

Quality

in Canada's Built Environment: Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value and Sustainability

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
(SSHRC) Partnership Grant Project #895-2022-1003

First annual convention of partners and
representatives of stakeholders across Canada

Final student reports on roundtables

Montreal, August 2022

Edited by Jean-Pierre Chupin, PhD
Scientific Director of the SSHRC Partnership on Quality

Canada Research Chair in
Architecture, Competitions and Mediations of Excellence



Conseil de recherches en
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Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Canada



FINAL STUDENT REPORTS ON ROUNDTABLES

First Annual Convention

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***SSHRC Research Partnership
(#895-2022-1003)***

Edited by Jean-Pierre Chupin, PhD, CRC-ACME, Université de Montréal

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Cluster 1: Spatial justice & heightened quality of life

Roundtable 1 - TorontoMet & McGillU & DalhousieU & TorontoU - August 25 am
Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIZEN GROUPS + FIRST ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

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Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 09

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1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

Expanded Network and Collaboration

There is an expectation for academia, professional practice, and citizen groups to break down the silos between their respective disciplines in order to identify new problems and come up with innovative ways of working. These relationships can allow complex problems to be met with adequate resources and networks. The partnership is expected to give agency to designers, planners, social workers, government partners, policy-makers, and citizens to work with one another, share knowledge, and co-create solutions.

Identifying Tensions and Questions

A broadened approach to research and engagement will result in interactions between actors (human and non-human), some of which may never before have engaged together. It is expected that these new working relationships will generate constructive discussion while also uncovering tensions surrounding accountability, methodology, and/or resource distribution. When working together in spaces uncommon to most, the bigger task will be to figure out what the right questions to ask are, build trust among partners, and communicate solutions in an accessible way.

Centering Trust in Our New Ways of Working

This partnership is an opportunity to do research which involves a larger array of stakeholders. Opening-up traditional approaches to research to new perspectives can result in research which reflects the needs of society at this moment. There is an expectation that between all these stakeholders, new methodologies will be developed to explore the lived conditions of the research sites. These methods might include participatory action research, volunteering, simply showing up, conducting surveys of public spaces, pop-ups to engage people in situ, and/or roundtables similar to the ones hosted at the national convention. A critical underpinning for these methods will be to establish trust between everyone invited to the table.

Accessible Communication and Transferable Skills

For multidisciplinary engagement to be successful, there needs to be a baseline understanding of how the process works in addition to an approachable use of language. The procedures and outputs for the partnership should be easily understood and allow for anyone – from a local citizen group to a member of the federal government – to be able to apply what has been learned.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

Limitations in the Pre-Planning and RFP Process

A recurring topic from the roundtable discussion was the lack of stakeholder engagement in the early stages of a project's conception. RFP's and the pre-planning process are seen as critical for defining what a project will become and how it will be used. It seems that the creation of RFP's is decoupled from the end users and often lacks important knowledge about the true needs and experiences of those whom the spaces will directly impact. Multiple accounts supported the idea of engaging end users far before the initial design. This would capture important perspectives on aspects like functional programming, understanding what specialty consultants may be needed, and ideas future engagement.

Product vs. People Oriented Design

Following the discussion of designing the RFP to be more inclusive, it was felt that currently, the architecture and design industries are product oriented rather than process driven. There is a lot of much energy placed on meeting schedules and budgets which can lead to a reduced enthusiasm or motivation for innovation, conducting meaningful engagement, or moving beyond common practice. This energy expenditure on things like time and budget – while important for project delivery – removes the human element which should be centered in the project. One of the partners described a process which empathises with the end user, tests their needs against the proposed design, and iterates ideas generated from engagement sessions with the community themselves. For now, it is felt that common practice prioritizes project delivery over meaningful engagement.

Defining Public Engagement

“What exactly does community engagement mean? I would say [there is a] shallow understanding and interpretation of the community, as well as the engagement in our work.”

This idea resonated with the group and was a focus of a lot of discussion. Public engagement processes are often very opaque. If you're not in the system, connecting with the process can be difficult. Who determines what questions are asked? The discussion generated two types of questions often found in the engagement process. The first is about the needs of the space and things that relate directly to the characteristics and expression of the final building – light, materials, structure, etc. The second, and less explored question in a typical engagement process, is a genuine inquiry into the experiences and needs of the those who will use the final design.

Expectations for Public Engagement

“[Engagement] was totally just checking the box of yes, we went there, we presented, but we didn't even have the power to change the program at that time, because it was written in the RFP.”

So much of a project is predefined in the RFP, before any consultation and design occur. This works against designers and the consultation process itself because characteristics like program, room sizes, required consultants, site, etc., have already been decided upon and often are the things citizens want to have agency in deciding. The expectations for what citizens want to discuss versus what they can actually provide feedback on creates an imbalance which affects attitude, attendance, and motivation for participating in public engagement. This imbalance goes as far as calling into question the authenticity of the engagement process and provides an opportunity to reflect on a better way to have these conversations. Part of why certain groups are excluded is because engagement is largely a passive process in which you have “open houses to get feedback, but you're already sort of set on a course.”

Public vs. Private and the Monopoly in the Canadian Architecture Space

There was a sentiment shared in the discussion which identifies a monopoly over public sector projects in Canada. A lot of the same larger firms are doing the majority of projects like libraries, community centres, recreation facilities, public pools, theatres, etc. This raises questions about whether these projects are designed for specific contexts and people, or are they standardized and passively homogenizing the architectural ecosystem in Canada.

Much of the built environment is developed privately. The challenge this creates is that public and private sector work align and respond to different interests. For the most part, the public sector has the benefit of responding to the needs and wants of the general public. This largely allows for innovative and adapted approaches to design as the interests of the public realm change over time, whereas private developers and private clients don't necessarily have the same motivations or interests.

Regulations, Policies and Permitting

The built environment is delivered through the application of regulations, codes, and permit approval processes. While these parameters are set at multiple scales – federal, provincial, municipal – they typically centre very objective plan, sections, and elevations as the medium being evaluated. What is missing from this formulation are touch points for proving that environmental, economic, and social targets are being met. The needs of the end users captured through an adequate RFP and the measured outputs of the design through a post-occupancy evaluation don't always make the checklist for what is required.

In addition to this, the majority of zoning and planning requirements across Canada are extremely dated. If the needs of a changing society are not reflected through adaptable regulations and policies, the regulations and policies become inherently disassociated with the lived conditions of a place and often work to further exclude and perpetuate systemic injustices. This disconnect between people and the decision-making processes

that impact their lives, particularly people who have been historically and continuously excluded from policy processes, leads to a growing resentment and distrust for how the built environment is assessed, designed, and delivered.

Perception vs. Reality

The sum total of regulatory processes, policies, engagement, and the design process results in a built environment which reflects the perception of designers, policy-makers, government officials, and consultants. Does this perception reflect the lived experience of users or is it the projection of a top-down way of working? The roundtable discussion points towards the latter. How can the industry of best practices meet the lived experiences of the end user, to deliver a product which is technically sound yet socially, environmentally and economically integrated?

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

This roundtable discussion did not focus on specific case studies, rather the discussion explored how quality can be defined and what barriers exist to delivering a “quality” built environment.

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

Learning from Others and Co-Creation

There is the opportunity and necessity to expand the way we work to include the diverse perspectives of those who live in the built environment. This, of course, includes indigenous knowledge derived from centuries of lived history on this land and should also include the knowledge brought to Canada by newcomers. We are experiencing changes in our social and environmental climate which put us in unprecedented situations. We need to continue working with both indigenous and immigrant voices to generate a built environment which has learned from the experiences and perspectives of a more diverse group of people.

What seems to be surfacing is the importance of these transdisciplinary teams, recognizing that complex problems require solutions represented by the interests of community groups, professional organizations, and academia. All of these people have different, and equally important, roles to play.

Possible questions to consider from the roundtable:

- What methodologies can be practiced to observe the lived conditions of a space?
- How can professionals go beyond the functionality of a space in order to design a built environment which creates opportunities for growth in the lives of the end users?

- Should there be a requirement in the development permit process which dictates that an applicant must actively go out and engage communities and have them participate in the pre-planning and design processes?
- How can we ensure that there is adequate representation on design review panels?
- Whose interests are represented in design review processes and subsequently design award processes? How are these interests reflected in the feedback collected from these processes?
- How do we regulate at different scales (national, provincial, and municipal) and how do we measure the impacts of policy across various scales.

Cluster 1: Spatial justice & heightened quality of life

Roundtable 2 - TorontoMet & McGillU & DalhousieU & TorontoU - August 25 pm
Thursday, August 25, 2022, from to 2:30 to 4:00p.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS + SECOND ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Author of the summary: Jessica Gu, March student (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Date of submission: 2022/10/09

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1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

This partnership between researchers, citizen groups, award organizations, cities and procurement groups, and students is coming at an important period of time as issues in Canadian cities continue to grow. As the Baby Boomer generation is retiring and a new generation is rolling into the industry, there is an opportunity to hear new voices and ideas for a future that respects the rights of indigenous people, with more equity, diversity, justice, and sustainability. During the partnership, there is an expectation that the conversations and insights will be brought back to each respective group's institutions to implement in their work, and for the institutions to use their platform to advocate the new information to the public. An example of how advocacy work can be implemented into action was brought up by the OAA, who would like to see less tension and more collaboration between building reviewers, inspectors, and architects. By collectively identifying the issues in the procurement process and architectural practice, the resulting strategies to combat these issues can be brought up to government bodies including MPPs and chief building officials; this conversation would be facilitated and advocated for by regulatory bodies such as to OAA. The partnership should spark ideas of how space can be transformed not only through permanent but with temporary or seasonal strategies, while investigating better usage during the day and night as a method of promoting spatial justice. Change is expected to be implemented in future builds, governmental policies, design review panels, and award programs as systemic ways to affect the built environment.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

Within the awards system, architecture is praised when it considers the context of the environment, but a major missing component is the recognition of Canada's indigenous history within the projects and the award qualifications. For example, two major streets in Canada, Toronto's Yonge Street and Vancouver's Granville Street were both indigenous trails that were used for hundreds of generations; this is rarely if ever recognized in the buildings or the award criteria. Cases like these make professionals and practitioners complicit in the writing over of indigenous histories. Awards systems need to engage indigenous histories and people as part of the evaluation process.

There is a lack of representation of minority groups, specifically indigenous peoples and their history within every aspect of the building process, including architectural practice, planning, institutional groups, design and award review panels, design excellence criteria, contractors, and subcontractors. The industry requires an amplification of indigenous voices to be heard at different levels (local, provincial, and national), and groups should be receptive to student representatives for a broader net of

representation. Currently, even when policies would like to hire or engage with indigenous firms or communities, there are currently not enough people or the resources within the indigenous communities to support the initiative. An example of this is the Musquem – Tsleil Waututh in Vancouver, where as a result of the extensive engagement in the planning process and resources required of the community, they are at capacity with the number of projects they can take on. There needs to be incentives within policy that encourages and support more indigenous people to join the architectural practice.

In the face of climate change, many multi-residential buildings offer unliveable living conditions during times of extreme heat with little or no access to outdoor space for hospice; and during the pandemic, people living in these buildings suffered compared to those with private green spaces; and There is currently an imbalance in our distribution of green space, it is inequitable and does not serve a larger demographic. How can green spaces be used in an equitable way to provide the hospice to those that cannot be indoors?

There are currently financial barriers within the projects that are challenging the timelines and quality of projects. As a result of money lending, supply chain issues, and inflation, projects are being delayed, budget cut, and forcing the programing to be pushed smaller, more efficient, and cost saving. Furthermore, the requirements of building codes add financial pressure on the building, such as new sprinkler systems, but also limits design innovation as there becomes more prescriptive items that need to be added in buildings. There are also discrepancies between what the municipality in terms of sustainability and what policies allow for. An example of this is the current incentivized push for mass timer developments in Toronto. The technology of the material prefers a straight-faced building, but the zoning in the city requires buildings to be wedding cake setback. Overall, there are economic and political forces that design is required to prescribe to, these processes should be looked at and be improved.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

The Spatial Justice group is interested in looking at case studies of different forms including existing buildings, temporary interventions, sites as potential development, and processes. Something that should be considered is the method of doing these case studies; the process should include different people's perception of space.

Temporal Justice

Temporary interventions provide opportunities to see new ways of utilizing existing space and reveal the barriers to quality in the built environment and advocate for spatial justice. These interventions question: Who has the right to the city? Who is the land and

urban environment built for? This theme was introduced by the work of Montreal 24/24, which is an organization that investigates how public space can be developed during the night for better usage and to provide better quality of services, amenities, and safety to the people in the city. The group organizes several all-night parties and events which pushes the city to adopt a nightlife policy to enhance the cultural and economic needs of the city. To support these events, the organization annually puts on *Montreal au Sommet de la Nuit* or Montreal's Night Summit, which brings together thinkers, professionals, and government officials to discuss public policy all around the world.¹ Similarly, Toronto holds an annual all-night event called Nuit Blanche, an art and installation based event that shuts down several major streets, alleyways, and parking lots from cars for the night, giving it over to the pedestrians. Also, in Toronto and other cities, there are examples of a street being closed for a portion of the day on a weekly basis or so for pedestrians only use. During events like these, the attitude, mentality, and culture of the residents shift to accept and celebrate the pedestrian-only usage of streets, challenging the day-to-day operations of the city. These ephemeral case studies can be proof of concepts or pilot projects to change what is allowed in permitting and regulations, they are more receptive to the public and can act as experiments towards permanent interventions.

Revitalizing Existing Land

Looking at the existing urban fabric of cities, there are opportunities in vacant sites that should be looked at for ways of improvement to serve more people. The Bentway in Toronto is an example of how underutilized space around infrastructure was revitalized to give the space back to the public. Lying under the Gardiner Expressway, the intervention stitches together seven neighbourhoods by activating public space with art, recreational amenities, and events. There is programming in place for day and night activities, and events that can happen throughout the seasons.² An example of the adaptability of existing space is the reuse of golf courses as cooling centers in Toronto. This questions the use of these large amounts of green spaces and if they could be utilized to support more people rather than just golfers. Another case of the reclamation of space is the previous Bloordale "Beach" in Toronto. At the demolition site of a school, the community took the unused, aggregate and sand filled property over as an unofficial public park for the neighbourhood.³ The opportunity of the site mobilized the community to gather on their own volition, make the space their own, and advocated for the beach to be permanent. Unfortunately, the site is now under construction for a building, but the process of the community leading, creating, and possessing of the space can be looked at as a case study.

¹ <https://www.mtl2424.ca/en/night-summits/>

² <https://www.thebentway.ca/about/>

³ <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2020/08/09/watch-for-sharks-torontos-newest-beach-at-bloor-and-dufferin-has-everything-except-water.html>

Process of Engagement for EDI

Engagement with indigenous people and the community should be an essential part of the built environment process to provide more equitable, diverse, and inclusionary spaces, but it is frequently cut out or done so in an inauthentic way. Case studies can be done on unsuccessful or successful projects; the following examples are of how the engagement can be carried out. At Centennial Park in Toronto, anti-black racism reports were being issued over the park; this included over policing and a general exclusive environment. During the master plan update, black community members were engaged and paid for their recommendations in the new plans; this included way-finding in other languages, cultural markers, and art installations. By responding to issues by engaging the community, it resulted in a more welcoming environment based on the people's needs.

The Vancouver Park Board has an ongoing relationship with the local indigenous nations to engage with in the development of parks and public space in the city. This process is changing and developing with each project, so a case study would be to look into the succession of engagement and how it affected the projects.

The Wavefront Center for Communications and YVR Airport in Vancouver are examples of projects that engaged with the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) is a third-party consultant that specializes in removing barriers for those with disabilities. These projects included RHF at the beginning of the process to help communication with the community and accessible design. The solutions that the architects implemented in the project for accessibility were then incorporated in their future projects because of more inclusive design.

Grassroots activation of spaces is community led and doesn't necessarily involve designers; these come to fruition to fulfill the needs at the time without preconceptions of what the space needs to look like or represent. Community centers typically receive a lot of attention in the architectural realm and the building programming and typology stays more or less the same within a single building. In the South Parkdale community in Toronto, there is no central community center; rather, there are several smaller places around the area that are connected together. This is an example of an alternative model that works for the community in place of a community center, and it should be investigated as to what made South Parkdale decide to decentralize the services across the neighbourhood.

Policies, Design Review Panels, Competitions, Awards

The systems of policies, design review panels, competitions, and awards are influential to how things are built; these processes guide the design and construction of the built environment and should be studied. There are many different types of policies that would be worth investigation, an example of this is the DC350, a design requirements

manual for schools in the province of Nova Scotia. Currently, the document is undertaking a refresh; this makes it a topical case study as the barriers identified within the policies can be changed.

Many cities in Canada that have design review panels, which aims to ensure a certain level of quality, sustainability, community goals, and design excellence. The criteria of what is counted as quality vary from city to city, and levels of enforcement vary as well. A case study could be done on what type of projects are deemed as acceptable based on the different qualifications across the different cities.

Competitions can be framed in a less prescriptive way, and provide more general themes to encourage the entrants to engage with the community in their investigations. This was the case in Toronto Metropolitan University and Open Architecture Collaborative's joint collaborative exercise sited in South Parkdale where this interactive method of investigation prompted research to come from the community rather than assumptions from designers.

