



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 7 – Halifax South Downtown

Name of Candidate: Andrea Hilchie-Pye

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 I support protecting our green spaces and wildlife corridors. I support the continued progress towards meeting the 79 actions outlined in the report. According to the October 2022 update, 46 were in progress, 5 completed and 24 are guidance actions throughout the plan to 2025. I would like additional information on the current status of actions (for example, on track for completion by 2025, behind schedule), required yearly budget including any additional FTE's, a better understanding on impacts/contradictions to any current bylaws, possible economic challenges, and proposed developments . I would also like to better understand other possible challenges and practical options to overcome those challenges within the current constraints of fiscal pressures and competing priorities.

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, I support the Halifax Rapid Transit Strategy. If we are serious about moving people throughout our city, via other means than cars, we should invest in sustainable funding and human resources to support other modes of transit including rapid transit. To support the Rapid Transit Strategy we will need a long term Human Resources plan in place to train, recruit, and retain appropriate skilled workers. It is important to note that with 50% of the current budget spent on human resources new funding models may be required.

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, I support Road Safety Strategy. The six components (safe road users, safe roads, safe speeds, safe land use planning, safe vehicles and post-crash care) provide a comprehensive approach. The variety of safety initiatives (e.g. traffic calming, crosswalk safety, speed display signs, neighborhood speed limit reductions,) are key to supporting road safety. To advance some of

these components will require establishing prioritization criteria as well as building strong relationships with various outside partners which I am committed to doing.

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).

Food security is a critical aspect of good health. I was part of a project focusing on what health meant to First Nations Living Off Reserve. Food security was identified as one of the key aspects required for health. In the HRM 24/25 budget, approximately \$856,000 was requested (by the JustFood Halifax Action Plan) to support this work, this equates to an increase of \$522,000 in additional new money being requested. Due to competing pressures and priorities on the municipality \$250,000 was approved (approximately 50%). I strongly support a long-term food security strategy and continued funding for the implementation of the Action Plan.

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. I agree in principle that affordable home energy efficiency is crucial to a healthy secure population as we face the effects of climate change. I need more information on what the draft bylaw is asking, impacts, and implications if implemented or not implemented.

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, watershed management is critical for the long-term viability of our communities. Successful ecosystem and watershed management can align with development by protecting and enhancing ecological features such as green infrastructure for storm water management. Currently two pilot projects are being proposed over the next two fiscal years and no net new investment is required. These projects will help guide next steps in watershed management plans.

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, I am committed to advocating and working with my colleagues and outside partners to develop bylaws that address development on vulnerable coastal properties and infrastructure.

