



## Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

### Candidate for Councillor, District 12 – Timberlea - Beechville - Clayton Park - Wedgewood

**Name of Candidate: Iona Stoddard**

1. The [Halifax Green Network Plan](#) (HGPN) 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 HGPN to protect the Green Network? Explain why or why not (optional).

**Yes. I fully support the Halifax Green Network Plan as a guide to ensure the protection of greenspaces and wildlife corridors. District 12 is home to critical natural spaces like Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes, and preserving these areas is essential for maintaining our region's biodiversity and enhancing the quality of life for residents. To truly implement the HGPN, we need enforceable measures, adequate resources, and a strong commitment to protecting greenspaces, which are under increasing pressure due to development. Safeguarding these areas also helps mitigate climate change impacts, such as stormwater management. The green network is striving to connect open spaces within HRM, working with our ecosystems. This work includes all HRM departments for the benefit of all residents. HRM staff need to work together to manage open spaces, land for parks and corridors, whether is the planning and development department, parks and rec, or transportation to name a few.**

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. I strongly believe that attracting other modes of transportation is important to getting more vehicles off the roads. There are major routes that could ease the use of cars, trucks etc for example the new HRM projects. Examples would be The new Shannon Park Ferry, the new Millcove Ferry, and four rapid transit buses that will be located close to a high population of residents. HRM is headed in the right direction. Costs will outway the benefits for our further generations. In District 12 many residents rely on transit for their daily commutes. These improvements would decrease traffic congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and make public transit a more attractive option. I commit to advocating for competitive wages, better working conditions, and professional development for transit employees to help attract and retain drivers and staff, ensuring we can meet our transit goals.**

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 fully support the Halifax Road Safety Strategy and the goal of zero injuries and fatalities. Our district includes busy roads like Lacewood Drive and Dunbrack Street, which require more pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, speed control, and safe crossings. Residents are also quite vocal about these measures. I'll push for more traffic calming measures, enhanced signage, and continued investment in infrastructure for all modes of transport, from cycling to walking. We need a proactive approach to safety to ensure that no one is injured or killed on our streets.**

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. Food security is critical, and I support the full implementation and funding of the JustFOOD Action Plan. As a councillor, I would push for more community gardens, urban agriculture initiatives, and partnerships with local organizations to address food insecurity. We already have some of these [NAME THEM] in our district that have only become more popular in the last four years. District 12 has a diverse population, and equitable access to healthy, sustainable food options is a key concern. Strengthening local food systems not only improves community resilience but also builds a healthier and more inclusive city.**

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 strongly support a by-law for tenant rights to affordable energy efficiency. With rising energy costs and climate impacts, this is an equity issue, especially for tenants in District 12, where many live in older apartment buildings that are not energy efficient. I would advocate for programs that provide tenants with access to retrofits and energy-saving technologies. Access to affordable home energy is a right, not a privilege.**

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. Advocating for watershed management is essential for the health of our freshwater systems, particularly in areas like Beechville and Timberlea, where increased development could stress our water resources. I am committed to ensuring that new developments follow strict environmental regulations that protect our lakes, streams, and rivers. We need a coordinated effort to manage watersheds at the municipal level to safeguard our drinking water, biodiversity, and overall water quality.**

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. With rising sea levels and more frequent storms, coastal protection is becoming increasingly urgent. In the absence of a provincial Coastal Protection Act, municipal action is essential. I would advocate for the passage of by-laws that limit development in vulnerable coastal areas, protecting both the environment and property owners from the risks of climate-related damage. Our district may not be coastal, but we are interconnected with the broader Halifax region, and protecting our coastline is vital for long-term sustainability.**

