

Toronto Society of Architects

Questions

1. 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?

-Increasing homelessness and struggling to meet rent deadlines is a central problem in the GTA, which has plagued many residents to date. A very effective policy that we can put in place is subsidised housing. We do have some projects in place for housing subsidiaries to assist low income residents with housing issues. But this service is not readily available. Using Peter Hall's Policy Paradigms framework, we can dissect and analyse why we are not meeting our goal for housing low income residents and homeless individuals. Essentially, the policy process has three variables to its making, the goal, the instruments, and the settings. So for our topic of interest, our goal would be the elimination of homelessness and assisting low income individuals with housing, our instruments would be subsidised housing, and our settings would be measures of eligibility for subsidised housing. What we need to do is change certain aspects of this basic foundational policy process. We need to expand our instruments and create more subsidised housing projects, as well as other initiatives to get less fortunate people back onto their feet. Our settings around these instruments should also be expanded for greater eligibility for subsidised housing. I believe as a City Council candidate from Vaughan Ward 1 that housing is a fundamental human right that should be provided for individuals who do not have the means to provide for themselves. By helping others and giving them a foundation to build upon, we can create a better community for all people, not just individuals who are monetarily fortunate.

2. 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?

-The construction and operation emission contribution is a huge problem and a primary contributor to the climate crisis. What we can do for current buildings to reduce their operational carbon emissions, is that we introduce energy efficient ways of operation. Whether that be through the increase used of solar and nuclear energy, there are many efficient ways to reduce the carbon footprint of operational buildings.

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3. 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?

-It is extremely important to have public spaces in our city, area, and neighborhoods, where we can interact with one another without any hassle. And a fundamental precursor to that would be the use of walkable and bikeable spaces in the initial conception of city planning. Walkable cities and neighborhoods are a great way to reduce carbon emissions and traffic congestion. With a heightened use of public transport such as trams, busses, and subway

trains, we can achieve design excellence by creating an easily accessible city area, without the harmful aspects of a car centric society.