

Hi Megan and Ana-Francisca,

**Thank you for this letter and the opportunity to provide you with some input on this issue. I must begin by saying that this is a topic of which I have very little professional experience, so my comments will be of a rather general nature. Nonetheless, I have been involved in the management of local government at both the municipal and provincial level for most of my adult life So I welcome an opportunity to learn more about a facet of local government, which can only increase my skill sets in that regard.**

**If you have read any of my campaign literature you will know that of my top three priorities in this upcoming election, action to mitigate and reverse climate change is number one with me. I have always believed that a strategy to do that must involve as many actions across the board as can be developed by individuals and governments at all levels. It must be a completely comprehensive strategy because the effects of climate change on our planet is very complex requiring inter-woven action across the board. Every possible solution must be discussed, examined and implemented if deemed effective.**

1. 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?

**One of my three priorities is a housing stock in this municipality that is accessible to everyone, current residents and those wishing to move here, regardless of level of income. The supply of both existing residential units, single family dwellings, apartment buildings and condominiums etc, is very limited. In the first 100 days of this new term, I will propose that we undertake a comprehensive review of all policies, including planning and building, which might be amended to enhance and enlarge our housing inventory.**

2. 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?

**In the last municipality that I managed for seven years in Nipissing District I obtained a large federal grant to hire a climate scientist to develop a Climate Change Action Plan to protect the infrastructure and environment in that municipality. Part of our strategy in developing an effective plan was to develop a very significant outreach to other all other government bodies and the general public in the surrounding district. We needed to inform everyone that even the smallest actions, taken together, could have significant positive impacts . Two of our key priorities were i) transportation issues involving how both the personal and business sectors moved about in that District, what infrastructure**

**was available, in order to reduce carbon emissions and ii) ensuring that alternative, less impactful ,energy sources were promoted and made more accessible .**

3. 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.

**This is an interesting and very important component of this issue but one for which I have no specific suggestions. I will be interested to learn ideas which I ,as an elected District Muskoka councillor, can introduce for discussion and preserving and protecting our natural environment which is such a vital asset in Muskoka.**