



Association
of Registered
Interior Designers
of Ontario

Professionalization Update – 2020 in Review

21 December, 2020

In early 2020, the ARIDO staff and Board of Management were excited to start a new year and had several ambitious goals the organization was working towards. This included the ongoing work with the OAA on the Direct Regulation Model with the goal of connecting with Ontario Government obtaining feedback on the proposed model. As reported earlier this year the two organizations were successful in securing several meetings with provincial government as follows:

- Attorney General's office on February 24, 2020;
- Premier's office on March 5, 2020; and
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on March 11, 2020

Following the province-wide shut down in late March, it was understood that provincial government's priority would be public safety and strategies surrounding its management and response to the pandemic. As we are all aware, mitigating the risks associated with the pandemic along with supporting the public and economy continues to be their primary focus. During the last nine months, ARIDO and OAA remained in communication with our government contacts. In early summer as construction projects opened again, ARIDO and the OAA believed it was an appropriate time to continue work on this file and the Joint Task Force reconvened in an attempt to refocus our work. This included a follow up with the Attorney General's (AG) office in an effort to obtain the feedback we had been waiting for on the model.

In connecting with the AG's Senior Policy Advisor, ARIDO and OAA were acknowledged for their hard work on the model to date and that their review of our submission did not identify any preliminary concerns. It was also recognized that a valid public interest issue was identified in our submission. However, the Policy Advisor also recognized that the Ministry was not prepared to move the file forward at the current time. Specifically, with the current COVID-19 Pandemic and existing work in several other areas that have been a priority for the Ministry, they did not have the capacity to focus on this file at the current time. The Policy advisor agreed that the two organizations should continue working in collaboration on the file and to also explore discussions with other Ministries such as Municipal Affairs and Housing along with other stakeholder groups that may be affected by the model.

While there was hope to keep the file moving forward, the unexpected pandemic this year has resulted in a temporary pause on this work with government. ARIDO and the OAA will continue their work on several developmental aspects of the model with a commitment to regroup with government in the 2021. ARIDO will continue to keep the membership informed as progress occurs.