

Andrea Grebnec

Candidate for Regional Chair of the Town of Halton Hills
Halton Region

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on September 20, 2022](#) outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

A: Housing affordability is a large problem in Halton. We have priced housing out of the reach of our own children, which is sad. As a parent of three children, I want housing to be affordable for them to raise their children in Halton and for my children's children to do the same. I believe several levels of government need to work together to solve this issue and I want to be at that table, bringing the right people together to solve it. I understand from talking to seasoned politicians that there have been programs in the 80s that helped build social housing that we should look into resurrecting. I also understand that these programs were tied to the federal government as well as partnerships with service and faith groups. A program like [Indwell](#) may also help. We need housing for all income ranges in Halton so we have the people to do all the things that need to be done.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

A: We need to focus on producing areas where people can live and work; complete neighbourhoods. This should help reduce our carbon footprint. We need to embrace public transit as a primary way to move people around the region. We need to help businesses to provide incentives for employees to use public transit and other modes (active, electric scooters/bikes) of transportation besides the car. Halton is notoriously car-centric. We are also one of the few regions left that hasn't moved to a regional transit system and I want this investigated. At first glance it seems like it would be a positive step for the region. People are moving into the region from Toronto and other places where public transit is the first mode of transportation. They are ready and willing to get on transit

and are disappointed to find that a car is often necessary currently to live and work in Halton region.

I think we should also be encouraging and negotiating the use of low emissions and renewable energy in our build environment. Let's work toward net-zero design; implementation of solar, wind, geothermal technologies as well as energy from waste.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

A: Planning for shared spaces is important. These are areas that should be meant to be inviting for multi-generational use which doesn't seem to be the case in the suburban environment. They are areas that should be useful for decades and more. I am interested in continuous improvement and seeking best practices from around the world and seeing if they will work locally. Let's take a look at what is out there and not re-invent the wheel.