



**RAIC | IRAC**

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
Institut royal d'architecture du Canada

<date>

<address>

**Subject: Federal Leadership on Climate Action, Housing, and the Built Environment**

Dear <leader name>,

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) represents architects and architectural professionals across the country who are dedicated to advancing design excellence and sustainable, equitable, and resilient communities. The built environment is at the heart of many of Canada's most pressing challenges, including climate change, housing affordability, and infrastructure resilience. Addressing these issues requires forward-thinking policies that integrate architecture, planning, and sustainable development principles.

With the April 2025 federal election approaching, we seek to understand your party's vision for Canada's built environment and how architecture and urban design will be leveraged to meet our country's sustainability, housing, and infrastructure needs. Architects are essential partners in delivering climate-resilient communities, innovative housing solutions, and public spaces that serve all Canadians.

We invite your party to provide responses to the following key questions on behalf of the architectural community:

**1. Building Climate Resilience**

How will your party ensure that Canada's cities and communities are designed to withstand the increasing risks posed by climate change, including extreme weather, rising temperatures, and infrastructure vulnerabilities? What role do you see for architects in implementing climate adaptation strategies?

**2. Sustainable Housing and Affordability**

Canada is in the midst of an urgent housing crisis, with affordability and sustainability at the forefront of public concern. How will your party support the rapid scaling of housing supply while ensuring new developments meet high environmental and livability standards? What specific policies will be introduced to incentivize sustainable and affordable housing solutions?



**RAIC | IRAC**

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
Institut royal d'architecture du Canada

### **3. Low-Carbon Infrastructure, Regenerative Development and Design, and Energy Transition**

Public infrastructure plays a significant role in shaping Canada's emissions profile and energy efficiency. How will your party prioritize investment in green building design, low carbon construction, regenerative development and design, and climate-conscious retrofits of existing infrastructure?

### **4. Mobility, Urban Density, and Transportation**

Sustainable cities rely on smart urban design that integrates transit-oriented development, walkable neighborhoods, and efficient mobility systems. What measures will your party take to support active transportation, improve public transit, and reduce dependence on carbon-intensive infrastructure while enhancing affordability and accessibility?

### **5. Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction**

With climate-related disasters such as floods, wildfires, and heat waves becoming more frequent, how will your party strengthen federal policies on disaster resilience in the built environment? What steps will be taken to ensure that new and existing developments incorporate resilient design principles?

### **6. Equity in the Built Environment**

Sustainable development must also be inclusive. How will your party ensure that federal policies on housing, infrastructure, and urban development address the needs of Indigenous communities, low-income Canadians, people with disabilities and others from historically underrepresented groups? How will your party collaborate with the architectural profession to foster inclusive, accessible, and culturally responsive design solutions?

### **8. Procurement Reform and Quality-Based Selection**

Public procurement policies have a significant impact on the quality and sustainability of Canada's built environment. Will your party commit to implementing **Quality-Based Selection (QBS)** as the standard for public-sector procurement of architectural and engineering services, ensuring that design excellence, sustainability, and long-term value take precedence over lowest-cost bidding? How will your party support reforms that enhance fairness, transparency, and innovation in government procurement processes?

### **9. Fair Compensation for Architects and Design Professionals**

Ensuring fair compensation for architectural services is crucial to maintaining high design standards and fostering a thriving, innovative profession. How will your party address issues of underfunded public projects and inadequate compensation structures for architects and other design professionals working on federally funded initiatives? What measures will be taken to promote fair remuneration and recognition of architectural expertise in shaping Canada's built environment?



## RAIC | IRAC

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
Institut royal d'architecture du Canada

The RAIC believes that a well-designed built environment is fundamental to a thriving, sustainable, and resilient Canada. We look forward to hearing how your party plans to integrate architecture and urban sustainability into your policy agenda.

We kindly request a written response by April 18, 2025, so that we can share this information with our members and the broader architectural community. Please direct responses to Giovanna Boniface, Chief Commercial Officer at [gboniface@raic.org](mailto:gboniface@raic.org).

We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mike Brennan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
[mbrennan@raic.org](mailto:mbrennan@raic.org)  
<https://raic.org/>

Jonathan Bisson  
President  
Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
[president@raic.org](mailto:president@raic.org)  
<https://raic.org/>

Cc: Giovanna Boniface, Chief Commercial Officer [gboniface@raic.org](mailto:gboniface@raic.org)