

# Ivy Lee

Regional Councillor Candidate in the City of Markham  
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:** We must maintain awareness as a community that the current lack of affordable, good quality, environmentally sensitive housing is a **crisis**. I believe that elected representatives have a moral obligation to provide caring, thoughtful leadership that will **enable finding and implementing effective solutions to the housing shortage, as quickly as possible**.

I intend to devote substantial time and energy on achieving the goal of providing sufficient good, affordable housing for the people of our community.

One option in particular that I believe requires serious consideration is housing co-operatives.

**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:** Protecting the environment is essential to protecting human life. I believe that the buildings in which we live, work and play must be good for our health (physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual) and also the well-being of the air, water, land, fauna, and flora.

We must be vigilant to prevent and end the use of harmful building and operating materials and practices, and remain informed on better alternatives.

What surrounds our buildings also is important:

we must prioritize planting and maintaining trees.

**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:** Elected representatives have a responsibility to protect and maintain our shared resources, especially our streets, parks, and libraries. As a councillor, I would be watchful for unfavorable conditions, help keep my colleagues aware of any areas needing action, and ensure these issues are handled as high priorities.