

**Transcript: Neil Aitken talks about the process involved in getting landscape architecture recognised as a profession.**

*“Even when graduates came out of the Lincoln stream there was a very deficient occupational class within the public service. It was called the ‘landscape and gardening’ occupational class in which everybody was lumped. And it was clearly tarred with a horticultural brush and had been conceived of by somebody who didn’t know, way back. And so the PSA took the case formally on behalf of the affected people and I was one of the negotiators with State Services Commission.*

*Tony Jackman on behalf of the Institute, by the way, when he was President had written to them years before, lamenting the fact that this hadn’t been addressed. And so it was possibly in the late 70s. We didn’t win all the salary and grading things at the outset but a new occupational class called the ‘landscape architecture occupational class’ was established within the public service, which was a major breakthrough. And for the first time, within the whole range of occupational classifications, it received due recognition in its own right.*

*The one thing that was quite easily addressed was academic and professional parity with other professions. And this then, of course, related to our Institute and the Associate-ship experience and examination process as complementary and subsequent to academic training. They wanted to see, compared with say, architects, engineers and - they were then known as - town planners; how they lined up. And that was addressed, obviously. My recollection is that, in terms of top salaries, we never reached parity with the other more established and accepted professions.”*

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