

Pro-Demnity is reviewing the Final Report of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry

The final report of the inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire, released on September 4, 2024, revealed a series of systemic failures which resulted in tragic fatalities. While the cladding was identified as the principal reason for the rapid spread of the fire, the report highlighted dishonest practices by companies involved in the building's refurbishment, who manipulated safety tests and misled the market. It cited ethical, professional and cultural failures within government, private sector and the construction industry in the UK.

The architect's role could not be overlooked. The report also highlighted their "failure to act in accordance with the standard of a reasonably competent architect," particularly in the selection and approval of building materials. The Judge emphasized, "Architects must pay close attention to the inquiry's findings and recommendations," underscoring the critical role of architectural diligence.

Pro-Demnity is in the midst of this very exercise. We are currently reviewing the report with the intention of offering comprehensive, useful and relevant insights for Ontario architects in the near future.