

DIONNE Renée

Toronto Mayoral Candidate

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to [a letter sent by the Toronto Society of Architects on May 16, 2023](#) outlining four 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: As Mayor, I allocate the appropriate budgets prioritizing our needs under my State of Emergency Measures which includes my Mandatory Mitigative Measures.

State of Emergency Measures in Toronto

1. Declare #accessibleHousing & homelessness an emergency; declare housing a right
2. Declare accessible, reliable #farefreeTTC an emergency
3. Acknowledge, re-establish, declare our mandate & priorities to end the climate crisis and act on it
4. Declare accessibility and disability rights an emergency
5. Declare Mandatory Mitigative Measures in centering, acknowledging & addressing outstanding issues impacting the lives of people living in Toronto

Mandatory Mitigative Measures

Concerned with duty of good faith obligations and actions that ensure our collective ability to live. thrive. be.

Mandatory questions & requirements:

- a) Do no harm to people & the planet
- b) Have you responded with care & diligence in a timely manner?
- c) Have you done what you're obligated to and/or required to do?

Care Standards & Mandatory Measures:

a) Are complaints outstanding?

What is/are the complaint(s)?

b) Are concerns outstanding?

c) When did you address concerns?

d) What actions were taken to address concerns?

e) Is _____ satisfied with the outcome


1. Centering Community & prioritizing Community wellness

- Community Care Teams & Services
- Accessibility
- Architecture, design, infrastructure engagement
- Nature, urban environment, natural landscape
- Establish living income & dividends portfolio and budget

2. City-Owned-Build-Our-Own

- build. build. build.
- accessible housing & Tenancy
- Broadband network (universal wifi) & Toronto app
- vertical organic farms & nature oases
- Arts engagement, entrepreneurship, education, enterprising, promotion
- STEM engagement, entrepreneurship, education, enterprising, promotion
- Signatory Partnerships
- Community Care Teams
- Accessible architecture, design, infrastructure, engagement
- #farefreeTTC network expansion & manufacturing facilities


3. City Council Accountability & Engagement Standards

Ubuntu: humanity; I am because we are. Together we succeed! 

- representing with care
- responding with compassion & proactive solutions
- app: streamlines voting, voting records, responses, interaction & Community engagement
- Electoral reform

4. No guns.

5. Living Income

Vote D!ONNE Renée on Election Day for Mayor of Toronto! to ensure our collective ability to live. thrive. be.
Together we succeed! 

Please review the description and more section within the links of my “Toronto Election 2023 Playlist”
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=sNkY2Bm8Ark&list=PLL-C7--UsEuXxkQ1eso_SDH3cbYapwV79&index=30&pp=iAQB

#accessibleHousing platform since 2014

My definition:

<https://twitter.com/OnElectionDay/status/1583963839124897792?s=20>

Accessible housing means: shelter, aka a dwelling place, that is

1. accessible to physically get into and out of, live in and be without distress or harm and in terms of universal accessibility and universal design;
2. affordable (within a sustainable budget that leaves comfortable room to afford living, food, clothing, transportation, savings and emergencies);
3. within close and navigable proximity to grocery shopping, parks (trees are essential to life), amenities and services including transit, and Community life.

Platform

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=fk64-nuFU_Y&list=PLL-C7--UsEuXxkQ1eso_SDH3cbYapwV79&index=4&pp=iAQB

Accessible Housing Policy Solutions Portfolio

<https://twitter.com/OnElectionDay/status/1566478678388793344?s=20>

<https://twitter.com/OnElectionDay/status/1580348513866522624?s=20>

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: Education and action. Toronto must set Platinum LEED standards and be the example of these standards through our City-Owned-Build-Our-Own builds and infrastructure, within the built environment. We know there is a climate crisis therefore radical change is a must to reduce carbon emissions.

We pay for what we prioritize. The climate crisis is a state of emergency. Our global efforts to effectively address our contributions and footprint to this crisis is part of my Mandatory Mitigative Actions addressing categories within our State of Emergency portfolio.

Under my Leadership as Mayor, we lead with Platinum LEED standards. We set the bar in Toronto for building and design and welcome others to surpassing our standards.

Covid has caused more people to be aware of the need to have architecture with state of the art HVAC systems and transparency in ventilation systems, CO2 sensors with readable displays confirming proper ventilation, and regular maintenance.

Our actions must be intentional in our builds.

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: Intention. We start with deliberate intentional universal design and the maintenance thereof. In fact, the impact of all design is with or without universal thought and the affects thereof are experienced consciously and/or unconsciously.

People with disabilities, Seniors, Little People and people travelling with family, particularly those amongst us with mobility challenges, are acutely aware that historically the world wasn't built for us. Accessibility, including

cognitive influences, wasn't part of the thinking in many public use built design. Ableism and white supremacy are the foundation of all barriers in Canada and Toronto. Design always reflects who it was created for. History holds #receipts.

It's 2023. There is no excuse for failing to ensure accessibility. None.

Universal design must include cultural, cognitive, creative competencies that exude welcoming, engaging spaces. As Dr. Christina Sharpe so delicately ascribes to being, beauty is praxis. Read Sharpe's extraordinary book, "Ordinary Notes" to understand perspective, perception, presence.

Review these articles for more insight

Racism in Design

<https://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/14844-architecture-and-racism-a-conversation>

Disability justice Design

<https://www.gsd.harvard.edu/2021/02/designing-for-disability-justice-on-the-need-to-take-a-variety-of-human-bodies-into-account/>

Architecture's influence on the public environment and our thinking

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348577731_Cognitive_and_perceptual_influences_of_architectural_and_urban_environments_with_an_emphasis_on_the_experimental_procedures_and_techniques

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330162516_Cognitive_Architecture_Designing_for_How_We_Respond_to_the_Built_Environment

This Is Your Brain On Architecture (read these articles and others under this search sentence)

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/this-is-your-brain-on-architecture>

<https://www.archdaily.com/876465/how-architecture-affects-your-brain-the-link-between-neuroscience-and-the-built-environment>

"Beholding beauty: U of T scientist decodes how your brain reacts to architecture"

<https://www.utoronto.ca/news/beholding-beauty-u-t-scientist-decodes-how-your-brain-reacts-architecture>

Q4: Toronto's modern architectural heritage is at risk, with both the redevelopment of Ontario Place and the potential demolition of the Ontario Science Centre jeopardizing some of the most important architectural landmarks in the country. Other modern buildings, including city-owned properties, have been left to decay with inadequate maintenance. What measures will you take as Mayor to protect, preserve and revitalize our city's 20th century built legacy?

A: History holds receipts. If you know of me, you know that I'm of the people, by the people, for the people. I centre and advocate with and for the Public. I'm who we've been waiting for, the Mayor Toronto needs. I'm Community wellness focused, smart, creative, innovative, insightful, empathetic, energy efficiency minded and solutions oriented, tenacious and don't back down at the first sign of opposition. I don't tolerate bullying. I've always stood up to bullies forcing them to retreat. Your vote empowers me with the tools necessary to protect our collective rights and interests— including dealing with bullies to preserve our assets and to protect our city. I'm relentless about justice, equity, fairness. With your vote, I will ensure we get what we need and keep our assets public.

The mindset is government works for you.

As part of my City-Owned-Build-Our-Own mandate, financing proportional to need will be in place to ensure maintenance of all structures, services, developments. What we prioritize, we pay for.