



July 2017

Reducing The Risk of Public Harm: The Practice of Landscape Architecture in Ontario

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 27, 2017, Ontario Attorney General Hon. Yasir Naqvi and the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) met to discuss the benefits, including the reduction of harm to the public, of enacting a Practice Act to regulate the landscape architecture profession in the province. This brief provides background on the profession as practiced in Ontario, key areas of practice related to public safety, and the added protection of the public associated with strengthened practice legislation.

- Landscape architects are responsible for the design, safety, and functionality of public outdoor urban spaces in Ontario, including but not limited to parks, roads, waterways, and trail networks.
- A Practice Act would restrict the practice of landscape architecture to those who meet the standards for qualification.
- Such an Act would have the effect of increasing public safety, the cost-efficiency of public spaces, and the preservation of the natural environment in the face of a variety of challenges, most notably climate change and urbanization.

BACKGROUND

Established in 1968, the OALA is authorized under Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects, 1984, to regulate professional standards, protect the title 'landscape architect', maintain and improve the examining process, and approve educational and professional development standards. Since 1990 the OALA has operated under the following statement of purpose:

“To promote, improve and advance the profession of landscape architecture and maintain standards of professional practice and conduct consistent with the need to serve and protect the public interest.”

Over its nearly 50-year history, the OALA has led or been a key stakeholder in many provincial initiatives including the Ontario Growth Plan, the Ontario Green Plan review, and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Currently the OALA is an official stakeholder in the province’s review of the Construction Lien Act.



The scope of practice for landscape architects is broad. Landscape architects are qualified to deliver the following services:

- The investigation, selection and allocation of land and water resources for appropriate uses;
- Feasibility studies;
- Formulation of graphic and written criteria to govern the planning and design of land construction programs;
- Preparation, review and analysis of master plans for land use and development;
- Production of overall site plans, landscape grading and drainage plans, irrigation plans, planting plans and construction details;
- Specifications;
- Cost estimates and reports for land development;
- Collaboration in the design of roads, bridges and structures;
- Negotiation and arrangement for the execution of land area projects;
- Investigation of the preservation and protection of heritage and cultural elements in the landscape;
- Field observation and site review of land area construction, restoration and maintenance;
- Permit Preparation/Submission; and
- Expert testimony in relation to various provincial acts including the Planning Act, the Pits and Quarries Act, the Conservation Authorities Act, etc.

Landscape architects in Ontario work independently and in collaboration with architects, engineers, planners, developers, designers, builders, horticulturists, arbourists, environmentalists, manufacturers and contractors.

Currently OALA's membership includes 1023 landscape architects as full members, and 823 additional persons as student, associate and honorary members. The OALA works closely with the two Ontario universities that offer degrees in the field, the University of Guelph (offering BLA and MLA) and the University of Toronto (offering MLA).

The number of landscape architects working in Ontario doubled between 2001 and 2011, indicating the public's increasing reliance on the profession. On average business creation increased by more than 8% in each of these years with a consequent tripling of the profession's contribution to Ontario's GDP. In comparison, while the annual GDP growth rate for landscape architects was 12.1%, the annual GDP grow rate for architects and engineers during this period was 7.6% and 9.3% respectively.



Increasingly Significant Public Safety Risks: Climate Change and Urbanization

The OALA anticipates that climate change and the increasing urbanization of Ontario, given their risk to public safety, health and wellbeing, will drive the demand for landscape architecture services long-term.

As general recognition of severe weather patterns increases, landscape architects are being called upon to ensure public safety in Ontario's natural and built environments. For example, landscape architects bring expertise to improvements in grading, drainage and stormwater systems for minimizing flooding, the reduction of heat generated by the urban environment, and minimizing ice damage to trees in parks.

As Ontario's cities continue to grow there is increasing need for well-planned public and private spaces that can accommodate cycling, pedestrian traffic and a wide variety of recreational sports. Likewise public transit and motorized vehicles are to be carefully integrated in order to minimize the risk of collisions, injuries and deaths.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE'S CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

The practice of landscape architecture in Ontario includes a broad range of activities that directly relate to minimizing harm and ensuring health and safety to the public. The responsibilities of landscape architects in these respects are as follows.

Earthworks

Grading, drainage, stormwater control and erosion control require technical knowledge of compaction, angle of repose and slopes, etc. to ensure that physical risk is properly addressed on site and at neighbouring sites. The landscape architect's competency in these areas is gained through extensive education and practice. Qualified landscape architects can reduce the risk of flooding on roads, pedestrian walkways, cycling trails, and other public and private properties. Flooding of roads increases the risk of vehicle collisions among other risks. When standing water makes walkways impassable, pedestrians may use roadways, increasing the danger of being injured by motorists. The proper construction and maintenance of hiking and bike trails encourage their greater use while discouraging the use of alternative, potentially more dangerous routes. Ontario's winters come with the likelihood of standing water turning to ice and serious injury resulting from people falling on sidewalks and in parking lots, and cars losing control on roadways. Ontario's courts hear numerous cases from plaintiffs seeking damages for injuries sustained as a result of ice on roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks.



