



July 14, 2020
Our Ref. 119332

Architectural Institute of British Columbia
100 – 440 Cambie Street
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 2N5, Canada

Dear Registrants of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia,

I want to begin by congratulating each of you on the recent 100-year anniversary of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC). During this time, the architectural profession and the AIBC have been critical to building our province and will continue to play a vital role to protect the public and ensure we reach our emissions and Clean BC targets as we build a better BC for the next 100 years.

Over the past three years, Government has shared your concerns about deficiencies identified in the legislation that governs the profession of architecture. Specifically, the *Architects Act* does not provide the legislative tools the AIBC requires, including the lack of a Duties & Responsibilities section, restricted disciplinary options, and static qualification requirements.

At the same time, Government has invested significant resources and effort to create modern professional governance framework including legislation and oversight to provide greater tools and support to other regulators currently under the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)* within the natural and built environment. Recognizing Government's investment in the *Professional Governance Act (PGA)* as the oversight legislation, and the supporting Office of the Superintendent of Professional Governance (OSPG) as the oversight body, and, more importantly, recognizing that the PGA contains all the items that were being considered as amendments to the *Architects Act*, Government will be moving the AIBC from my Ministry to the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) and then transition to the PGA, and the oversight of the OSPG.

I strongly believe this move will enable the AIBC to continue its 100 years of regulation in the interest of the public. This will also provide AIBC with the benefit of modern statutory legislation to better support the profession of architecture. Given the excellent work previously undertaken by the institute, this transition will improve regulation for all architectural professionals and the public they serve, as well as allow the AIBC to continue to be a valued and trusted partner in the built environment. The OSPG will ensure that regulatory bodies have the support required to effectively deliver their mandate.

The move of the *Architects Act* and oversight of the AIBC from the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (MAEST) to the MAG is anticipated to take place in Fall 2020 through an Order In Council. This move will assist OSPG and AIBC to work collaboratively over the next year to prepare the AIBC to transition to the PGA. This work includes development of regulations that will continue provisions in the *Architects Act* that are specific to your profession, and development of AIBC bylaws and procedures that align with PGA requirements. We are hopeful that transition to the PGA can occur in the latter part of 2021, or early 2022, which will allow sufficient time for a smooth transfer. MAEST and MAG and the OSPG will work closely with the AIBC to ensure the transition to modern legislation occurs in a supported, timely and purposeful manner.

Thank you again for all the work you do to build BC and protect the public in British Columbia.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Mark', with a stylized, cursive script.

Honourable Melanie Mark
Hli Haykwhl W̱ii X̱sgaak
Minister