There are a variety of award systems in Canada that can be looked at as case studies. The Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence is an annual award program that is not for completed projects, but exclusively for projects in the design stage.⁴ There have been cases where since a project was awarded, the recognition allowed for budgets to be restored or even for a project to avoid being cut altogether. It would be interesting to look at the cause and effect of a project that won the award during its ideation, how it varied from its built form, and how it worked out in post-occupancy. Upcoming for Waterfront Toronto, there will be a set of design awards that are given to projects that have remained of high quality over the last ten years, recognizing successful post-occupancy usage of the project. Another award system mentioned was the SHIFT Challenge held annually by the OAA; the challenge is themed differently each year to keep up with current events and issues in the country. In 2021, the theme of "Resiliency" was won by an architecture and urban planning group called Smart Density, whose "Mini Mid-Rise" project addresses the Missing Middle phenomenon in Toronto by proposing a model to build midrise buildings on a single small property.⁵ The firm itself is also an interesting case study as Smart Density has focused their work on Missing Middle housing and to provide accessible content to the public in the form of webinars, newsletters, and online educational content on the process, context, and solutions to the problem.⁶

⁴ <https://www.canadianarchitect.com/awards/>

⁵ <https://www.shiftchallenge.ca/project/the-mini-mid-rise/>

⁶ <https://oaa.on.ca/whats-on/awards/awards-gallery/awards-detail/smart-density>

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS): green

Indigenous Engagement and Representation

How can the industry create more support towards indigenous people? How can we have more indigenous engagement while ensuring the communities do not get overloaded with work?

Equity and the Rights to Land

As we provide more housing and densify our cities, we risk losing important green spaces and existing buildings, and more likely than not this affects lower income and vulnerable populations the most. How can policy change allow more density in the city that integrates into the existing urban fabric? How can the city bring more land into public ownership at the same time? Furthermore, now can the built environment not only benefit people but also the vegetation and animal life around?

Awards and its Effect on Design

Award systems are dominant in the architectural culture; not only does it bring prestige to the awarded project and firm, but it has power to change how architecture is perceived to architects, stakeholders, and clients. Similarly, to how the tools used by architects will affect the work produced, there is an interactive relationship between award giving and the work that is produced. There is essentially a feedback loop between the awards to the architecture, as award criteria change, the work follows suit. In light of this relationship, award systems can influence better architecture by reframing its valuation and criteria based on the needs of the communities; shift its focus less on aesthetics but more onto architecture's impact on people. How can award systems cater more towards communities than architects? How can we use the recursive relationship between award criteria and what's being designed to train architects towards more engaging projects?

The partnership should create questioning around how the architectural profession is serving the public. By looking at various models of case studies, the research should identify current issues and provide strategies that can be advocated for and implemented in policy. The multidisciplinary nature of the partnership has an opportunity for new information to permeate different fields, and the collaborative nature of the conference is expected to continue afterwards in the professional setting.

Cluster 1: Spatial justice & heightened quality of life

Roundtable 3 - TorontoMet & McGillU & DalhousieU & TorontoU - August 26 am
Friday, August 26, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT + THIRD ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Author of the summary: Izzy Mink (MLA Student at the University of Toronto)

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1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

Some of the main expectations for the partnership, as expressed by the participants during roundtable three are as follows.

Systems Thinking

It was agreed upon by participants that our approach to the partnership should take a holistic approach to understanding the built environment. This will mean looking at aspects of projects that are not always taken into consideration during design competitions. Such aspects may include how procurement shapes the course of the project, barriers to public engagement, examining funding models, labour procurement, temporality, landscape considerations and more. Examining policy is of particular interest to our group.

Open Source

Several participants expressed interest in ensuring that the outcomes of the partnership become accessible to the public, likely through the Internet. Information-sharing is strongly supported by our group.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

During roundtable conversation 3, the discussion centred around the benefits and limitations of the procurement process as well as policy in general. Most of the barriers identified came from participants' personal experiences working within these bureaucratic structures.

One participant began the conversation by bringing up some of the difficulties they have experienced with the procurement process. They cited extreme risk aversion during the procurement process, leading to excessive red tape, lackluster projects, extended project timeframes, and wasted financial resources.

One participant brought up the issue of silo structures of different levels of government and how this can limit understanding of what is needed for a particular community building or service and the ability to provide for such needs.

In a similar example, another participant discussed how different municipalities in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver have different desires and standards for flood protection infrastructure. This makes consensus and decision-making about critical areas of the landscape that span multiple municipalities very difficult. It was suggested that the relevant bodies rethink how municipal borders and standards might be renegotiated to

accommodate a “leading with landscape” approach to planning. This is especially salient as planning for climate resilience is more crucial than ever. It was suggested that collaboration be incentivized and that a rethinking of how infrastructure intersects with the community should be prioritized.

A different participant brought up the important point that communities are currently in need of free space to convene but don't have it. They pointed out that there is a need for greater funding for community hubs including libraries, and other spaces that can function to solve multiple issues at once, including providing essential services for locals, developing support networks, and engaging in environmental issues.

Another important point about community engagement that came up was the notion of timing in the consultation process and how, sometimes, procurement practices can end up providing community members with a false idea of what is possible and raising expectations only for them to be let down later.

RSPs not including funding for community consultation, with this financial burden either falling on the firm or consultation being inadequately executed, was brought up as a key issue.

In a somewhat separate vein, some participants spoke about the problems of buildings and spaces being constructed without the ability to adapt to changes. The example used in this conversation was the lack of elevators in high-rise residential buildings during the pandemic, and how this became a major public health concern when social distancing was required by residents. Modularity and adaptability and plans that considered use over time was discussed as ways forward.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

The potential case studies discussed in roundtable three should not be taken as an overall list or overview for our group as there were many more suggested during the first two sessions.

In February of 2022, a rolling convoy of truck drivers and others protesting COVID-19 vaccine regulations occupied Wellington Street in downtown Ottawa. The protestors honked their horns all day and night for many days on end, leading to serious health concerns and much frustration from Ottawa residents. The event sparked controversies about the role of police and freedom of expression, and highlighted contradictions in how police react to different types of protests by different groups of people. This site and incident, now cleared of protestors, have been suggested as a case study to focus on the themes of governance, policing, justice, and public space.

Libraries were also discussed as buildings that are consistently of a high quality: displaying strong aesthetic standards while meeting community needs, providing free public programming and other essential services. Identifying that libraries are often anchors for the community, the process of how they are procured and built was put forth as a potential case study. For the same reasons, public schools were also recommended as case studies.

One participant raised the example of a community organization called 'Faith in the Common Good', that focuses on converting old faith-based spaces that are no longer in use into community centres or affordable housing so that they still serve their local areas.

Another participant mentioned a traveling project out of the University of Manitoba called 'The Café', that visited various universities, addressing the question of a national policy for architecture. This was not discussed in detail, but, considering our group's interest in policy, had potential as a case study as well.

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

During this roundtable, many miscellaneous problems were mentioned, and potential research directions were generated. As such, they will be listed here in a somewhat brief and fragmentary way, collected into two groups: 'Policy and Procurement' and 'Measuring and Accounting for Social Factors and Community Benefits.'

Policy and Procurement

We need to examine policy is by asking: Is policy applied? When is it applied? Is it effective? If not, how do we change? If policy has been harmful in the past, how can one expect people to have trust in it?

Policy can lay the legal groundwork for equity-seeking groups to advocate for their involvement. How do we ensure it is just and inclusive from the start?

Could we create a visual or map of all the different types of people involved in the process of a project and the policies that affect them? This could help us identify potential alliances or redundancies in how projects get built today.

Might we be able to engage universities in research to find pathways to speed up the procurement process?

Measuring and Accounting for Social Factors and Community Benefits

How does having a binding vs. non-binding community benefits framework affect a project's benefit realization? Is this a successful form of accountability?

How do you measure social and cultural factors so that engineers, funding bodies, and decision-makers feel they have a sense of certainty? What are the limits to quantifying things that are inherently qualitative?

How can we ensure a budget for crucial community consultation work?

Can community engagement be included in a development permit application? Can projects require urban planners and landscape architects to be included in a development permit application?

How do we build on the innovation of people with lived experience of disability as they care for themselves and build that into how design is done. How do we begin to understand people's unique experiences with the built environment?

How can programming for a school (or other buildings) respond to community needs or regional stresses that may develop over time? How can these needs be met by more adaptable spaces?

What might be the role of community hubs and multi-solving spaces in the process of ensuring spatial justice?

At the end of our discussion, we went around the room, and each gave a two-sentence-or-less summary of key themes from the partnership talks so far. These are listed below:

Collection of Themes

1. The challenges of balancing different types of sustainability: social, economic, ecological, etc.
2. Unpacking and demystifying the whole decision-making process. Where are the best places along the process to initiate change?
3. Inclusion and action
4. Ensuring that physical and mental health and well-being is recognized, creating and maintaining healthy built environments.
5. Tensions within policy and the procurement process. Pros and cons on both sides.
6. Open-source documentation and accessibility. Knowledge sharing.
7. Adaptability of Buildings and Programs
8. The tension between the quality, cost and speed of some of the development projects. Are the systems and processes we're setting up sufficient to achieve the things that we're trying to achieve?
9. Seeing the design process holistically
10. Stakeholder mapping
11. Problems with top-down rigid bureaucratic structures, consensus, breaking down silos and finding consensus.

12. Complete engagement of all stakeholders involved.
13. How is equity demonstrated or social value demonstrated? And what are the limits to demonstrability?
14. The importance of focusing on community centered work that has the power to shape and drive policy, which then could in turn make life better for people.
15. We should be tenacious and fill in the gaps.
16. To reconcile the two aspects here, meaning a holistic view of things, but the fact that we are all individuals with our own specialties and our own mandates.
17. Policy mapping
18. Scale. And the interrelations between the scales.
19. Measure and assess how we're doing on our climate resilient goals and how we're doing at serving equity deserving populations.

Cluster 2: Integrated resilience, material culture & adaptative reuse

Roundtable 1 – LaurentianU & CarletonU & UWaterloo - August 25 am

Thursday, August 25, 2022, 9:30a.m.-11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIZEN GROUPS + FIRST ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Authors of the summary:

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Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 09

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- **Paloma Castonguay-Rufino** (UMontréal)

1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

- **Canada-Wide Toolkits**

As a result of this partnership, it would be highly valuable to have developed Canada-wide toolkits for achieving “quality” in the built environment made accessible to all stakeholders, especially procurement and policy-makers who may not know much about these topics and who have their own goals and budgets. A participant points out that the biggest difficulty in implementing architectural policy is convincing public clients that investing in quality is worth it in the long-term, since they are often preoccupied with short-term construction costs. Others agree that this is a challenge, and that data will be needed to back up our stance.

Our role in this research group, then, will be to collect evidence through case studies to prove this to clients and to justify the implementation of new policies which support higher standards. As part of this, it will be necessary that we, as a partnership, establish a definition of “quality” in order to support and align architectural policies across Canada. Agreed upon definitions would help avoid reinventing the wheel each time when evaluating quality. These toolkits should thus act as a roadmap of what to follow and why, explain how it works, and include some evidence to provide some guarantee that it will work.

- **Policy Change / Publications**

Another goal will be to affect policy change by mobilising the variety of people partaking in this partnership. A participant points out that although we may not get to policy in the first year, it should be a long-term goal for the partnership.

Another participant adds that even if we (as a partnership or as professors) cannot enact policy changes ourselves, our goal is to teach the next generation how to implement these changes as they enter the field and, in the meantime, to develop the science and publish it. There is value in scientific publications which go through the peer-review system and without them, many arguments go unheard. He also suggests that having studios where students do work in a particular community is a good method of generating change. There should be discussions with the partners on what tools are available that we can make use of to make an impact in other ways as well. A participant also points out that we are missing representation from Procurement and the Housing Industry in our partnership (because Heritage Conservation Services provides advice to those in procurement).

It is put forward that there are enough great minds in this partnership to solve some of the problems we are discussing and that “if we aren’t through this group able to

affect policy change then we may be able to chalk this up as a failure.” We can use this platform to provide better policy solutions for the industry and end users.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

- Policies and Silos

A participant begins this discussion by pointing out that even though the majority of Canadians want higher standards (e.g., accessibility), there are no pan-Canadian policies to ensure this. Also, if innovation is needed to achieve higher standards, it won't happen without municipal, provincial or federal direction through policy, because practicing architects have to follow the policies of the city or province. Another participant reinforces that policies can get in the way of being innovative and can have conflicting priorities (e.g., heritage vs. sustainability vs. cost vs. accessibility) due to silo-ing, with upfront costs and the need for housing often pushing others aside. Instead, she asks how can we coordinate policy to make it more streamlined so that it can be easier for people to be innovative without the long processes and costly policy amendments, and to incentivize good quality development? It is crucial to step out of our silos, work together and think more holistically so that one interest doesn't trump all the other interests, especially since they often compete with each other. For example, barrier-free access and heritage often compete.

A participant agrees that many existing policies need to be revamped and that we will need to leverage all the participants involved in order to push for this, but makes the point that many policies are stuck in silos. As part of the partnership, we will need to define how in order to address this. Others agree, stating that few groups talk to each other, let alone across the public and private sector.

A participant gives an anecdote from the Planning Advisory Board for the City of Ottawa while working on the Ottawa Official Plan for 2030, saying that although they were not legally able to require all new multi-family housing to be made of mass timber or more sustainable materials, she suggested that they instead make it performance-based zoning. This was a scenario where they successfully worked across silos to find an alternative mechanism for achieving the desired outcome.

On the topic of silos, it is underlined that there is no synergy across Canada for energy codes, with each province using different iterations of the NECB. There is also a gap between procurement and asset management, who look separately at new and existing built assets, respectively. This means that the finance officers

(from the MFOA) are not able to coordinate with procurement to ensure that years down the road they will have good assets in their municipalities. Meanwhile, procurement is influenced through City Council and elected officials, who work on four-year terms. Their goal is thus inherently short-term oriented, and likely focuses on building as many buildings as possible within their term rather than fewer than last longer. As a result, we see issues like the \$2B backlog in maintenance with Toronto Community Housing.

Another participant suggests that rather than as an endpoint, we should look at policies as our starting point and do comparative analyses of not just case studies, but of policies to see what we can learn from other places.

- **Poor Interface**

It is suggested that one of the issues preventing us from achieving quality is the poor interface between procurement and designers and taxpayers, occupants and end users. Since the latter are the people that will actually be using the output of the public portfolio and who we hope will be proud of it, we need to re-evaluate how we engage them throughout the process from initiation to auditing in order to get their input.

A participant provides an example of a working interface between stakeholders through partnerships. As a Climate Change Coordinator, she often acts as a liaison between non-profit groups or other citizens and the City and hears about the challenges citizens come across with the built environment. What helps break the silos between stakeholders is that the City coordinates with the non-profit/volunteer community and mobilizes them to carry out what the City can't do, particularly relating to education, outreach and advocacy. The universities and colleges are also involved in this, and collaborate on the message brought to the public. A participant asks if there are ways to strengthen this kind of partnership to become more inclusive and listen better?

Raising awareness and communicating with citizens about the importance of quality materials is especially relevant for small business owners who are so focused on saving money but do so by buying the cheap, new materials on the market. Instead, we should help them understand how they can save money over the life cycle of the building through investing in quality.

A participant points out that the construction industry is not inclusive – it often tells us how to build and what to build with, but does not ask us, the consumer, if it is the right fit. There is a lack of flexibility and diversity of solutions to match our actual needs. He gives the example of indigenous homes in northern communities which

are built with unsuitable materials based on policies and laws that were meant for the south. Instead, these policies should be informed by local culture, climate and geography to meet the unique needs of the place. He calls for the application of sliding scales to policies to account for diverse needs across Canada.

A participant provides an example of how difficult it can be for citizens to raise concerns regarding the built environment and participate in decisions that involve their own neighbourhoods. She describes the long and complicated process that her community went through to have a single building designated and protected, which she says was mostly possible because her community was full of academics and professionals and would be extremely difficult for an ordinary citizen group to go through. She explains that the city even has a Heritage Advisory Panel, yet they only advise Council and could not advise citizens regarding such matters. So, because it is a huge undertaking to protect a single building and very costly to restore (and no one wants to pay for that), they often lose the historic quality of their neighbourhoods.

- **Reinventing the Wheel**

Many provinces and organizations have lots of literature available on various topics, but are not well enough known to span across the silos. As a result, much of the work that goes into the development of these resources is repeated by others across Canada, spending valuable time, money and effort on work that has already been done. Better communication is needed between parties cross-Canada and even locally to begin capitalizing on and building on the work that already. This is made particularly difficult by the lack of Canada-wide accepted definitions. A participant mentions there are numerous committees across Canada giving out awards in similar categories, but they must redefine the criteria each time (i.e., what is “sustainable”?).

A participant also explains that it is difficult to educate people on projects when there is such frequent turnover of people in the industry and client groups. The perpetual retraining and limited amount of time to do so makes it difficult to pursue concrete changes. This creates a barrier to forming long-term, productive relationships and skills development on projects.

In addition, it is stated that working in the field, it is often difficult to produce or share documentation for projects to show exactly what has been done and to build upon those processes due to the complexity of artisanal practices. Often there are also legal processes to go through, which creates a barrier to passing on knowledge of how to deal with historic building materials. This results in relearning for every project.

- **Short-Term vs. Long-Term**

The general market's preoccupation with short-term gains and savings, and lack of understanding of the long-term impacts of poor-quality design choices forms another barrier. Convincing people to invest in quality will require the dissemination of substantial data and evidence of the long-term benefits.

A participant explains how we have too much of a “throw away” culture, where it is easier and cheaper to throw things away and harvest them again from the environment than to repair them. Instead, why can't structures be built with reusable parts that can be dismantled and used elsewhere? As the users' needs change, how can we make it easier for the building to adapt? He asks that people from the industry take the lead on this.

