



## Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

### Candidate for Councillor, District 8 – Halifax Peninsula North

**Name of Candidate: Stephen MacKay**

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. HRM covers an area almost the size of PEI and has diverse, interconnected ecosystems spread across the landscape. There should be a plan to manage a landmass of this size.**

**It's important that we are able to connect with nature and that we understand how the built environment affects the natural environment.**

**The HGNP is well thought out and considers many aspects of land use and the value of our natural resources and provides useful guidance in sustainable development.**

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. Bus Rapid Transit is one of my top concerns.**

**Our city is expected to double in population over the next 30 years, we can not double the cars on our streets. Having reliable public transportation and the staff to operate it is absolutely needed to support this growth.**

**It's also increasingly expensive to own and operate a car, I'd like to see more people and families have the option to go car-free, or at least have one less car that they need to pay for. Improving transit can help get us there.**

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. Road safety, especially in regards to vulnerable road users, is a very important issue for me.**

**In 2022 I successfully petitioned for the city to install 4 way stops on Robie St resulting in a near 100% reduction in crashes between Livingston and Duffus St.**

**In my role as Bike Mayor of Halifax I have organized and supported group bike rides in our urban core. I have also been in contact with city staff about design concerns regarding pedestrian bump-outs and bike lanes that would impact road users with various disabilities.**

**As a parent I've organized a walking bus for our neighborhood to have elementary students be able to safely walk to school.**

**I will absolutely commit to this plan.**

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. Over 7% of Nova Scotians are food insecure and it's an unfortunate truth that thousands of people in the North End live in a food desert.**

**The JustFOOD Action Plan will help alleviate some of this while building community and developing skills.**

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).

**No. Tenants should have some control over the temperature of their home, especially in regards to extreme temperatures.**

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. Having worked with the Miramichi River Environmental Assessment Committee I understand the importance of watershed level management and will advocate and support it in municipal planning.**

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. Coastal property owners may not always have a focus on environmental and community concerns.**