



Ontario Association of
Landscape Architects

A component organization of the
Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

June 23, 2021

Mayor John Tory
Members of City Council

Re: PG25.17 Toronto Green Standard Review and Update

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

I am writing today on behalf of the 2,000 members of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA). We have been a proud association since 1968, speaking out on issues to protect the public realm and achieve healthy, liveable and resilient communities. The purpose of this letter is to offer the OALA's support for Version 4 of the Toronto Green Standard. We urge Toronto City Council to adopt the Standard as an important tool in achieving more sustainable and resilient development.

Landscape architects have long been leaders in the planning and design of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to assist communities in becoming more resilient to climate impacts, and to ensure the sustainability of our natural assets. Our profession has been very engaged in advancing actions on climate impacts and severe weather not only in the City of Toronto and the province, but throughout Canada.

Our members have worked closely with the City of Toronto in preparing this and previous updates to the Toronto Green Standard. For Version 4, Toronto-based landscape architects contributed extensively to revisions to the performance measures for the Water and Ecology sections with an enhanced focus on green infrastructure, biodiversity and climate positive design. By setting sustainable performance measures, the Toronto Green Standard provides an opportunity for landscape architects to engage clients with design solutions at an earlier stage in the development review process.

Promoting, improving and advancing the profession of landscape architecture and maintaining standards of professional practice and conduct consistent with the need to serve and to protect the public interest.

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Ontario Association of
Landscape Architects

The OALA is the self-regulating body for the profession of Landscape Architecture in Ontario. The OALA promotes public understanding of the profession and the advancement of the practice of landscape architecture. In support of the improvement and conservation of the natural, cultural, social and built environment, OALA undertakes activities to improve the quality of life and the environment for all Ontarians. These activities include promoting the benefits of landscape architecture to governments and professionals who develop standards.

OALA members look forward to continuing work with the City and clients to implement the Toronto Green Standard Version 4 once adopted.

Sincerely,
ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Barnhart', is written over a white rectangular background.

Steve Barnhart OALA, CSLA
OALA President