Another participant emphasizes that the culture of short-term thinking also exists at the political level, in part due to the nature of elected terms which encourages short-term feats while avoiding long-term accountability. He says we can start to address this by talking about the lowest total cost of ownership instead of just upfront costs. This would include the costs of maintenance required over the life cycle of the building, the operational carbon, the embodied carbon, other environmental impacts, and social impacts.

Hence the challenges with the long-term sustainability and performance of buildings, both due to the materiality and the ability to commission the performance that was intended. In some cases, it can be especially difficult to follow up with the building owners post-construction in remote areas, or to make sure the materials or skills are available there to do so, as she points out with one of Laurentian's case studies, Living With Lakes. If we are not able to ensure proper commissioning, how do we make sure that in 20 years we still have good quality assets?

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

- **Rick Hansen Foundation Certified Buildings**

The Rick Hansen Foundation has established their own assessment criteria for evaluating accessibility in the built environment and already has 1600 certified buildings. Many of these will be on the Living Atlas, and many that aren't high-profile would be worth looking at.

- **New Buildings in Wikwemikong**

A participant mentioned that a group in Wikwemikong made their own housing standards after recognizing the National Building Code did not fit with them and

their land. This is a good example of breaking out of the norm to create better mechanisms that are also adapted to the local culture and geography of the place. This would be a good study to determine how these standards were put into place and how the new buildings compared to the old in terms of performance based on these changes. As part of this partnership, we should take this opportunity to showcase quality buildings that are marginalized or not as well known.

- **John Hancock Building / Grand Library of Quebec in Montreal by Patkau Architects / 'Leaky Condo Crisis' in Vancouver**

These are examples of buildings that were designed by good architects and met code standards but still had major, disastrous flaws. For example, the John Hancock Building is infamous for its falling window glass panels, and the library had similarly failed glass louvres. These could be good examples of the gaps in our minimum building standards.

- **Deconstruction Projects in Seattle**

According to Seattle's Salvage Assessment (SA), any renovation or demolition over a certain amount needs to go through SA to consider deconstruction. If you can save a certain amount, the city will expedite the project as an incentive. Looking at cost and carbon savings of different building typologies as they go through this process would provide valuable data on the benefits of deconstruction and salvage, bringing together adaptive reuse/long-term thinking while still capitalizing.

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

- The industry knows better how to destroy and re-extract materials from the environment than how to repair and adapt, and so do consumers, living in a throwaway culture. How do we promote education and a shift in the market towards a long-term mentality?
- How can buildings change as the needs of the inhabitants change?
A participant states that, "If a building can't adapt, it has no function. It's static, it's dead." How can we encourage the reuse of parts and the transformation of spaces to encourage an inherent flexibility to our changing needs? How can we prepare ahead of time for the future adaptive reuse of a building? A participant offers that they have a summer design build program called Free Lab that is a great way for students to get hands on experience while involving the community and industry in testbed constructions. Developing a proof of concept for the flexibility of

structures could be a good direction for this, as could other topics that are discussed in this partnership.

Cluster 2: Integrated resilience, material culture & adaptive reuse

Roundtable 2 - LaurentianU & CarletonU & UWaterloo - August 25 pm

Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 14:30 to 15:30p.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS + SECOND ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Authors of the summary:

- *Sylvie Wang, Master student (University of Waterloo)*

Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 09

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1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

Multi-group engagement

The importance of multi-partner engagement, especially on neighborhood projects, was emphasized by a participant from City of Greater Sudbury. By partnering with citizen groups, non-profit organizations, and universities, the city can gain a deeper understanding of the space, facilitate communication with users, and ultimately promote designs that people will actually want and use. An example provided was the use of a 3D physical neighborhood model developed in partnership with the university, which allows the city to facilitate participatory planning. People were intrigued by the model when she brought it to the neighborhood and displayed it outside on a fold-up table. This allows her to use the 3D model to engage the people and ask questions like where's your house? What are your concerns? What do you like about the neighborhood? It is important to take into account, as pointed out, that the city needs to listen better to the people, because people are the ones that are using the space every day.

In addition, the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals presented on the importance of jury diversity in their reward programs. There has been a noticeable improvement in their award program as they have diversified their juries. Jury assemblages should include a wide range of opinions and professional backgrounds, such as individuals who are involved in policy-making, trade, architecture, and engineering, from a variety of geographic regions and cultural backgrounds.

Promote Changes and Value Shifting

In this roundtable, a participant from the University of Waterloo, raised the important question of how the enormous investment of energy in research and awards can serve as a bridge more directly to policy reform that is urgently needed. The construction industry is in need of policy changes in order to motivate the whole industry to change in a different direction. As part of this partnership, it is important to consider how research can be directed in order to make those policy changes more quickly and how this enormous amount of energy and effort can be harnessed to make those changes.

A representative from the City of Greater Sudbury also emphasized the importance of policy change due to its broad implications. According to her, local groups or citizen groups are key catalysts for facilitating the adoption of a new building code or bylaw. In order for researchers and professionals to be effective, they must engage and educate the community, thereby empowering the citizens.

There are many challenges associated with the creation of a standard, and it is not the only way to facilitate changes. A participant offered another perspective on this issue. It was pointed out by him that standards can create a constrictive environment for thinking in new and different ways. A good example would be that mainstream culture does not understand indigeneity or how to construct standards around indigeneity that we do not

even understand. One of this partnership's missions is to facilitate changes and to popularize ideas we believe are important. He agreed. There is a problem in that our message of "what quality and good value are" does not yet appear to be clear. The announcement and explanation of those are therefore crucial for the success of this partnership.

It is important to disseminate the discourse produced during this partnership, a point that a professor from the University of Waterloo, echoed. However, communication should not be limited to awards and publications. According to him, there is a lack of journalistic culture to promote popular critical discussion in the field of architecture. As a result, that is another area in which this partnership has the potential to have an impact.

A participant from Laurentian University, explained how bringing together a variety of sectors can facilitate communication between them in order to facilitate the shift in values that are necessary. It is the partners in the industry who provide the building products for the majority of the population, and their knowledge is usually not recognized by the "higher culture." As an example, standard materials are typically significantly cheaper than more sustainable materials like wood in Canadian cities. The importance of establishing more feedback loops between all of the partners cannot be overstated.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

Homogenous juries in award program

It was noted by a participant from Laurentian University that award juries are primarily homogeneous, consisting primarily of architects. He pointed out that this omission of multidisciplinary groups, from citizens to professionals, in the jury selection poses a barrier to quality.

A participant responded that the jury members should be chosen according to the nature of the project. The most important part of the discussion is the establishment of the criteria, as there has been a real split among those who believe that good urban planning outweighs good architecture.

As a participant from Carleton University emphasized, it is important to consider the profiles of professionals on the jury and their professional trajectory. Professionals as well as public participants should be required to attain a certain level of accreditation to become juries in award programs.

Limited Award Categories

It was pointed out by a representative of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals that award categories were limited. There is a significant number of new buildings awarded by CAHP, but few existing buildings, which represent a large proportion of our built environment. For building maintenance, for taking care of your windows, and for good hands-on work, no awards are given. Furthermore, buildings

demonstrate excellence by standing up to the test of time. We should take into account how buildings age and how many repairs will be required over time. Providing evidence of the importance of building performance, a participant reaffirmed the point. He mentioned that Laurentian University has \$150 million deferred maintenance that they didn't treat. In addition to being an insolvency issue, it is also an architectural issue.

The issue of limited award categories has been confirmed by a participant representing the Ordre des architectes du Québec. Her organization encountered difficulties when attempting to establish a durability award, which recognizes buildings that have proven to be durable over time. Due to the fact that the awards usually request entries from architects who are no longer around after 50 or 100 years, this attempt failed.

As outlined by another participant, we should not simply focus on new construction, but also pay attention to the post-occupancy period following a construction project. The measurement of a building should take into account a number of factors, such as its impact on the community, both in terms of intended and unintended effects, both positive and negative.

The Concept of Award

In spite of the benefits of awards in recognizing excellence through competition, a participant from the University of Waterloo outlined some criticisms of awards. Civic organizations and citizen groups rarely receive awards, since they are usually given to architects. To avoid the inflection of the conversation in a direction which is not inclusive to the whole group, it is worth thinking about what awards mean to cities and citizen groups.

As a member from an indigenous community pointed out, many award programs are ego-based. Furthermore, award systems risk ignoring marginalized values by promoting a particular value based on a set of criteria. He questioned: how do you grade someone using a system that doesn't include you? It would be like grading a painter who's colour blind.

A participant also questioned the concept of awards and the value they promote. For him, the awards, the way that we have them now, are based on consumption. What does it actually mean when someone wins an award or when a building wins an award? Who wins? The architect or the community? Or the people using it in 100 years? In his opinion, awarding architecture has become a way to get people to consume more architecture, similar to the automotive industry. In addition, it is necessary to consider scalability if awards are to serve as a model for what the building industry should follow. This participant mentioned that, when many of the contractors and laborers on the ground level were shown the awarded buildings, they laughed and said we could never build that or that could never be done again.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

- **Block 2 competition**

<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/citeparlementaire-parliamentaryprecinct/rehabilitation/conception-design-eng.html>

This project was mentioned by a representative from Public Services and Procurement Canada. This competition includes a diverse set of juries. There were both national and international representations, both academia and public representations. In her opinion, there are many things we can unpack and learn from this competition. In addition, another participant also expressed his appreciation for the transparency of jury selection and the openness of the competition process.

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

Setting up our own reward program?

A participant offers a critique of the current award programs and their constantly changing criteria. He proposed the idea of setting up our own award program for this partnership. He said, if we did that, we would have to actually clarify what we mean by quality. As of now, if we ask everybody in the room, everyone has a different idea of what quality means. Quality for the built environment means very different things to different people here, and he thinks if over five years we could develop an idea about what we are thinking of as quality, that would be very beneficial, as we want to break out of those individual disciplines and work together to develop something that's much more broadly based.

Cluster 2: Integrated resilience, material culture & adaptive reuse

Roundtable 3 - LaurentianU & CarletonU & UWaterloo - August 26 am

Thursday, August 26, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT + THIRD ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Authors of the summary:

- *Hannah Phillips, MAS student (Carleton University)*

Date of submission: 2022/10/7

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- **Terrance Galvin** (Laurentian U)
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- **Jonathan Kabumbe** (LaurentianU)
- **Sylvie Wang** (UWaterloo)
- **Melissa Lengies** (Carleton U)
- **Hannah Phillips** (Carleton U)

Citizen groups:

- **Jean Laberge** (ICOMOS Canada)
- **Cortney St-Jean** (Uptown Sudbury)
- **Building Equality** Toronto

Cities and procurement:

- **Lesley Collins** (City of Ottawa)
- **Bianca Lagueux** (Public Services and Procurement Canada)
- **Jennifer Babin-Fenske** (City of Greater Sudbury)

Award organisations:

- **Andrew Payne** (Masonry Works)
- **Gabriela Sanchez** (Association of Preservation Technology)
- **Lena Buchinger** (Association of Preservation Technology)

- **Christine Lanthier** (Ordre des architectes du Québec)
- **Andrée-Ann Langevin** (EVOQ for the Association of Preservation Technology)
- **Michael McClelland** (ERA Architects)

Students:

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- **Melissa Lengies** (UCarleton)
- **Hannah Phillips** (UCarleton)
- **Jonathan Kabumbe** (LaurentianU)
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1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

- Tool Kit

The Canada-wide tool kit that aims to define quality in the built environment should allow stakeholders to share the successes and failures in the projects they have experience with. This will allow other communities to learn from each other's experience.

- Investigate the most useful methods of fostering a community to care
- Research deeper outreach for participatory planning
- Life cycle of projects: what projects make it through; what types of RFPs we are looking at

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

- Participatory planning is often used by planning committees but falls short as the planners expect the community to come to them.
 - o Planners should go to the community, i.e., find where people are gathering
 - o Can be written into RFPs but is often not well advertised (lacking a formal mechanism)
- Community consultation often needs further outreach to gain meaningful input
- In municipal projects there is more capability for consultation than private sector projects
 - o Figuring out ways to meaningfully engage the public is important (when written into RFPs it is more successful)
- From a planning department's point of view, private sector project proposals are often more developed when submitted to the planning department, making it more difficult to implement changes to the proposal based on the consultation, etc.
 - o How much change can you affect in these scenarios?
 - o Dealing with proformas and the desires of the developer
 - o Planners should layout what they expect they can achieve with a developer's proposal in
 - o How can we change the approval process for developer-led projects to have more participatory planning?
 - Could do a lot
 - 4-year term is in the way of this as values change
 - There are things that could be implemented at the municipal level
 - City of San Antonio is requiring salvage of materials
- How do we gain meaningful input? Build robust consultation into RFPs? Implement policies for high-performance standards

- Cities are often incentivized to compete to grow, displace poverty and gentrify areas due to their competitive entrepreneurial nature. Need to be more critical of the city and how it functions to determine how to create social equity
 - o The question of participation is compromised by political processes that demand competition
 - o Not going to have meaningful participation if the mandate is to displace poor people from their neighborhood
 - o Build a diverse group into RFPs, i.e., accessibility, hire an intern from the community
- We must engage with the community to know what it needs to learn and what needs to change.
- Policies that are written with community input are often through a more privileged lens - must know how to properly approach the community with which one is working.
- Need to work within the framework - issues need to be solved with members of minorities being part of a checklist
- When minority groups are labeled as they are written into the framework it can do more harm, as in, "We need to deal with 'this'."

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

- Château Laurier addition
 - o Years of consultation and discussion with the community; despite this, most people do not like the results
 - o Very dependent on values and perception of good design
 - o Perception of contemporary vs. traditional architecture (people would be happier with the addition looking like the original structure)
 - o If we keep building traditional architecture, what is the heritage of tomorrow?
- Hochelaga-Maisonneuve
- Little Jamaica (Toronto)
- Seattle Public Library downtown
- Policy in Quebec where public art installation must be included in the budget for public buildings
- City of San Antonio Deconstruction and Salvage Initiative
- Calgary - an inverted city
 - o Planners want research to propose ways to turn this around as one third of the city is empty after people go home for the day and retreat to sprawling suburbs. The city is trying to figure out ways to fight back against this.
 - o What barriers exist within our own cities' municipal partnerships?

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

- Consultation barriers from the public include the inability to self-advocates (burn out)
 - o Processes prioritize landowners (not tenants)
 - o How can we create a more equitable consultation process that includes people who have been displaced?
 - o People do not feel like they are being invited in or feel that it is tokenism
- Hard to get people to care about the city
- How do we foster pride in communities?
- Who is evaluating the framework in PSPC?
 - o PSPC is very dependent on which department they come from
 - If there is not a strong group of advocates who know the project well
 - Missed levels of opportunities if the project is pushed through
- Hire someone for art
- How do we find the “champions” of each city who have access and time to disseminate the data we require?
- How do we protect legacy businesses? Build a heritage district? Who has the tools to push for these?

Cluster 3: Inclusive design for health, wellness, aging & special needs

3a – Roundtable 1 - ConcordiaU & UCalgary - August 25 am

Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIZEN GROUPS + FIRST ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Author of the summary:

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Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 08

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- **Carly Ziter** (ConcordiaU)
- **Ursula Eicker** (ConcordiaU)
- **Brian Sinclair** (UCalgary)
- **Hieu Ngo** (UCalgary)
- **Enrica Dall’Ara** (UCalgary)

Citizen groups:

- **Gabriel Cotte** (Vivre en Ville)
- **Leslie Evans** (Federation of Calgary Communities)
- **Lindsay Andreas** (Building Equality in Architecture Calgary)
- **Matt Nomura** (Calgary Homeless Foundation)
- **Meaghon Reid** (Vibrant Calgary)
- **Joan Lawrence** (Calgary Alliance for the Common Good)
- **Emmanuel Rondia** (Conseil régional environnement Montréal)
- **Emmanuelle Hébert** (Campus de la transition écologique)
- **Philippe Tessier** (Table de concertation des aînés de l’Île de Montréal)
- **Christophe Rioux** (Groupe de recommandations et d’actions pour un meilleur environnement)

Cities and procurement:

- **David Down** (City of Calgary)
- **Nicolas Marier** (Ville de Montréal)

Award organisations:

- **Grace Coulter** (Lemay for Alberta Association of Architects)

- **Geneviève King-Ruel** (Ordre des architectes du Québec)
- **Jonathan Bisson** (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada)

Students:

- **Sarah El Khatib** (ConcordiaU)
- **Morteza Hazbei** (ConcordiaU)
- **Firdous Nizar** (ConcordiaU)
- **Aurélien Catros** (UMontréal)

1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

The primary concern for partnerships of this scale and influence is to address different perspectives in the process. This needs more representation of community members that are often overlooked, such as social workers in the city. The partnership must have the capacity to question some of the systemic issues that we see in the city and take a closer look at what are the things that are holding us back. The research should include socio-cultural and economic disparities in city contexts and how they can be affected by the quality of the built environment. Themes such as the sense of belonging and vulnerability in cities need attention to propose guidelines for built environments that work for everyday citizens.

Consequently, lack of participation in the urban planning process should be at the forefront of the partnership's research. Citizen groups at the roundtable observed the lack of engagement strategies on the part of city-level organizations to collect meaningful feedback from their citizens. The frequency and prevalence of existing participatory processes fall short of including those most affected by their policy reforms for improved quality of life in cities. The top-down approaches commonly adopted by city governments need to be re-examined for their level of informed consultation from the communities involved.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

There were four main areas of barriers that were brought up during the roundtable: (1) lack of representation, (2) lack of time, (3) lack of funding and, (4) lack of access to knowledge/expertise.

- (1) Lack of representation: While lack of communication during urban planning is crucial, systemic issues on socio-cultural and economic representation were also noted as key barriers to quality in the built environment.

