



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Mayor

Name of Candidate: Riley Murphy

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. Green space is a vital part of our community I would like to see more of it for recreational use. We need more environmental protection and flood and storm water management. Beautiful parks would bring more visitors and boost our economy.

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. Bus Rapid Transit is needed. Although we need to upgrade our infrastructure to support it, in the meantime we can utilize our highways and jump from terminal to terminal without the additional infrastructure. We can implement this idea while we build new priority bike lanes and BRT stations.

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. Road safety is an important concern for everyone in Halifax, and it's crucial to consider all possible approaches to make our streets safer. While the Road Safety Strategy outlines several key initiatives, achieving the goal of zero injuries and fatalities requires a balanced approach that reflects the needs and concerns of the entire community. We must carefully evaluate the effectiveness of current measures and explore alternative solutions that enhance safety without negatively impacting everyday mobility or convenience.

I remain open to reviewing the strategy and considering which elements best serve Halifax, ensuring that any steps taken are both practical and widely supported.

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 represents a strong commitment to improving Halifax's food system, but it faces challenges in cost, complexity, and coordination. The potential to improve food security, boost the local economy, and create a more climate-resilient city makes the plan a worthwhile investment.

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 will support this if we incentivize the program and provide grants and support to landlords.

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. While I believe it's critical to explore a range of solutions, watershed-level management offers a promising approach. Supporting these initiatives is something I would advocate for, as long as they are balanced with the broader needs of our community.

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. As your mayor, I am committed to exploring all available options, including the possibility of municipal by-laws that safeguard vulnerable coastal properties and infrastructure. It's important to ensure that any approach we take reflects the unique needs of our communities while balancing sustainable development and environmental protection.

