

June 10, 2013

Labour Mobility Roundtable
A Collaborative Letter of Intent on Reciprocity in the Profession

This is to confirm our commitment to helping Canada be recognized for its national reciprocity of the profession of landscape architecture, and to updating and facilitating national agreement through the Canadian Society of Landscape Architecture by June 15, 2013.

We see a convergence of global markets, national policy initiatives and digital technology enabling effective reciprocity agreements on principles for sustained and balanced solutions for professionals in the twenty-first century. It is even more incumbent upon Canadian professionals to work together to balance concerns of labour mobility, professional standards, and local knowledge.

We appreciate that the context includes work by individuals in the profession over the past two decades, provincial labour-mobility agreements in that period, and agreement among different provincial landscape-architecture organizations to consider or accept others' registered members as reciprocity candidates.

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects has prepared a Reciprocity Agreement (CSLA Agreement) which is under review to update for consensus among all provincial organizations. This can provide an important framework document to co-ordinate both information and other resources in matters of reciprocity. We believe the CSLA Agreement can provide an important vehicle to build integrity with other agreements and principles of professionalism. One principle is that of the importance of providing professional standards from sea to sea to sea, and respecting those who work in provincial jurisdictions without the legislative framework or resources to make their voices heard and to be part of the national initiative.

We will proceed under a three-part approach for better defining and understanding working together in reciprocal respect and practice:

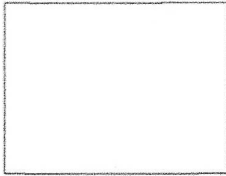
1. Structure:
Legislative Authority; Membership Categories; Application Processes;
Continuing Professional Status, and; Enforcement.
2. Standards:
 - 2.1 Core Competencies [eg. Landscape Architecture Review Examinations (LARE)]
 - 2.2 Local Knowledge: local laws, local language, local customs, and bio-regions.

We believe that this approach will allow for timely reconciliation of the current-state practices across the country, harmonization on an incremental basis as possible, and increased intra-national mobility which respects local conditions. The CSLA Agreement will not resolve any details but can affirm the approach and provide an important process framework to do so, including ongoing updating.

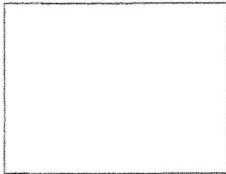
As the profession which defines itself by the interdisciplinary nature of understanding complex problems with diverse economic, environmental and social interests, any reciprocity must respect the critical importance of the local knowledge component. Indeed this is what distinguishes our work and value to the public from most other occupations and professions. The resolution of this balance for respectful reciprocity can now be enabled through digital technologies to facilitate transparent access to standards and information, to promote greater national cohesion and reciprocity of the standards of the profession in the public interest.

Much good work is in place on many details of structural reciprocity (including CSLA) and core competencies (including LARE), so we look forward to a focussed sprint over the next few weeks to reach a national milestone of a clarified structure and way forward for the incremental and continual improvement of reciprocity in the profession of landscape architecture in Canada.

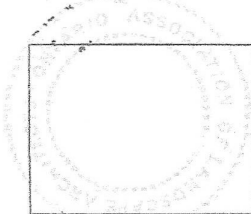
By signing below we acknowledge that we do so in good faith as a consensus of the meeting of April 27, 2013, without the express authority or deliberation of our respective organizations in these matters but in the understanding that the time has come for providing clarity in a way which respects diversity. We look forward to working together and with our component organizations to do so.



AALA Seal



BCSLA Seal



OALA Seal

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