

Steve Anderson

Deputy Mayor Candidate in the Town of Shelburne
Dufferin County

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 believe that the government has several actionable steps to take to address this issue: First, I believe that provincial government should re-instate the freeze on the landlord's ability to raise rent. This was done during the height of the pandemic, and I believe this should be extended until we see inflation brought under control and the stabilization of prices across various sectors. Second, both the province and the federal government need to take steps to build more affordable rental properties (which can include geared-to-income) across the GTA. With more housing stock, I believe this will also help to stabilize rental prices. Lastly, the government must strictly crack down on landlords who are forcing people to move from their premises so that can eventually increase the rates for the new tenant. I believe the Rent Stabilization Act proposed by a group of NDP MPPs will go a long way in addressing rent affordability.

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: First, the declaration that there is a climate emergency. This will create the needed focus and allocation of resources to address and reduce carbon emissions. When it comes to design and construction in the built environment, I believe an immediate move to mainstream net zero carbon standards to achieve greater awareness, innovation, improved processes to calculate, track and report carbon. Promote renovation instead of demolition and creating a circular business model that reduces the reliance on carbon intensive raw materials. Work with developers to consider voluntary reduction targets followed by meaningful legislation across all levels of government.

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: I believe that it is important that municipalities make it a requirement to engage key climate change stakeholders, organizations representing those with disabilities, Architects and obtaining general community feedback before construction begins. This will ensure that the design and construction will meet environmental target reductions and the diverse needs of the community for years to come.