

# BILL PR6: the “TITLES” ACT

## Regulation of the Title “Interior Designer” under the ARIDO Act ▼

### “Interior Designer” and “A.R.I.D.O.”

The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) was granted private legislation, Bill Pr6 in 1999. This legislation is a form of title restriction legislation that gives ARIDO Registered members the exclusive right to use the designations “Interior Designer” and “A.R.I.D.O.” in Ontario.

ARIDO protects the public by enforcing this legislation and ensuring that the designations are used only by Registered members of ARIDO. This ensures non-members of ARIDO who have not met the education requirements, supervised work experience and the NCIDQ exam, cannot mislead the public by falsely holding themselves out as being “qualified.”

Therefore, anyone who is not a Registered member of ARIDO is in breach of this legislation should they use the title. This applies to all other members of ARIDO that may be in a category (i.e. Intern, Retired) other than Registered.



**The included information is for general reference only.**

### Bill Pr6

The legislation mandates that any person in Ontario who is not a registered member of ARIDO is guilty of an offence if the person,

- (a) takes or uses the designation “Interior Designer” or “A.R.I.D.O.”, alone or in combination with any other word, name, title, initial or description; or
- (b) implies, suggests or holds out that the person is a registered member of the Association.

### Who is exempt from Bill Pr6

Licensed Architects in good standing with the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) are exempt.

### Act Enforcement

Accordingly, ARIDO actively enforces Bill Pr6 by investigating all reports and circumstances where improper use of these designations are alleged to have occurred. ARIDO receives reports from existing members, as well as from members of the public on an ongoing basis.

## Enforcement Procedure

Once a report is filed with ARIDO, it is essential that ARIDO first investigate the case to collect all evidence proving that misuse has occurred. When reviewing evidence, ARIDO also refers to its registry of Registered members in good standing to ensure the individual being investigated is in fact, not registered with ARIDO. All evidence collected is then used to document a case file of the misuse. It is important to note that no enforcement action can occur until the investigation phase is thoroughly completed.

Once the investigation is complete and ARIDO is satisfied that documentation collected clearly build a case for misuse, enforcement of the act will take place.

Enforcement of the misuse begins with a Cease and Desist letter that is sent by the Registrar and is delivered by a courier service that can confirm receipt. After the letter is sent, ARIDO monitors the case to confirm that the misuse of the title stops. Where the misuse stops and ARIDO is satisfied, ARIDO closes the case but will intermittently continue to monitor.

Where misuse of the titles does not stop, ARIDO will engage the next step within the process, which is a Cease and Desist letter from ARIDO's legal counsel. This will be one final warning to the individual to comply and stop misuse of the titles immediately.

Where the individual fails to cease misuse at this phase, ARIDO may then commence a prosecution under the Act and the *Provincial Offences Act* by pursuing this legally in the Ontario courts. The case will be heard in the Ontario Court of Justice in the county or district in which the offence occurred.

ARIDO assumes the role of prosecutor and must prove that the defendant knowingly used the designation "interior designer" or "A.R.I.D.O." Where ARIDO is successful in demonstrating the misuse of the designations in court, penalties will apply.

## Penalty

The penalties for improperly using an ARIDO designation are as follows:

- (a) for a first offence, a fine up to \$1,500;
- (b) for a second offence, a fine up to \$3,500;
- (c) for each subsequent offence, a fine up to \$5,000.

All revenues from fines and penalties go directly to the Crown (Government of Ontario). ARIDO is not entitled to keep any fines or penalties imposed by the court.

## Reporting Misuse to ARIDO

If you become aware of the potential misuse of the designation "interior designer" or "A.R.I.D.O." here are the steps to take and report this misuse to ARIDO.

- 1 Confirm the individual using the title is not an ARIDO Registered member. You can reference ARIDO's online registry of Registered members which can be found on the ARIDO website at:

<http://www.arido.ca/english/member-registry/online-member-registry.html>

Alternatively, you can phone ARIDO at **416-921-2127** or **1-800-334-1180** and have a staff member check the name of the individual to confirm if they are registered or not.

- 2 Once you are ready to file a report with ARIDO, you can send an email with the details of the misuse to [report@arido.ca](mailto:report@arido.ca). It is essential to include with your report evidence of the misuse. This may include copies of business cards or letterhead, links to websites and social media etc. Once ARIDO obtains the report and evidence, it can initiate the investigations process.

# ARIDO Membership Designation ►

ARIDO members in good standing can affiliate themselves publicly with ARIDO. However, there are restrictions to the specific titles that can be used which exist in the ARIDO By-laws.

## ARIDO Registered Members

Authorized Titles (with no modifications):

- “Interior Designer”
- the letters “ARIDO” after the Registered Member’s name

Registered Members are the only category of membership that can use the titles “interior designer” or “ARIDO” when publicly holding themselves out.

## ARIDO Student Members

Authorized Titles (with no modifications):

- “Student Member of Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario”
- “Student, ARIDO”

Student members cannot use the designation “ARIDO” on its own or the title “Interior Designer.”

## ARIDO Intern Members

Authorized Titles (with no modifications):

- “Intern Member of Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario”
- “Intern, ARIDO”

Intern members cannot use the designation “ARIDO” on its own or the title “Interior Designer.”

## ARIDO Educator Members

Authorized Titles (with no modifications):

- “Educator Member of Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario”
- “Educator Member, ARIDO”

Educator members cannot use the designation “ARIDO” on its own or the title “Interior Designer.”

## ARIDO Retired Members

Authorized Titles (with no modifications):

- “Retired Member of Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario”
- “Retired Member, ARIDO”

Retired members cannot use the designation “ARIDO” on its own or the title “Interior Designer.”

## ARIDO Life Members

Authorized Titles (with no modifications):

- “Life Member of Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario”
- “Life Member, ARIDO”

Life members cannot use the designation “ARIDO” on its own or the title “Interior Designer.”

## ARIDO Honourary Members

Authorized Titles (with no modifications):

- “Honourary Member of Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario”
- “Honourary, ARIDO”
- “Hon. ARIDO”
- “HARIDO”

Honourary members cannot use the designation “ARIDO” on its own or the title “Interior Designer.”