



Ecology Action Centre – Candidate Survey 2024

Candidate for Councillor, District 8 – Halifax Peninsula North

Name of Candidate: Virginia Hinch

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. It's at least tentatively positive that this is being touted as a key consideration in the latest Regional Plan review and needs to remain a priority in current and future planning to ensure that our vulnerable areas are protected.

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. Even before our recent population boon, transit was often lacking for those of us who depend on it for daily transportation. A robust and reliable public transit system is also a key part of reducing our emissions as a city and actually moving toward more fully implementing the Integrated Mobility Plan.

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. As someone who gets around exclusively on foot or public transit, I am all too aware firsthand how unsafe many of our sidewalks and roadways are for pedestrians. We need to prioritize safe streets for everyone which includes concepts like vision zero and an emphasis on accessibility.

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. Food insecurity is a serious issue and has only gotten worse as the overall cost of living has gone up. As a lifelong and multi-generational North End resident, I've seen vulnerable communities being underserved as food deserts somehow persist throughout the city.

More needs to also be done around zoning and allowances for proper grocers to operate in more areas of the city so people are not made even more vulnerable and so people can be supported in their own neighbourhoods.

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 like the idea of a right to efficiency and wish it could be my top priority. That would be a great place to be. But we're still dealing with people not having a right to a home, efficient or otherwise.

I'd support an idea like this, pending learning more about it and how it could be implemented. But it would have to be something that compliments or supports a broader right to housing.

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.

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.

