

NDP Response: Royal Architectural Institute of Canada

Question: What is your strategy to address climate change and holistic health through Government of Canada buildings and projects? How would you harness the capacity of Canadian architects and others working in design, construction, and procurement of the built environment (public and private sectors) to address climate change?

As the effects of the climate crisis get worse and cities continue to deal with floods, fires, and other natural disasters, it will become increasingly important to ensure our infrastructure is built to withstand these crises. That's why a New Democrat government will expand federal funding to respond to disasters, and support communities in proactively adapting their infrastructure to withstand floods, forest fires, and other extreme weather events. We will also partner with Canadians and communities to make serious investments in making buildings more energy efficient, helping families save money and fighting climate change. Architects will play an essential role in the design, construction, and procurement of modern buildings.

Question: What is your plan for improving living conditions for Indigenous people, and how would you give agency to Indigenous groups and indigenous architects over their communities?

New Democrats believe that everyone in Canada should be able to find a safe and affordable place to call home. No one in this country should be forced to live in housing that makes them sick, but thanks to decades of failure by the federal government, that's exactly what's happening to Indigenous families in communities all across the country. The Liberal government's failure to help people has left communities with long waiting lists for housing, and overcrowded, dilapidated homes. The mold crisis continues to harm people's health and chronic overcrowding is hurting people in Indigenous communities across the country. It's time to end the housing crisis for good with safe and affordable housing in every Indigenous community, on and off reserve. New Democrats will address the Indigenous housing crisis and put an end to chronic overcrowding and long-wait lists by working with Indigenous communities to implement co-developed First Nations, Métis, and Inuit housing strategies. These innovative, ground-up strategies will mean sustainable and dedicated funding to meet the needs of Indigenous peoples, whether in urban, rural, or remote communities.

Question: How would your party fix procurement to develop Canadian expertise for a sustainable and prosperous future?

Procurement policies are one of the easiest places for governments to show leadership and put their money where their mouths are when it comes to their values. Governments spend billions of dollars a year on infrastructure, supplies and services, fleet vehicles, and everything in between. Instead of ensuring that public dollars went to benefit the public and everyday Canadians, decades of Liberal and Conservative governments have made helping their friends and big corporations their only priority. New Democrats will do things differently and we'll always ensure we're putting people first. We'll review the federal procurement system to ensure that, wherever possible, federal government processes are designed to encourage Canadian bidders and the use of community benefit agreements will ensure that Canadian suppliers and local workers benefit first. We'll also introduce an ethical social and environmental screen on government procurement and will lead by example and procure from Canadian companies producing clean technology whenever possible.