

Ontario Association of Architects

Meeting #303 Open

MINUTES

January 22, 2026

The three hundred and third meeting of the Council of the Ontario Association of Architects, held under the *Architects Act*, took place on Thursday January 22, 2026 at the OAA Headquarters, 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto, Ontario and virtually via Zoom.

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|-----------------|------------------------|--|
| Present: | Ted Wilson | President |
| | Lara McKendrick | Senior Vice President and Treasurer |
| | Settimo Vilardi | Immediate Past President |
| | Susan Speigel | Vice President |
| | Thomas Yeung | Vice President |
| | Loloa Alkasawat | Councillor |
| | Donald Ardiel | Councillor |
| | J. William Birdsell | Councillor |
| | Jim Butticci | Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee |
| | Andrew Chau | Councillor |
| | Natasha Krickhan | Councillor |
| | Jenny Lafrance | Councillor |
| | Michelle Longlade | Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee (<i>virtual</i>) |
| | Elaine Mintz | Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee |
| | Angela Panacci | Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee |
| | Anna Richter | Councillor |
| | Nicola Russo | Councillor |
| | Kristiana Schuhmann | Councillor |
| | Ted Watson | Councillor (<i>virtual – part attendance</i>) |
| | Kristi Doyle | Executive Director |
| | Christie Mills | Registrar |
| | Tina Carfa | Executive Assistant, Executive Services |
| Regrets: | Kimberly Fawcett-Smith | Lieutenant Governor in Council Appointee |
| | Deo Paquette | Councillor |

Guests: None

The President called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

The President noted that a land acknowledgement and recognition of the Indigenous land and its people is being shared with Council titled "[Indigenous Guardians – Caring for the Land](#)".

The President welcomed staff and members in attendance at the meeting. The President welcomed new members of Council, Andrew Chau, Angela Panacci and Nicola Russo to their first meeting of Council. Welcomed back by the President for another term on Council were Loloa Alkasawat, Natasha Krickhan, Settimo Vilardi, and Thomas Yeung.

DECLARATION RE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The President called for declaration of any conflicts of interest.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

AGENDA APPROVAL

10013. The President reported that there were no new items to be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Birdsell and seconded by Butticci that the agenda for the January 22, 2026 open meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10014. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Draft minutes of the November 28, 2025 Open Council meeting.

The draft minutes of the November 28, 2025 Open Council meeting were reviewed.

It was moved by Mintz and seconded by Vilardi that the minutes of the November 28, 2025 Open Council meeting be approved as circulated.

-- CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

10015. There was no business arising from the minutes.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

10016. Election of Officers (*oral*)

The Registrar conducted the Election of Officers. The Registrar introduced two staff as scrutineers: Administrator, Licence and Registration, Camelia Bostan and Executive Assistant, Executive Services, Tina Carfa for Council's confirmation.

The scrutineers for the election were confirmed by Council.

The Registrar reported that the following members of Council were nominated to stand for election as President: Natasha Krickhan and Lara McKendrick.

The candidates for President each made a brief address to Council.

The Registrar conducted the election for President.

Ballots were circulated.

The Registrar announced that Lara McKendrick received the majority of votes and as such announced that she had been elected to the position of President.

The Registrar asked Krickhan if she wished to roll down to stand for election to the position of Senior Vice President and Treasurer. Krickhan accepted.

The Registrar announced that Natasha Krickhan and Anna Richter were nominated to stand for election as Senior Vice President and Treasurer.

The candidates for Senior Vice President and Treasurer each made a brief address to Council.

The Registrar conducted the election for Senior Vice President and Treasurer.

Ballots were circulated.

The Registrar announced that Anna Richter received the majority of votes and as such announced that she had been elected to the position of Senior Vice President and Treasurer.

The Registrar asked Krickhan if she wished to roll down to stand for election to the position of Vice President. Krickhan declined.

The Registrar announced that the following members of Council were nominated to stand for election as Vice President: Loloa Alkasawat, Kristiana Schuhmann, Susan Speigel, Settimo Vilardi, and Thomas Yeung.

The candidates for Vice President each made a brief address to Council.

The Registrar conducted the election for Vice President.

Ballots were circulated.

The Registrar announced that Schuhmann, Speigel, and Vilardi received the highest number of votes and as such announced that they had been elected to the position of Vice President

The Registrar and Council congratulated the members of Executive for 2026.

Bostan left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

The President presented the presidential medal to the new President for 2026.

The new President for 2026 presented the President with a commemorative medal.

McKendrick would officially assume office as President following the Council meeting.

10017. Appointment to the Audit and Finance Committee (*oral*)

The report was reviewed by Council

It was moved by McKendrick and seconded by Butticci that architect, Walter Derhak be appointed to the OAA Finance and Audit Committee for a two-year term effective January 22, 2026.

-- CARRIED

10018. Council Appointment to Northern Ontario Electoral District (*oral*)

The report was reviewed by Council.

It was moved by Speigel and seconded by Birdsell that Council approve the appointment of Maxine Blais to the Northern Electoral District Council seat and deemed to be an elected member of Council and shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the member whose office they are appointed to fill.

