



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 5 – Dartmouth Centre

Name of Candidate: Michael McCluskey

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. It is impossible to regain these spaces once they are gone. With the focus on increased density, the need for green spaces has never been greater. A healthy community requires healthy spaces.

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. This is one of my goals as stated on my website. There needs to be an overhaul of scheduling, as deadheading and split shifts adds to the stress of what is already a challenging job. The ferry, especially, should never be cancelled, as sometimes it is the only connection between the shores of the harbour. We need to partner with Marine Training institutions to offer placements, especially for traditional underrepresented groups.

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. The increase in the average weight of vehicles has led to increased fatalities and life altering injuries. As well, if bike lanes are to be successful they must be hardened and not simply paint.

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.

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. Again, nothing to add, but that I agree

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. I am especially worried that the rapid speed of development can lead to toxic run-offs that can kill our lakes and streams. We need the ability to emergency stop any construction that causes this.

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. Absolutely. Really no need for explanation

