

Seven Questions with FOAJ Director Gerald Baron

You would be hard pressed to find someone who understands more about the Alberta safety codes system than Gerald Baron. Even fewer can claim his background in construction, local government administration with focus on safety codes and land use development, and administrative justice. On top of that, he is a safety codes officer in three disciplines, as well as a 23 year vet as a municipal volunteer fire department with the last 10 as the Deputy Fire Chief.

Just recently the FOAJ Board of Director earned another impressive milestone: earning all three certificates in Administrative Justice, one of just a handful of Canadians to do so. We sat down with Baron to discuss what this means for the Safety Codes Council and his role as the Council's Administrator of Accreditation.

Who is the FOAJ?

The Foundation of Administrative Justice is a non-profit society dedicated to education and training for the administrative tribunal community.

How did you become involved?

In my previous role as Coordinator of Appeals for the Safety Codes Council (Council), I arranged for FOAJ training for Council members and staff and attended courses myself. I also served, and continue to serve, on the Board of Directors for FOAJ.

How long ago did it take for you to achieve this designation?

It took me five years to complete all three streams of certification – Tribunal Member, Administrator and Advocate.

What is the relation between the Council and the FOAJ?

The Safety Codes Council is a founding member and is an active corporate member of FOAJ. We believe FOAJ provides a much needed service to tribunal members, staff, and stakeholders and are committed to supporting FOAJ.

What value does your participation with FOAJ bring to the Council?

My (our) active participation brings competency and consistency to our processes and keeps us aware of current legal issues and accepted practices in tribunal proceedings and natural justice.

How has the Council benefited from this partnership?

The Council benefits from having a fair and effective appeal process. The real benefactors to this are the appellants and respondents in having sound natural justice processes available.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Information about FOAJ can be found at www.foaj.ca