In recent years landscape architects have increasingly become involved in stormwater management systems to address the high volume of water that occurs during storms. In some Ontario communities this issue is compounded by aging infrastructure. Technical knowledge of flood plains, below ground drainage and appropriate sizing of pipes reduces the likelihood of children and adults being injured by rising water levels. Recent examples include an award winning landscape architecture project in Kitchener that restored 1.8 kilometres of creek bed while increasing the height of access points to improve pedestrian safety.

Playgrounds and Recreational Facilities

Landscape architects are often called upon to consult on public and private playgrounds. The challenge in specifying layout and equipment for children who vary in age and physical ability lies in creating a space that encourages play while minimizing the potential for injury. Landscape architects have technical knowledge of appropriate surface materials to minimize injury due to falls. They have been trained to select proper equipment (swings, slides, monkey bars, ropes, etc.) so that children are not entrapped in the equipment. The expertise that landscape architects bring to playgrounds is critical to reducing the number of injuries and the severity of injuries that occur in Ontario each year.

Additional knowledge and expertise are also required in the construction of recreational facilities that include rollerblade, skateboard, rock climbing, and bike tracks and ramps. As these types of facilities have become more popular, landscape architects have increasingly been contracted to ensure that surfaces reduce injuries, slopes are appropriate and railings conform to safety specifications.

Cycling Infrastructure and Multi-use Trails

Ontario's commitment to encouraging health and fitness while reducing air pollution is leading to a significant increase in the number of bike paths available to its citizens. On May 29, 2017, the Ontario government announced a new \$42M fund to promote safety for cyclists. Landscape architects are increasingly engaged in the design of safer bike paths for recreational and commuting cyclists. Landscape architects have recently prepared plans for the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and Toronto's Beltline Trail.

The importance of proper design was underscored in April and May of 2017 by the deaths of an adult cyclist using his bike to commute to work in Ottawa and a five-year old riding his bike on a Toronto path adjacent to a major roadway. While these tragic deaths are still under investigation, there is evidence that suggests they may not have occurred had proper barriers been in place. Protective barriers, sight lines, grading, signage, lighting and minimum widths



for paths are among the features that landscape architects recommend when designing bike paths.

Roadways and Streetscapes

As the shared use of the roads by motorized vehicles, bicycles, runners and pedestrians has become more commonplace, and enhanced pedestrian mobility a greater public priority, the complexity of safe roadway construction has increased. With that, the role of the landscape architect has become more critical. In roadway development, landscape architects review construction permits, see to appropriate access and egress for new housing developments and businesses, and assure driver visibility in relation to the placement of plantings and signage. Landscape architects perform these same roles in the construction of parking lots where vehicles and pedestrians are often in close proximity.

The growing intensification of the Ontario's urban environments requires detailed planning to ensure safety. As streets become more crowded with buses, cars, pedestrians and cyclists, appropriate streetscape architecture is needed to bring order to an otherwise chaotic mix of competing demands for space. Landscape architects bring technical expertise to the architecture of boulevards, medians, crosswalks and bike lanes. They recommend appropriate signage, curb heights, stop light configuration at busy intersections, one-way streets, on-street parking limitations and other measures that improve traffic patterns and make the streets safer for all. The importance of these interventions is underscored by the number of injuries of pedestrians and cyclists on city streets in recent years. In Ontario, 6491 pedestrians were seen in emergency rooms and 984 pedestrians were hospitalized after being hit by a motor vehicle in 2015. In the same year, 3017 cyclists were seen in emergency rooms and 273 cyclists were hospitalized after being hit by a motor vehicle in Ontario.

The importance of lighting to a well-planned streetscape is also essential. Landscape architects apply their technical expertise to proper lighting to ensure the safe navigation by pedestrians and bicyclists as well automobiles and the avoidance of hazards. Moreover, appropriate lighting is recognized as an important deterrent to street crimes. Research in the area of crime prevention through environmental design has clearly shown the impact of proper lighting on crime reduction.

Landscape architects design a variety of outdoor structures, including park buildings, retaining walls, stairways and fences, that have the potential for public harm if not properly configured and situated within their environment.



