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To All AIBC Members and Associates,

Monday, November 24 was an important step in the ongoing evolution of the AIBC. Close to 300 members, associates and friends of the institute took time out of their busy lives to attend a special meeting. The meeting had been called in response to a small group of concerned members, and while it provided an opportunity for those individual concerns to be shared, it ended up being much more than that.

Some of you came in response to feelings of uncertainty, fear and frustration. Others felt a sense of professional responsibility to attend. Some came out of simple curiosity. Regardless of what got you there, it was the coming together and the sharing of ideas that really mattered.

Despite divergent opinions and differing objectives, the end product was an informative, impactful, two-way exchange. There emerged a clear message that, despite council's best efforts to keep people informed and engaged, our members do not feel fully up to speed with the proposed changes to our governing legislation, and the likely ramifications of that change.

In response, your council has made a commitment to do better. We will give you more information, and create more opportunities for members to both learn and contribute.

Perhaps the most resonate message of the evening was the genuine passion that you have for your profession. In addition, I was extremely encouraged by the widespread recognition of, and commitment to, the institute's core mandate of protecting the public interest. I was also tremendously proud of the thoughtful, respectful way in which the membership conducted itself.

Since 2002, your elected representatives working on behalf of membership have been pushing this legislative rock up the hill. Some have questioned our motivation and intent. I can assure you the motive has been clear and transparent from the beginning: to strengthen the profession and better serve the public through changes to our enabling legislation.

Periodic tinkering has kept an archaic piece of legislation in play for nearly a century, but it can no longer keep up with today's world and a much-evolved profession. The need for new legislation is long past.

The time has also come for a fresh perspective on just what is the "architectural family": Over the years the AIBC has successfully built bridges to allied professions and occupations, a move reflective of the all-encompassing "master builder" origins of the profession. Yes, the addition of

new categories of membership is a significant change for our institute. It is also valid, logical, beneficial to the public, and one that should be embraced rather than feared.

While it would surely be simpler for all, *not changing* is not an option. The *Architects Act*, a product of a different time and reality, no longer adequately serves the profession or the public. As stated, it is council's responsibility to lead in the maintenance and development of the profession in order to keep it strong and healthy for the future. The membership of the AIBC shares in that responsibility.

Even though the legislative change process has been slow and painstaking, success is well within our grasp. As architects, this is what we do. We gather information and formulate a vision. We read and respond to our environment. We solve problems and build consensus. We account for stress, erosion and external forces. We blend form and function. And we create something of lasting value.

Council members came away from this special meeting with many valuable insights, ones that will guide us in the weeks and months ahead. It was not our first meeting on legislative change, and it certainly will not be our last. I truly hope the passion and active participation on display will carry over as we continue to move the profession forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Wilkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David R. Wilkinson MAIBC

President