



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Mayor

Name of Candidate: Ross Rankin

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. To preserve important green spaces and animal corridors, as mayor I will support the full implementation of the Halifax Green Network Plan. Complete implementation will guarantee the preservation of vital natural areas that sustain biodiversity and climate resilience, such as wetlands, forests, and coastal zones. Additionally, this improves public access to green spaces, which raises the standard of living, and encourages a healthy, sustainable future for Haligonians.

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. As mayor, my administration will work to ensure that Halifax Transit employs and maintains a sufficient number of employees to carry out the BRT network and ferry routes outlined in the Rapid Transit Strategy. To accomplish the city's climate goals and reduce traffic congestion by promoting the use of public transportation, a well-staffed transit system is needed. A sufficient workforce guarantees prompt service growth, dependable timetables, and enhanced user experiences; all essential for the BRT and ferry lines to succeed.

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. By encouraging public transportation over driving, a well-managed transit system is essential to lowering traffic congestion and reaching the city's climate goals. Sufficient staffing facilitates prompt service expansion, reliable scheduling, and enhanced user experiences—all essential to the success of the BRT and ferry lines. As mayor, my administration will contribute to the complete implementation of the Rapid Transit Strategy by making investments in hiring, training, competitive pay, and personnel retention. This will result in boosting the city's environmental sustainability initiatives, public transit, and Haligonian's overall quality of life.

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 is essential to creating a fair and sustainable food system by addressing issues such as food security, sustainability, and fair access to food. As mayor, my administration will contribute to reducing food insecurity, bolstering local food systems, and enhancing public health by fully endorsing 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. To guarantee that Haligonians have access to reasonably priced energy efficiency upgrades, my administration will work to enact the "right to efficiency" bylaw. Energy-efficient homes are crucial for preserving comfort, health, and quality of life as a result of global circumstances driving up home heating costs and increasing heat waves brought on by climate change. With the passage of this bylaw, Haligonians would be guaranteed improvements such as improved insulation, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, and especially in low-income homes. These upgrades would support Halifax's sustainability objectives while lowering energy costs and carbon emissions.

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. Local water systems are under a great deal of strain from growing development and more frequent water-related climate events, such as floods. Planning decisions that safeguard water supplies, habitats, and neighboring communities are made with the full ecosystem in mind thanks to the implementation of a watershed management method. Halifax can lessen the risk of flooding, cut pollution, and protect drinking water by implementing this strategy. Ensuring the long-term protection of essential water resources, and supporting watershed-level management also fits with the city's larger aims of climate resilience and sustainability.

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. In the absence of a provincial Coastal Protection Act, as mayor, my administration will support the adoption of local by-laws governing development on susceptible coastal properties. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and storm surges pose serious threats to Halifax's infrastructure and communities. Local bylaws have the power to prohibit construction in high-risk regions, preserve natural coastal buffers, and establish rules for responsible development. By taking preventative action, future damage costs may be decreased, residents would be safe, and environmental sustainability would be improved.