While this section details the broad scope of work undertaken by landscape architects and its relationship to physical injury, the prudent practice of landscape architecture is important to the public interest in additional ways. Extensive human suffering, significant health care demands and large damage awards can be averted through fewer vehicle collisions, catastrophic injuries and lower crime rates. Flawed landscape architecture can also lead to higher maintenance costs over the life of a building, roadway, streetscape, and the like. In contrast, an appropriate project will often save money on water, electricity and natural gas costs, important considerations given the Ontario government's extensive real estate holdings and leases on behalf of the public.

Moreover, public confidence is strengthened when individuals and communities can trust that landscape architecture has given priority concern to their safety in the building of roadways, streetscapes, playgrounds, flood control, and the like. Communities can be made stronger and healthier as a result. Finally, the value of interaction with the natural environment has been shown to benefit mental health among children, and in decreasing the in-hospital recovery time of patients.

A CASE FOR LICENSURE

Landscape architects in Ontario plan the arrangement of natural, constructed and human elements in ways that steward and conserve those elements for all. To achieve a level of proficiency in these endeavors in line with the public interest requires specialized education, experience and examination for entry to and continuation in the profession. Landscape architects invest in their own and the profession's scientific, cultural and political knowledge as well as its artistic, other creative and technical skills. The scope of their education includes aspects of botany, horticulture, the fine arts, architecture, history, industrial design, geology and the earth sciences, environmental psychology, geography and ecology. Significant public benefits accrue from the professional application of their expertise.

Unregulated landscape architectural work puts the public at risk. It increases the likelihood of further degradation to the environment and endangers human health. It creates greater risk of injury and premature death to individuals, of declining quality of life to individuals, and of reduced wellbeing to communities. It undermines the understanding, reliability and reputation of regulated landscape architecture and of landscape architects. It also raises the cost of operating and maintaining infrastructure and the government's real estate holdings.

Landscape architectural work by unaccredited individuals introduces uncertainty into the quality, marketability and long-term sustainability of those sites on which they work. This uncertainty extends further into the economic sustainability and valuations of the affected



properties and adjacent ones, the reputations of affected property owners and, most importantly, the health and safety of the public. It also jeopardizes the quality of the work, assets and reputations of allied professionals working on those sites.

Existing means to address the potential for harm include Ontario regulations such as building codes and inspections, consumer protection laws, municipal by-laws and the threat of litigation for negligent work. Also OALA has a “title Act” that disallows use of the title of landscape architect by practitioners who are not full members of the Association. While each of these measures reduces the potential for harm to some degree, the previous section of this brief documents a significant risk of harm related to unregulated practice that requires better protection for the public than are afforded by existing measures.

The current legal framework limits OALA’s disciplinary scope to that of complaints against its members’ breach of the Code of Ethics. Cases alleging misconduct or negligence, even to the level of their investigation, are beyond OALA’s legal authority. To resolve such matters, complainants must rely on the more expensive, time-consuming and slow-moving public court system.

As with all professions regulated through a Practice Act, legislation would enable the OALA to uphold clear standards of practice for its members. It would allow the OALA to regulate the practice of the entire profession, and anyone wanting to do landscape architecture would be governed by the regulated body. All documented cases of potential negligence would be carefully and transparently reviewed by the OALA. In cases where a review determined that there was an issue to be addressed, the OALA, as the self-regulating body, would initiate appropriate disciplinary measures ranging from a formal warning through mandatory supervision to removal of accreditation.



CONCLUSION

The Ontario Legislature's timely passage of a Professional Landscape Architects Practice Act will:

- Prohibit unqualified individuals from working as landscape architects in Ontario;
- Award new powers for licensing and disciplining landscape architects in the province; and,
- Effectively regulate the profession of landscape architecture and differentiate it from allied professions e.g. engineering and architecture.

The proposed Act will ensure that:

- The public has better protection from the risk of serious injury resulting from the unlicensed practice of landscape architecture;
- The public has better prospects for collecting on judgments against at-fault service providers;
- All purchasers of landscape architectural services know what minimally can be expected of any landscape architect in the province, that they have an independent source to verify the professional credentials of any Ontario landscape architect, and that they have an alternate, non-judicial avenue for resolving disputes with a particular landscape architect;
- Persons wishing to engage in the practice of landscape architecture will have a clear picture of the requirements for becoming and remaining an accredited practitioner in Ontario, the educational opportunities and institutions for meeting those requirements, their employment and income-earning prospects and their labour mobility, and the consequences for proceeding in their aspirations without being accredited;
- Other regulated bodies and allied professions will not be adversely effected as they continue to collaborate on site planning, urban design, residential design and garden design;
- The OALA continues to develop the profession's unique body of knowledge and its members continue to comply with the OALA's Code of Ethics and Professional Practice;
- The OALA has new authority to enforce competency standards and disciplinary action;
- More opportunities will arise for recreation, education, culture and creativity to support the health and wellbeing of both individuals and the population as a whole in Ontario;
- Excellence in the design of public spaces will help build stronger communities;
- Economic, social, environmental gains are realized; and
- Improved natural systems in the outdoor environment will be more sustainable.