-- CARRIED

10019. *Reference Materials Reviewed:* Memorandum from Vice President and Chair of the Practice Resource Committee (PRC), Thomas Yeung dated January 13, 2026 re. OAA Document Maintenance – Updates to Practice Tip PT.12 and attached supporting documentation. **(APPENDIX 'A')**

Vice President Yeung reported that further refinements to the Practice Tip are being undertaken based on feedback received from Councillors. Approval of the final Practice Tip was deferred to the March Council meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

10020. There were no items for discussion.

Council broke for lunch at 12:30 p.m. and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

10021. *Reference Material Reviewed:* President's Activities for the months of November 2025 to January 2026. **(APPENDIX 'B')**

The report was noted for information.

10022. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Report from Executive Director, Kristi Doyle dated January 13, 2026 re. Executive Director Report to Council and attached background information. **(APPENDIX 'C')**

A member of Council enquired with respect to the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) and the differences being incorporated.

The Executive Director responded that the mutual recognition agreement between Canada and the European Union was completed a number of years ago and approved by the ROAC member jurisdictions, however, implementation was on hold as approval from the federal government is required as an annex to the CETA agreement. It is acknowledged that there are differences in the requirements for licensure and practice in each of the EU countries. This has been taken into account in terms of the base requirement for eligibility under the MRA for EU architects. In addition, there is a requirement for EU architects to complete the course 'Practice of Architecture in Canada' which was established to meet the requirements.

The MRA is being signed off by the Ordre des architectes du Quebec (OAQ) who will serve as secretariat to the intake of applications.

The report was noted for information.

10023. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Registrar, Christie Mills re. Office of the Registrar Statistical Report to Council – 2025 Year End Review. **(APPENDIX 'D')**

A member of Council expressed their appreciation, in particular Councillor Ardiel for the work undertaken by the Experience Requirements Committee (ERC).

It was noted by the Registrar that the schedule of applications to the Registration Committee remains unchanged and is pending the results of the appeal.

The report was noted for information.

10024. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC) dated January 6, 2026 re. General Update from the Communications and Public Education Committee (CPEC). **(APPENDIX 'E')**

The report was noted for information.

10025. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Governance Committee dated January 11, 2026 re. Update from OAA Governance & HR Committee. **(APPENDIX 'F')**

The report was noted for information.

10026. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from the OAA Building Committee dated January 11, 2026 re. Update from the OAA Building Committee. **(APPENDIX 'G')**

The report was noted for information.

10027. Practice Resource Committee (PRC) – Update (*oral*)

Vice President Yeung reported.

The report was noted for information.

10028. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Immediate Past President and Chair, Settimo Vilardi dated December 18, 2025 re. Update on the Policy Advisory Coordination Team's (PACT) work. **(APPENDIX 'H')**

The report was noted for information.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10029. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Communications Manager, Erik Missio dated January 7, 2026 re. June-December 2025 Operational Plan Update: Communications. **(APPENDIX 'I')**

The Executive Director noted that the semi-annual updates from the team leads provide an in depth overview of the activities over the past six months. It may be noted that the reports demonstrate overlaps and excellent coordination between the service areas.

It was suggested by a Councillor that the Regulatory Notices be posted on the website and the need to login be eliminated.

The report was noted for information.

10030. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Deputy Registrar, Claire Hepburn dated January 5, 2026 re. Annual Update – Continuing Education Service Area. **(APPENDIX 'J')**

The report was noted for information.

10031. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Finance, Melanie Walsh dated January 6, 2026 re. Year-end Operational Plan Update. **(APPENDIX 'K')**

The report was noted for information.

10032. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Chief Operating Officer, Kathy Armbrust dated December 15, 2025 re. Semi-Annual Update from Operations and Human Resources. **(APPENDIX 'L')**

The report was noted for information.

10033. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Information Technology Manager, Abhishek Chaudhary dated January 13, 2026 re. Information Technology Service Area – 2025 End-of-year Report. **(APPENDIX 'M')**

The report was noted for information.

10034. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Policy and Government Relations, Sara Trotta dated December 18, 2025 re. Year End Operational Work Plan Update – Policy and Government Relations. **(APPENDIX 'N')**

The report was noted for information.

10035. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Practice Advisory Services (PAS), Mélisa Audet dated January 13, 2026 re. OAA Service Area Semi-Annual Updates – Practice Advisory Services. **(APPENDIX ‘O’)**

The report was noted for information.

10036. *Reference Material Reviewed:* Memorandum from Manager, Finance, Melanie Walsh dated January 8, 2026 re. Conference 2026 Update. **(APPENDIX ‘P’)**

The report was noted for information.

OTHER BUSINESS

10037. There was no other business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10038. The next regular meeting of Council is Thursday March 5, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at the OAA Headquarters, 111 Moatfield Drive, Toronto, Ontario.

ADJOURNMENT

10039. **It was moved by Alkasawat and seconded by Mintz that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 p.m.**

-- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President

Date