Addressing a lack of diversity in the profession is vital to inclusive design of cities, given that only 20% of registered architects are female practitioners worldwide. Although 50% of students enrolled in architecture are female, only less than 30% of them continue in the still male-dominated architecture field in Canada. This barrier to entry for most women in the profession is largely due to stressful working conditions and long hours that are typical yet severely imbalanced to foster their contributions to city-level projects.

From an economic perspective, another barrier observed was the unsustainable rise of land and housing value, particularly in cities like Montreal. To add, the financial value of space is not often collectively defined. Inaccessibility to land due to socio-economic disparities need to be addressed before thinking of solutions to improve the quality of the built environment. In most cases, land regulations don't align with the design proposals of those on the ground wanting to make more affordable housing projects for the city. As land prices increase, more people are pushed to the suburbs to find alternatives. Additionally, more construction in the outskirts can affect the requirements for transit and this becomes inequitable for non-car owners to commute.

While there is a heritage of vibrant needs such as accessibility, seasonality, etc. expressed by generations of marginalized communities, more work needs to be done to translate them into better projects. There exist inherent cultural assumptions on what a family now looks like in relation to the housing sector. Speculatively, more representation would then translate to more affordable housing with lots of space for larger families with more kids, especially immigrant families.

- (2) Lack of time: An overarching thread for these types of barriers was observed in an apparent democratic myopia—a lack of knowledge of what the real problems in the city are as the government continues to work on short-term solutions.

The transitions between elected officials lead to projects that are disrupted because of their workflow and momentum gained tediously on community engagement prior to their assumption of office. Re-election efforts affect the city development cycle and hurts long-term commitment to addressing systemic issues in the built environment. Furthermore, political structures (municipal, provincial and federal) currently undermine the need for interdisciplinary and long-term planning in city developments, particularly in relation to EDI.

Representatives from the city highlighted that council directions change often, and the city stakeholders are driven by those services and timelines which typically underestimate the time needed to fully realize such projects. Most professionals at the city planning departments, therefore, can't take deep dives into certain projects and meet the deadlines that are given to them. There exist organizational tensions between council and planning departments in cities like Calgary and this can be reflected in the delays to follow through with demands to improve the quality of life in the city. Hence, there have been efforts to advocate for more integrated relationship of the city to partner with universities and address problems more efficiently through research.

With increased accessibility to public funding, the largely vacant building stock in cities like Montreal could be addressed and maintained over longer periods of time in collaboration with the local communities. According to the “broken window theory,” if you let a building sit idle without maintenance, then the whole street starts to slowly degrade in time. Working with artistic communities by pushing them financially and strategically could help create more resilient buildings and “re(in)novation.”

- (3) Lack of funding: The complexity of the application process for government funds was a key concern raised by the citizen groups at the table. As a result, it was observed that most interventions done for the public good end up being private costs, borne by individual citizens or small communities. Additionally, social services such as children and elderly care are not valorized monetarily.

For example, there are huge inequalities in who has access to nature as it is expensive to manage trees and green infrastructure. Paradoxically, planting more trees and improving the built environment help private landowners to increase the rent in vulnerable, low-income neighbourhoods. While there are policies that address trees and land coverage (Tree Protection By-Law), it was seen that there is a lack of enforcement of these policies. Adding up needs at the community level is done without regard for the larger policies that exist.

If a project is not clarified from the start, then the funding is not awarded, and this affects those interventions that need more funding for research to even define what the project will be about. Consequently, most awarded projects end up doing the bare minimum with the funds provided because long-term guidelines were not outlined in advance. In this regard, the concept of “modesty” in development projects was discussed, which took a closer look at the relationship between project aspirations and the budgetary constraints and compromises made along the way. In the context of quality in the built environment, modesty refers to the lack of persistence to see through those designs that are seen as indulgent expenses on aesthetic qualities, material choices, etc. Hence, modesty can be observed as the tendency to fall back on bare minimum solutions for the built environment.

It was suggested that more viable solutions for the built environment need to be proposed such that they utilize the budget effectively while also not cutting back on quality. Unfortunately perceived as add-ons, design proposals for seasonality and accessible infrastructure in the built environment are, hence, the first to be

taken down from the agenda during the project's lifecycle. Accessibility needs to be viewed as something gorgeous and beautiful rather than the bleak minimalism that we see in the present built environment in Canada. Citing the Land Trust project by CMHC in the past, the need to negotiate the tensions with land acquisition and capitalism was raised "in order to do more beautiful interventions again."

- (4) Lack of knowledge/expertise: The roundtable came to a collective agreement that some barriers to quality could be addressed by improving access to education and increasing diverse leadership opportunities in city-related industries.

Interventions at the early stages of education can lead to more informed consumers in the city development process. If done with the right tools, they could be more active and persistent participants in the process without losing their vision for the system. Participation in the discourse can only be improved if more citizens are empowered with adequate knowledge of the processes involved.

For example, citizen groups commented on the lack of knowledge among homeowners on adaptation and retrofitting strategies. Depending on the era of construction, houses have different sustainability requirements such that "a 1944 bungalow retrofitted now would be slightly worse than a newly bought house." Changes in building codes fail to reflect these temporal shifts and needs for the built environment. While citizens want to take action, access to government funding is very complex and time-consuming, particularly when they try to submit their applications with long work hours and language barriers.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

The Established Area Growth and Change Strategy, for the city of Calgary, was cited as an example of how cities tend to operate in their own siloes, putting together a proposal without much consultation with the communities they were claiming to invest in. The program sought to address the quality of public spaces across the neighbourhoods of 9 communities, with potential interventions ranging from sidewalks to plazas and community gardens. *Source:* <https://www.calgary.ca/planning/projects/established-areas-growth-change.html>

Tree Protection By-Law was mentioned with regards to planting more trees in neighbourhoods while being mindful of land coverage and private ownership. There are similar policies for other cities in Canada provided here:

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

These are some of the questions raised by the participants:

1. What are some of the systemic issues that we see in the city?
2. What are the things that are holding us back?
3. How can we get the knowledge of long-term quality with time continuity?
4. How can we bring elected people to understand the current issues in the built environment faster so that they can engage with the communities better?
5. How do we address the effects of re-election on the city development cycle?
6. How do we bring awareness to the fact that municipalities are key actors too?
7. Why are the built environments not following through on the strong strategies coming from city consultations?
8. What are the seed-level interventions in education that can empower more citizens to participate in the discourse?
9. How to change the narrative for more equitable public space awareness?
10. What is on the backlog of existing projects before we undertake new interventions?
11. Why not have beautiful projects in the city that shift the “modesty” mindset?
12. What are the cultural barriers that lean toward modesty in the social housing sector?
13. How do we get people off the streets in terms of housing?
14. How can we address the paradox of increased quality leading to decreased affordability?

Cluster 3: Inclusive design for health, wellness, aging & special needs

3a – Roundtable 2 - ConcordiaU & UCalgary - August 25 pm

Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS + SECOND ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Author of the summary:

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Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 9

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- **Ursula Eicker** (ConcordiaU)
- **Brian Sinclair** (UCalgary)
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- **Emmanuelle Hébert** (Campus de la transition écologique)
- **Philippe Tessier** (Table de concertation des aînés de l’Île de Montréal)
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- **Geneviève King-Ruel** (Ordre des architectes du Québec)
- **Jonathan Bisson** (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada)

Students:

- **Sarah El Khatib** (ConcordiaU)
- **Morteza Hazbei** (ConcordiaU)
- **Firdous Nizar** (ConcordiaU)
- **Aurélien Catros** (UMontréal)

1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

The main expectations mentioned in this meeting are

To use the bi-yearly conversations with community partners to understand how to go further beyond the awarded cases, and better understand the qualities of the built environment that contribute to user satisfaction, place attachment and meaningful encounters. This means that the partnership should use the lived experience of community partners, who have a more nuanced understanding of 'quality', and work backwards to find the common elements that these places have and why.

To create or adopt useful definitions of certain design/planning terminology in order to be able to compare and assess similar cases against a common definition. This expectation was expressed by Christophe Rioux from GRAME Montreal. They are interested in understanding what an Eco Quartier really means.

To be able to assess cases that are in progress and not just cases which have been awarded or developed. Because there is flexibility there to monitor the process and possibly make changes or recommendations. Simultaneously, process-related criteria can also be monitored and assessed.

To conduct detailed analysis of the path that a project takes from inception to completion. To find the ways that success or failure is determined, and which measurements can be extracted from that. This method would also allow us to: understand what incentivizes innovation, and if the performance of the project is valued more than the project itself. Basically, in understanding the evolution of a project, it can help to assess the quality of the project at the end.

To use suitable methodologies in approaching our case studies. This includes the use of oral history as a part of the method and building on situated and experiential knowledge, which cannot be recreated by theorizing. Similarly, to use collaboration and not consultation with our partners and collaborators to ensure they are part of the journey and that their opinions will be translated into the work that comes out of the project.

In relation to awarding bodies, it could be important to understand how awarding criteria have evolved over the decades. Specifically, to understand the definitions of quality that have been used in the awards sector over time. There was no expectation of how this could be beneficial, however, it may reveal interesting trends in the built environment, and how the criteria responded to these trends.

On a similar note, before analyzing case studies, the partnership needs to engage in a process that uncovers a shared understanding of what quality in the built environment means. This could be achieved by using resident and citizen input, reflecting a community voice. This discussion is not tied to any case in specific but is more general, and could involve trying to validate existing theory on the built environment that already exists in previous work. The benefit that this exercise will bring is that it will produce a general and comprehensive understanding of what quality in the built environment means in the Canadian context.

Another expectation expressed by the city of Montreal is to understand the relationship between larger policies and documents and the case studies themselves. And find any challenges that might arise in trying to implement these policies, visions or plans. What is highlighted here is that there are many good plans, already published within the city of Montreal. Yet, in most cases there is no clear plan on how the developments on the ground are meeting the requirements of these plans.

To build the criteria used for assessing cases experts should be consulted depending on the field and provide us with standards and criteria that can help the partnership assess quality in that field.

To address the urgency of the climate challenge. The partnership should not wait 5 years before making recommendations for the built environment. Because within 5 years, cities will need to be well on their way to decreasing their emissions. The partnership must disseminate information well before the 5 years are over. The partners have an expectation of knowledge mobilization and expect dissemination to be one of the most important activities within the partnership.

To honor the indigenous issues, and make sure that all our dialogues and processes, are tied to this stolen land, and respect indigenous principles. This could be done similarly to other countries with a history of colonization.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

The lack of integration of research and lived experience into design

The recurring lack of integration of research and previous lived experience leads to problematic instances of design. Projects are being built that are not learning from previous failures, or research that exists in the field. This is especially true when designing for populations that are more vulnerable and sensitive to their context such as the disabled or the elderly.

The absence of specific groups at the design table i.e. The need for more inclusive design teams

Especially where the design tables are supposed to be designing for these (absent) groups. Here Joan Lawrence gives the example of a design table made up of designers with no children designing spaces that will be used by a subset of groups including, women with strollers. Parents with a toddler who might be toilet training; elderly people with possibly dementia etc... When this happens, design tends not be suited for the users of the space at the best case. And at worst case could be problematic. An example of this is the use of automatic toilet flush in toilets which will be used by many children who maybe are in the process of toilet training, the automatic flush will go on many times and be wasteful. These design processes inherently form barriers to quality. This can be addressed by visualizing the use of space by these different groups from society to see/feel/understand what they need from the space, and therefore design for those needs or even restrictions.

The need for empathy in the design process.

A design needs to go beyond formal requirements of space, which are often non-contextualized, or subjective based on the designers' positions. Including empathy in the design process should lead to a greater understanding of the needs of the users of the space.

The lack of understanding of the built environment as a whole (beyond the scale of a site)

Neighborhoods are part of the city, like tesserae in a mosaic. They interact with each other and create the larger urban fabric. This interaction is unique to each place; however, there is an unnatural lack of interaction in the case of neighborhoods being divided by large infrastructural edges, such as highways or power lines. This edge can also be natural, like a river. Edges can be connectors or dividers, and that defines the nature of relationships between areas within the city. When looking at the built environment at the larger scale and analyzing the multiple functions of areas within the city, we can better understand the requirements of the space and begin to overcome barriers to quality by designing for larger areas.

The Risk of Inaccurate Reflection of Community Voices

In the design process, some local community organizations might be the only community voice speaking on behalf of the community. However, their opinion might not be truly reflective of the needs of the community they are speaking for. To mitigate this risk of lack

of inclusivity, the people themselves who live work and play in these places should be consulted as equals during the design process.

Seasonality

Is seasonality considered in the design, does it function. For example, in the case of winter equipment for exhibit designs.

Cyclical Policy

Political cycles can disrupt the flow of work being done towards a certain goal, because the new political administration might not have the same goals for the city as the previous one.

Amalgamate the Criteria

The challenge is in putting together all the different criteria from many fields with one another. There will never be a consensus on what is quality when all these issues are combined, however, we need to do this exercise to truly understand the quality at the lived level. Conflicts will arise between these expert inputs and we should learn from these conflicts/trade-offs. In summary these friction points provide interesting moments that can be explored and possibly learned from. In the case of a biologist's understanding in greening buildings vs. the landscape architect's choice, what can be learned from this conflict, is one field correct? If so why? Maybe another third solution possibly put in place that solves both problems the experts identify.

Adaptability and Agility of Our Environments

In North America, there are many rules and regulations that prohibit flexibility in design either inside homes or in buildings. For example, it is not easy to change the layout of the home here whereas in other countries like Japan, and the Netherlands and Germany it is possible based on the technologies used in constructing the home. This is a barrier because flexible design allows for adapting to different uses over time, as families grow or as communities change. The consideration for adaptability in our built environment could be a barrier that is important to start adding to our designs, for more resilient places.

Organizing and communicating the criteria used for the case study analysis.

Because the cases differ in scale and typology, the criteria used to assess these cases should be filtered depending on the categories of these cases. Simplifying and organizing the criteria in this manner could make it easier to communicate these criteria internally

(within organizations) and externally (with the public). It was suggested to organize the criteria based on the temporal phases of the project those being: the process, the object itself, and then the use (post occupancy). That way we can analyze the project as a whole and understand how it came to be, if the design is successful on paper and if the design is successful in the understanding of its users.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (beyond those mentioned in the template)

Calgary

- Studying buildings from many eras and typologies in order to create retrofit guidelines that citizens can easily access and use to retrofit their home
- Remnant spaces created by large transportation infrastructure (Inglewood and Ramsay neighborhoods)
<https://www.calgary.ca/council/ward-9/inglewood-ramsay-coordination-team.html>

Montréal Site

- Eco Quartier Lachine PPU Sector Montreal
<https://grame.org/eco-quartier-lachine/>
- Grand Corridor Écologique du Sud-ouest
<https://montreal.ca/articles/corridor-ecologique-du-grand-sud-ouest-30154>
- Montreal Hippodrome
<https://ocpm.qc.ca/fr/hippodrome/opinion/english>
- Bridge Bonaventure District
<https://www.visionbridgebonaventure.com/>
- Notman garden, site of former St Margarets home which closed in 1994
<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcyntiahammond.org%2F2019%2F08%2F06%2Filluminated-from-within-the-notman-garden%20series%2F&data=05%7C01%7CCarmela.Cucuzzella%40concordia.ca%7C52c070756d6e4a8dc8f908da%203f7314d8%7C5569f185d22f4e139850ce5b1abcd2e8%7C0%7C0%7C637892061791863459%7CUnknown%7CTWfpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8gftl9AYaZ0rNmPcaoMuoqSLxfOiy7T%2BsxDCqammgbw%3D&reserved=0>
- Montreal masterplan
<https://montreal.ca/en/articles/city-vision-imagining-montreal-2050-15564>

- Reseau bon voisinage
<https://reseaubonvoisinage.com/>

Other cases

- Block 2 Ottawa
<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/citeparlementaire-parliamentaryprecinct/rehabilitation/conception-design-eng.html>

Mentioned Resources and Policies

- Canada GBA Plus :
https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/gbaplus-course-cours-acsplus/eng/mod02/mod02_03_02.html
- Montreal 2030 Plan:
<https://www.designcities.net/design-policy/the-montreal-2030-agenda-for-quality-and-exemplarity-in-design-and-architecture/#:~:text=The%20Montr%C3%A9al%202030%20Agenda%20for%20Quality%20and%20Exemplarity%20in%20Design%20and%20Architecture,-Montr%C3%A9al&text=Montr%C3%A9al%20commits%20to%20enhancing%20the,always%20be%20aware%20of%20them.>
- Town planning regulation in Cambridge named the affordable housing overlay
<https://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/housing/housingdevelopment/aho#:~:text=The%20AHO%20allows%20the%20creation,can%20be%20approved%20more%20efficiently.>

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

How can we account for the different scales of projects within the built environment?

How can we include both the elderly and young children in our discussions on quality?

How can we understand the dynamics behind good projects, like stakeholder relationships, economic landscapes, and politics, to learn from and recreate the conditions necessary for a project's success?

How can we make sure the criteria set forward are dynamic, and change with the natural evolution of societies and places?

General Summary

In creating the criteria, the partnership must consult community members to find definitions of quality that are based in lived experience. As well as consulting experts within the relevant fields. These criteria will need to be meticulously combined and this exercise should not be overlooked as it will provide lots of information. Specific criteria that could be included are those that measure temporality (the performance of the cases over time and political cycles) as well as those of adaptability (the flexibility of the space).

In assessing the cases, they should be assessed on its design process (stakeholders, process, consultation, etc.), the design itself (tectonics, context, form, livability) and then a specific post occupancy evaluation (lived experience, functionality, satisfaction)

Furthermore, the cases should be assessed within the policies, plans and agendas in which it exists.

