of a Member State of the European Union who meet the eligibility requirements must also provide the following:
- 3.4.1 proof of completion of 10 hours of online pre-registration course to satisfy domain-specific knowledge requirements on topics such as building regulation, construction documents, contract administration, and professional practice in Canada.

[Canada / United Kingdom Mutual Recognition Agreement \(Agreement\)](#)

- 3.5 Architects from the United Kingdom are eligible to apply if they meet the following requirements:
- 3.5.1 currently licensed/registered in the United Kingdom; and
 - 3.5.2 must be in good standing defined as not being subject to any current licensing/registration conditions, sanctions, or penalties arising out of a disciplinary or conduct processes.
- 3.6 Architects who obtained their architectural qualifications in a third country and are licensed/registered in the United Kingdom by means of recognition agreement or arrangement that the United Kingdom has with that third country are not eligible under this agreement.
- 3.7 Architects from the United Kingdom who meet the eligibility requirements must also provide the following:
- 3.7.1 proof of existing registration from the Architects Registration Board (ARB), and proof of good standing as confirmed by ARB;
 - 3.7.2 a current ARB certificate confirming successful completion of:
 - 3.7.2.1 the ARB accredited qualifications issued by schools of architecture in the United Kingdom at Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3 level, as outlined in the Agreement; or

3.7.2.2 the ARB prescribed examination at Part 1 and/or Part 2 level and ARB accredited Part 1, and/or Part 2 qualifications, and ARB accredited Part 3 qualification as outlined in the Agreement; and

3.7.3 a current Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada (ROAC) Certificate confirming satisfaction of the eligibility requirements per the Agreement.

Canada/ United States Reciprocity

3.8 Architects from US ~~jurisdictions~~ ~~states signatory to~~ ~~participating in~~ this agreement are eligible to apply if they ~~meet the following requirement:~~ ~~are~~

~~3.8.1 citizens or permanent residency in the United States or Canada;~~

~~3.8.2 licensed/registered and in good standing in a participating US jurisdiction and must have completed at least 2,000 hours of post licensure/registration experience practising as an architect in the US; and~~

3.9 Architects who have been licensed by means of ~~Broadly Experienced Foreign Architect programs or other~~ ~~another~~ foreign reciprocal licensing agreement are not eligible under this agreement.

3.10 Architects from ~~participating~~ US ~~signatory states~~ ~~jurisdictions~~ who meet the eligibility requirements must also satisfy the following conditions:

~~3.10.1 currently licensed/registered in good standing by one or more participating US jurisdictions as confirmed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Member Board(s) that is a current signatory to this Agreement. NCARB Member Boards represent the architectural licensing boards of US states; and~~

~~3.10.2 holds a current NCARB Certificate; and~~

~~3.10.3 The principal place of practice, which is the address at which the architect is predominantly offering architectural services, is in a jurisdiction that is a current signatory to this Agreement. The architect may identify only one principal place of practice.~~

Tri-National Mutual Recognition Agreement

3.11 Architects from signatory US states and Mexico are eligible to apply if they meet the following requirements:

3.11.1 citizenship or permanent residency status in the United States or Mexico;

3.11.2 completion of a professional degree in architecture from a program accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), Acreditadora Nacional de Programas de Arquitectura y Disciplinas del Espacio Habitable (ANPADEH), or

recognized equivalent ~~accepted as having satisfied the education component for licensure/registration in the home country;~~ and

- 3.11.3 a minimum of ~~10-five~~ years of post-licensure/registration experience in ~~the practice of architecture, as defined in the Agreement, in their home jurisdiction, with at least two years being in their home jurisdiction in responsible control of the comprehensive practice of architecture. The remaining years may take place within either of the other two countries represented in this agreement under the supervision of an architect licensed/registered in that country. All experience requirements must be determined by the Tri-National Council for International Practice and documented by a dossier of work.~~
- 3.12 Architects from signatory US states and Mexico who meet the eligibility requirements, must also satisfy the following conditions:
 - 3.12.1 good standing status in their home jurisdiction ~~attested by applicants as verified by the local regulatory authority;~~
 - 3.12.2 ~~applicants must attest that their licence/registration is free from any disciplinary actions and/or not currently in review by a disciplinary committee or any such board thereof;~~
 - 3.12.3 architects in the US must have ~~an active and~~ a current NCARB Certificate. Mexican architects must first qualify for and complete the Consejo Nacional de Registro de la Certificacion Profesional (CONARC) certification process;
 - 3.12.4 knowledge of the codes, laws, and other matters applicable to the practice of architecture in Canada;
 - 3.12.5 submission of a dossier of work to satisfy the specific competencies outlined in the agreement related to “responsible control and comprehensive practice”; and
 - 3.12.6 completion of an interview before a review panel in Canada conducted in one of its official languages.

4.0 Application

- 4.1 Applicants must submit the required AIBC Application Form and Fees.