

KPMB

28 June 2021

Chair Ana Bailão and Members of the Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5G 1P5

Chair Bailão and members of the Committee:

On behalf of KPMB Architects, I am writing to express our support for the adoption of Version 4 of the Toronto Green Standard. We urge the Committee to support the motion to Toronto City Council.

KPMB Architects has been a leading Canadian architecture practice for over 30 years. Over this time, we have worked diligently to promote sustainable building practices in our projects. Indeed, one achievement we are particularly proud of was when a building we designed, the new headquarters for the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, became the first in Toronto to be certified LEED Platinum.

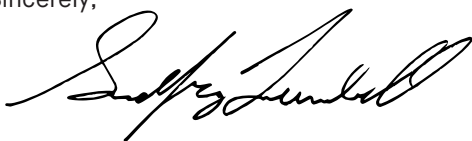
Our industry is at the beginning of a decade of transformation. Financial markets are recognizing that climate risk is investment risk. Progressive jurisdictions are enacting meaningful regulations to address greenhouse gas emissions in the building sector. Young people, having seen Greta Thunberg on social media, are asking their parents what they're doing to fight climate change. These forces are combining to create a moment of transformation that will change the way we build buildings – for the better.

The Toronto Green Standard is one of the most effective tools we have as architects to push for increased sustainability in our built projects. The measures outlined in Version 4 of the Standard will result in better buildings that afford higher-quality interior environmental conditions, increased resilience, and fewer greenhouse gas emissions. This is good for building owners, building occupants, and the citizens of Toronto.

Beyond the benefits to building owners and occupants, continued adoption of the 4-year regulatory steps elucidated in the Zero Emissions Framework will encourage the design and construction industries in Ontario to innovate. As architects working across Canada and the US, much of our stiffest competition now comes from European firms for whom the kinds of measures dictated by the Toronto Green Standard are commonplace. Having the energy and emissions standards in TGS v4 become the status quo in Toronto will have a direct, positive impact on our ability to compete in a global marketplace.

The objective, tiered performance metrics outlined in the Toronto Green Standard establish a clear and achievable expectation of performance for all parties in the building industry in Toronto. Further, they are consistent with the level of ambition elucidated by other forward-looking cities in Canada and the United States. We encourage the Committee to support the motion to Toronto City Council and we look forward to working with City staff to implement the Standard on our upcoming projects.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Turnbull
Director of Innovation