

## Letters of support from 19 MPPs

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Mike Schreiner, MPP  
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Hon. Minister Doug Downey  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
11th Floor  
720 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

August 14, 2020

Dear Attorney General Downey,

I am writing with respect to a request from the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (“OALA”) for the creation of a Practice Act.

Their ask is timely, due to the physical distancing needs that have come with COVID-19. There is also a need for increased attention to pedestrian safety issues across Ontario.

A Practice Act would allow landscape architects to better regulate their profession, ensure public health and safety, apply an equity lens and protect the public interest. Through the Practice Act, the OALA would improve the ability to regulate their industry and maintain the highest standards.

Landscape Architects have expertise in many important areas such as:

- Knowledge and experience in public health and safety concerns in the built environment, resulting from climate change, providing solutions to flooding, urban heat island effect, and air pollution, which can cause illness or death;
- Design of site grading, drainage and erosion control to ensure slope stability, adequately dissipating stormwater flow, and reducing slip and fall hazards; and
- Creating equity for all people by designing accessible spaces for wheelchairs and stroller access, for the visually impaired and those with sensory challenges.

OALA has been requesting action on this file from this government and the former government since 2016, and I believe we need to resist delaying any further.

I have had a chance to review the letters of support from MPPs Yakabuski, Arnott, McDonell, and others, who are all in support.

I understand that the government has many competing interests right now but I am prepared to meet with you to review their proposal, and appreciate you taking the time to consider this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mike Schreiner

MPP, Guelph

Cc:

Premier Doug Ford

Hon. Paul Calandra

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Honourable Doug Downey  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
McMurtry-Scott Building  
720 Bay Street, 11th floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2S9

SUBJECT: Request for the Ontario Government to introduce a Landscape Architect Practice Act in the public interest

Dear Minister Downey,

I am writing today in support of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects' request for a practice act for landscape architects in Ontario.

Building sustainable infrastructure is vital to our province. Landscape architects enrich our rural and urban landscapes through innovative design solutions for both natural and built environments.

Landscape Architects also foster resilient and livable communities by making streets safer, working with designed systems in public spaces that absorb storm water, cool our cities and connect us to nature.

Forty-seven of the 50 US States have a Landscape Architect Practice Act. It's time for Ontario to take a leadership role in Canada and introduce the country's first act for the profession in the public interest.

As the Official Opposition Critic for the Attorney General, I urge you to consider the OALA's request for a Practice Act in Ontario, and I look forward to reviewing any proposed legislation with other members of Provincial Parliament.

Sincerely,

Gurratan Singh  
Member of Provincial Parliament



# Bhutila Karpoche

MPP / Députée / ལྷོ་ས་ཚོགས་འཕུལ་མི། • Parkdale—High Park

The Honourable Doug Downey

Attorney General

Ministry of the Attorney General

720 Bay Street

11th Floor

Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

June 30, 2020

Dear Minister Downey,

I write to you today in support of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)'s request for a Practice Act.

The OALA does the important work of improving and promoting the profession of landscape architecture in Ontario. Landscape architects are vital in the design and management of both natural and built environments. Using scientific, cultural and political knowledge, landscape architects solve problems related to land-use planning, site design, land development and rehabilitation to maintain healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

In my riding of Parkdale—High Park, landscape architects have contributed to creating public spaces that inspire healthy living and wellbeing. A Practice Act would allow landscape architects to better regulate their profession, ensure public health and safety, apply equity lens and protect the public interest. Through the Practice Act, the OALA would improve their ability to regulate their industry and maintain the highest standards.

I offer my strongest support for the OALA's request for a Practice Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bhutila Karpoche".

Bhutila Karpoche

MPP, Parkdale—High Park



## Official Opposition • l'Opposition officielle

Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

The Honourable Doug Downey

Attorney General

Ministry of the Attorney General

720 Bay Street

11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

2020/04/15

Dear Minister,

The environment has an endless capacity to engage and inspire us. At this time in human history, we can all agree that natural environments should be protected and sustained for the enjoyment of future generations. Similarly, a well-planned, designed, and executed built environment influences us on an aesthetic level. Great streets and public spaces help establish the character and quality of a place, but also promote safety, sustainability, biodiversity, and endure over time.