Also, there is a great importance on communicating the criteria as well as the methods of assessment of the case studies within institutions and with the public.

Finally, there is great need to incorporate indigenous knowledge and thinking within many facets of the partnership, and learning from their practices of mutual respect, long-term thinking and preservation of the environment.

Cluster 3: Inclusive design for health, wellness, aging & special needs

3a - Roundtable 3 – ConcordiaU & UCalgary - August 26 am

Friday, August 26, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT + THIRD ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

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Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 09

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- **Emmanuelle Hébert** (Campus de la transition écologique)
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1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

In this section, I will first briefly summarize all the expectation themes that came out of the discussion; then I will elaborate on them in more detail. Here is the list of overarching expectations that were discussed in the roundtable:

- Understanding qualities in an exemplary manner.
- All the voices should be heard (inclusivity in the project)
- Clarity and simplification
- Integration with city policies
- Think beyond the normal interventions

Understanding qualities in an exemplary manner

We can name several urban qualities that we can agree upon. However, we are still missing good projects that exemplify a good design from a community or an ecological perspective. We could develop and expand theoretical discussions on the best metrics and criteria for built environment quality, but how much can we advance this theoretical discussion without digging into case studies? This project is a five-year-long project, so monitoring a project through five-year time frame and assessing its qualities, and observing if they fulfill our defined quality expectations of inclusion, sustainability, and aging-related qualities would help us strengthen our understanding of qualities and theoretical framework. However, choosing a proper case study is not an easy task. Which case study is an appropriate choice for this project? A real building or an unbuilt project? Whether real built projects that help us understand long-term expectations and means or unbuilt projects that provide us with the social and organizational structure that are essential for a comprehensive view. Monitoring a project to identify the barriers can be done with an extensive or detailed analysis. For example, a developer who wanted to use a specific material chose a different material because of the price of wood at that particular month. This small and detailed barrier can be easily overlooked if we don't apply a comprehensive case study analysis. More importantly, a project should be monitored not only before it gets built, but from **submission and decision phases and beyond that**, which means **post-occupancy evaluation**. Does a project fulfill the users' expectations and the community's expectations? Did it end up being as good a project as we'd hoped? Choosing some projects and following them through their design process and after occupancy would be an interesting and comprehensive evaluation of their qualities. This evaluation will help us to identify not only the places where there are opportunities for positive change for a better result but also the process, relation, and engagement. It is only possible when the project will be fully under assessment throughout the process.

All the voices should be heard (inclusivity in the project)

Learning directly from community partners is the best way to simplify complex urban issues and create more inclusive civic processes in cities. Engaging people who are usually and structurally left out because of economic disadvantage or repeatedly overlooked because of disability empowers spatial agency. For example, in this convention, we have a lot of diverse viewpoints. However, all of the views in this conference come from similar base assumptions, and we lack a diversity of opinions. We need to find a way to reach the people who typically aren't heard in order to avoid the possibility of the work being undone by political changes and by a whole new ideology coming in and undoing the good work of a previous administration. This means not only do diverse citizens need to be involved, but the provincial government and elected people should participate to ensure positive changes. Therefore, finding ways to reach people from a completely different place from us would improve project inclusivity and applicability. Albeit a big group with diverse ideas might have conflict, continuous community engagement is crucial because of trying to change the mindset at the societal level.

Clarity and Simplification

Having a clear expectation from the start, such as factual knowledge that we need or can use, or implement, was highlighted in the discussion. This clarity would help us to make a significant change. However, not having this information leads to many mismatches that usually happen in big projects. For example, what normally happens is that sometimes we have information, but it's not the right policy window, or there's a policy window, but we don't have the information yet. It is also essential to be clear upfront about the project timeline to tap into municipal resources or levels of government resources. This simplification is not only related to municipal policy and regulations; simplifying academic research into applied action was mentioned as an important project expectation. The other expectation relating to the clarity and simplification that was mentioned is to reassess what we value and then align the process and procedure to what those values are. Because the mismatch right now between what we say we are, and want to be, and how we execute, is extraordinary, and can be very exclusionary for different groups.

Integration with City Policies

Project integration with city policies and city support gives architects and designers leverage in enacting qualities in the city plan, and it is a basis to move the project forward. This partnership can pave the way for this interaction between different stakeholders and provides a means to connect professionals, the public, and political will. Built environment organizations, architects, and urban designers need pragmatic ways to affect policy and make changes happen. To ensure that, we need to renew a reflective community voice

with all the stakeholders of city planning and open more community conversations. For example, we should look back at why critical matters like climate change issues haven't been implemented in built environment policy.

Think beyond the normal interventions

There is an assumption that everything needs to be structural or built interventions. However, policy, operational, or logistic interventions have a significant role in determining holdups in implementing physical interventions. Also, while discussing physical accessibility, we need to broaden our scope more to look at neuroatypical accessibility, especially regarding aging dementia which “is a huge tsunami that will be facing us.” There are specific needs from the built environment for people that have cognitive disabilities.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

- An important barrier to quality is **rigid policies**. We often hear we're striving to be inclusive, accessible, and vibrant. However, we don't see a willingness to crack open building codes and regulatory processes to change them. Policy flexibility and the ability to examine them will facilitate positive changes.
- Another issue is **not having enough participatory practices**: for example, we are not doing this kind of meeting (participation) as often as we should. If we are able to meet all year-round, then we will understand people's and practitioner's point of view and their limit and how they can make changes.
- The idea of "**modesty**" can also be a constraint of quality in the built environment. Meaning: Doing less or just enough with not too much investment and not too long processes. Also, there is a lack of tools and resources for coaching, guiding and answering, and management to improve widespread awareness and implementation.
- Not having **plain language** on the regularity framework, because when the general public looks at those regulations, do they understand them as citizens? Do NGOs understand it? Do professionals in their field understand them?
- **Limited understanding** of the design concept, the processes, and how it's perceived.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

We should work on a small project with all the stakeholders brought together. If we stop our participatory work after a good conceptualization and idealism, it seems unlikely to reach innovative or cutting-edge results to construct something new. A case study mentioned in the roundtable was **Block 2 redevelopment project in Ottawa**. It's a very interesting project from many perspectives; most obviously, the issue of unceded land and the space dedicated to this project was a European colonial heritage building across from Parliament Hill. So, it brings up many political and cultural issues around inclusion that would be the biggest framework to capture built environment quality in Canada.

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

- In academic studies, the players may change over the course of five years. While at the five-year mark, it will be dramatically different from where it started. Therefore, how do we balance the project along the way such that it considers the **socio-economic and demographic changes** that will undoubtedly happen across Canada over the next five years?
 - How would the built environment reflect new relations, history, values, and things that matter to communities?
 - How are we going to directly change policy through behavior change? If it doesn't change anything, the next group of individuals that come after us will have to be starting this five-year study all over again.
 - How can we empower people to actively participate in city projects?
- In this conference, we discussed the importance of **acknowledging indigenous ways of knowing and being**, but how are we going to weave that with the built environment and, specifically, this project?
- The partnership is an excellent opportunity for discussion and a space of exchange. For that to be meaningful, not only reflective, but we also need to give ourselves a chance to think wildly differently about **what good design is?** “It may not look like a good design from many architectural perspectives; maybe it seems like no design at all.”
- **Complexity in cities**
 - How can social consciousness change what quality is in the built environment?

- Cities are complex institutions. Having that in mind, how tough would it be to assess quality values in all the departments, so they get processed into the built environment?
 - Cities are very complex organisms, and they often don't talk to one another. People who have worked for cities for a long time still have trouble knowing whom to talk to in some cases because its parts change all the time, and we're always going through a realignment.
 - A lot of people work in municipalities with different responsibilities. We need to have the right people at the table for procurement purposes. For example, if there are six different areas within a city where we plan to work, we need people from all these parts of the discussion to have that complete conversation.
 - How can the city change from the within its institutions because it will be where the change must happen?
- How can the built environment contribute **to meeting climate goals**, and what steps and processes do we need to involve everybody and figure out a clear path?
 - Is there a way that the dissemination that comes out of this discussion, which is not only academic, be easily translated for people in the city so that they will have the right tools to make better decisions?
 - How do we include people's voices that aren't normally heard, and how do we amplify that?
Getting all of the stakeholders involved at an earlier stage is essential. But how can the iterative nature of these projects allow for long-term community engagement? In other words, sustaining and fostering long-term participation over the project's lifecycle is a crucial issue.
 - We say **quality cannot be measured** but can be at least named and understood. Clarity comes if we can name things in the appropriate ways.
 - What are the barriers to implementing policy and reaching a good policy for the built environment?
 - **Awarded buildings**

Studying only awarded buildings could be problematic since they have blind spots and reveal certain things yet they are important for us to push our study forward.

Awarded projects are highlighted in our society as the manifest that we should strive for, but we must look at them from a critical point of view to ensure that we are not repeating some of the same mistakes. Therefore, we need a combination of awarded buildings and ongoing projects to see how we can change the awarding process.

Cluster 3: Inclusive design for health, wellness, aging & special needs

3b – Roundtable 1 - UCalgary & UMontréal - August 25 am

Thursday, August 25, 2022 from 9:30 to 11:00am.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIZEN GROUPS + FIRST ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

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Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 25

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Citizen groups:

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- **Sarah Danahy** (Building Equality in Architecture Calgary)
- **Srimal Ranasinghe** (Sustainable Calgary)
- **Bill Black** (Calgary Construction Association)
- **Edouard Bonaldo** (Fondation québécoise de la maladie d'Alzheimer et des maladies apparentées)
- **Sarah Huxley** (Fondation Véro & Louis)
- **Jonathan Marriott** (Rick Hansen Foundation)

Cities and procurement:

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Award organisations:

- **Lyne Parent** (Association des architectes en pratique privée du Québec)
- **Véronique Bourbeau** (Ordre des architectes du Québec)
- **Mike Brennan** (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada)
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1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

The importance of diversity and inclusiveness in the design processes and understanding who is involved – both in professional practice and in the industry. Making sure we have a diverse group even here at the conference. Also from the public engagement services, it is important to have the public involved even though there are barriers around schedules and costs to make sure we have a specific group of people that are required to be there rather than broad and typical groups of people who show up. Reaching out to people is important also knowing whom to get involved with at the right time. This can be at the initial research phases, within the decision-making (typically where the municipal public engagement is involved) –and they use the international association of public participation (IAP2) guideline. Mostly this does not go into the design process. The other important part is the stewardship community, and the capacity the community has to participate in these processes. Sometimes it's the same organization that these all go back to. The other item is around metrics about quality in the public realm and the built environment. It seems there is little consistency around this topic and it makes it difficult to compare it between cities and even places within the same city.

Talked about a current project – a village for people with Alzheimer's. He discussed the disconnect between architecture and engineers for big projects since the 70s. He mentioned that the main actors for large projects are now the engineers and, not the architect which results in a loss of quality that falls under the role of the architects. Engineers are focused mostly on performance and optimizing everything to make them measurable and organize and structured them whereas architects have a global view of everything. He also mentioned an exceptional project, the middle bridge designed by an architect and engineer showcasing the concept of integrated design for a successful outcome. One question that we should ask is that architects and engineers are professionals but what about the citizen groups? How do we include them in the discussion? As for the Alzheimer's case, the designers should be thinking on behalf of the people who are not able to think for themselves. So how can we imagine the solution for them and where to we get this information from? Mr. Bonaldo also explained his own experience trying to install and transform his own house into a multi-generational house by the inclusion of an internal elevator. He talked about the issue of finding the right product that's approved in Quebec to allow him to live in the house for five more years instead of moving to another house. This is the issue that products are not certified or approved and are not easy to access to them. It is important to think about aging and apply this to existing projects is important without specifically building places for elders or those who are aging. The other item he discussed is having a short and concise document to share with designers and other groups to be able to use it as a tool and make it active rather than long documents that no one reads.

One major item we wish to see is to broaden the definition of accessibility to include the notion of neurodiversity and not just autism as well as accessibility for physical hearing, and visual needs. These adaptations can benefit everyone at the larger population. What we see in the future is that we hope for it to be spread as much as possible. There are many people around this table but here are many who are not who have a lot of power in terms of Housing and accessibility in building, for example, the provincial government in Quebec has big projects for building housing for aging populations. If the results are spread out to a wider audience, it can be very beneficial.

We mostly work with public spaces and one thing that we mostly focus on is maintenance. This is mostly because something can be built very nicely but the maintenance is often not done properly and therefore it can alter its use of it. It is important to consider this in early states, during the design process and planning of the building, and mostly in the province of Quebec. With loads of snow in Quebec during winter times and how the design will perform during cold seasons and not just summertime. This is especially important for elderly citizens or those with disabilities.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

The notion of funding and access to funding is an important item to discuss. They all have specific guidelines that ensure security for vulnerable populations which is great, but it does not leave a lot of room for innovation. More flexibility is required if we want innovation. She mentioned that her foundation decided not to go with the funding currently available due to a lack of innovation and flexibility. But not every organization has the ability to access these types of funds from private sources. A good example is a project that they applied for through CMHC for a reimbursable mortgage, even though the project has been built for two years. But we have not still received the funding because the process is long and tedious and requires so much documentation.

He focused on marginalized community groups and the lack of efficacy or capacity with a lot of groups. We are able to be involved in the process of how our communities are shaped in terms of the built environment. Extra time is usually spent to develop this capacity with each group while providing them with the tools to see space differently. The capacity to be able to ask questions of what you can re-imagine spaces. However, on the other hand, we need to make sure to let them know we are not wasting their time with all these activities and that they are part of a larger process. After spending time to invest and build a relationship and creating a grant vision we are not able to deliver because there is no clear pathway. It will take time and we must build the process where we can incrementally see some of those changes happen. The issue is that these changes often do not happen, after all the time we spend building relationships, trust, and grand visions,

but not able to deliver when the time comes due to a lack of having the right path to deliver them! This is a downfall and problem to everything that was built and damages the relationship for future projects. Also, it is important to communicate with people that make sense to them. For example, using imagery, visuals, and language that speaks to the experiences from the streets and form the ground level rather than imagery that are isometric and elevated views. Also, the technical language such as floor area ratio, high-density ratio, and intensity are not easy for ordinary people. The other important issue we have (mostly in Calgary) is that we have good policies, but we have lots of them! Often, they can contradict each other and not align with each other. There is a disconnect between policy and budget as well as policy and process.

Our construction industry is broken and misunderstood for a long time. There is a commercial, residential and industrial industries which are totally three separate business models and that is also misunderstood the expectations people have of the industry. It is worth mentioning that it has been relentlessly oppressed by a race to the bottom low bid mentality as one of the major barriers to quality. It has been taken to the next level through the rise of procurement as a disconnect between the reality of a building and turning Construction services into a product. The race to the bottom has been the skill that the industry has been forced to evolve into is how to be cheapest. So quality is not a priority anymore as soon as procurement starts. This impacts how the design is selected so you get a low bid design price that basically becomes how few billable hours we must apply to the design process to work within that budget which then translates into weak contract documents which then translates into a bit of scam bidding process because how can you do a real bid for a project with 60% complete drawings? Our industry has been turned into this unregulated race to the bottom who can be cheapest and who can cut the corners, who can create the low bid and then go after the extras later. It is fair to say that the construction industry has tuned into this negative experience that when a project should be realizing its physical manifestation of great design it gets handed over in construction.

The tradespeople and owners in our industry are just as obsessed with building great buildings, as architects are with designing great buildings and end users are in occupying and interfacing with great buildings. We have our way, and this project can be the ticket to reverse the trend that construction has been on. Imagine if construction became the physical artisans that have the skill to turn a great design into reality and they are not excluded through their bid process or a procurement process. It is important to understand where the construction is heading and what is becoming the norm. North America has a bad relationship with the design process because we want it to be fast and cheap. Construction needs to be involved in design not just the end of it. I also think we could accelerate the results we all crave if we would literally get in the room and attach ourselves to what's best for the project and have constructors and designers and end

users have in the conversation from day one and through the project. The biggest shift that needs to happen whether the conversation is about the value of design, engagement, construction, and trade expertise is to stop obsessing about the cost of doing it and most importantly about the cost of doing it wrong! The mindset should shift from doing cheap the first time rather than doing it right and this goes for design, products, services, and construction.

One of the main barrier is starting too late. From an accessibility perspective what is often observed is that it is applied nearly to the end of the project mostly at 90% completion where you can not really change the design. The other important item to the topic of using minimum code requirements. A good example is the areas of Refuge within the building during emergency situations and it is most of the time an extra cost for the project. It is not considered during design. It is important to allow and create an environment where all our community members can participate

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

<https://fondationverolouis.com/en/the-project/>

<https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/nhs/nhs-project-profiles/2019-nhs-projects/vero-louis-foundations-habitat-program>

Proposed the Vero foundation “Housing for adults” as a case study. As a good example of what was envisioned by the founders for the end product and its use. There is definitely a process there and a huge gap between what was initially thought of as ideal and how it’s used today. There is a lot to learn from this project, hoping to change the process for other projects.

Aging in place multi-generational homes - Housing project in Australia by NDIS and Liveable housing Australia – a great initiative providing accessibility in the residential sector but the project failed.

He gives an example of the Champlain Bridge which has been built twice now.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champlain_Bridge_\(Montreal,_1962%E2%80%932019\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Champlain_Bridge_(Montreal,_1962%E2%80%932019))

<https://peimpact.com/the-bridge-that-collapsed-twice/>

https://mitl.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2021/05/MITL_Champlain_Bridge_Report.pdf

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

Brian summarized the meeting very well and raised some very important comments and questions to consider. Two main important constructs that he suggested are value and values and also issues around process:

1. **Value and Values:** We need to understand the difference between value and values – on the **value** side we need to ask what is the worth of quality and how each of the players or each of the organizations around the table looks at quality. The SO WHAT? And what matters? On the other side the **Values:** what underpins our drive to seek quality and our willingness or ability to be able to work together?