Ontario Association of
Landscape Architects

A component organization of the
Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

APPENDIX A: The State of Licensure in other Jurisdictions

In the United States, Practice Acts for landscape architecture have become the norm. Beginning with California in 1953, there are now 47 states with Practice Acts and 3 states with Title Acts (Maine, Massachusetts and Illinois). In addition to legislation in the 50 states, the District of Columbia passed its Practice Act on April 17, 2017.

In Canada, 3 provinces (British Columbia, Albert and Ontario) have Title Acts, and Manitoba and Saskatchewan are actively pursuing Title Acts. While no province has established a Practice Act for landscape architecture, professional associations in British Columbia and Alberta have expressed interest.



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APPENDIX B: Letters of Support from Allied Professions and Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament

September 6, 2017

Doris Chee, President
Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)
3 Church Street, Suite 506
Toronto, Ontario M5E 1M2

Re: Support for Landscape Architect Practice Act

Dear Doris,

It is in this spirit of aligned mission, mandate and cooperation that Landscape Ontario supports the OALA initiative to pursue a Practice Act for Landscape Architects at the same time as Landscape Ontario is pursuing a Name Act for Landscape Designers.

Ontario Association of Landscape Architects and Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association have aligned mandates for many reasons. Both organizations raise awareness for enhancing landscapes, gardens and living green infrastructure that impact our everyday lives. Both work tirelessly to elevate the competency levels and ethics of our respective memberships in order to promote public good. Both work together to develop standards that protect the public from failed landscapes that cause safety issues.

We would like to thank OALA representatives who met with our representatives several times over the past year to discuss Landscape Ontario's position regarding the OALA's application for a Practice Act designation.

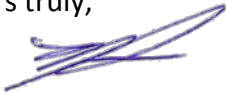
At these meetings, we reviewed the skills matrix developed to help assess the areas of commonality and differences between Landscape Designers and Landscape Architects. This was a very helpful exercise and clearly illustrates that while there is a large overlap in skill set, Landscape Architects have developed specific expertise in the areas of research, report writing, obtaining approvals and project management. Overall, there was unanimous agreement that the matrix accurately reflected those skills generally exercised by Landscape Designers and Landscape Architects.

We also appreciated the opportunity to review the wording of your draft act and to provide comments. Thank you for taking those comments into consideration and adding the Exclusion clause: *2a) by a landscape designer who engages in design for the selection and placement of plants and ancillary landscape materials;*

As urbanization continues, the profession of Landscape Architecture and the work of Landscape Designers will become even more important in improving the quality of life.

We look forward to continue to collaborate with you and your fellow Landscape Architects and wish you much success in your quest for a Practice Act.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form the name Paul Brydges.

Paul Brydges, BLA, OALA, CSLA, ASLA, APALA
President of Landscape Ontario
Principal/Senior Landscape Architect
Brydges Landscape Architecture Inc.

Hon. Yasir Naqvi, MPP (Ottawa Centre)
Attorney General
11th Floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S9

May 2, 2017

To the Ontario Attorney General Yasir Naqvi, MPP (Ottawa Centre):

We are writing today in support of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects' (OALA) request for a Practice Act.

We understand, over the last four years OALA has worked on a Practice Act proposal for Ontario's Landscape Architects. They have undergone an extensive research process to develop the proposal, including examining legislation across Canada and in all U.S. states.

The primary objective of the profession is to promote, improve and advance the profession of Landscape Architecture and maintain standards of professional practice and conduct consistent with the need to serve and to protect the public interest.

OALA was founded in 1968. It is a self-regulating professional association representing the profession of landscape architecture in Ontario. The Ontario government passed a Landscape Architects Title Act in 1984. There are over 1,700 OALA members with over 1,300 who are engaged in both public and private practice.

Currently, 48 of the 50 U.S. States have a Landscape Architect Practice Act, and it is soon to be 49. This seems like a significant precedent, and should we follow suit, Ontario would be the first jurisdiction in Canada to have this legislation. A Practice Act would enhance the profession making Ontario's skills and development in this area on par with North American standards.

