



TORONTO
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS

September 25, 2019

RE: Climate Emergency and Action

Dear members,

Throughout our history, a defining activity within the TSA has been our role as advocates of the built environment within Toronto and beyond, with the TSA raising its collective voice on issues of design excellence and architectural discourse, but also on economic vitality, social equity, environmental health and sustainability. The climate crisis we face today brings all these issues together and we must acknowledge our collective responsibility as participants in the construction industry and engaged citizens in our communities to not only respond but take action during this climate emergency.

The design, construction, and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, and while the effects of the climate crisis affect every community, they are having a disproportionate effect on already marginalized groups furthering issues of social equity.

While the TSA looks to add its voice to this issue, we also recognize that this is not an issue we as an architectural community can resolve on our own. It will require the collaboration not only of architects, but of clients, developers, consultants, users and politicians to urgently and effectively address this climate emergency – both to ameliorate its effects in the long term and to deal with problems already happening.

On Friday, September 20, numerous architects across the country released the “[Canadian Architects Declare](#)” pledge calling for practices to commit to a number of actions to address the climate crisis. We encourage our members to review this declaration and take these discussions to your practices and communities to see how your firm can respond to this emergency.

On a local scale, the Toronto Society of Architects – in fulfillment of our role as advocates for the built environment and looking for guidance from our members – will be taking our first step on this issue by hosting a members Town Hall to discuss the climate emergency and how can we take action as a profession and community. Our goal with this initial gathering is to engage in a lively conversation and



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work collectively to identify tools, strategies and resources to formulate an action plan that will allow our members, practices and Society to effectively address this emergency. More information on this Town Hall will be released as details are finalized.

The climate emergency requires urgent and sustained action to ameliorate its effects and the TSA is committed to working with our members to ensure we are equipped with the knowledge, resources and skills to do our part to respond to this crisis.

Sincerely,

Maria Denegri
Chair

Megan Torza
Vice Chair

Alana Young
Treasurer