



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 15 – Lower Sackville - Beaver Bank

Name of Candidate: Billy Gillis

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. Supporting the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) is crucial for protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable resource use, and enhancing community well-being through parks and trails. It also helps Halifax adapt to climate change and guides environmentally sound municipal decisions. The HGNP was already approved unanimously, I would fully support it moving forward as it is the right thing to do.

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 current transit system is broken, it is in need of a full overhaul which starts from the ground up including hiring and staff retention.

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. 100% safety is always of critical importance

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. Supporting the JustFOOD Action Plan is essential because it addresses food security and inequities, ensuring everyone in Halifax has access to nutritious food.

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. Tenants shouldn't be blocked by landlords or building managers to have access to energy-efficient upgrades. If the tenant pays their own power bill, it should be within their rights to add key energy efficient upgrades to their residence.

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. Overall, supporting watershed level management in municipal planning is essential for protecting local water resources and ensuring a sustainable future for the 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. Of course, safeguarding these properties helps prevent loss of natural habitats, protects infrastructure and reduces the risk of community displacement.

