



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Mayor

Name of Candidate: Andy Fillmore

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. We'll protect our parks and public spaces and make sure citizens can access them by transit.

We'll prioritize community gardens, green spaces, and wildlife corridors across our municipality to enhance biodiversity, food security, and air quality.

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. It's way too hard to move around this city. Traffic is now an everyday frustration for people in HRM, with commutes taking longer than ever and buses showing up late more often. We need both short and long term solutions.

First, we need to do a better job of planning construction so we minimize the disruption and gridlock, and we need to solve the recruitment issues at Halifax Transit so buses can run on time. Second, we need to recognize that our transportation system has reached the limit of what it can do for our growing population. We need higher order transit solutions, like Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), so that we can get this city moving and connected again.

As Mayor I will also find and address the root causes of why so many HRM transit positions are going unfilled, and I will boost our recruitment and retention efforts for staff.

Under my leadership, HRM will make Halifax Transit more reliable, and put user experience first, by analyzing transit data to identify bottlenecks, identify under-serviced areas, or routes with consistent delays and adapt quickly to get these buses moving and by creating a true tap-to-pay system to make it easier to get on a bus. This will increase ridership, ease congestion, and reduce emissions.

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 will work closely with HRM staff, law enforcement, community members, and other levels of government to keep our residents safe no matter how they get around the city. I will work to prioritize the implementation of the vision outlined in the Road Safety Strategy.

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. If I'm elected Mayor, community partners and all levels of government will continue to have a full partner in HRM in building a more sustainable, healthy and just food system.

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'll work closely with the council and the province to ensure energy efficiency is at the very centre of our designs, construction techniques, and building materials. I will support a by-law that is informed by a robust consultation process and that strikes a balance between ensuring access to affordable home energy efficiency and the capacity of property owners to make necessary investments.

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. It's undeniable that we're facing climate change head on here in HRM. We need leadership that understands the severity of what's to come and how to protect residents and their livelihoods. If I'm elected Mayor, we will prioritize watershed level management and protect our communities from flooding by ensuring our municipal stormwater management systems and infrastructure are equipped to handle increased rainfall and rising sea levels due to climate change.

I'll use my experience as a city planner to make sure we have a comprehensive and clear plan in place to keep our communities and first responders safe. This means making sure we have more than one road out in areas at risk from wildfire. As Mayor, this will be a top priority for me.

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 will work closely with HRM staff to safeguard coastal areas from the impacts of climate change, erosion, and sea level rise along with ensuring municipal stormwater management systems and infrastructure are equipped to handle increased rainfall and rising sea levels due to climate change.

