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Simcoe 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: In Barrie, we must increase housing intensification in areas identified by our official plan relating to new developments and infill projects. We must also speed up the building planning process and hold developers accountable to achieve building milestones.

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: Building intensification (multi-family dwellings) must be prioritized over single family homes. We must also ensure that commercial amenities are within walking distance rather than forcing residents to drive to shop, eat, and do business. Finally, we must plant more trees to capture carbon and provide shade, and encourage green roof plantings to keep buildings cooler in the summer.

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: Municipal planning departments must set stringent design standards and ensure they are followed. Tax dollars must be included in

municipal budgets to maintain shared spaces and to attract visitors to these shared amenities.