

NEW CONTRACT FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES: RAIC DOC. 6, 2017 EDITION

The RAIC recently released a new edition of the Canadian Standard Form of Contract for Architectural Services – *Document Six, 2017 Edition* (Doc. 6), a copy of which is available on the RAIC website. It is important to note that, given the variations that exist across the country relative to GST and HST, the new Doc. 6 **redefines construction cost to now exclude value-added taxes**. A new version of The RAIC Guide to Determining Appropriate Fees for the Services of an Architect, with a limited number of changes resulting from the new Doc. 6, will soon be made available. The version posted on the MAA's website will be updated, once the new version becomes available.

With the release of new versions of these standard national documents, the MAA's Practice Committee saw this as an opportunity to remind members of the following:

Why use Document 6?

Standard industry documents are developed with the intent of protecting all parties concerned and Doc. 6 serves the interests of both the Client and the Consultant. Doc. 6 provides an opportunity to identify and address a full scope of basic and/or additional services that might be appropriate for a particular project, while at the same time affording a level of compatibility with all standard industry construction documents, as it relates to the consultant's services.

The RAIC Fee Guideline

The MAA both supports and endorses the RAIC's Fee Guide that has been developed for use in all jurisdictions, on the basis of the level of services both commonly and periodically recognized within all national consultant contracts, national construction documents and the professional standards outlined in the Canadian Handbook of Practice.

Minimum Level of Professional Practice

Inherent with the privilege of a restricted scope of practice under the laws of the province comes the obligation to perform competently, which in part means providing an appropriate level of professional services, regardless of compensation received (refer also to Practice Bulletin A.2). While the MAA has no jurisdiction over what client groups might request, and cannot preclude members from responding to a problematic RFP or entering into a problematic contract, this fundamental principle of ethical and professional conduct, and competence, is clearly acknowledged within the Professional Ethics and Conduct section of the MAA By-Laws, and more specifically Subsection 15.1 (a), which stipulates the following:

"A Member shall be considered competent when s/he performs with reasonable skill and good judgment and in the interests of the public and safety any professional services requiring the application of the art and science of architecture in the erection and completion of structures, their accessories, equipment and utilities. Such services may consist of consultation, investigation, estimating, evaluation, arbitration, planning, design, and the preparation of drawings and specifications, contract administration and inspection."

Every applicant for registered membership is obliged to swear a separate and distinct Declaration confirming that they have become familiar with The Architects Act, MAA By-Laws, Code of Ethics, etc.; **and professionals are obliged to remain current**. The obligation of the MAA under provincial law is to regulate both members and practice, in the interests of the public; and inherent with that obligation comes disciplinary action against those who contravene the professional conduct and ethical standards that are in place.