



## Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

### Candidate for Councillor, District 11 – Spryfield - Sambro Loop

**Name of Candidate: Patty Cuttell**

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. As rapid growth and development continue to encroach into the wilderness areas it is critical we protect key corridor for wildlife and ecosystem preservation. Not only is this critical for the intrinsic value of the natural world, but also for our own health and well-being, and for the sustainability of our built environment by protecting the watershed systems that we are not separate from - but part of - and rely on. This includes protecting all wetlands - even the so called "low value" wetlands - which perform key functions in stormwater management and the protection and regeneration of natural water systems.**

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 an easy one to say "yes", but proving to be more difficult in reality. Obviously we need to attract and retain bus drivers, but the question is how. We require some strong leadership here to ensure bus drivers are safe, working conditions fair and equitable, and that the organizational culture is positive. I'm hoping the recent recruitment efforts for a new head of planning provides an opportunity to address some of these issues and get our transit system back on solid footing.**

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. Pedestrian, cyclists, people with disabilities - should have safe and accessible - and enjoyable - infrastructure to support all modes of travel.**

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. I am fully committed to continuing to fund the municipalities role in the JustFOOD Action Plan.**

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 have been a vocal supporter other models of solar city which could enable people living in other forms of housing (rental, condos, houses without ideal light exposure) to participate in and benefit from renewable energy programs. This includes solar gardens, leasing out industrial roof tops, and other models.**

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 was champion of the recently approved watershed management framework pilot for the Nine Mile River System, which empties into the Shad Bay. This pollution of this system is the result of urban eutrophication, where the accumulated impact of several developments have degraded the water quality resulting in the closure of any shellfish fishery in Shad Bay. Part of the problem is way the environmental impact of development is evaluated on siloed case by case basis, without consideration of the collective stress of development watershed. As well, watershed management and assessment crosses the jurisdiction of municipal, provincial, and federal governments. I hope this watershed management framework approach will lead to better coordination and collaborative efforts.**

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 have been active on the file since being elected in 2020, and will continue to be so. HRM has significant coastline, including District 11 Spryfield-Sambro Loop. I was a member of the provinces Coastal Protection Act Municipal Focus Group in 2022, and made the initial motion to bring forward**



**a staff report on what HRM was going to do in lieu of the CPA. That report is publicly available online. Addressing development on vulnerable coastal properties and infrastructure is something I intend to continue to advocate for.**

