Fostering Innovation for a Low Carbon Economy in Canada
PRESENTED BY:

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The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) is Canada’s national voice for excellence in the built environment.

Focused on strengthening the profession through advocacy, practice support, continuing education, and celebrating excellence, the RAIC promotes inspired collaboration for a better built world.
GHG reduction is a complex problem

The architecture community globally has already been driving change; it is engaged in shifting thinking and practice toward low carbon design.

RAIC addressing environmental challenges for decades through:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Promotion 2030 Challenge

Incubator for Canada Green Building Council

Architects can play a lead role in the achievement of the federal government’s GHG commitments
RAIC Committees

Committee on Regenerative Environments
  • Low-carbon built environment

Indigenous Task Force
  • Living conditions in Indigenous and Northern communities

Age-Friendly Housing Taskforce
  • Aging in place
  • National in scope
  • Part of international network of architectural associations
Innovation is the key to creating solutions.
Integrated Project Delivery – *a holistic approach*

- Effective collaboration
- A community of disciplines
- Mutually defined goals
- Open information sharing
**INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS**

- The federal government is the largest owner of buildings and land; opportunity to lead by example
- Qualifications-Based Selection Process (QBS)
- Role of the architect in Integrated Project Delivery
- New Building versus Retrofit
- Adopt standards Leed Platinum/Living Building

**BARRIERS**

- Inconsistent delivery of sustainable goals between departments and projects
- Lowest fee approach to procurement
- Transfer of uninsurable risk to professionals
- Economic drivers of New vs Retrofit
- Embodied impacts of New vs Retrofit
- Standards/Measurement Tools
- Voluntary vs Mandatory
Recommendations

Foster innovation to generate the cultural shift to a low carbon economy and a holistic understanding of sustainable goals

Align procurement practices
• Move to QBS process with pilot program
• Re-evaluate 3rd party procurement services
• Share risk appropriately

Adopt collaborative project delivery methods

Lead by example
• NRC updates to the model National Energy Code
• Support benchmarking and monitoring
• Raise targets for new, existing and rental federal buildings and align efforts across the government
Questions