



## Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

### Candidate for Councillor, District 7 – Halifax South Downtown

**Name of Candidate: Peter Sonnichsen**

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 the protection of green space and wildlife corridors. The HGNP provides the framework to ensure our rapidly growing municipality protects the enjoyment of green spaces for generations to come. Especially as our region is very susceptible to the effects of climate change.**

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. The Bus Rapid Transit Network represents a major shift in Halifax's approach to transit and will significantly reduce the congestion and enhance the mobility of our residents. Hiring, funding and scheduling issues have impacted services and requires more support from your elected council.**

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. The Road Safety Strategy is paramount considering the unprecedented growth of the HRM. The four pillars of that strategy are engineering, education, engagement and enforcement. My background of 30 years in the RCMP lends itself well to fully contributing toward the safety of everyone on our roads. The adoption of this strategy ensures we collectively understand and implement measure that are proven effective.**

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. On February 6th, 2024, Regional Council endorsed Part B of the Plan. On the basis of strengthening sustainable local food production alone I endorse the present government's commitment and fully support ensuring that this program is both cost efficient and effective in delivery.**

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).

**No. I fully embrace the right that everyone should have the basic needs of food, housing and comfort. Our city has seen unprecedented growth and the result is more people struggling with affordability. This has led to some dire circumstances. The address of affordable energy should be included in the greater comprehensive effort to mitigate costs beyond the control of the individual in collaboration with other levels of government.**

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. Upon review of the "Framework for the Integrated watershed Management in the Halifax Regional Municipality" it is clear we need to be a strong partner in watershed management. Complex issues and relationships with other Municipal Plans such as "Integrated Mobility" should enhance our resolve toward the sustainability of this primary resource. We need to be a strong partner as we collaborate other levels of government and all those directly and indirectly affected by the watersheds and their management.**

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. Nova Scotia's beauty and rugged coastline is a defining characteristic of the heart and soul of Nova Scotians. Protection of our coastal properties and infrastructure is a necessary part of long term sustainability and emergency preparedness. Being a strong voice and partner within the HRM and with other levels of government is essential due to the complexity and multi-jurisdictional issues that will arise.**