

Iain McCallum

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Peel 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 too believe that housing has become unaffordable for most in the region. I believe that developers are entitled to make what ever profit they can but for a developer who is willing to be part of the solution of affordability there should be insensitives such as in development fees and taxes.

Aswell I have been involved with a few of the homeless hotels in Toronto though I thought it was a bad idea at first I have come around to realize this could be a great and quick solution to the homeless issue.

There is good in the fact that this gets people off the street but with no responsibility to help maintain the building it doesn't work long term. With these hotels and other office buildings that are empty now they can be renovated to suit independent living but with responsibility of proper maintenance of the unit and grounds.

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: Climate. I believe that if we are to deal with this it will need to be through incentive not punishment and taxes. Builders can be given benefits to operate more environmentally friendly not hammered on the head with more taxes.

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: Public spaces. I believe that these places are running well at the moment but integrating more in all new development. I would love to see the new immigrants encourage our not so new citizens to get out and use these spaces as when I go to the parks it is nice to see lots more new to the country people than I do the others.