

# Annurag Chawla

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Peel 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:** While housing is a human right, location of that housing is not. We need to encourage more people to relocate to areas outside GTA. And this would require partnership at all levels of government to invest in and build the infrastructure so people are encouraged in other areas too.

**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:** I believe that is something architects can answer with more specificity than the rest of us.

**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:** Enforce bylaws that make it illegal to squat or live in public parks and common areas. Make all new projects designed around human beings --And put all major amenities and services within walking distance of residents.

On the matter of design excellence, that is, again a matter best answered by architects.