

CALA/ ROAC

Canadian
Architectural
Licensing
Authorities

Regroupement des
ordres
d'architectes
du Canada

A Committee of:

*Architectural Institute of British
Columbia*

Alberta Association of Architects

*Northwest Territories Association
of Architects*

*Saskatchewan Association of
Architects*

*Manitoba Association of
Architects*

Ontario Association of Architects

Ordre des architectes du Québec

*Architects' Association of New
Brunswick/Association des
architectes du Nouveau-
Brunswick*

*Nova Scotia Association of
Architects*

*Architects' Association of Prince
Edward Island*

*Architects Licensing Board of
Newfoundland and Labrador*

TO: **All Architects and Interns in Canada**

FROM: CANADIAN ARCHITECTURAL LICENSING
AUTHORITIES(CALA)

DATE: July 10, 2013

RE: **Important Update regarding the Canada/US Inter-recognition
Agreement**

Summary:

- On June 17, 2013, a new Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) was signed at the national level between CALA and NCARB.
- Effective date is January 1, 2014 **HOWEVER implementation is contingent on 51% of individual State Licensing Boards and 51% of Canadian Architectural Licensing Authorities becoming formal signatories to the Agreement.**
- The existing Canada/US Inter-Recognition Agreement will no longer apply when the new Agreement comes into effect.
- Notwithstanding the above, CALA has given notice to NCARB of its desire to retire the existing Agreement effective January 1, 2014.
- New MRA is based on Licence/Registration in 'good standing' in home jurisdiction and one year post-licensure experience.

Background:

As you are likely aware, individuals who have written the Examination for Architects in Canada (ExAC) are not eligible for reciprocal licensing with the United States under the existing Canada/US Inter-Recognition Agreement. The current Agreement has been in effect since 1994 and is based on the similarities between the Canadian Internship in Architecture Program (IAP) and the US Intern Development Program (IDP) and completion of the US Architectural Registration Examination (ARE).

Since 2009 CALA's International Relations Committee (IRC) has been working to negotiate a new MRA with the US for Architects. The new MRA respects the introduction of Canada's own professional examination (ExAC) as well as subsequent changes to both the Canadian IAP and US IDP.

Over the next five months, all 54 US jurisdictions and 11 architectural licensing authorities in Canada will be presented with a copy of the new nationally signed MRA and asked to become formal signatories by January 1, 2014. It should be noted that all 11 Canadian jurisdictions have in fact agreed in principle to the new MRA at this time.

Given the consultations that have occurred in Canada with respect to the development of this new MRA and direction given by CALA throughout the process, it is anticipated that all 11 architectural regulators will formally sign on in the next few months. This new MRA will only be available to individuals who are licensed and whose principle place of practice is in a jurisdiction that has signed on to the new MRA.

NCARB has noted that they are fairly confident that they will have at least 30 State Boards prepared to sign on over the next five months. **CALA will provide confirmation of this as soon as possible, or an update if it appears that the required number of State Boards will not be reached by January 1, 2014.**

Notwithstanding the anticipated implementation date for the new MRA on January 1, 2014, CALA, on behalf of the Canadian licensing authorities have indicated to NCARB its desire to retire the existing Canada/US Inter-Recognition Agreement regardless of whether the new Agreement is in place on January 1, 2014. This development was the result of direction given by the individual licensing authorities in Canada due to the growing number of architects (or interns soon to be licensed) that have written the ExAC since 2008 and that are not eligible for reciprocal licence.

The fundamental principles of recognition under the new MRA are Licence/Registration to Licence/Registration plus one year of post licensure experience in the individual's home country. Home Country means either Canada or the United States of America for the purpose of the MRA. In addition, the following will be required: a letter of good standing from the architectural licensing authority in the individual's principal place of practice; a letter of declaration from the applicant attesting to the 1 year of post licensure experience; citizenship/permanent residency in the home country; and a Certificate issued by NCARB. [Click here for a copy of the new nationally signed MRA so you can familiarize yourself with the details.](#)

Finally, the question continues to be asked about CALA jurisdictions recognizing the ARE as meeting the examination requirement in Canada. No universal decision has been made in this regard. If a decision is made to no longer recognize the ARE as meeting the examination requirement in Canada, **a reasonable and appropriate notice/transition period will be announced and implemented.**

This bulletin is intended to update Architects and Interns across Canada and we hope that you will find this useful. If you have any further questions please contact your regulatory body directly.