We all know that many of the processes don't work! Developing design processes that are more inclusive and allow more voices to be heard as well as allow us to move from concept to fruition of a product is very important.

2. **Delineation of Shared Vision:** having multiple and diverse groups of individuals at the table, not just architects is an important part of this work.
3. **Common language:** creating a language that is clear to all the members and groups and staying away from the academic vocabulary can create troubles and complications. Finding ways to communicate, converse and collaborate is critical for this work.
4. **Clear Expectations and potent measures:** Through language and vision then we need to have reasonable ways of measuring if we are successful. We are successful if And, what are the metrics? Beyond measurable and quantity. However, society expects us here in North America to have ways of assessing whether we have met our objectives. A good example is a post-occupancy evaluation to understand how the users and the occupants experience the space.
overall, it is important to understand what we value and the values that drive us towards that vision is going to be very important.

Cluster 3: Inclusive design for health, wellness, aging & special needs

3b – Roundtable 2 - UCalgary & UMontréal - August 25 pm

Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 14:00 to 15:30 p.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION + SECOND ILLUSTRATION OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

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Date of submission: 2022 / 10 / 09

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In August 2022, the first of a series of five annual meetings was held “aiming to define future frameworks for developing and assessing the quality of the built environment”. It brought together more than 120 participants from across Canada at the invitation of associate partners from 14 universities. During this first convention, 3 series of 5 thematic roundtables made it possible to discuss expectations and obstacles to the quality of the built environment. Each roundtable was made up of academic researchers and representatives from cities, citizens' groups, and professional organizations. These roundtables made it possible to collect three types of information that will be used to develop quality roadmaps: testimonials describing explicit obstacles to quality; suggested case studies to analyze these obstacles; ideas and suggestions for ensuring the social value of participatory processes. This report outlines a summary of the discussions that took place during the 2nd roundtable of the cluster 3B whose topic was Inclusive Design for Health, Well-being, Aging and Special Needs. Beside academics and representatives from cities and professional organization, the cluster 3B brought together citizen groups concerned with inclusive built environment like the Foundation Véro & Louis, the Foundation Québécoise de la maladie d'Alzheimer or the organization Building Equality in Architecture Calgary.

1- 1-Main Expectations for the Partnership

For the 2nd roundtable of this cluster, the focus was principally on the barriers encountered by professionals and award organisations. There was also more time allocated to present and discuss some case studies. For this reason, there was less opportunity to hear the participants express themselves concerning their expectations vis-à-vis the partnership. In summary, some of them are interested to participate because they need to renew their criteria of excellence, or they want to have feedback on their ongoing project or research. Others hope that this partnership will help develop a great collection of case studies and evaluation tools and contribute to strengthening the collaboration process among the partners to improve the quality of the built environment.

Concrete Examples of Barriers to Quality in the Built Environment

The main challenges faced by professional organizations are related to award categories. They are currently in the process of « upgrading » them and even reviewing them completely « from ground zero ». A representative from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) anticipates that in the future there will be fewer awards programs but « much heavier focus on the quality. » He said that they were used to provide an award to the Canadian Green Building Council. « But they decided that they will no longer be given that the prize because every building should have green elements. » According to a participant, the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) is also reviewing its categories because they are not adapted to today's needs and expectations regarding certain quality standards. For examples, « They were used to give awards for houses or cottages located

deep in the woods, in the forest or more in an urban environment but they were not supposedly sustainable or green enough although they might respect some kinds of certifications such as LEED. »

Another topic that came up very soon in the discussion was the need to collaborate more and to include more diversity of perspectives, of people voices regarding the reflections and the means to improve the quality of the built environment. A representative from the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) saw « a myriad of barriers all the way through the education system and then barriers in the profession itself. There is a tremendous limitation on who gets to participate in a meaningful way in architecture. » We should think about how to involve a greater diversity of people in the debate around the quality of the built environment. In this regard, another participant invited us to look at the new strategic plan by RAIC. Both organizations share the same concern to make the profession more accessible to all, to include more people in the design process and to make submissions accessible to a greater number of people. This is not an easy task because right now, as another participant pointed out, there is a tremendous limitation on who gets to participate in a meaningful way to architecture.

One of the main challenges brought by the professionals during the session concerned existing buildings, some of which are underutilized. A representative from AAA pointed out that « all architects are going to work with existing buildings at some point » of their career. This represents « an incredible building stock » that we can work on for a greener path. But they weren't designed to be inclusive environments which now is synonymous of quality. So how do we recalibrate what we think of in terms of design focus, design excellence within the existing built environment? How do we also recognize what substantial gaps exist in these buildings that we must continue to live with? The fact that the debate on quality seems to focus mainly on new buildings is an issue also raised by another participant. She pointed out that most architecture awards recognize only buildings which are usually no more than five years old. But those buildings have not proven their quality over time and from a user perspective. She suggests that we start rewarding buildings that have already been there for a certain number of years. For another participant, this kind of award category could be difficult to put in place due to the possible lack of information and change involved over time. If you retrace buildings that I've been built longer ago, it is possible that nobody will remember who did it, that the person switched firm, that the information has been lost.

Questioning the quality of the existing built environment leads to looking at the life cycle of a building, at their value over time. A participant suggested that we can « give prizes to buildings at different points in their life cycle. This raises many questions about quality: how does a building evolve over time? How is it used? How do people appropriate it? We can also give post occupancy awards. An idea mentioned by many participants during

the roundtable. This can allow the user to be heard. This may lead to reviewing the composition of the juries as well as the evaluation process. Who gives awards? Is it architects mainly? Is it people from the design or would you sometime include people from outside the profession to get a different point of view?

The evaluation of the design process as well as how a building or a public space is used over time to bring us to the difficult problem of the definition of quality and the elaboration of criteria and even metrics. We are used to evaluate the performance and the aesthetic of a building or a public space but how do we evaluate the quality of a design process or the quality from a user's perspectives? How to evaluate quality which, « include elements like inclusion, equity and the collaborative process? Some elements are really hard to measure. A participant from Building Equality in Architecture Calgary explained that the City of Calgary has been working on some public space metrics over the past few years. And some of the challenges they encountered were related to the practical side of implementing and measuring these things. Even, if there are a lot of guideline documents about what quality means, it doesn't mean the city has the data, it doesn't mean that it's consistent across all the spaces you're trying to measure. It also takes resources in order to do those kinds of user surveys. To include the user experience side of things is not just about measuring things that are built, it's about how people feel about it. And that means different things for different people. And this is a complex process that takes time.

Another important barrier to quality that was brought up during the discussion is the lack of knowledge of the materials, like wood. This is in part due to the incomplete training of the professional like architects and engineers. They need to use materials more properly in the design process and during construction. As an example, a representative from Cecobois described the challenges they encountered during the realization of the three phases of the residential complex Arbora in Montreal. This project showed that if you really know what you're doing and with what you're working for the same structural frame, you can have a very good quality or a very poor quality.

Finally, the notion of the quality of the built environment is, by itself, something difficult to circumscribe. As a participant from Sustainable Calgary points out, not only the built environment is by nature very dynamic, but the notion of quality is something that is always changing as our understanding grows and there is also a certain timeless element in it.

2- Concrete suggestions for case studies (for future research)

The first case study that was presented during the roundtable is the Arbora project, the world's largest residential complex in solid engineered wood. The design and the construction of the three phases of this project are well documented. It is a very relevant case to understand the importance of knowing wood material, its properties and how to use it well in construction.

To better understand how to involve all the people concerned in a given project, a representative from the City of Montreal suggests looking at a recent urban planning competition they held in Montreal: McGill College, Reinventing the Avenue. For this competition, beside a technical committee, there was also a second committee involving the stakeholders. They were able to have their say in what they thought that was a good or not good about every one of the concepts that were proposed.

During the roundtable, several case studies were presented considering the user's experience in the design process and in the quality assessment. Two of them are in Calgary: West Eau Claire Park and Harvie Passage. West Eau Claire Park is an award-winning public space that has been the subject of some studies examining how the place has been used by people. Harvie Passage is a white-water park, designed as part of the river. Since it's redesign, this space has become a very popular place with people coming from all over the city of Calgary.

A very interesting case to investigate is the Maison Véro & Louis in Varennes (Québec), a project pilot which has been recently built for housing young adults with autism. A building that came into being because of an independent funding from the Foundation Véro & Louis allowing a unique design process taking into account the special needs of the users.

Another inclusive project worth considering is a park in Grand Falls in New Brunswick. According to a representative from Vivre en ville, this public space has been designed for everyone, for every generation. It has elements made for people on the spectrum of autism. It's made for people with physical disabilities. It would be interesting to know how the space it's going to be used. Does it will be used by everyone or just by certain groups of people like the younger one.

Beside some case studies, two systems for evaluating the quality of the built environment were presented during this roundtable. The first one is *The Davos Baukultur Quality System*. It is composed of eight criteria for achieving quality during a design process. It is not intended as a tool for judging quality in the award situation. It is mainly made for project managers. The second one is the *Twelve Quality Criteria* from the Gehl Institute. These are not criteria to which a score can be attributed but a tool that aims to articulate

the discussion about the quality of a place. It helps to « put words on different public spaces » in order to compare them.

3- Miscellaneous (new problems and potential research questions)

During the roundtable, some participants suggested looking at award programs, quality standards and policies not just in Canada but at the international level. A participant proposes examining for example, those from New Zealand who are far beyond us in many aspects. What are the new orientations in terms of categories? Are they changing? And what is the new king of categories and criteria emerging? Are there any awards of excellence that assess the quality of a building or an urban space from the user's perspective, like a post occupancy award? Is there any architecture that examines the quality of a building based on its life cycle?

We are used to measuring performance and looking at the aesthetic and visual aspect of a building. But how to assess the quality of a building or public space in terms of inclusion and diversity? We need to consider the user experience, how a space is used, what people feel or think about it. And that means a different thing for different people. But it also raises the question of how to include citizens in the debate about quality and even in the evaluation process like in award programs. A participant mentioned some interesting avenues of research. It might be interesting to hear from citizens' groups to tell us what they think of architecture and design awards? Are they aware of the existence of these prizes? What could be, according to them, the way of evaluating the quality of these different prizes?

Towards the end of the roundtable, some participants suggested that developing scorecards go beyond awards. Because awards are too subjective contrary to facts. According to another participant, this could take the form of a collection of building types like libraries. So, you can have a series of case studies or scorecards of libraries from different provinces and cities that can become a resource for future projects, a resource of best practices.

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Cluster 3: Inclusive design for health, wellness, aging & special needs

3b – Roundtable 3 - UCalgary & UMontréal - August 26 am

Friday, August 26, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT + THIRD ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

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Wednesday the 24th of August 2022, saw the launch of the first annual convention by the *Canada Research Chair in Architecture, Competitions, and Mediations of Excellence* and partners. This was the occasion for associates from 14 universities across Canada, and their stakeholders' representative guests to gather in person and initiate the work on the "*Quality in Canada's Built Environment: Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value, and Sustainability*" financed by the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada* (SSHRC). This first foray took place at the *Faculté de l'Aménagement* of the *Université de Montreal*, and was meant to breach the "*Barriers to Quality in the Built Environment in Canada*". The participants were organized by affinity into 5 groups, all consisting of academic researchers and cities', citizens' groups', and professional organizations' representatives. Each group was tasked with tackling an aspect of the obstacles impeding the quest for quality. The meeting of these groups included members of the steering committee as well as representatives of the graduate student's committee. Each cluster had 3 roundtables to gather intel in the form of (1) Explicit testimonials on obstacles to quality; (2) Suggestions of exemplary study cases; and (3) Ideas and recommendations to warrant the social value of participatory processes. The following report covers the third and last meeting of Cluster 3B whose topic, *Inclusive Design for Health, Wellness, Aging & Special Needs*, is shared with its twin 3A.

1- Main expectations for the partnership:

This roundtable gave cities and public procurement the opportunity to recount the obstacles to the quality they had witnessed in their activities.

They also shed a light on their expectations for and from the partnership. Some of the interest in being part of this initiative stems from the desire of the agencies present to build bridges with the academic researchers in the context of their efforts aimed towards a definition of a new approach to quality.

Examples of barriers to quality in the built environment:

- The meeting opened with a brief English summary on the "*Montreal agenda 2030 for quality and exemplarity.*" The representative detailed the values used by the city of Montreal in assessing quality in the built environment. He then proceeded to brush over some of the areas that needed more care and special attention, before listing 6 major problems, as well as 6 strategies that were put in place to answer them. He then voiced the need for case studies that document the dimensions of quality as well as the problems encountered while trying to apply these dimensions to public projects. For instance, even with the best intentions, some practices can be acceptable only at specific scales and may even hinder inclusiveness at large (i.e., minority targeting).
- This last point was reprised by a participant in his intervention where he broadened the scope of this question by mentioning potential tensions emerging from designing for special needs and designing for the general public.

- The *PSPC* representative was invited to share her views on the matter. In her opening statement, she defined “federal science” as science for the public good and lamented the state of the facilities dedicated to this endeavor. She then went on to list the challenges met in trying to remedy the current state of affairs: these ranged from financial integrity to management, and even included questioning the very meaning of quality. Accessibility is a reflection of the ability to attract the public and by extension the talent of people into a space that promotes horizontal collaboration: You don't want to be behind a barrier; you want to bring in the public to understand the science you do. This shift in approach brought new questions to the limelight (procurement aspects, generational challenges, space conversion, etc.) and is at the core of the 25-year initiative intended as a step in the right direction, away from current obstacles and towards better all-encompassing designs.
- Another participant tackled the ever-changing definition of public needs. He invited the present experts presents to chime in on the matter and asked how both the city and the federal agency intend to meet these public needs, while, at the same time, accommodating special needs. In response, a participant stated that the *PSPC* in-house experts and the hired consultants' experience, contacts, communication skills, and general know-how are the determining factor in the success of such enterprises. However, the secluded nature of public services has generated an internal fracture that prevents knowledge exchange between units, which can impact success rates. This was later confirmed by a representative of the Rick Hansen Foundation who concurred. The procurement process's main concern is speed and even though mindsets are (slowly) changing in favor of a more measured approach, they still lack, as an entity, the foresight required to fulfill those needs.
- An expert on design for neurodiverse populations, clarified some of the conflicts surrounding the terminology when speaking about universal access. For designers, the notion of accessibility is mostly centered on the ease of use for the physically challenged and doesn't consider problems linked to other special needs, linked mainly to neurodiversity. In this regard, the topic needs to be expanded by all parties involved to redefine inclusivity in broader yet better-framed goals. This sentiment was echoed by another participant in her recounting of the scarcity of precedents addressing the needs of people with autism. Still, this meager backlog of relatively recent references helped guide their choices when designing a space for adults with autism.
- Noting the distinction between the needs of people with reduced mobility and those of people with neurological disorders, a participant asked how far do we need to go in the design of public spaces? Is there an inclusivity threshold? Where do we draw the lines? A participant replied that, as much as possible, we try to accommodate everyone. Reacting to these questions, a participant introduced the notion of “space

agility”. Do technological advances only contribute to accessibility as it used to be defined or can they contribute to a larger and more inclusive understanding?

- A participant reacted to the confusion linked to the use of multiple notions linked to inclusion in the public debate. He noted that, paired with a complete absence of relevant regulations, laws, and jurisprudences covering the subject of true inclusivity, this dissonance hinders all kinds of attempts at designing for neurodiverse people. Most importantly, he identifies the lack of certified professionals in the North American context as well as the absence of consultation of experts in the earliest stages of design as very clear barriers to quality.
- A participant highlighted the benefits of studying failed projects in order to better understand how to build new initiatives.
- Another participant pointed out that, at times, trying to satisfy several needs (special or not) at once ends in internal strife. Furthermore, a consensually regarded good practice could still fail due to user interference whether it is premeditated or not. He agrees that there are lessons to be gained from the failures of specific pilot projects, but the knowledge built through this process is unfortunately put aside as new experimental project are ushered in.
- The second to last barrier to quality was pointed out by a participant in the form of the loss of knowledge due to the lack of a common compendium or a repository of all the know-how gathered over the centuries. Having to constantly reinvent the same wheel robs architecture of some of the compound growth enjoyed by other disciplines based on the notion of progress.
- A participant closed on two issues. First are the financial barriers that creep higher with time and prevent smaller firms from partaking in competitions completely negating any potential improvement they might have brought to the table. Second is risk delegation, a process in which contractors are left managing all responsibility, and which is crushing the profession.

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2- Concrete suggestions for case studies (for future research):

- As city representative mentioned architectural competitions in high regard. He views them as the gold standard that has brought quality to Montreal for the last decade and goes on to list their merits. He suggests the municipal libraries projects as the perfect case study, given the City of Montreal’s involvement in their commission and the rare opportunity they provide for studying different stages of the building process from the initial programming drafts to post-occupancy evaluation (POE).
- Science facilities represent “one of the largest asset classes within the federal government”: more than half of them occupy office buildings built between 1960 and 1970. These facilities are targeted for a major overhaul in the next 25 years. This

leaves many office buildings deserted for lack of purpose. In this context, a participant suggested a case study on the fate of Office Buildings: “There are so many of them and they're very empty and it has a social and economic impact.”

