



The Royal	L'Institut	National	Bureau
Architectural	royal	Office	national
Institute	d'architecture		
of Canada	du Canada		



The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) Report to the International Presidents' Roundtable May 5, 2007

Sustainability

Since 2005 the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada has undertaken the following:

- Development and delivery of two additional **Professional Development Courses** for architects in our series Sustainable Design for Canadian Buildings (SDCB) including SDCB 205: *Green to Gr\$\$n- Retrofitting Buildings to Save Energy and Money* and SDCB 305 *Beyond Green: Adaptive, Restorative and Regenerative Design*. The series now includes eight courses.
- Continuing **Advocacy** to the design and construction industry, the general public and to federal politicians;
- Created a new **Green Building Award** in partnership with the Canada Green Building Council and the first award recipient will be presented at this year's Festival of Architecture in Toronto in May 2007;
- Adoption of the **2030 Challenge** (immediate 50 % reduction of energy and carbon neutral buildings by 2030) and dissemination of postcards and fact sheets to members for further distribution to other client organizations, institutions and municipalities in Canada.

Offshore Outsourcing

Generally speaking Canada is a net exporter of architectural services, although some 'star' international architects provide services for significant projects in Canada (usually in affiliation with a local Canadian firm). Some US architectural practices have established offices in Canada. One large Canadian engineering and architectural firm is established in the US, in addition to several smaller architectural firms.

Canadian architects are very active abroad especially in Asia, notably China; the Gulf States; and the United States.

The biggest impact on Canada, from an international perspective, is the immigration of individuals with architectural training and the profession is currently studying ways to better integrate International Architecture Graduates (IAG's) into the Canadian system of licensure.



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Mobility of architects and WTO commitments

The RAIC has been in regular contact with our federal government representatives with respect to the work of the WTO.

On several occasions the RAIC has advised federal government representatives of the work and documents of the UIA. Recently we advised the federal government that the architectural profession supports the proposed policy to provide 'fast-track' temporary work permits for foreign workers within the architectural profession to help ease the professional labour shortages, especially in western Canada.

The RAIC has supported the referenced document; however, we have advised that the architectural profession can only support and sustain **multi-lateral** negotiations with international architectural bodies rather than bilateral discussions. The RAIC, as the professional society, has *facilitated* discussions with several groups including:

- Tri-National discussions between the Canadian licensing authorities (the provincial / territorial associations of architects), the United States and Mexico;
- Architects Council of Europe discussions; and
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Architect Project.

The RAIC continues to support the development of mutual recognition agreements and will assist the licensing authorities where possible. The RAIC will host the APEC Architect Central Council meeting in Vancouver in August 2008.