There are many compelling reasons for the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) to be accorded a Practice Act, including allowing them to regulate their profession, govern their membership, and protect the public interest.

Landscape architects are vital in the management and design of natural and built environments. They use artistic, scientific, cultural, and political knowledge to work with planning and parks departments and conservation authorities to create healthy and vibrant communities while maintaining the natural beauty of Ontario. Landscape architecture inspires us, contributes to the economy, and helps mitigate climate change.

The OALA does important work that impacts us each day and protects us from issues before they arise. They are asking us to help them enhance their capacity and improve their ability to regulate their industry and maintain the highest standards. We could not agree more and wholeheartedly support their request for a Practice Act.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Teresa Armstrong in black ink.

Teresa Armstrong  
MPP London-Fanshawe

Handwritten signature of Terence Kernaghan in black ink.

Terence Kernaghan  
MPP London North Centre

Handwritten signature of Peggy Sattler in black ink.

Peggy Sattler  
MPP London West



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**PETER TABUNS**

**MPP/DÉPUTÉ PROVINCIALE**

**Toronto-Danforth**

The Honourable Doug Downey Attorney  
General

Ministry of the Attorney General 720 Bay  
Street

11th Floor Toronto, ON  
M7A 2S9

July 11, 2019

Dear Minister;

Since 2013 I have been presented with compelling arguments for the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

TED ARNOTT, MPP • WELLINGTON - HALTON HILLS

April 12, 2017

The Hon. Yasir Naqvi

Attorney General

McMurtry-Scott Building, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 720 Bay Street

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.

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,

  
Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills

TA:dr

Encl:

Cc Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey

Shawn Watters

Howard Brown



# JimMcDonell, MPP/Député

Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry

April 11, 2017

Hon. Yasir Naqvi

Attorney-General of Ontario 11<sup>th</sup>  
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 U.S. 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 "Jim McDonell".

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

CC: Aina Budrevics, Executive Director, OALA



# Percy Haffield

MPP Windsor—Tecumseh



March 9, 2017

Ministry of the Attorney General

11<sup>th</sup> Floor

720 Bay Street

Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S9

Dear Minister Naqvi,

I've spent time recently with 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,

H

John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

31st January 2017

Hon. Yasir Naqvi

Ministry of the Attorney

General 720 Bay Street,

11th Floor Toronto, Ontario

M7A2S9 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, 47 states currently have this arrangement. By passing such legislation, Ontario—which has approximately one-half of all professionals in the country—would be a trend setter 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 green spaces, 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 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,



John Yakabuski, MPP  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

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



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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**RANDY HILLIER, M.P.P.**  
Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington

January 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 similarity 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



February 28, 2022

The Hon. Doug Downey  
Attorney General  
11<sup>th</sup> floor, 720 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A S9

Dear Minister:

We are writing to you to express our support for the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) request for a Practise Act. 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.

We have had discussions with OALA's Executive Director, Aina Budrevics, on how this proposed legislation would advance their profession and establish a better professional structure for landscape architects in Ontario.

A Practise Act would allow landscape architects in Ontario to regulate themselves in a similar manner as over 30 other professions in our province. It would also play an essential role in helping the OALA govern their membership, regulate their practise, and protect the public interest.

Landscape architects carry out their profession upholding a code of ethics where public health, safety and wellbeing is paramount. They also make critical recommendations and decisions affecting the feasibility of projects to meet public health and safety standards. In the United States, 47 of the 50 states already have a Practice Act for landscape architects.

In 2016, the OALA launched a campaign to enhance legislation to a Practice Act here in Ontario, and they need the government's support to make this a reality.

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

Sincerely,



John Fraser  
MPP, Ottawa South

Michael Gravelle  
MPP, Thunder Bay-Superior North

Lucille Collard  
MPP, Ottawa-Vanier

Amanda Simard  
MPP, Glengarry—Prescott—Russell

Kathleen Wynne  
MPP, Don Valley West

Stephen Blais  
MPP, Orléans

Mitzie Hunter  
MPP, Scarborough-Guildwood

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