



## Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

### Candidate for Councillor, District 16 – Bedford - Wentworth

**Name of Candidate: Prathibha Narasimhan**

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. I wholeheartedly support the HGNP, as it provides the critical lens whereby sustainable growth can be realized without sacrificing those natural assets that give our region its intrinsic value. Protection of green spaces, wildlife corridors, and biodiversity is important not only ecologically but also for the residents. Full implementation of the HGNP is critical for maintaining our connection with nature, arresting urban sprawl, and responding to the long-term effects of climate change. It offers a framework within which a balance can be struck between development and conservation; I do think it is about time that we make sure the necessary resources for implementation, as well as enforceable rules, are available.**

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. The Halifax Rapid Transit Strategy is a keystone to improving public transit and reducing the city's carbon footprint. And that relies on having a well-staffed, reliable transit system. I am committed to ensuring that Halifax Transit has all the resources it needs to attract, train, and retain skilled workers to fully implement the BRT network and expanded ferry routes. Public transportation is a lifeline for resident mobility in an ever-growing city like Halifax, and also an important tool in our sustainability goals. I will also be advocating for competitive wages, improved working conditions, and ongoing support to ensure the success of our transit employees in this strategy.**

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 am completely dedicated to the goals of the Road Safety Strategy and its vision of zero injuries and fatalities. Making sure our streets and sidewalks are safe for all-whether they walk, cycle, drive, or take public transit-is a priority. Thus, this comprehensive strategy involves infrastructure improvements and behavioral change through education and enforcement. I**

**support measures like traffic calming, better intersection design, improved signage, and enhanced pedestrian crossings to make our roads safer for all users. I believe that with the right investment and collaboration with the community, we will be able to make a safer, more inclusive transportation network.**

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. The JustFOOD Action Plan represents a significant accomplishment for the development of a more just, healthy, and sustainable food system in Halifax. I am committed to their complete installation and adequate funding. Its focus is on increasing access to food, reducing food insecurity, and facilitating collaboration across various levels of government and community partners to build a resilient and equitable food system. This plan encompasses everything from urban agriculture to the reduction of food waste, inasmuch as it enhances our general capacity to ensure access to healthy, affordable food for all in the community.**

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. Energy efficiency is a basic right, and with heightened extreme weather conditions because of climate change and unstable energy prices, it should be. I would support any bylaw that guarantees tenants access to affordable energy efficiency support since this meets our greater objectives in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and housing affordability. Improvement in energy efficiency helps lower the cost of living affordably for renters, in addition to our work focusing on environmental sustainability for our city. Accordingly, I feel this is very important work: to collaborate with property owners, energy providers, and government agencies in an effort to establish programs that provide equal opportunity for all citizens-especially for rental residents energy-efficient upgrades.**

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 firmly believe that the watershed level of management should be an integral part of our municipal planning process. In particular, due to increased concerns about floods, droughts, and intensification of storms as a result of climate change, there is a big need for holistic and sustainable management of freshwater resources. The watershed level of management ensures that we take a full approach: protection of water quality, and prevention of overdevelopment in our ecosystems. I will support policies that take a long-term view regarding the integrity of our watersheds and ensure climate-related risks associated with water are appropriately managed.**

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 strongly believe that watershed-level management should be integrated within our municipal planning process. In particular, there is a huge need for holistic, sustainable management of freshwater resources in light of the growing concerns over floods, droughts, and storm intensification brought about by climate change. Watershed-level management ensures we are doing a thorough job of water quality protection and preventing over-development in our ecosystems. I support a policy that looks at the integrity of our watersheds in a long-term perspective, ensuring climate-related water risks are managed appropriately.**