- Another participant suggested the study of a failed project. Largely considered a failure, the *Livable Housing Australia* initiative was geared toward a resounding success: a partnership on an unprecedented scale whose aim was to bring affordable living to the mainstream backfired completely and is still at a measly 1% completion to this day.
- Another participant mentioned studies that link bad acoustics in school gymnasium to some sports monitors' gradual loss of hearing and wondered if there are any similar behavioral correlations to be found in the Lab-École projects. A participant underlined that failures are great learning opportunities. These unexpected tragic turns of events are an enlightening or rather mandatory study case for any aspirant designer walking a similar path. The recipe that leads to disaster is to be scrutinized under every light using as many lenses as possible to avoid all the pitfalls ending in downfall.

3- Miscellaneous (new problems and potential research questions):

A participant suggested to keep in mind the variations in the laws, structure, and regulations and how a one-fits-all solution isn't always ideal unless it proves to be context agnostic. Rather than a quest for a ubiquitous solution, local strength should be emphasized, and weaknesses mended in a bespoke fashion.

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Cluster 4: Processes & policies supporting the re-invention of built environments

Roundtable 1 - AthabascaU & ULaval & UManitoba - August 25 am

Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIZEN GROUPS + FIRST ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

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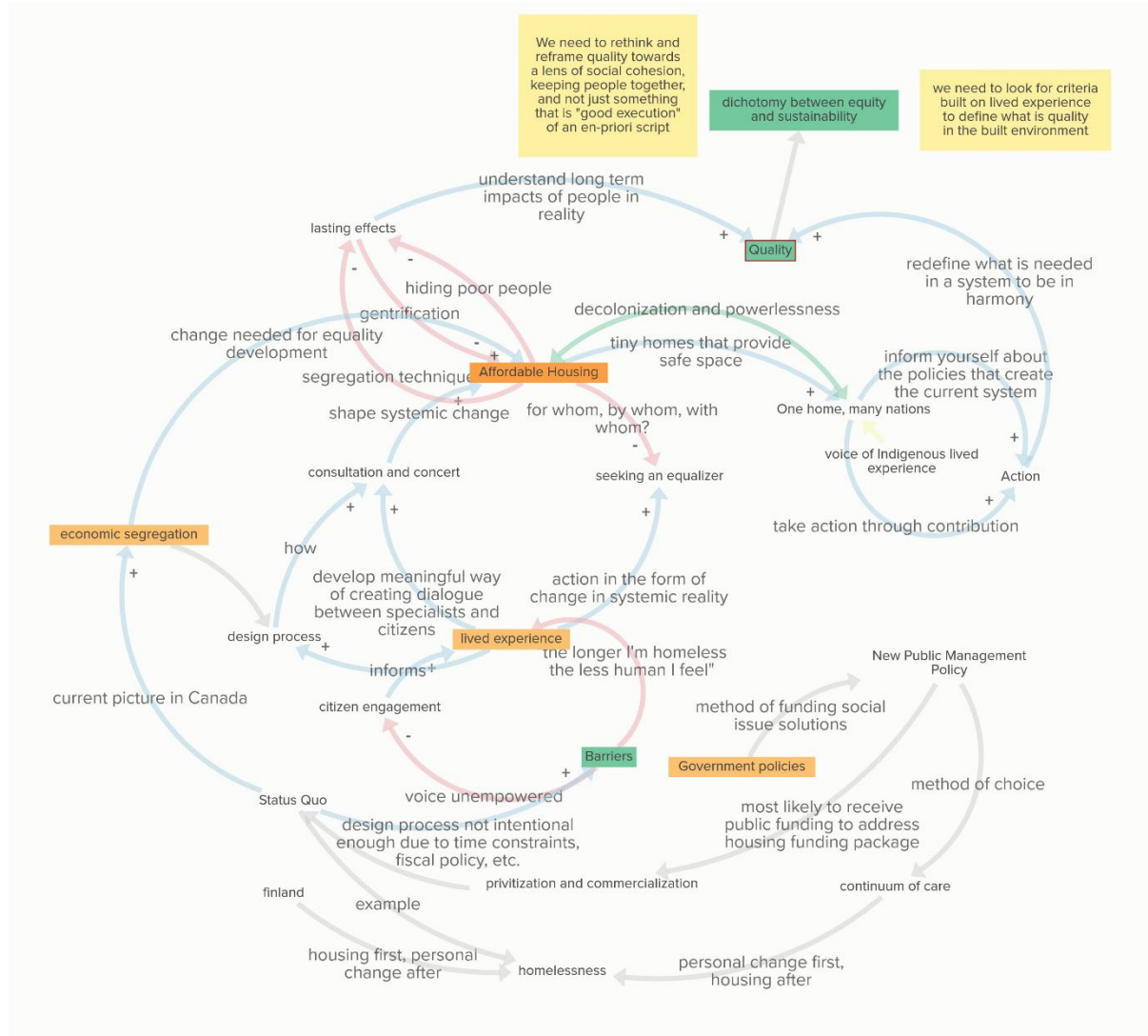
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Prior to the start of the roundtable discussions, all participants were welcomed with a land acknowledgment, story sharing, and a grounding of intention for the convention that ensured participants and knowledge sharers felt welcomed. The roundtables began with a round of introductions where everyone was invited to learn names, backgrounds, and develop a relationship of trust to facilitate respect and truthful sharing. After rapport was built, the group facilitators set an intention for the direction of the knowledge sharing session as well as posed the following line of guiding questions: (1) what does quality in the built environment mean? (2) What barriers to quality in the built environment have the participants experienced or identified? And (3) what stories or experiences have you had that come to mind when thinking about barriers to quality in the built environment?

The roundtable was composed of Indigenous peoples and citizens with experiential knowledge in areas of education, academia, community development, government procurement, professional regulatory bodies, grassroots advocacy, and lived experience. People came from regions that spanned the foothills of Alberta, plains of Saskatchewan, wetlands of Manitoba, lake lands of Ontario, and marshy woodlands of Quebec with experience residing in both remote and rural settings to major urban centres. Some in attendance had experience constructing their own homes, whereas others experienced access to stable housing for the very first time. This diversity of background led to a rich discussion on how governance practices, public policy, and mental paradigms of decision-makers produce leverage points and barriers felt by people often excluded from the conversation. These systemic leverage points have far-reaching consequences that impact the self-determination and self-sufficiency of people residing within Canada which is felt in the day-to-day struggles of living and engaging with the built environment.

The conversation started with a discussion on barriers to quality and how that was impacted by intersectionality and lived experience. An Indigenous member shared a statement from someone they worked with in the past that came to the forefront when hearing the term “barriers,” which was “the longer I’m homeless the less human I feel.” This statement resonated with participants because it exposed the bare truth, access to the physical structures around us that make up the built environment play a fundamental role in humanizing us. The conversation around quality in the built environment is often restricted to the dichotomy between subjectivism and objectivism, where the participants explored the dichotomy between equity and sustainability in relation to affordable housing.

The citizen advocacy members stated the major barrier to processes and policies supporting the re-invention of the built environment is grounded in low citizen engagement during the consultation process prior to zoning and development decisions. The low engagement of citizen participation in consultation efforts in community housing development projects was attributed to a lack of “consultation and concert”. The term “consultation and concert” amongst Indigenous members is akin to the term “reconciliation”. It is not enough to consult, people want to feel their voices and recommendations are being integrated into the solution, communities want to be co-designers in the built environment alongside specialists. Indigenous members defined consultation in this context as being the bridge between lived experience and affordable housing, where they want to see action in the form of change in systemic reality.

Two points were made when exploring the theme of affordable housing. First, access to affordable housing shapes system change, and second, affordable housing raising the question for whom, by whom, and with whom? Indigenous members felt the scarcity of access to stable and adequate housing that met family needs and provided a safe space

from violence. This deprivation of access to quality affordable housing translated to a continuation of disempowerment and colonialization for Indigenous peoples in the group. Whereas citizen group counterparts witnessed firsthand the lasting effects of affordable building complexes in urban centres which are seen as a segregation technique rather than a solution to a community issue. An example of an affordable housing complex in Montreal was given as the complex when first built was designed for low-income Montrealer's and has since become a place for low-income immigrant families. For citizen group members, their firsthand knowledge of the lasting effects of affordable housing is one of being a place for "hiding poor people."

Government policies form the basis of funding social issues and solutions utilizing the new public management policy framework. Under the new public management policy framework, private and commercial solutions are the preferred method to address affordable housing challenges as private organizations are the most likely recipient of public funding packages, such is the case with CMHC. The participants emphasized that this policy formed the basis of the current status quo. One participant pointed to the example of the continuum of care policy differences between Finland and Canada. Canada, as pointed out, values a "personal change first, social supports after" approach, whereas Finland takes the opposite road, "social supports first, personal change after." Due consideration of this paradigm shift, as pointed out by another participant, needs to be developed based on Canada-specific issues rather than a clear adoption of an imported perspective. Which led to professional members pointing out that the status quo contributes to barriers because the design process is not intentional enough. Moreover, the design process is not intentional enough because of constraints such as time constraints, fiscal policy, building resources, etc.

Roundtable discussions led to the connection between how the status quo contributes to economic segregation through the design process when lived experience and co-design does not inform the design process. Economic segregation is the result of the positive feedback loop created by maintaining the status quo and the affordable housing crisis in Canada. The roundtable determined this as an area that change was needed for "equality in development." Indigenous members brought forward that Canadians should inform themselves about the policies that create the current system and act by contributing to Indigenous organizations that are knowledgeable in addressing issues affecting Indigenous peoples. From the Indigenous people in the roundtable, quality in the built environment can be achieved by redefining what is needed in a system to be in harmony with all living beings that interact with the system. Moreover, we need to look for criteria built on lived experience to define what is quality in the built environment. Furthermore, citizens and community members posited that to improving quality in the built environment requires an in-depth understanding of the long-term impacts of policies on people in reality. Ultimately, the roundtable discussions led to a consensus around rethinking and

reframing quality towards a lens of social cohesion, keeping people together, and not just something that is “good execution” of an a priori script.

Cluster 4: Processes & policies supporting the re-invention of built environment

Roundtable 2 - AthabascaU & ULaval & UManitoba - August 25 pm

Thursday, August 25, 2022, from 2:30 to 4:00p.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS + SECOND ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Authors of the summary:

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- *Trishtina Godoy-Contois (AthabascaU)*

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- **Sylvia McAdam (UManitoba)**
- **Mercedes Garcia-Holguera (UManitoba)**
- **Shauna Mallory-Hill (UManitoba)**

Citizen groups:

- **Farida Abu-Bakare (Black Architect & Interior Designers Association)**
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- **Kayla Keenatch (One House Many Nations)**
- **Alexandre Drouin (Vivre en ville)**

Cities and procurement:

- **Thierry Montpetit (PSPC)**
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- **Patrick Littée (OAQ)**

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- **Trishtina Godoy-Contois (AthabascaU)**
- **Matheus Cabral (ULaval)**
- **Panayiotis Polyzois (UManitoba)**
- **Brooks Piper (CPRQ)**
- **Mandana Bafghinia (UMontréal)**

1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

This roundtable focused on expectations and concerns by professional organizations across Canada.

All across the country, every province has a regulatory body like the Ontario Association of Architects or the Alberta Association of Architects that regulates the profession. These organizations make the real role of regulators.

Their role (e.g., Alberta Association of Architects) is to make sure that the public is safe from the buildings that we build. On the other hand, it is known that each province is a little bit different and sometimes that can make for difficulties.

Then, to put people on the spot and say this is a very interesting issue, but does anybody have any comments that they would like to start off with in order to share with us about professional organizations?

In addition, in this matter, it is important to highlight that apparently in Canada 90% of the buildings are not designed by architects. Then, as we have a building code, some buildings can up to a certain square footage inch and a height. You don't have to be an architect in order to design it.

In Quebec, for example, the difference between all of the other provinces is that our association (*Ordre des architectes du Québec*) is a regulatory body. In addition, in Quebec, many professionals are regimented by professional regulators (e.g., doctors, dentists, and lawyers). On the other hand, the *Ordre des architectes du Québec* look over very closely on its role do and how to regulate it.

Due to this strict concept, for a long while the protection of the public was a very tunnel vision way of doing making it disastrous in the past five to six years.

Then, Quebec was able to widen its views so that we can now do different measures which when you look at them individually, they don't necessarily equal protection of the public, but when put together with other measures it does, let's say by better educating the public.

Now we're giving us the opportunity to go wider than just making sure architects are following a straight line and are competent and this and that. But we're actually going larger than this strict vision of protection to the public to try to build a better built environment.

The architects' role is in promoting and assuring quality. However, we wonder to know about the regulations. What are the criteria for joining the conversation, especially for communities?

For example, the process to become a Carpenter which requires supervision and certain amount of training hours that are not possible in rural communities. Here it's not a

technological issue, but to promote the people to have the skill set in the community to do it.

It is understandable that the role of these professionals and organizations is to serve the public. However, professional orders must to understand that there is knowledge in people. Regarding the urbanism plan, there is a shift when we say that we want to go to the public, *we must listen to the public and recognize their knowledge*. In addition, there are so many standards and procedures for building. *Some of them might be counterproductive when we're trying to do something to be adjustable and more flexible to our buildings.*

It must to think about a perspective of self-sufficiency and what that means. *So, we're going into a nature versus built environment. We're going where's the harmony in that? Both things need tension to exist. You know, we're going into a sprawling versus dense. Other than that, if you're going to go to school and you're going to study to be an architect, you probably didn't learn those skills and how to build your home in that program.*

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

The two challenges were highlighted in this roundtable. The first were those linked due to professional orders (architecture in this case). For example, the discussion about only registered professionals being able to contribute to the built environment. In addition, the barriers brought by these organizations to foreign professionals to help in the quality of the built environment. The second was linked to the challenge of training new professionals, attracting new talents to the profession. So, the future of the profession depends on changing all that. Mainly in attracting young people to the profession.

Regarding the expectations, some point must be highlighted, the first is that the order (OAQ) is managed by the government, enforcing of what architects can do. Second, to expand or to widen the vision, the view or the inclusivity or how, it must be necessary to look further than just making the public safe and include social values. Finally, on the other hand, we cannot contribute to the built environment unless having that ring or stamp (be a registered professional). Therefore, it would be good to be what could we do or act to help these people have a better voice and how can you enable this voice so you can change maybe the way you deal with the order?

Immigrants that typically come for masters or PhD and are working primarily in fields of research and in terms of addressing really technical issues, but yet it only counts towards, I think it's something in the order of like a PhD council ward, six months' worth of the

hours that you need in order to get your accreditation for the Alberta Engineering Association. Then, it is absolutely a barrier that prevents people who are even qualified and even more educated than people were more specialized in addressing a single issue, but it prevents them from accessing even jobs or entering into the field.

As an immigrant, it is clear that professionals' orders are a barrier, especially as Canada being an immigrant country. Therefore, it is important to address how to allow these people that in many cases can contribute to increasing the quality of architecture and how to facilitate these people to become active?

Thinking about the relationship of built spaces versus the environment. This is not a barrier, but it's maybe a symbiotic and positive relationship. Then, a new definition of quality or a new way of thinking quality includes a definition in that specific case. And how do we make sure that nature and the built environment are not opposites? Feeding back each other, and that also applies to many other concepts or ideas that we had ingrained in our minds about what quality means.

Regarding the indigenous perspective, in many cases not always a building last for 100. On the other hand, in many indigenous communities' buildings are built seasonally. They are built and unbuilt and built and built.

For indigenous people, architecture was not presented as a professional possibility. Just once for the U of M in Winnipeg. However, there is a problem of family split, to moving too far away from the family.

Regarding the barriers and challenges, we went through the ideas of procurement and working groups and schools and middle school, elementary school, high school level. It has been the only way of really creating real engagement.

With the work experience from the US and in Canada, it was possible to take a lot of teachings from that that process and apply that in my firm at that time in Toronto and we morph that into a mentorship program. Where it was reverse mentorship, so junior staff was mentoring senior staff, and through that it allowed a lot of different conversations that weren't happening of just about gender roles and race as well. Quick interactions, 2 weeks or four weeks or six months or whatever the relationship was, what that younger generation was looking for through those interactions that were either informal or formal. So, I think they just create an opportunity to have dialogue and also create the opportunity to be uncomfortable. Then, morphing that mentorship program externally, that's the approach we used at beta because we felt that if we listened to the younger generation. We would understand how to improve the profession because they're the ones with the next experience and we've already had kind of our lived professional experience and so we started with portfolio reviews.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

As I said before, a very large percentage of the built environment in Canada was designed by non-architects. There's that aspect lots of the Urban planning decisions are still based on providing single family homes in urban areas. I think that in North America is an expensive good, that is probably not basic. It is necessary that all organizations do a better job to explaining to the public what is the benefit of hiring an architect as opposed to not there must be some.

It is also important to highlight that in terms of zoning, we are using the land very poorly. It could be an opportunity to push to a higher density i.e., the uh stacked housing or larger buildings or multi-units. Those buildings then it would trigger a very different circumstance it would put architects would be back into the fray of things just by the way that the regulation is done.

Speaking of quality in the built environment and how the architecture is one part of it is important. However, the urban planning and land use is the point that must be considered for the whole scenario and to define how we build our communities.

Then, we need to find the right balance, because when we speak of higher density, we also want to preserve nature instead of sprawling and destroying it. We need to reflect on how we should build our communities and make access to nature or urban parks and how we find the right density at the right places.

And also like the quality in build environment is not only the building but what surrounds it.

So, we need to build where there are services, where there is like a grocery store nearby infrastructures to move around. On the other hand, it is often done in places that are already built. From this perspective, as there are people that live in these regions, it must be an opportunity to take advantage of it, engaging them in the conversation.

