





Around the Coffee Table with Dale Jodoin

Are Canadians Paying More to Build a Stronger Canada?

By Dale Jodoin
Columnist

We Built the Housing. Where Do We Put the Cars?
More housing is needed. But when we put more people into smaller spaces, the cars, school traffic, and charging problems do not simply disappear.

Come home tonight and look down your street.
Not at the houses. Look at the cars.
Maybe there are two in a driveway, another at the curb, and one squeezed in front of a neighbour's house. Perhaps visitor parking is full.
Now think about that street five or ten years ago.
Something has changed.

Cities across Canada and the United States need housing. Apartments are going higher. Townhouses are being built closer together. More people are living on the same amount of land.

We need those homes.
But families have changed too.

Housing costs mean adult children may stay home longer. Several generations can live together. Working adults may share a rental because living alone costs too much.
Four adults can easily mean three or four cars.
Give that household one parking space, and the other cars do not vanish.
They go somewhere.
Usually, that means the street.
Now picture 3:15 outside a school.
Parents arrive for pickup. Cars line the curb. Someone stops near a roundabout. Another driver tries to turn around on a dead end street. A homeowner is trying to reach the driveway.

Then add a delivery truck, garbage truck, snowplow, or emergency vehicle.
Suddenly a street that worked perfectly well for years feels completely different.
People get frustrated. Neighbours blame neighbours. Bylaw gets called.
But maybe we are blaming the wrong people.

Planners face a real problem. Governments want more housing, land is expensive, and parking takes space and money.

Ontario has removed minimum parking requirements near major transit stations as part of its effort to lower housing costs. The province has said an underground parking space in a new development can cost as much as \$100,000.

That deserves to be part of this conversation.

Some rental developments also encourage transit use, including programs that can make taking the bus or train more attractive.
Good idea, when it works.

But not everybody works nine to five. Some people work nights, carry tools, or travel between communities.

A transit option only replaces a car if it can take someone where they need to go, when they need to get there. Then comes another question. Electric vehicles.

Natural Resources Canada recognizes that people living in apartments and other multi unit buildings can face problems getting access to home charging. The federal government has supported work aimed at improving charging for buildings without individual driveways or garages. So why are we not planning for that before construction?

Without proper charging, residents are left searching for practical places to plug in. That can lead to cords, questions about electricity, and arguments over who can charge where. Some high density developments work very well. Put housing near good transit, stores, schools, and jobs, and fewer cars may be needed.

The problem is not density.
The problem is pretending every neighbourhood works the same way.

A downtown apartment beside frequent transit is different from a townhouse development where most residents drive to work.

Some places need more parking. Others need better transit, visitor spaces, or EV chargers.

There is no magic number.
But there had better be a plan.

A parking ticket cannot fix a planning decision made five years earlier. Neither can two neighbours arguing beside a blocked driveway.

So tonight, look down your street.
Count the cars. Look at the school corner. Look at the roundabout. Look at the driveways. If you're already thinking, "I know exactly what he's talking about," then this problem has already reached your neighbourhood. Build the apartments. Build the townhouses. Build the homes people need. Just remember something basic.

When we build housing for more people, we also have to build a community that can handle them.
Housing does not end at the front door.

Neither does good planning.



14 Bare-Knuckle Questions to Ask Your Next Interviewer That Show You Mean Business

By Nick Kossovan

When asking your interviewer questions, the first rule is: don't ask pointless "what's in it for me" questions; focus on role-defining questions that show your primary goal is to contribute to the employer's success and to assess whether you align with the company and your prospective boss. While compensation, benefits, and perks matter, your priority should be establishing a mutual fit, not chasing money or paid time off. Most job seekers act like they're a suspect in an interrogation room defending their resume. This passive behaviour stems from misunderstanding the core nature of an interview. An interview isn't a test; it's a business meeting between two parties evaluating whether reaching a deal makes sense.

When your interviewer asks if you have questions, they're shifting the power dynamic to you. 95% of candidates squander this opportunity by following advice from self-proclaimed career coaches and HR-approved platitudes. They ask what a typical day looks like, why the interviewer enjoys working there, or about promotion timelines. Safe questions signal you're looking for a comfortable place to park yourself, offering no evidence that you're serious about driving business results. As a job seeker, aim to stand out. Eliciting candid, unscripted responses is an effective way to do so. Sharp hiring managers—I count myself among them—want pragmatists who understand that business runs on results, not feelings. Asking questions that demonstrate your grasp of operational realities sets you apart from candidates who lack the backbone to ask tough questions.

Here are 14 bare-knuckle questions to ask your next interviewer to show you're committed to contributing to the company.

Interrogating the Operational Reality

1. "Every department has a fire. What's the burning issue in this role that the job description glossed over?" Job descriptions often serve as sanitized PR handouts. Identifying what's truly broken before committing to a fix saves everyone time.
2. "Let's skip the honeymoon phase; if I'm hired, what's the single biggest headache I'll face?" Asking this signals you're not expecting a cakewalk and want a clear view of the operational realities.
3. "What did the last person in this role do or fail to do that reshaped your expectations for this position?" This question cuts through ambiguous job descriptions and pinpoints the specific mistakes you're expected to avoid.
4. "Let's assume we're sitting here a year from now and I've knocked it out of the park. What tangible business problem did I solve?" Pressing your interviewer to define measurable success helps you assess whether it's achievable given your skills and experience.
5. "What's the biggest political roadblock in this department that frequently delays projects?" Denying that every office has politics is amateurish. Asking this question shows you can and, more importantly, are willing to navigate organizational landmines.

Evaluating the Internal Culture

6. "Every company touts its great culture, yet no culture is perfect. What's the most frustrating cultural norm a new hire must adapt to?" Sidestepping standard recruiting rhetoric reveals the unwritten rules and internal friction you'll encounter.
7. "If I asked your main competitor [better yet, name the employer's main competitor] about your company's biggest operational weakness, what would they say?" Asking this signals that you care about market share and competitive threats, setting you apart from candidates who focus solely on daily task management.
8. "When projects fail here, as they do everywhere, how does leadership manage the fallout?" Observing your interviewer's reaction to this question reveals whether the executive team prioritizes accountability or self-preservation.
9. "When people leave this department, what's the most common reason they leave?" Probing turnover patterns brings underlying retention problems to light, so you don't unknowingly walk into a toxic department.
10. "When was the last time this company took a hit to the bottom line to uphold its stated values?" Anyone can print a mission statement. This question prompts your interviewer to demonstrate that the company stands by its principles under financial pressure.

Reading Your Interviewer's Mind & Closing

11. "You've been here for a while. What was the biggest disillusionment you encountered during your first six months, and why did you stay?" Lowering your interviewer's guard encourages them to share an honest, personal assessment of the firm.
12. "What do I need to do in this role to make your job easier?" Asking this shows you understand that your primary role as a hire is to relieve your manager of pressure.
13. "How long do you realistically expect it to take for a new hire in this position to generate more value than they cost?" Asking tough business questions like this positions you not as an expense but as a revenue generator or protector.
14. "If I accept this role, what's the one mistake I could make in my first 90 days that would be hardest to recover from?"

Showing you anticipate make-or-break pitfalls proves you possess foresight and respect probation for the trial by fire that it is. These 14 questions are high-risk, high-reward. An insecure would-be boss will find them intimidating; thus, you dodge a bad-boss bullet, which is a good thing. However, a true leader, someone worth working for, will sit back, smile, and recognize (read: respect) that the person in front of them is operating from a position of strength



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