



Association
of Registered
Interior Designers
of Ontario

Professionalization Update – April 30, 2020

COVID-19 Advisory Committee

Recently, the ARIDO Board of Management wrote to Premier Ford to offer the profession's support to government during the crisis. ARIDO has recommended that the profession be engaged related to government's approach when addressing the needs of healthcare spaces such as hospitals and care facilities. We emphasized that physical distancing is only one component to the needs of a safe interior environment. During the crisis, government may be considering new construction as well as the conversion of existing buildings as a response to emergency healthcare or accommodation needs. This is outlined within the Emergency Order to Amend the 2012 Building Code which was passed on April 9, 2020. To view the Emergency Order, [click here](#). As government executes its plan for healthcare-related measures it will need to address the challenges that Ontario's healthcare system currently faces, along with the physical environments that can deliver safe care and improved healthcare worker and patient outcomes. ARIDO informed government that an Advisory Committee can be formed and mobilized to assist government as needed. To view the letter to Premier Ford, [click here](#). The ARIDO Board is currently awaiting a response.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Emergency Orders Related to Temporary Facilities and Essential Construction.

On April 24, 2020, ARIDO participated in a stakeholder information session on Emergency Orders related to Temporary Facilities and Essential Construction. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) held the session to assist the industry in understanding the Emergency Order amendments to the 2012 Building Code as they relate to the potential construction of new buildings and temporary structures, along with the conversion of the interior space of existing buildings during the COVID-19 crisis.

ARIDO is writing to the Ministry as a follow up as we believe there is a gross misunderstanding of how interior designers may practice today and when an architect or engineer is required. It was identified on the call that the Order is not specific to BCIN holders, just architects and engineers, as it relates to the design of the construction of a building or temporary structure. More specifically, the design of buildings within a Group B Occupancy that may be constructed during the crisis. When asked on the call if interior designers will be engaged for interior related work for existing buildings or the design of Part 9 buildings, we were advised that an architect or engineer would be mandated in order to ensure they assume liability for all design.

We will respond to provide clarity to the Ministry as to when an architect or engineer is required and when they are exempted per their respective Act, and also to remind the Ministry that interior designers also assume liability for their designs and are covered under liability insurance. We will keep our members informed of any developments.