

Directed To: Toronto Society of Architects

I would like to thank you for this wonderful opportunity in assisting me to instill my vision of my leadership as Mayor, through your organization. It really puts my vision of stabilizing our current city building approaches into perspective and helps instill my vision of the new possibilities I would like to create & put forward within our City concerning our infrastructure, parks, roadways, housing, & much more, within the City of Vaughan.

The following are my responses to your questions indicated below:

**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?**

**Parveen Bola:** Action needs to be implemented on a municipal level concerning affordable housing plans to be developed in some of our areas as part of the National Housing Strategy. Other strategies can also be done to lower costs associated with housing which can be accomplished through multiple processes as well, however much needed federal & provincial jurisdictional governance is needed regarding lowering our housing costs. Furthermore, there are many federal & provincial policies already in place to assist with housing in our municipalities. These policies include, lowering costs associated with homes, building more affordable housing, reducing mortgage related costs, and much more. Increasing awareness about these policies is also important as many Canadians may not know that they can take advantage of these policies to help with their overall costs in buying a home.

Furthermore, we are, however, beginning to see some houses on the market that are gradually beginning to lower in costs associated with its purchase price. Builders are usually private and the costs of the homes are usually dependent upon the economy within the area. Rental costs are also at a high, thus if costs are lowered within the area, there may be lowered costs in the purchase price of homes or rental properties, projected in the future. Some Municipal candidates have offered unrealistic ideas regarding attainable housing that cannot be achieved on a Municipal level with unattainable plans to lease to own homes, however, that is actually already done through mortgage plans. Homeowners seek mortgages to pay for their household to own them at the end of the day. Realistically, we need to determine methods in which we can provide public assistance to ensure that everyone has a home in the near future.

Municipalities across the Country have been provided with the opportunity to provide social housing to our residents. That is dependent on the leadership of the Municipalities. Some candidates do not want to be a part of this, but I will work towards accomplishing this goal for our City because our City's census is a direct representation of our areas, Our census has determined that about 70% of our population within the City of Vaughan is not a direct homeowner (Statistics Canada, 2021). With this, my goal as Mayor is to create affordable housing projects with our Government and provide land in our Municipalities to develop these homes, to serve seniors, younger populations, veterans, recent immigrants, marginalized populations, and much more. Most younger adults live with their parents, immigrants house with their friends & family, and senior residents are housing with their children.

Marginalized populations might not even have the opportunity to own a home or do not even conceptualize this as they likely have other costs building up as a result of their mental health status, physical ability, and/or socio-economic status. Policies on obtaining land to implement & execute plans on developing affordable housing within our Municipality is my goal and I believe this is what we need to focus on now. These are the issues & challenges my leadership will put forward, prioritize & overcome together for our City, so that everyone has the ability to buy a home.

**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 prioritized to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?**

**Parveen Bola:** Cities can ensure that our Greenbelt areas are protected under legislation as our green spaces keep us healthy as humans and provide us with fresh water, clean air, and local food supply. I believe there needs to be increased awareness of how carbon emissions actually contribute to the overall climate change on a global level. Carbon emissions from the production of built environments can be subject to new inventions that can reduce carbon emissions in communities in the near future. Creating new inventions of products and projects, such as, creating power plants that can reduce carbon emissions and deliver clean air and provide clean energy to our residents on a federal & provincial level would be something we can explore in the future to address extreme carbon-related concerns. However, with built environments, addressing the carbon emissions from the processing of construction materials can be explored in which we can create new infrastructure from deep carbon retrofit strategies and build new areas that will provide us with zero-carbon buildings. New designs, construction, and operation of materials based on deep carbon retrofits will enable our environments in reducing the overall carbon emissions that are normally produced and resulted from usual construction and development.

**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?**

**Parveen Bola:** I love what our City has achieved thus far with its infrastructure and its overall beauty, but I would like to see more areas in the City of Vaughan developed in which we can provide civic spaces so that our communities can come together to live, work, and play. Design excellence is achieved through effective workmanship & architectural designs. Planning is a key step and I believe our City has done a wonderful job in creating some areas within the Region of York. Design excellence is achieved through creating & building areas that are durable and functional but also looks appealing to the environment and its residents as well. The beauty of the City gives significance to its overall structure and environment that positively influences our residents to keep it clean and also welcomes new residents to come and reside in as well. The goal is to keep up with new developments by ensuring our environment and its green space are protected & maintained, but also developed to maintain new & healthy communities by incorporating zero-carbon designs & planning for builds. It is also important to ensure that new developments have resilience and durability for continued maintenance to serve our

future generations in the long run. We also have to remember that maintaining our infrastructure is also costly and takes from our taxpayer money. Thus, durability of new construction and developments needs to be strong and is hugely significant in addressing the issues present with lowering our taxes in our City overall so that less money from our taxes can be put towards maintenance fees around our City.

#### References

Statistics Canada. 2022. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released September 21, 2022.

<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Parveen Bola', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Parveen Bola**

**Dated & Signed: October 1, 2022, by Parveen Bola - via [parveen.bola@proton.me](mailto:parveen.bola@proton.me)**

**Mayoral Candidate - City of Vaughan**

**Innovation is at its peak. Vote for stability, innovation, prosperity & sustainability!**

[www.voteforparveen.ca/](http://www.voteforparveen.ca/)

***All proposed political strategies, written literary work, recordings, & publications in response to the position on Issues of the Built Environment for the Toronto Society of Architects © October 2022 by Parveen Bola, All rights reserved.***