



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 3 – Dartmouth South - Woodside - Eastern Passage

Name of Candidate: Keith Morrison

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. The Green Network Plan is an excellent guide to how the HRM can develop while still maintaining a commitment to our natural environment. The HGNP was developed with input from many sources and considered a diverse array of factors. It appreciates that our city is in a state of growth, but does not impede ecologically responsible growth. I'm very much a fan of the park spectrum which encourages modern "activity" greenspaces along with more natural and rustic trails to be developed/maintained within the city.

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. Our transit system is in dire need of an overhaul. While there have been commendable changes and upgrades over the past few years, there are still many deficiencies in areas of accessibility, reliability and ecological responsibility. The Rapid Transit Strategy is a huge leap in addressing many of these problems and could resolve some persistent concerns for residents - like many in District 3 - who live quite a distance from the down town core.

A less talked about, but integral part of implementing the Rapid Transit Strategy is addressing the HR issues inherent in the Transit System. Wages, safety and scheduling are known concerns that must be resolved. Incentives for those willing to train should be considered.

Over and above the proposed plans, I am also interested in exploring the possibilities of electric rail service throughout the city.

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 am a firm supporter of the Road Safety Strategy. In talking to residents of District 3, road related issues - conditions, speeding, sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic lights and wait times for services - are the most often discussed. Traffic safety must be among the highest priorities of the next council.

There must be a dedicated push to install adequate and appropriate traffic safety initiatives as soon as possible. If this requires hiring / training more workers and/or purchasing more equipment, so be it. These initiatives save lives.

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. The JustFOOD Action Plan is an exciting strategy that opens a realm of possibilities for folks in and around HRM. From dealing with food insecurity to job creation to skill development to self-governance, I firmly believe this is a wonderful initiative with no serious drawbacks for the people of Halifax.

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. Frankly, I am slightly less familiar with the initiatives and actions done specific to 'right to efficiency' laws than I am with other topics dealt with in this survey. That being said, I do support tenants rights for efficient and cost effective energy options. How governments, landlords and other individuals/agencies respond or intend to implement such measures are crucial to my giving a clearer answer.

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. I am a supporter of strict watershed level management. Many of today's problems related to the health of our water supply are a direct result of our lack of foresight in years gone by. Hopefully, we can - via careful planning, strategic management and setting clear goals and objectives - reverse some of the damage that has been done and ensure we do not waste/lose more of what remains.

We must take into account climate change as a whole. The natural events that are affecting our freshwater are "bi-products" of climate change. Policies and procedures must be implemented and/or constantly revised to reflect current weather trends and contemporary ecological factors.

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. The shelving of the Coastal Protection Act by the current Provincial Government is a huge mistake. It is an ecologically and fiscally irresponsible decision that will, hopefully, one day be revisited.

We Nova Scotians treasure our coasts. An increasing number of residents support initiatives to protect coastal locations from the harms caused by human and natural forces. With respect to applicable by-laws, I would - and would encourage all other councillors - to follow the 'shelved' Coastal Protection Act as a strong guide for the decisions made pertaining to policy.

