



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 9 – Halifax West - Armdale

Name of Candidate: Carlos Pessoa

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. In this rush to densify the city, we need to make sure this plan does NOT stay behind our thoughts. We need to have a through review of our urban reserves' areas, as intense densification can loss of urban reserve areas.

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. We can only ask citizens to take public transit if we have a reliable transit system. This is an absolute priority to whoever gets elected: Why we do not have enough staff to keep our ferries running without interruptions? we need a report by our city staff looking at the reasons for this and what is to be done about it ASAP.

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. December of 2023 ER doctors we were ringing the bell on the high frequency and intensity of bike accidents. We need a full study to understand why this happening and draft viable solutions as to why there are so many bike injuries. We need to generate a report on the Speed cushion Project to identify results. We need to further normalize LPI (leading Pedestrian Intervals) around the cities.

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. We saw in the last two year an increase of food insecurity to 28% of the population. This is just not acceptable for a Canadian city to have similar level of food insecurity as other cities in developing countries. This action plan is for me the most important of them all. We need to investigate how to expand civic diner kits to shelters.

I would create a motion ASAP to develop HRM food Asset Map, which can give data and information of regional food system. I am also in favour of promoting participatory training and education to create public awareness and engagement on how to deal with food insecurity.

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. It is not just about having a home but having a habitable home.

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. Yes, we need to have report of watershed levels so we can provide workable solutions (and regulations) to our water.

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. Yes, but as our municipal by-laws are limited to HRM, we would need to work with other municipalities in creating common strategic bylaws that relates to environmental matters.

