

Harold MacDonald

Councillor Candidate in the City of Aurora, Ward 3
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: - I would promote public/private partnerships to create additional subsidized housing and rental units. This can be done with partnerships involving multiple levels of government.

- I would also look into what could be done with investment properties in town that are sitting empty and not being utilized.

- Streamlining the process for building basement apartments and/or rental spaces would be another action point.

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: - Looking at retrofitting inefficiencies in older homes and commercial/industrial spaces- appropriate updates that would reduce carbon emissions- would be a first step. Municipal councils would be involved as appropriate.

- Set up committees willing to participate in the changes that would need to happen in the Ontario Building Code and the National Building Code.

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: - Involvement of Landscape Architects during the design stages, coupled with input from the Town Council and

Committees.

- Funds set aside, for the design, construction, and maintenance of the towns civic spaces, as budgets allow.
- As a municipal council, to be certain a project can be properly maintained, prior to its design and construction