

Marc Mantha

Mayoral Candidate in the Town of Gravenhurst
Muskoka 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: There are businesses that would like to locate in Muskoka. When asked about housing for employees, we lack affordable, available housing, a roadblock to stabilizing employment in a district founded largely on seasonal employment. Affordable housing needs to be "affordable in perpetuity". One of our towns in Muskoka is Huntsville, currently developing such a community. It's not new, but new to Muskoka.

I will suggest the first one and half hours of this video of how all that can work at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58BqbU3ZtDc&list=PLuu69qIuJoCUoCIQPMdPljMvOaSWOsp33&index=8> This affordable housing project is well under way and could be the footprint and model for communities across the Municipal District of Muskoka, a solution to the housing gap.

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: Technologies, methodologies and materials are all available to construct these kinds of buildings competitively. Municipalities and their councils have to set the stage and expectations. Town and City "Official Plans" can outline very clear expectations to favour development that mitigates the climate crisis. Adaptation without Mitigation accelerates taxpayer burden, and shortens the timeline to climate demise.

Adaptation must be applied with Mitigation.

Net Zero GHG development is Adaptation. Negative GHG development is the Adaptation with Mitigation.

Private enterprise can be very resourceful and innovative when given a clear scope of expectations.

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: The municipality has to invite and support design excellence. Brilliant, sometimes youthful experts and urban planners exposed to and knowledgeable to this, get frustrated by the traditions of urban planning. Traditional urban planning can be unlearned to everyone's benefit.