A practice act will protect the public interest in relationship to environmental stewardship and landscape conservation of public lands for public wellbeing. This includes:

- Greater resiliency of natural systems in the outdoor environment – critical in the face of climate change
- Enable recreation, education, culture and creativity to support the health and wellbeing - critical for enabling healthy communities
- Protect the public from unqualified individuals from working as landscape architects in Ontario – resulting in risk of harm from negligent landscape architectural work
- Differentiate the field of landscape architects from allied professions and elevate it to the same legal and reputational status as those that have Practice Acts – Architects, Engineers, Foresters

If implemented, a Practice Act would be a monumental step forward for landscape architects in Ontario. It will allow them to licence, regulate and discipline their members as other professions do in the province to protect the public interest in the future development of Ontario.

We appreciate your engagement with this important issue.

Sincerely,



Janet McKay

Chair, Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition
Executive Director, LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests)

About the Green Infrastructure Ontario (GIO) Coalition

The GIO Coalition is an alliance comprised of private sector companies, industry associations, municipal and regional governments, community groups, and not-for-profit organizations. Together, we promote the implementation of green infrastructure across Ontario by providing a united voice for this vital and growing sector. The Coalition steering committee member organizations are:

Conservation Ontario | Evergreen | Green Communities Canada | Green Roofs for Healthy Cities | Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association | LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests) | Ontario Association of Landscape Architects | Ontario Parks Association | Toronto and Region Conservation | Forests Ontario

Phone: 416-661-6600 x 5337

Email: msawka@greeninfrastructureontario.org

January 25, 2017

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi MPP
Ministry of the Attorney General
11th Floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S9

REFERENCE: Support for an Ontario Landscape Architect Practice Act

Dear Minister Naqvi:

I am writing today in support of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) and their request for a Landscape Architect Practice Act.

The Ontario General Contractors Association has a proud history of supporting workplace initiatives, increasing professionalism and improving public health and safety. Our 180 members build more than \$10 Billion in ICI work annually in Ontario.

I myself have worked in leadership roles in the construction industry for decades.

In meeting with both OALA Executive Director Aina Budrevics and Practice Legislation committee member Virginia Burt, I was very interested to learn that OALA's goals very much match OGCA's. I was also interested to learn that:

- OALA was founded in 1968 and currently has 1700 members, associates and students across the province
- Landscape architects have been recognized with a title act since 1984 when new legislation was passed by the Ontario Legislature
- 48 US states currently have Landscape Architect Practice Acts with a 49th state about to do the same
- Ontario landscape architects currently take the same exams as their US counterparts under the direction of the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards
- Ontario would be the first province in Canada to bring in a Landscape Architect Practice Act
- Landscape Architects are doing work that requires public health and safety as a key component in their work in the public realm in areas like flood protection, storm water management and pedestrian safety
- Over the last year, OALA has been actively consulting with organizations like ourselves at OGCA, as well as other allied professional associations in the architecture, engineering, land surveying, technology and planning fields
- Landscape architecture is one of the fastest growing industries in the economy expanding at a rate of six to eight per cent per year

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi MPP

January 25, 2017

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I believe Ontario would benefit both economically and in improved public health and safety from a Landscape Architect Practice Act.

It is a very legitimate ask and long overdue.

The OGCA is pleased to offer our support.

Best regards,

ONTARIO GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clive Thurston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Clive Thurston

President



ARTHUR POTTS, MPP

Beaches—East York

Arthur Potts, MPP (Beaches—East York)
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

August 26, 2016

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi
c/o Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2S9

Subject: Ontario Association of Landscape Architects - Request for Practice Act

Dear Minister Naqvi,

Over the last several months I have been in discussions with a constituent of mine, Jane Welsh. Jane is the Vice-President of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) and a community activist in our riding. On August 2nd I met with her and her colleague Aina Budrevics, OALA Acting Executive Director. I was impressed with the extent of the impact that landscape architects have on the sustainability and livability of our local environment.

I understand that over the last four years OALA has been working on a proposal for a Practice Act for Ontario's Landscape Architects. They have undergone an extensive research process to develop the proposal, including examining legislation across Canada and in all U.S. states. Currently, 48 of the 50 U.S. States have a Landscape Architect Practice Act, and it is soon to be 49.

This seems like a significant precedent, and should we follow suit, Ontario would be the first jurisdiction in Canada to have this legislation.

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The OALA was established in 1968 and celebrates its 50th anniversary 2018. In 1984 the Ontario legislature passed legislative designating them with a Title. They would like to announce an Ontario Landscape Architect Practice Act at their Annual Meeting in Ottawa on March 31, 2017 during the Canada 150 celebrations.

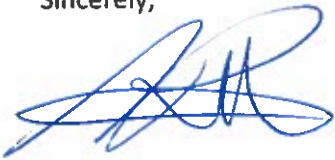
I would like to offer my support for OALA's efforts in establishing a Practice Act. I believe it would advance the profession and establish a better process for the work Landscape Architects do in the Province. Once in place, the Practice Act will play an essential role in linking public interest with a multi-disciplinary approach.

