



Application for the
Sustainable Development
Advisory Council:
Chris Chopik

October 9, 2020



THE CANADIAN REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE L'IMMEUBLE



REALTORS® and Sustainable Development

REALTORS® are in the business of helping Canadians find homes, and across the country, these real estate experts know the ins and outs of the markets they work in.

As such, it should come as no surprise that the effects of climate change are well known to our members. With a view to helping government meet objectives set out in the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy, the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) recently submitted a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance proposing a retrofit program aimed at making Canada's existing housing stock more energy efficient, as well as a property acquisition program focused on repurposing distressed properties to create additional market and non-market housing supply.

Over the past months, Canadians have reconsidered or renewed their relationship with the concept of home. The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the places we live into so much more, and now more than ever, it stands to reason that tackling climate change should start at home.

CREA's efforts to make real progress on this issue is driven by our committed membership. As the purveyors of re-sale housing, we have, over the years, discussed at length how emissions from existing housing stock can be reduced. No voice has been more prominent in challenging our profession to take immediate, meaningful action than Chris Chopik's.

Chris is a REALTOR® with more than 16 years of experience serving clients in the Greater Toronto Area. His passion for environmental issues has led him to align his work in real estate with the principle of sustainability, and the objective of ultimately improving quality of life for his clients and Canadians across the country.

With that in mind, CREA is pleased to submit this application for a position on the Sustainable Development Advisory Council on behalf of Chris Chopik.



ABOUT CHRIS CHOPIK

Over the years, Chris has established himself as an industry leader and a respected voice on all things environment and climate change. Chris applies an environmental lens to every aspect of his life, and nowhere is this more evident than in his work as a REALTOR®.

In addition to heading up sustainability initiatives with Sotheby's International Realty, he has volunteered countless hours of his time working with real estate associations at various levels to drive progress throughout the profession.

At the municipal level with the Toronto Regional Real Estate Board, Chris founded the Green Taskforce in 2007, while at the provincial level, he was the instructor for the Ontario Real Estate Association's course on climate, energy, and building ratings for 8 years. For nearly a decade, he worked to advance urban forestry and green infrastructure by serving as Board President for the Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF). He has also held leadership roles with the Conservation Council of Ontario, the West Toronto Initiative for Solar Energy, and Green Enterprise Toronto, among others.

His insights were cited by Phil McNeely, the former Member of Provincial Parliament for Ottawa–Orléans and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure during debate on the Home Energy Rating Act, 2008.¹ He was also consulted on energy performance for residential real estate by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's Standing Committee on General Government during their review of the Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009.²

Chris recently completed a Master of Design in Strategic Foresight and Innovation from the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) University, where his major research paper analyzed property resilience as a function of climate risk. During his studies at OCAD, he examined systems and futures related to climate refugees, futures of indigenous economic development, futures of seniors' care in Canada, and climate change impacts to land use planning.

¹ 'Official Report of Debates (Hansard), Thursday 16 October 2008', *Legislative Assembly of Ontario* [website], https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/node-files/hansard/document/pdf/2008/2008-10/house-document-hansard-transcript-1-EN-16-OCT-2008_L075.pdf, (accessed 18 August 2020).

² 'Official Report of Debates (Hansard), Monday 20 April 2009, Standing Committee on General Government, Green Energy and Green Economy Act, 2009', *Legislative Assembly of Ontario* [website], https://www.ola.org/sites/default/files/node-files/hansard/document/pdf/2009/2009-04/committee-transcript-1-EN-20-APR-2009_G025.pdf, (accessed 18 August 2020).

PUBLICATIONS

- Property Value in an Era of Climate Change, *OCAD University*(2019)
- Leading from the Future - Pathways to Resilience in Ontario, Sustainable Buildings Canada (2019)
- The Futures of Indigenous Economic Development 2042, creative commons (2017)

OTHER WRITING

- 'Canada's real estate sector needs to own up to climate risks', *Corporate Knights*(September 13, 2019)
- 'Help protect your clients from flood risk', *Real Estate Magazine* (May 2019)
- 'Why Ontario needs the Green Energy Act', *Real Estate Magazine* (May 2009)
- 'Real Estate and Rising Gas Prices', *Tonic Magazine* (2007)
- 'Green Energy Act and Condo Retrofit', *Condo Business News* (April 2009)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND WORKSHOPS

- 'Leading from the Future - Pathways for Resilience Investment' Sustainable Buildings Canada (*Toronto 2020*)
- 'Property Value in an Era of Climate Change' *National Association of REALTORS® Sustainability Summit (Louisiana 2019)*
- 'Growing Risk to our Housing Market, Perspectives on Coastal Retreat' *Centre for Planning Excellence (Louisiana 2019)*
- 'Real Estate Valuation is the Ticket to Mainstream' *Growing Sustainable Communities Conference (Iowa 2018)*
- Workshop: 'Greening Real Estate' *CREA Young Professionals Network (Ottawa 2018)*
- Workshop: 'Biophilic Design for Seniors Housing' *Grey to Green Conference (Toronto 2018)*
- Workshop: 'The Social Dimensions of Automation Innovation' *Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (Toronto 2017)*
- Workshop: 'Service Design Innovation' *Service Research Conference (Ottawa-Gatineau 2016)*
- 'What is the Real Estate Value of 'Tree Lined Streets'' *Grey to Green Conference (Toronto 2014)*

MEDIA

- Podcast: 'Chris Chopik - Real Estate and the Environment', *REAL TIME, A podcast for REALTORS®* (April 2020)
- Radio: 'Climate change and the real estate industry', *CBC News: The World at Six* (August 2019)
- Article: 'Climate change and the real estate industry', *Real Estate Magazine* (July 8, 2019)
- Article: 'Buying real estate in Toronto: The million-dollar dream', *The Globe and Mail* (August 22, 2014)
- Radio: 'Real Estate Value of Trees', *CBC Radio One's Metro Morning* (May 2013)

EXPERIENCE

- Sotheby's International Realty | *REALTOR®*
March 2004 - Present
- Fierce Enterprise Inc. | *Consultant, Stakeholder Engagement*
September 2001-2004
- Infopreneur Inc. | *Account Director, Partner*
November 1999-2001
- Dell Computer Corporation | *Enterprise Technical Sales*
January 1996-2000

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Strategic Innovation Lab | *Graduate Researcher* (2017 - Present)
- Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests | *Board President* (2004-2014)
- National Association of REALTORS® | *GREEN Designation Canadian Trainer*
(2012 - Present)
- Ontario Sustainable Energy Association | *Conservation Co-Chair* (2008-2013)
- Green Together Project | *Founder* (2011)
- Toronto Regional Real Estate Board | *Green Taskforce Founding Co-Chair* (2007-2009)
- Ontario Real Estate Association | *Instructor: "Understanding Climate, Energy, and Building Ratings"* (2007-2015)
- Green Enterprise Toronto | *Founding Board Member* (2007-2009)
- West Toronto Initiative for Solar Energy | *Organizer* (2006-2008)
- Conservation Council of Ontario | *Board of Directors* (2006-2008)

EDUCATION

- OCAD University, MDes., Strategic Foresight and Innovation (2019)