



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 16 – Bedford - Wentworth

Name of Candidate: Aaron Rice

1. The [Halifax Green Network Plan](#) (HGNP) should be used to guide the region's growth, but full implementation of the plan requires resources and enforceable rules to protect important greenspace and wildlife corridors. Will you support the full implementation of the HGNP to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional).

Yes. Protecting Green spaces are important not only for the environmental factors but also the mental health and well being of those that access them.

2. Will you commit to ensuring Halifax Transit attracts and retains enough staff to implement the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) network and ferry routes in the [Rapid Transit Strategy](#)? Explain why or why not (optional).

Yes. We need to continue to develop a framework that promotes fluid transit options for the city and District 16. Part of this framework consists of employees to be able to carry out the daily functions of these options.

3. Will you commit to implementing the [Road Safety Strategy](#) and achieving its vision of zero injuries and fatalities across all modes of transportation? Explain why or why not (optional).

Yes. A municipality that promotes and continually endorses road safety for cars, bikes, walking or whatever your means of transport is an approach that I fully support.

4. Are you committed to ensuring the continued implementation and full funding of the [JustFOOD Action Plan](#) as the municipality's first comprehensive, long-range food strategy, which will increase collaboration across levels of government and among community partners, strengthening our collective capacity to build a just, healthy, and sustainable food system. Explain why or why not (optional).

Yes. JustFOOD is an initiative that fosters production, supply, collaboration, communication and a sense of community. It is a long range in scope with what seems to have many exciting opportunities.

5. With climate change wreaking heat waves even in temperate climate zones, and the price of home-heating fuel spiking due to global conflict, access to affordable home energy efficiency has become a human right crucial to comfort and standard of living. Cities across Canada are seeing tenants mobilize for these rights. As an elected official, would you support a “right to efficiency” by-law supporting tenants’ rights to affordable energy efficiency support? Explain why or why not (optional).

Yes. The rise in cost affects everyone. Any and all support should be made available to everyone.

6. There are multiple stressors on local freshwater quality and quantity such as increased development and an increase in water-related climate events (e.g., floods, droughts, storms). Do you commit to advocating for and supporting watershed level management in municipal planning? Explain why or why not (optional).

Yes. It is critical that this is supported. Between flooding, violent storm surges, and wild fires our city has been impacted in so many ways. We need to continue to work together with the province to develop long term plans that make sense for our communities.

7. Will you, in the absence of a provincial Coastal Protection Act, advocate for and work towards passing municipal by-laws designed to address development on vulnerable coastal properties and infrastructure? Explain why or why not (optional).

Yes. We need to develop a plan that provides balance for the environment, development, and the preservation of coastline as we continue to work through climate change.