Ms. Welsh let me know that the OALA has met with Minister Murray and MPP Han Dong, who have offered their backing. I also understand that Minister Hoskins has offered his support. They have held numerous meetings with allied professions in architecture, engineering, planning and development sectors to obtain letters of support.

They have asked, and I am prepared, to introduce this legislation as a Private Members Bill, but think it would fit better in a government sponsored bill.

I have enclosed their draft scope of practice for your review, and would greatly appreciate your assistance in bringing this opportunity forward.

Sincerely,



Arthur Potts, MPP

Beaches-East York

CC: Aina Budrevics, Acting Executive Director, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)



PETER MILCZYN, MPP

Etobicoke-Lakeshore

October 3, 2016

Dear Minister Naqvi,

I am writing to you to express my support for the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) request for a Practise Act. Over the past couple months, my office has been in discussions with OALA Acting Executive Director Aina Budrevics and OALA members about how this proposed legislation would advance their profession and establish a better professional structure for landscape architects in the province.

As a trained architect, long-time City Councillor, and now Parliamentary Assistant to the Ministry of Infrastructure, I have witnessed firsthand landscape architects' significant contributions to our communities. Their profession's work aligns very closely with many of our government's policies and commitments. We need their expertise in areas such as, the fight against climate change, infrastructure development, and creating livable and sustainable communities.

As a government, I believe it is our role to help foster an environment that helps professions to succeed. Having a Practise Act plays an essential role in helping the OALA govern their membership, regulate their practise, and protect the public interest. Further, I believe there is a strong economic imperative to support this initiative. If introduced, it is my opinion that this legislation would signal to the rest of Canada that Ontario is committed to excellence of service in the landscape architecture field.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my support for the OALA's request for a Practise Act. Their proposed legislation supports OALA's purpose and strategic direction, commitment to the public interest and excellence of service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Milczyn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Peter Milczyn, MPP for Etobicoke-Lakeshore

CC: Aina Budrevics, Acting Executive Director, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)

Daiene Vernile, MPP (Kitchener Centre)
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z8

November 23, 2016

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi
c/o Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2S9

Dear Minister Naqvi

Subject: Support for OALA Proposed Practice Act

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Chris Hart, Treasurer of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA), to discuss his association's proposal and concept for a Practice Act in the province of Ontario. Mr. Hart has been a tireless advocate, advancing concerns for his profession.

To date, the OALA has garnered the support of MPPs Potts and Milczyn, who have each written a letter encouraging you to consider the implementation of a Practice Act.

In my riding of Kitchener Centre, I have witnessed the positive impact which landscape architects have on our infrastructure, businesses, and communities.

In June of this year, the City of Kitchener's storm water management team and lead consultants, Stantec, won the Consulting Engineers of Ontario's Diamond Design and Construction Award: Creek Restoration Award of Merit for their work on naturalizing Filsinger Park's waterways. This award-winning initiative improved the water quality and reduced sedimentation in Victoria Park Lake. It is this type of evidence, which underscores the importance of landscape architects in our communities.

This local example illustrates why it is important to consider establishing a Practice Act, which could strengthen the ability of landscape architects to contribute to building safer communities all across Ontario.

Once again, I support the request of the OALA representatives to meet with you to discuss their proposal for a Practice Act and how it can contribute to building stronger communities across Ontario.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Vernile".

Daiene Vernile, MPP
Kitchener Centre



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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RANDY HILLIER, M.P.P.

Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington

January 27th, 2017

Attorney General Yasir Naqvi,
SUBJECT: Support for an Ontario Landscape Architect Practice Act

I have examined and reviewed the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects' (OALA) request for a Landscape Architect Practice Act, and find it to have merit and worth considering.

Landscape architects have been recognized with a title act since 1984 when new legislation was passed by the Legislature under former Premier William Davis. 48 US States currently have Landscape Architect practice acts, with a 49th state about to introduce similar legislation.

A similarities between the US and Ontario in regards to landscape architecture is reflected in the fact that Ontario landscape architects take the same exams as their American counterparts under the direction of the Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards.

By introducing similar legislation to that of most of the United States, Ontario would be the first province in Canada to bring in a Landscape Architect Practice Act and set a standard for the rest of the county.

Landscape Architects are doing work that requires public health and safety to be a key component in their interaction with the public realm, such as in areas like flood protection, storm water management and pedestrian safety.

Over the last year, the OALA has been actively consulting with allied professional associations in the architecture, engineering, land surveying, technology and planning fields, and have identified landscape architecture as one of the fastest growing industries in the province, expanding at a rate of six to eight percent per year.

