

March 22nd, 2006

Attention all IDIBC Members:

As you may or may not be aware, there has been some talk regarding the possible merging of IDIBC and AIBC membership principles through a government legislation act. Please let this letter inform you of recent facts regarding this matter. We will address as many concerns as possible over the coming weeks, and we encourage all members to become proactive by keeping themselves up to date and aware of any concerns, questions and news that may arise.

Currently, IDIBC and AIBC are discussing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a basis of communication regarding the merger.

What is an MOU?

Basically, it's an agreement which will acknowledge that the two parties are in negotiations. It is NOT a contract or an incorporation and it does not give titleship to either IDIBC or AIBC – it simply means that both organizations and its members agree to discuss the matter using the MOU as a guideline. We look for your feedback on the MOU, ensuring that all IDIBC members are aware and in agreement to move forward with political negotiations.

The long-term goal of the move is to put Architecture and Interior Design into a possible single, self-governed and self-regulated entity established under the provincial legislation. At present, the government is asking for the Architects Act to be updated and rewritten, and IDIBC has been invited to participate in the definition of the practice of Interior Designer in the new act. It should also be noted that AIBC is currently discussing similar initiatives with other groups involved in the design of the built environment.

In general, what all of this means is that there will be mutually acceptable standards in quality and practice and continued assurance of public safety. It will define our scope as interior designers, protect our work, and prevent practice by unqualified people. It will also set standards in recognizing qualifications, require properly accredited schooling and represent the interests of interior designers and architects to the government. It is not intended to detract from your practice as an interior designer, your income, or your rights as a member of IDIBC. We will continue to maintain our affiliations with other organizations such as IDC, FIDER and NCIDQ.

The move in this direction would continue to affirm the professional commitment, credibility, quality and reputation of the interior designer and the practice of interior design. It is our intention to provide a complete and open dialogue with our members regarding this matter. Please consider what questions or concerns you may have, if any, and visit the IDIBC website for a complete copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for more information. We will also be posting answers to FAQ's.

What is required from you?

Keep yourself informed! Watch your email and visit the website (www.idibc.org)

Inform colleagues, who are not members of IDIBC or AIBC, of what is happening.

We are looking for your feedback on the MOU. Send your questions, comments, concerns to MOU@idibc.org

Regards
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