



**RAIC | IRAC**

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

Sean Pander, Green Building Manager  
Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability | City of Vancouver  
City Hall, 7th Floor  
453 West 12th Ave,  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

April 23, 2019

Dear Mr. Pander,

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) and its Committee on Regenerative Environments (CORE) commend your team and the City of Vancouver for outlining an ambitious plan for addressing the climate change imperative in *Building Retrofits for Deep Carbon Reductions* and the *Climate Emergency Response Report* going to city council on April 24, 2019.

The science is clear that climate change is real, and we know that technologies exist today to mitigate and curtail local and global greenhouse gas emissions. We have a decade or less to act to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

The architecture, design, and construction industry plays a critical role in responding to this challenge. While buildings are responsible for nearly 40 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, many opportunities exist to mitigate emissions in building retrofits, and through the procurement of low embodied carbon building materials.

The *Building Retrofits for Deep Carbon Reductions* recommendations for programs to advance building retrofits, ongoing support of the Heritage Energy Retrofit Grant program, and essential short-term actions are important in accelerating positive change locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Climate Emergency Response Report's recommendations for further research and development of the "6 Big Moves" will also help the city build climate resilience.

Speaking on behalf of the RAIC Board of Directors, members, and the communities we serve, we believe the recommended actions are necessary for the future of our cities and hope Vancouver's mayor and city council endorse the next steps outlined in these critical reports.

Sincerely,

Mike Brennan  
RAIC Chief Executive Officer

Mona Lemoine, Architect AIBC, MRAIC  
Chair, RAIC CORE