I believe that a Landscape Architect Practice Act would not only benefit Ontario's economy, it would help ensure public health and safety is protected.

As the Official Opposition Critic for the Attorney General, I am asking the Attorney General to give his full consideration to this initiative as a Government Bill.

Sincerely,

Randy Hillier MPP

Constituency Offices:

Perth Office: 1-105 Dufferin Street • Perth, ON K7H 3A5 • Tel: 613-267-8239 • Fax: 613-267-7398

Carleton Place Office: 6 Lake Avenue West • Carleton Place, ON K7C 1L2 • Tel: 613-257-8130 • 1-866-277-1577 • Fax: 613-257-4371

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John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
31st January 2017

Hon. Yasir Naqvi
Ministry of the Attorney General
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S9

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Dear Minister Naqvi,

I am writing you regarding the governance of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) and its desire for a Landscape Architect Practice Act. Earlier this month I had the opportunity to meet with the OALA. They made a compelling case for Ontario to move from the current title act to a governing model similar to the Ontario Medical Association or the Law Society of Upper Canada. These expanded powers would allow for self-governance which would uphold the integrity of their profession and better protect consumers.

As you are well aware, 48 states currently has this arrangement. By passing such legislation, Ontario—which has approximately one-half of all professionals in the country—would be a trendsetter for other provinces. Moreover, this would not only enhance public safety, but provide the province with economic benefits. The membership of the OALA does vital work that affects our everyday lives; their work prevents floods, creates greenspaces, manages storm water, and ensures buildings have solid surroundings. Given how important Landscape Architects are to our society functioning, does it not make sense to give the OALA the tools to enforce rules governing the profession? That is why I am requesting your Ministry to look into the OALA's request in an expeditious manner.

I look forward to our future communications regarding this important issue and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any follow-up questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Yakabuski".

John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Cc: Aina Budrevics, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

April 12, 2017

The Hon. Yasir Naqvi
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
11th Floor, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2S9

Dear Minister:

Yesterday, I met with Shawn Watters, Aina Budrevics, and Eha Naylor from the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA). They were accompanied by Howard Brown of Brown & Cohen Communications and Public Affairs.

We had a good meeting and discussed a number of issues, including the need for a Landscape Architect Practice Act. OALA believes that a Landscape Architect Practice Act is important because it would allow for self-governance, which would give OALA the ability to uphold professional standards and better protect the Ontario public.

It is my understanding that 48 of the 50 American States already have legislation like this in place, which has granted landscape architects self-governing status in those jurisdictions.

OALA members do important work in our communities. According to the OALA, landscape architects contribute to both economic and environmental sustainability, promote public health and wellbeing, strengthen communities, encourage landscape awareness and stewardship, offer aesthetic and creative experiences, and enable communities to function more effectively.

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I agree that it would be in the public interest to move towards professional self-governance for landscape architects. I would ask you to review the OALA's recommendations, draft a Landscape Architect Practice Act, and introduce it in the Ontario Legislature for the consideration of Members of Provincial Parliament.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Arnott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "A".

Ted Arnott, MPP
Wellington-Halton Hills

TA:dr

Encl:

Cc Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey
Shawn Watters
Howard Brown



Jim McDonell, MPP/Député
Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry

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April 11, 2017

Hon. Yasir Naqvi
Attorney-General of Ontario
11th Floor, 720 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Honourable Minister,

I had the opportunity to meet with the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects today and had another chance to appreciate the important work their professional members carry out in our community. Landscape architects are an essential contributor to the safety and sustainability of our green and natural infrastructure.

Considering the responsibilities of a landscape architect, it stands to reason that the profession should be governed by a clear and enforceable set of professional standards, accountability and discipline. By implementing such a framework, Ontario would join the majority of US states and encourage other Canadian provinces to bring professional regulation to landscape architecture.

I therefore support OALA's call for your Ministry to consider regulating the profession of landscape architecture on the model of other existing professional public regulators.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JM", written over a large, light blue circular scribble.

Jim McDonell
Member of Provincial Parliament
Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry

CC: Aina Budrevics, Executive Director, OALA



Percy Hatfield

MPP Windsor–Tecumseh



March 9, 2017

Ministry of the Attorney General
11th Floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S9

Dear Minister Naqvi,

I've spent time recently with a gentleman, formerly from Windsor but now living in Toronto. His name is Tim Dobson. From the professional letters after his name; OALA, ISA, CSLA you can tell he's a professional landscape architect. He's also an Urban Designer and an Arborist.

We've discussed the possibility of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects being accorded a Practice Act.

As you know Yasir, they've been after this for quite some time now. To me, it just makes sense. It would allow them to regulate their practice, govern their membership, and I believe it would help protect the public interest.

