

# Sigmund Lee

Councillor Candidate in Richmond Hill, Ward 2  
York 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:** Affordable housing crisis is not something new. It existed for tens of years. It is the failure of our governments at all levels to properly implement a program that will ease this issue. Affordable housing is a result of NOT HAVING ENOUGH high-quality jobs, not enough help provided to those in need, etc. Many of these are the mandate of the provincial and national level governments. The city itself cannot fix the crisis without the help of the province and the federal government. I like to see more housing projects built with funding from other levels of government and the city administering those housing projects.

**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 like to see solar system technology incorporated into the design of all new buildings. The Ontario society of Architects incorporated the SPOTLIGHT SOLAR PERGOLA in their headquarters, and it generated some 40,000 kWh annually. This is one of the many ways to build a net zero building! It also supports a Canadian company with a unique technology that works!

**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:** Space will always be an issue for some cities. Richmond Hill is boxed and there is so much it can do before the

land becomes an issue. If we cannot expand horizontally, we need to expand vertically and ensure we have enough green space for the years to come. We need to look far ahead. Taller buildings may be the answer. But we need to implement it wisely, by matching the needs and service the city can provide and handle.