

Scenario 2 – Proper Use of Seal: Potential Clients

Scenario:

An OALA member (with stamp) was approached by a potential client to stamp a drawing prepared by others. This may occur when an individual submits drawings for approval that are rejected by a municipality; because they must be prepared and stamped by a full member of the OALA.

This scenario can occur in a variety of situations including single family homes under site plan approval or multi-unit sites by developers.

The landscape architect declined this arrangement and advised that this would be in contravention of the [OALA Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Practice](#), Section 5.4. Duties to Profession and Members.

5.4.3 A Member with Seal shall use only the seal issued to the Member by the Association and in accordance with the Policy for Use of Seal in Professional Practice.

See Policy in [OALA Handbook Section 13: Use of Title and Seal Policies](#)

Note: The use of a seal serves as evidence that the OALA member who affixed the Digital Seal is a landscape architect in Ontario and that the document so sealed was prepared in its entirety under the personal supervision and direction of the member who affixed the Digital Seal.

This would also be in contravention of By-Law 8.1 b) Custody and Use of Association Seal which states:

- a) A Full Member who has passed all sections of the prescribed examination shall have custody and use of an approved Association seal, the impression of which shall contain the name of the Full Member
- b) A Full Member having custody and use of the Association seal shall use such Association seal to stamp professional documents and plans prepared by such Full Member or prepared under his or her control and supervision or under his or her signature, unless such Full Member be employed in government where the affixing of an Association seal is prohibited or when professional documents and plans are prepared under the control and supervision of another Full Member

Perspective of the Member of the Public:

They have paid for a plan that cannot be used for their submission, and do not wish to pay twice for a similar service.

Discussion:

The OALA member was correct in the understanding that the potential client's request was in contravention of the Code of Ethics, with respect to the production and use of drawings, as well as the use of stamp.

From the perspective of a business decision, lifetime liability, and risk; there could be impacts to the member, as well as to the profession.

The actions on the part of the "stamping" landscape architect demean the value of the landscape architectural profession and the services offered by its members.

Anticipated Actions:

- OALA member may offer to provide a proposal to undertake the work
- OALA member may advise potential client(s) that undertaking site development includes an understanding of the types of professionals needed to satisfy municipal requirements