While we may disagree on policies and priorities in the legislature from time to time, there is no doubt all of us need to work together on issues such as climate change, creating and expanding livable and sustainable communities and we have to find better ways to make our infrastructure projects last longer.

The landscape architects are our partners in these projects. I was one of the homeowners who suffered a great financial loss during heavy rains and flooding last year. Losses in my neighbourhood would have been much greater had the developers not utilized qualified landscape architects when designing our subdivision and our magnificent storm water retention pond.

They want to do a better job. They want more regulation within their industry. I for one support their efforts one hundred per cent.

Thank you for your time Minister.

Sincerely,

Percy Hatfield, MPP
Windsor-Tecumseh

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DAVE LEVAC, MPP
Brant

July 25, 2017

Honourable Yasir Naqvi
Attorney General
720 Bay St., 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K1

Dear Minister Naqvi

This week, I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Aina Budrevics, Executive Director, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects, Mr. Howard Brown, President of Brown & Cohen and Ms. Cynthia Graham, Councillor, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects Council. I was pleased to sit down with them to discuss their proposal that a Practice Act be enacted to regulate the landscape architecture profession in Ontario.

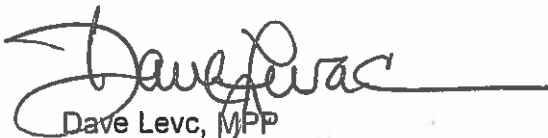
I am in full support of their proposal. The OALA has fulfilled requests from the Ministry regarding their background and I am confident that they can fulfill all future requests.

I hope that their proposal can be accomplished with all party approval, which I understand they have secured. I also believe that landscape architects can play a critical role with municipalities and the Province with respect to climate change.

After you have had an opportunity to consider this matter, I would ask that you kindly respond directly to Ms. Budrevics at the address enclosed on her business card.

Thank you in advance.

Respectfully


Dave Levac, MPP
Brant

Encl

CC: Premier Wynne
Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment & Climate Change
Ms. A. Budrevics, ED, Ontario Association of Landscape Architects
Mr. H. Brown, President, Brown & Cohen

/sp

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CRISTINA MARTINS, MPP

Davenport

Minister Yasir Naqvi
Ministry of the Attorney General
11th Floor
720 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S9

Re: Ontario Association of Landscape Architects, Practice Act

August 30, 2017

Dear Minister Naqvi,

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Davenport, I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA). Founded in 1968, the OALA is the self-regulating association representing the Landscape Architect profession in Ontario.

The Association represents over 1,700 members who are engaged in both public and private practice. The primary objective of the profession is to promote safe and sustainable environments. I would like to specifically express my support for OALA's objective to obtain a Practice Act, which would build on the existing 1984 Title Act. Having this legislation in place would protect the public from unqualified individuals working as landscape architects in Ontario. Notably, Forty-seven U.S. states and the District of Columbia already have a Practice Act in place.

I wholeheartedly support the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects and their wish to have Practice Act legislation enacted. I have had the opportunity to work with them before, and I can personally attest to the merit of this organization. I have taken an interest in this prospective legislation, and hope you too will give it full consideration.

Sincerely,

Cristina Martins
MPP for Davenport
CC: Aina Budrevics, Executive Director OALA



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PETER TABUNS

**MPP/DÉPUTÉ PROVINCIALE
Toronto-Danforth**

Hon. Yasir Naqvi, MPP
Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

July 28, 2017

Dear Minister;

Recently I had the good pleasure to meet with two practicing Landscape Architects who are also Toronto-Danforth constituents, one also an executive member from the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA). This is not my first such meeting with Landscape Architects.

Since 2013 I have been presented, in similar annual meetings, with compelling arguments for the OALA be accorded a Practice Act. Minister, for many reasons I believe this change to be long overdue. The time for action is now.

Climate change is a reality that needs our action on every level to mitigate and adapt our developed landscape. Whether on private land or in the public realm Landscape Architects work with regional, local elected officials, and planning departments to design and implement the land-use components of mitigation strategies and programs.

In addition, landscape architects work with architects to increase the energy efficiency of buildings by strategically placing trees and incorporating green roofs and walls that provide insulation. Landscape architects can work with parks departments and environmental and conservation authorities managing sustainable forests within cities, provincial parks, and rural areas enhancing the long-term capability of forests to serve as carbon sinks. The profession's work is important work, which cannot go unsaid.

To carry on this and other important work the OALA asks for the ability to better regulate its industry. The OALA members are convinced they can substantially improve their professionals' ability to make a difference today and in the future. I agree, and a Practice Act is a large step in that direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Tabuns".

Peter Tabuns, MPP
Toronto-Danforth