



June 11, 2018

**ARIDO/OAA Discussion Document  
Survey Response Overview**

The following is a summary of the survey results received in response to the ARIDO/OAA Discussion Document. The online survey was open to all members and ran from April 30, 2018 through to June 4, 2018.

**Total Respondents – 173**

Breakdown of respondents:

Students	7
Intern	23
Non-resident Registered members	2
Registered Members	131
Educator- Registered	4
Honourary Member	1
Retired	4
Life Member	1

**Overview of Responses Received**

1. Do you support the efforts to establish a restricted scope for the practice of interior design through the Architects Act? This restricted scope would be limited to Licensed members of the OAA and Registered members of ARIDO.

<b>Yes – 85.5%</b>	<b>No – 3%</b>	<b>Undecided – 11%</b>	<b>No answer – 0.5%</b>
Educators 4 Honourary 1 Interns 22 Life Member 1 Non-Resident Registered 2 Registered 108 Retired 3 Students 7	Registered 5	Registered 17 Retired 1 Intern 1	Registered 1

**2. Given the recent response from the Attorney General that Model 1 “Direct Regulation” is the Model that he is willing to support, please provide any comments, concerns or feedback that you may have on this model as outlined in the discussion paper.**

### **Governance and the Future of ARIDO**

Members have expressed concerns related to ARIDO governance and ensuring that control is not given to the OAA. Members are unsure as to whether, the level of professionalism achieved to date may be at risk of diminishing and in particular members, who have volunteered in the past and worked hard toward ARIDO, are concerned for the future of the organization and where governance of the profession may fall under the Architect’s Act. Members want to ensure that ARIDO’s involvement is substantial enough to ensure that the organization will not become obsolete in the future and that ARIDO will continue to be involved in overseeing the profession.

Members have indicated a desire to have ARIDO heavily involved in any governance over the profession of the Interior Design related to Model #1. ARIDO should continue to be at the table and be the voice for the profession in Ontario. Members have indicated that the partnership between ARIDO and the OAA should be an equal one, in particular with all matters that affect the interior design profession. There needs to be a clear understanding by members on what ARIDO’s role will be in Model #1 and how ARIDO will continue to protect the identity of the profession. Members have suggested that a clear legal agreement between the two organizations is needed to clearly define the powers of each body.

Additional thought should be given to existing dual members of both ARIDO and OAA today How licensing and the Certificate of Practice will now impact them moving forward.. Members need clarity around membership benefits related to the new Interior Design OAA membership category, such as the ability to obtain a vote at OAA AGM business.

From an enforcement standpoint, the process by which the enforcement of the practice of interior designer will be carried out needs to be clear to the membership. And lastly, requirements to become a Licensed Interior Design should not be changed without ARIDO and member consultation.

### **Member Costs**

There appears to be a common concern around the costs of Model #1 to ARIDO members related to the potential for increased annual dues and costs of professional liability insurance for Licensed Interior Designers. With two mandatory organizations and one annual fee, the membership is asking for confidence that a duplication of work and resources will not occur.

### **Identity and Future of Interior Design**

Some members believe that the partnership between the OAA and ARIDO will create a larger voice for design advocacy and result in fair fees and procurement structures. Many have identified that the design sector has been too fragmented and over regulated, and that perhaps this change will bring a positive impact for the two professions.

Although there are benefits to model #1, members have also identified the importance of autonomy, maintaining the identity of the profession and the impact that has with respect to governance as a self-regulatory model under the Architect’s Act. Members have indicated support for change where the scope of interior design is not be absorbed into the scope of architecture and where it is defined as its

own stand alone scope. There is confidence by some members that Model #1 will give overall recognition of the profession that members have been wanting for many years.

Lastly, some members have indicated that they agree with this approach and believe it is a viable step to increase the professionalization of the ID profession while using existing frameworks to build upon it.

**3. Having reviewed the proposed scope of practice as described in the Membership Consultation Document, do you have any comments or concerns that you would like to share?**

**Protected Scope**

Some members have identified although Model #1 will restrict who can practice in certain environments, there is concern that small buildings under a certain thresholds and sectors will continue to be an open market. This includes unqualified individuals who will be able to continue to practice.

A common and reoccurring theme is that the work that members practice today is not diminished in any way including work that they are able to carry out with a BCIN. There is also a need to understand how those with BCIN today will be impacted and if the change may impact the ability to carry out work. In addition, consideration for a grace period of when BCIN is still required and when the new Licensed Interior Design stamp becomes recognized should be implemented.

Members have also indicated that consideration should be made to expanding the current scope in order to include things such as public corridors where it does not impact fire safety or if the wall is not fire rated.

**Identity**

There appears to be support for the ability to define the difference between interior design and other professions such as interior decorating. In particular where the scope of interior design is defined as its own distinct scope and not as an inclusion in the Architect's Act. There must be efforts of public education carried out and in particular the education of municipalities to ensure their understanding that the new Licensed Interior Design stamp is recognized for interior design work.

**4. This is an important initiative of the OAA and ARIDO, which will have a significant impact on both organizations and both professions. As input from the membership is critical, please provide any additional feedback that you may have on this initiative.**

**ARIDO and OAA Partnership**

Members have emphasized on the importance that ARIDO be treated as a partner and that it is critical that both organizations work closely together even when dealing with issues that may arise. It is even more important that ARIDO members have a good understanding of how the responsibilities between the two organizations will be divided up with the implementation of Model #1.

There have also been several suggestions that the two organizations should invest in joint social initiatives, exhibitions, and competitions in order for both sets of memberships to form a cohesive identity to the public. The public should see value in the partnership with not just the organizations but the two professions collectively.

Members have identified that this as an important step in professionalization, and in collaboration and integrity of architecture and interior design together.

And lastly, although ARIDO and OAA should work closely and collaboratively together in this model moving forward, members believe that ARIDO should also continue some work as an independent organization to ensure that the needs of its membership are met. It is important to members that ARIDO retain its independence and role, and that it continue to have the status as it does today.

### **Protecting the Public from Unqualified Practitioners**

Members have identified the issue and risk facing the profession today as non-qualified individuals who are practicing Interior Design. This will help to benefit the industry as a whole as it will protect the scope of interior design and ensure that qualified individuals are working in the built environment.

### **Interior Design Identity and Advocacy**

Members have indicated they are hopeful that this approach will give interior designers a stronger voice in advocacy for our profession and qualified practitioners. It will also heighten the understanding of the importance of qualified individuals and the need to protect the public. From an identity piece, it is important to ensure we distinguish the difference between two professions in order to maintain their distinct identities.

Ensuring the title Interior Designer not only continues to be protected but that it can now be protected a much higher level including the expansion of to the general use of “Interior Design” , is important to members in both commercial and residential sectors . Several members believe that this move forward will ensure ARIDO members will gain more respect as a result of the new affiliation with the OAA and the perception of the profession will go beyond selection of color and furniture. The term Interior Designer has lost its identity over the years as a result of misuse by large media and a lot of work is required to repair it.

### **Impact on ARIDO Members**

Members need a clearer understanding of risk and liability with a now protected scope and the potential impact on their daily practice, in particular for the smaller interior design firms. Lastly, members have indicated the important that the needs of interior designers are addressed and treated as equally important as the interests of Architects within the OAA. This includes items such as Interior Design members obtaining full voting rights with the OAA as licensed Architect members.