

Mitchell Toye

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: I believe we need to use our budget effectively through aggressive vacant homes taxes, Fiorello La Guardia style corruption investigation into contracts and REIT influencing politicians, I also believe an Emergency Shelter & Supplies System (ESSS) and People Over Profit (POP) systems will effectively aid in those on the streets. To elaborate, we need democratic control by Tenants and Workers. By seizing unused and under-utilized spaces that are failing AirBNBs, regulating out-of-existence short-term rentals, and expropriating large landlords will be incredibly useful. Short-term measures include TTC stations as 24/7 support shelters, expansion and development of Community Centres as Emergency Hostels, and seizing of all foreclosed but structurally stable property. This needs to be led with evidence-based systems for a goal of a Vienna-model housing system (80%, 20% private) as well as being led by coalitions of Architects, Engineers, Ecologists, and Indigenous representatives and Experts.

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: Waste is a philosophical enemy. Many candidates do not understand the water & food waste our under-utilized greens-spaces generate. Nor do they understand that we have some of the greatest artists, designers, and civil engineers in the world rotting away on their potential. We need to fully fund a Just Infrastructure Transition. We're speaking of Vertical Farms, ever-present Renewables, Roundabouts, as well as Landbridges for animals to cross

highways. We need to see how the world progresses, such as Seoul, SK's Cheonggyecheon restoration. Overall, we need to not hesitate or push away the inevitability for a Carbon NEGATIVE Toronto.

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: Accessibility, Sustainability, and Efficiency. We need public washrooms, public water fountains, fully funded free public transportation, and ethical incentivization of waste-free efficient construction. No more corrupt contracts for organized crime, where 1 person uses a shovel as 5-10 watch. We have seen other countries decimate construction inefficiency by rewarding time in-between contracts with paid training and relaxation in construction offices. We need to reward workers for being inventive, efficient, and sustainable.

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: Architect/Engineer/Community-led redevelopment, retrofitting, and restoration. We must not erase our history, achievements, or city-owned properties with slow decay into selling them off to the private industries of our friends *cough* Ford *cough*, but rather fund them and show the world we can set a standard to strive for in the year 2023 and onwards. This means developing a City Charter and having Community & Evidence-based legislation on public development, an expansion of heritage qualifications, and a guaranteed maintenance and retrofitting program to make sure none of our architecture becomes a Carbon Spewing mess. This includes having much more access to rooftop gardens and more 'third places' that will not cost residents or tourists money to visit.