

Backgrounder

The Interior Design Profession in Ontario

Established in 1934, ARIDO is the only self-regulatory association for interior designers in Ontario. ARIDO has more than 1,800 members. Approximately 90 per cent of the profession is made up of small businesses.

In 1984, ARIDO was authorized to set standards and regulate its members under *An Act respecting the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario*. ARIDO's governance model mirrors other related design professions in Ontario, including architects and engineers, except that membership in ARIDO is voluntary. ARIDO has a full-time Registrar and many of the same committees and processes as other regulatory bodies in Ontario.

In 1999, legislation granted ARIDO members the right to the exclusive use of the title "Interior Designer" in Ontario.

ARIDO members, who use the title "Interior Designer," must meet requirements similar to other self-regulated professions in Ontario, including six years of combined education and supervised internship requirements, passing a standardized North American examination (NCIDQ), carrying professional and general liability insurance, adhering to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, and participating in a mandatory continuing education program.

ARIDO members are included in the definition of "designers" under the *Ontario Building Code Act*.

Support for a Practice Act in Ontario

A Private Members' Bill, Bill 121, *An Act Respecting Interior Designers*, was introduced on June 6, 2006. Bill 121 was debated on June 22, 2006. Following a very positive debate, all three parties voted to refer the Bill to the Legislative Subcommittee on General Government.

ARIDO worked closely with MPPs in developing its Practice Act and ensured the support of all parties for Bill 121. ARIDO consulted extensively with a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including the Ontario Association of Architects, the Professional Engineers of Ontario, and the Ontario Building Officials Association, following the introduction of the Bill, ensuring that their concerns were addressed through amendments to Bill 121.

Like many Private Members' Bills, Bill 121 was not passed before the Legislative session ended on June 5, 2007. However, Bill 121 did make it through several important stages with all-party support.