



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 11 – Spryfield - Sambro Loop

Name of Candidate: *Nathan Parker*

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. It is beyond pointless to spend time and money studying ecological effects, receive feedback from thousands of people, use that information to develop plans for preserving the natural spaces of our city, and then not commit to actually implementing those plans.

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. Expanding and improving public transit is one of the most important issues to me and was a driving force for me to run for council in the first place.

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 believe that Halifax needs to re-imagine itself as a more walkable, bikeable city. The Road Safety Strategy includes measures that encourage this, as well as improvements for both motorists and pedestrians.

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. Between climate change and growing income inequality, food insecurity is a growing problem and needs to be addressed, as quickly, sustainably, and in as much in a preventative measure as is practicable. The amount of food insecurity among people in the city is already too

high, is trending upwards, and needs significant organized mitigation, as climate effects will only exacerbate the existing problems in coming years.

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. Reducing individual reliance on unclean energy and improving the energy efficiency of individual homes is a collective societal and ecological good, and should be encouraged.

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. Access to freshwater is the most important thing for sustaining a human settlement and will only become more precarious as the effects of a changing climate manifest themselves. We need to be proactive in the management of our water to avoid potential hardships in the future.

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. Our coastlines are a precious resource and should be seen as more than space to develop expensive property with a nice view. With increased storm activity and rising ocean waters coastal development needs to be controlled to minimize the potential harm to both coastal wildlife and people.