The *Ordre des architectes du Québec* (OAQ) is widening the horizon right now.

For example, in the past during the training people used to have to do five thousand eight hundred hours of internship. Today, it is about 3000 hours (30% less time).

In addition, a Canadian exam for architects has been enforced since 2009. Then, in Quebec the numbers of professionals have exploded. We've in a matter of about 10 years cause it's about 10-11 years that this new exam is there. We've almost doubled our numbers in 10 years and the so the order exists since 1974.

Of course, the order is always trying to figure out ways to make things more user-friendly and more flexible. For example, for the committees, the OAQ have architects but we also have added non-architects on juries. Most of our juries now will always have at least one, what is called "democracy, public or public member" which can be any personality. In

some cases, immigrants or other minorities peoples that have the bond with the Quebec to contribute to as a jury member.

To help with the problem of building more with architects, one of the answers is communication. By explaining to people what architects do, and one of the things that we've never done before, that's going to be done the work is in progress right now is we're actually going to spend a lot of money to do a national campaign.

On the role of architecture and architect. To try to sensitize the community and the people on what it is we do so they if they better understand what we do then they may maybe better understand how they can contribute and that's just the first step so and this was never.

That could eventually be stuff that's going to come another line, but right now what we're trying to do is we're trying to get out of our ivory tower to let people know what.

That is, that's going on. What do we do, what is architecture?

If people are more sensitized, then they'll be more interested in contributing and then we'll see where that brings us down the road.

About density. I believe that density is not necessarily bad. I think it's just a question of how you do it. If you do good density, it's OK. For example, the first people who lived in Mesopotamia. In there were no streets that were just a house next feature. People will walk on the roofs to go around and following holes and infinitely go to their houses. So, density is just a way of just thinking of rethinking it, to make it green, to make it different than this whole.

Also, about the professional's shortage, we could have a lot more architects and employees in our offices, everyone looking for work. But there was no money down the line because unfortunately in Quebec, all of our universities are confidentiality. There's a contingency, so basically if you want to study architecture in Quebec. You have to be a very, very good student because there are only about 300 spaces available throughout the three universities every year, but there are thousands of applicants.

Regarding the problem of the family shift lived by indigenous people and challenges for studying in other provinces, because Athabasca provides virtual courses, the students live and work all across the country and they don't have to leave their communities. *One of the things I think we've all experienced in architectural education is that it's like. We get completely separated from our former friends and families. It's like you're almost cut off and put into this whole new, different cultures. And so that's one thing that we think is, you know, maintaining the connections to your family and to your community are extremely important.*

About challenges to be in one professional order, one other thing that is happening in the United States is called the integrated path to architectural licensing. People while they're doing their masters, they can start to accumulate their internship hours. They can even write their exams so when they graduate, they can actually be licensed.

On the challenge of indigenous communities and the built environment, those communities should be designed and built and operated by and for the people who live there. And sometimes I think architects need to get out of the way.

Let the communities develop themselves and these are important skills if and you're right it 90% of the, you know the buildings are not designed by architects which means and that largely houses right. So how can we get help people design build and operate their own homes?

Also, to see those homes as part of a fabric, not just a single building existing on its own, but rather as part of a community of buildings that work together.

This is good as an extremely self-serving, but because Athabasca is virtual, our students live and work all across the country and they don't have to leave their communities. One of the things I think we've all experienced in architectural education is that it's like. We get completely separated from our former friends and families. It's like you're almost cut off and put into this whole new, different cultures. And so that's one thing that we think is, you know, maintaining the connections to your family and to your community are extremely important. Originally is what we should be teaching in the schools in order to help students develop as good architects. The sad part about the skills agenda, and we have it in Alberta as well, it's right across the country. The skills Agenda will get you a job today because that's what business wants, but it'll mean you'll be obsolete tomorrow.

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

On Reserve, we don't own our homes. The government does. A couple of years ago, the government made an announcement of 12.7 million for First Nations people in terms of housing.

There are 619 bands across Canada and all of them *have to meet the criteria to access that money, and that criteria are almost impossible to meet.* We were able as a band, we were able to meet that. That is because we had machinery, we had staff, we had all these other infrastructures. And we are one of the rare bands to be able to meet that deal bands say which can like the near nearby reserve that's much, much smaller than we are.

On the other hand, every house on the reserve is owned by the government. So really what they're doing is they're awarding themselves. The other part is when I die, not if I leave a will. If the Minister of Indian Affairs disagrees with my will, they can change it.

How professional organizations can help to stop this? To change these policies? Because there is a straight line between those limitations and quality in architecture.

To deal with this, on our boards indigenous people are included. So, the reconciliation and the discussion have now been open for a few years, not much, but now it's I think it's

the beginning. So, we have to invest time, money, or organization and bring people together to talk about that and to ask and to make things change.

Cluster 4: Processes & policies supporting the re-invention of built environment

Roundtable 3 - AthabascaU & ULaval & UManitoba - August 26 am

Friday, August 26, 2022, from 9:30 to 11:00a.m.

EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP ON QUALITY BY CITIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT + THIRD ILLUSTRATIONS OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY

Authors of the summary:

- *Panayiotis Polyzois (UManitoba)*

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- **Stéphane Roche** (ULaval)
- **Michel de Blois** (ULaval)
- **Sylvia McAdam** (UManitoba)
- **Mercedes Garcia-Holguera** (UManitoba)
- **Shauna Mallory-Hill** (UManitoba)

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- **Panayiotis Polyzois** (UManitoba)
- **Brooks Piper** (CPRQ)
- **Mandana Bafghinia** (UMontréal)

1- MAIN EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP:

The expectations for the Quality Partnership itself were not explicitly addressed during this roundtable discussion, although certain points of interest and contention did arise, indicative of a broad view of the expectations regarding the outcomes for the partnership. In general, there was agreement among participants regarding the validity, value, and pragmatic nature of the partnership in that it has brought representatives together from various sectors in government, academia, and citizen groups from across Canada, to share their perspective on what the barriers to “quality” are. It was clear in the comments made by several participants, without disagreement, that the partnership was pivotal in facilitating these types of discussions, which themselves are seen across the board as a key stepping-stone in achieving quality in the built environment.

2- CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO QUALITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

Many explicit examples of barriers to “quality” in the built environment were discussed during the third roundtable discussion. These include: (1) the hierarchal bureaucratic structures intrinsically entrenched in procurement projects and processes and the divergency of stakeholder perceptions and priorities (2) a general lack of holistic understanding (i.e., the bigger picture) (e.g., health, timescales, accessibility, managing cost, ‘hoops’ to jump through) when it comes to issues of poor quality in the built environment, especially when facing those most at risk, such as the Indigenous peoples of Canada (3) systemic racism, the misunderstanding and misappropriation of the Indigenous perspective, and the chronic underfunding of Indigenous communities across Canada, and (4) the concept of a circular economy and how it is not widely appreciated or accounted for. These examples are discussed in more detail below.

- 1) Hierarchal and bureaucratic administrative structures in City and Procurement divisions and a divergency of stakeholder perceptions and priorities.
 - a. The higher up you tend to go to the ladder (i.e., federal procurement services) the larger the projects are, the more difficult they become, as there are more rules / regulatory frameworks to follow. As a result, you are more prone to disconnection from those at the lower levels including the public. Furthermore, within these complex multi-level structures, those working closest to the public in procurement services, feel powerless to directly impact the status quo, set by those at the top – who remain disconnected from those at the bottom.

“We’re dealing with a huge cross section of the Canadian reality ... (there are) grassroots, local roots, there is the Le Cartier (i.e., district level), there is the city, there is the province, and there is the, in my case, the federal government...the more you go up that chain, I would say, the more complicated the rules become ...because you have to answer to a broader, broader, broader kind of set of rules, but you also get further and further away from the people that are impacted on the ground...” (Thierry Montpetit)

2) Lack of holistic understanding around the issues of “quality” in the built environment.

- a. Priorities are often shaped by professionals and cities from a narrow scope of view, a view dominated by initial cost reduction, rather than from one that is holistic in nature, derived from a sustainability lens.
- b. The concept of “quality” itself is understood differently by different groups.

“Quality in the built environment should allow spaces for us to go and smudge, like in urban places from the urban buildings, because we need that” (Sylvia McAdam)

For one group, “quality” in the built environment might be qualitative in nature (i.e., the ability to practice cultural and spiritual ceremonies), for another it may be centered on a question of energy efficiency and be strictly quantifiable. Different epistemological dimensions pertaining to health exist. The participants felt that it is important to understand that the concept of health, “quality,” and well-being can include dimensions relating to family, community, mental, emotional, and spiritual health—and not always strictly falling within a narrow scope of disease prevention.

- c. Lack of accessibility is a major hindrance in many Indigenous communities. Often residents live off the grid and rely on traditional livelihoods, such as the use of traplines for survival, or building their own homes with their bare hands, as their ancestors have for tens of thousands of years. Government codes and regulatory frameworks, as defined by the Indian Act, are not viewed positively, but rather as red tape which only acts to further damage and colonize Indigenous populations.

3) Systemic Racism in Canada

- a. There is rampant misunderstanding and misappropriation of the Indigenous perspective. Representation of Indigenous peoples and their voices at all levels of procurement is vital. However, often there is a push solely for indigenization (i.e., Indigenous representation) rather than for a wider spread reimagining of the core approaches taken in navigating the issues pertaining to quality in the built environment (i.e., decolonizing approaches)

“And I think advocates and regulators hopefully would be able to ... think about how do we include Indigenous voices at the table, not just to indigenize a system. Because when you just indigenize something, it's just, ... putting an indigenous person into something... We want to look at decolonization more so as a process ...I think we (need to) answer the deeper questions (the) longer term questions.” (Sylvia McAdam)

- b. There is chronic underfunding for housing in Indigenous communities. Funding for building new houses is simply non-existent in many Indigenous communities. For example, in Sylvia's community, a budget of only \$800,000 is allocated per year for a population of 4000 residents (\$200/person). This amount is intended to cover not only costs related to new construction, but also repairs, retrofitting, and building and maintaining key physical infrastructure, such as roads. In addition, there is much maneuvering required to even secure this little amount of funding. When the community finds new and creative ways to allocate the funds, the government will find ways to “claw their money back” (Sylvia McAdam). In reality, it is not the government's money, nor taxpayers' money, but rather it is money accumulated in a trust fund.

“That's the other narrative myth that is told to the public. That the money we receive comes from taxpayers' money. That is such a lie. It comes from a trust fund that is accumulated in the finances of the government and it's in the trillions of dollars.” (Sylvia McAdam)

- c. Systemic racism exists today in Canadian hospitals and within the healthcare system in general, which makes it difficult for Indigenous people to obtain the health care they absolutely need to overcome the barriers they face to “quality” in the built environment (i.e., good health / wellness). At times, they avoid visiting the nearest or most accessible hospitals altogether for this same reason.

- d. Systemic racism exists today within the Canadian enforcement divisions, such as the RCMP. At times police will not show up at all when called.

“In many cases they don’t arrive at all, and in some cases where there’s a death, they may show up.” (Sylvia McAdam)

In fact, to access services provided by the RCMP at all, communities must sign Community Tripartite Agreements (CPAs) specifically designed to protect the government’s interests.

- e. During the roundtable discussion it was suggested by Sylvia, that despite a lack of any formalized accountability on the government’s part, a framework for overcoming these barriers already exists in the form of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.⁷

4) Lack of appreciation for the circular economy

- a. We are only beginning to understand the benefits of understanding the circular economy, that is, an economy which appreciates and accounts for factors relating to sustainability and long-term impact. It is all too common that quick profits, low-initial costs, and immediate impacts are prioritized, rather than factors governed by more forward-thinking considerations.

“In the procurement process... we have been relatively obsessed with initial costs... From a very practical perspective, I think you know on the pure front end economic side (which is) very short-sighted (it is) cheaper to dump and buy new... People want predictability when they purchase something.” (Thierry Montpetit)

The reality is, even within government and procurement sectors, this short-term thinking approach, although it might offer some benefit in the near term, has long-term implications. Over time, the negative impacts are nonetheless felt, and unaccounted for. Falling into this trap will only serve to hinder sustainability as a whole and act itself as a barrier to “quality” in the built environment.

3- CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS FOR CASE STUDIES (for future research):

⁷ Quote from: https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

During the roundtable discussions, case studies that could help in the development of the roadmap to “quality” in the built environment were not a thematic focus. Rather, the discussion centered around the barriers to “quality” in general. Nonetheless, several case studies were mentioned during the 75-minute session. These include:

A) Vision Quartiers de la Canardière, located, within, Innovitam: Ville de Quebec, in Quebec City (Marc Antoine).

“The InnoVitam project is part of a desire to create, in partnership with businesses and educational institutions, a zone of technological innovation. Located on the banks of the river, between the Maizerets and Vieux-Moulin districts, the development of this sector will rely on compliance with good practices in terms of sustainable development.”⁸

“The City hopes to develop a Development Vision for the neighborhoods of La Canardière. A reflection is relevant since the districts of Maizerets and Vieux-Moulin will host many public and private projects over the next few years: the installation of the tramway, the development of the D'Estimauville eco -district and the Espace innovation d'Estimauville, the redevelopment of the Galeries de la Canardière, the construction of the new hospital complex (NCH) and the possible deployment of the InnoVitam zone. It's time to dream of a sector on a human scale where the coexistence of different uses has been well thought out. The Development Vision will make it possible, among other things, to determine spaces that lend themselves to greening, to identify the pedestrian or cycling axes to be developed or improved and to target places to develop public spaces.”⁹

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B) Technopôle Angus in Montreal

“The Technopôle Angus is both an urban revitalization project and a "life-size" laboratory for sustainable development and social innovation. It is now a booming living environment, with many organizations, businesses and local businesses. Different sectors rub shoulders there, including health, information technology, communications and food. The new eco-district, facing Parc Jean-Duceppe, welcomes new workers and thousands of residents from all walks of life: students, families, etc.”¹⁰

⁸ Translated from: https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/apropos/planification-orientations/amenagement_urbain/grands_projets_urbains/innovitam/

⁹ Translated from https://www.ville.quebec.qc.ca/apropos/planification-orientations/amenagement_urbain/visions/quartiers-canardiere/index.aspx

¹⁰ Translated from <https://sda-angus.com/revitaliser/technopole-angus>

- C) The Artscape Wychwood Barns in Toronto – a repurposed Tramway garage for public use (mirroring the tramway repurposing pilot they are looking to one in Innovitam in Quebec City)

“This community cultural hub is a prominent feature in the Christie and St. Clair neighbourhood. Its spaces include artist live/work studios, an event venue with unique architectural appeal, the Peter MacKendrick Community Gallery and office spaces for a range of arts, community and environmental organizations. It is surrounded on three sides by a City of Toronto Park. The redevelopment project achieved a LEED Gold rating in 2010.”¹¹

- D) Kapyong Barracks in the City of Winnipeg (off-reserve lands)

“ Treaty One Development Corporation in partnership with Canada Lands Company CLC

Limited has developed this Master Plan for the former Kapyong Barracks. This Master Plan

establishes a comprehensive planning and land use framework for the transformation of the

160-acre site into a diverse and vibrant mixed-use community that emphasizes Indigenous

design excellence and connectivity with surrounding established neighbourhoods.

This Master Plan is based on seven overarching aspirations that underscore not only the

significant development potential of the site, but also the significant opportunities that exist to

bring communities together: 1) generating prosperity and cultivating partnerships;

2) building

a welcoming and inclusive community; 3) celebrating First Nations identity and culture; 4)

promoting sustainable urban development; 5) advancing new expressions in Indigenous

design; 6) sharing knowledge and cultural teachings; and 7) showcasing innovation in design

and urban development.

¹¹ Quote from: artscape.ca/portfolio-item/artscapewychwoodbarns/

The land use framework is organized around seven land use designations that work together to create a complete community, with a diverse mix of housing, businesses, cultural institutions, community amenities, and attractions.”¹²

- E) A planned pilot partnership project between the City of Quebec and Nation-Huronne-Wendat (a First Nation), as described and proposed by Marc Antoine during the roundtable. (Limited information given)
- F) Squamish Nation redevelopment project in Vancouver: an on-reserve development within city bounds.

“Senákw has been a SŌwxwÉ7mesh village site for thousands of years. This project will tell the story of our Nation, working to partially right a historic wrong where our people were forcibly removed from these lands.

An overwhelming majority of Membership voted in favour of the development of Senákw, to create a legacy that will benefit generations of SŌwxwÉ7mesh by returning to the land and generating economic wealth.

This historic economic development opportunity will set the Nation on a path to complete economic independence and provides hundreds of jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for members in design, construction, and operations.

On September 6, 2022, SŌwxwÉ7mesh] xwumixw Council Chairperson Khelsilem joined the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau for the announcement that the federal government will provide \$1.4 billion to support the Senákw development. This is the largest loan from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) in Canadian history.”¹³

4- MISCELLANEOUS (NEW PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS):

Suggestions from the roundtable:

¹² Quote from Executive Summary from Former Kapyong Barracks Master Plan located: <https://treaty1.ca/kapyong/>

¹³ Quote from: <https://www.squamish.net/senakw/>

- Examine what “quality” means from a holistic lens and not on an a priori basis.
- The Indian Act and the limitations and hindrances it poses for Indigenous peoples striving to achieve “quality” in the built environment. The nuances pertaining to: on-reserve vs. off-reserve land, peace and friendship treaties, seated vs. unseated lands.

Key questions raised

- Josie Auger asked: “What are the roles of regulators and advocates in this, looking at processes and policies to support the reinvention of built environments, especially in the context of urban reserves? ...I would really like to hear more about developing projects on off reserve lands.”