



Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

Postal address: P.O. Box 55085, 240 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1A1 ☐ Tel.: (613) 739-0727
E-mail: contact@greenspace-alliance.ca ☐ Web site: www.greenspace-alliance.ca

September 14, 2014

Dear <candidate name>,

Founded in 1997, the Greenspace Alliance works to preserve and enhance green spaces in the National Capital area, and engages with all levels of government. We believe that urban greenness is essential for a community's quality of life, contributing to our personal, social, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being. They also connect us with the natural and cultural history of our region.

We are writing to ask you, as a candidate in the upcoming municipal election, whether you support the following four propositions. A French version of this letter is attached. Endorsement of our proposals by 16 local organizations and 150 individuals from every ward in the city are shown below. We will be pleased to publish your responses (brief rationales are welcome) on our web site at <http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/election2014>. Please send your reply to erwin_dreessen@ncf.ca.

1. Support for a strong site alteration by-law, with emphasis on "strong."

The Official Plan of 2003 already included a directive to staff to come forward with such a by-law; its purpose was further clarified in the 2009 revision of the Plan and unaltered in the 2013 update. The policy reads:

"The City will work with the Conservation Authorities and other interested stakeholders to develop a by-law under the Municipal Act to regulate the removal of top soil, grade alteration, and placement of fill." (Section 2.4.5, Policy 10)

An Ontario Municipal Board decision of July 2011 took explicit note of the City's intent to develop this by-law. To date, no draft has been circulated. We emphasize the need for a "strong" by-law, one that includes provisions on the removal of vegetation. Site alteration by-laws in cities such as London, Oakville, Hamilton, and many more, have site alteration by-laws that include clauses on the impact on vegetation or trees. Having such a by-law on the books will help prevent the repeated "tree massacres" which Ottawa has experienced over the last decade.

Preservation of remaining woodlots should have high priority in the city's promotion of environmental sustainability.

2. Renewed commitment to an annual allocation towards an environmental lands acquisition fund.

The Environmental Lands Acquisition Fund started off the year 2014 with a balance of \$1.6 million and no additional funds were allocated to it this year, after receiving a mere \$800,000 in 2013. Opportunities to acquire pockets of remaining natural areas continue to arise and the City should have a somewhat larger kitty available. The mandate should be restricted to the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land. No further "raid" on the fund for tree planting or the Emerald Ash Borer strategy, as happened in 2012, should be allowed.

3. Standing firm in support of the prohibition against future country lot subdivisions.

In the 2013 update of the Official Plan, Council decided to prohibit future country lot estate development (with a major concession to Thomas Cavanagh Construction). We applaud Council for the decision to prohibit such development in the future. Sunset Lakes Development has appealed the new policy. We ask for your pledge that, if elected, you will not support further compromises.

4. The City's Advisory Committees should be genuine bridges between the public and Council.

The revamp of the advisory committee structure in 2012 has deprived the City of much goodwill and volunteer effort. There is much intelligence within the community -- over half the population has graduated from college and/or university. Ottawa has the highest per capita concentration of engineers, scientists, and residents with PhDs in Canada. The City should work with community experts, not choke off their efforts.

The current mandate of most new Advisory Committees does not even require that they meet with the public! Their role is portrayed solely as one of advising Council and being a resource for staff.

The public needs to be consulted in a range of ways. Open Houses and Roundtables do not exhaust the possibilities and needs. Circulating proposals a week before consideration by a Standing Committee and then allowing five minutes to speak is a deeply unsatisfactory way of "hearing from the public."

The Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee in particular should invite public input, meet more often than quarterly and form subcommittees to filter and focus citizen input in city-wide environmental issues.

We look forward to your response and wish you the best in your campaign for election.

Erwin Dreessen
Erwin Dreessen,
Co-chair

This letter has been endorsed by the following groups and individuals:

Groups

Graham Saul, Executive Director, Ecology Ottawa
Fenja Brodo, President, Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club
Donna DuBreuil, President, Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre
Prue Thomson, President, South March Highlands-Carp River Conservation
Elaine Gibson, Chair, Board of Directors, Peace and Environment Resource Centre
James McLaren, President, Heron Park Community Association
John McDonnell, Executive Director, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ottawa Valley Chapter
Frederick W. Schueler & Aleta Karstad, Bishops Mills Natural History Centre
Dave Grosvenor, President, Woodroffe North Community Association
James O'Grady, Founder, UnpublishedOttawa.com
Jane Moore, Chair, Poets' Pathway
Joan Reddy, Founder and President, International Communication for Animal Justice
Daniel Buckles, The Champlain Oaks Project
Matt Whitehead, President, Hintonburg Community Association
Marilyn Venner, Secretary, Rockcliffe Park Residents Association
Sheila Parry, Chair, Rideau Trail Association - Ottawa Club

Individuals

Al Crosby, Ward 13
Alayne McGregor, Ward 15
Allan Gordon, Ward 15
Amy Steele (formerly Kempster), Ward 15
Andrea Ernst-Bissinger, Ward 5
Andrea Sedgwick, Ward 6
Andrew Finlayson, Ward 5
Andrew Harvey, Ward 12
Angela Keller-Herzog, Ward 17
Anita Utas, Ward 4
Ann Coffey, Ward 12
Anna Cuyllits, Ward 17
Anthony Thurston, Ward 5
Audrey J. Starkes, Ward 14
Barbara A. Taylor, Ward 19
Barbara Lajeunesse, Ward 8
Brienne Tweedie, Ward 2
Bruce Lindsay, Ward 22
Bryan G. Hawley, Ward 10
Carole Moore, Ward 11
Caroline Schroder, Ward 3
Caroline Srivastava, Ward 18
Catherine Green, Ward 7
Cathy Kari, Ward 14

Charles Hodgson, Ward 15
Chris Busby, Ward 4
Chris Roberts, Ward 21
Christine Hanrahan, Ward 13
Claude Alschuler, Ward 12
Colleen Fraser, Ward 23
Connie Patterson, Ward 8
Cora Murphy, Vice-President, Woodroffe North Community Association, Ward 7
Craig W. Wilson, Ward 16
Dan Rodgers, Ward 18
Daniel Buckles, Ward 15
David McNicoll, Ward 17
David Petzold, Ward 21
David Spence, Ward 5
Debbie Lawes, Ward 15
Debbie Oaks Kirkland, Ward 7
Debby Halliday, Ward 5
Debra Huron, Ward 15
Debra Scarpelli, Ward 9
Delia Coates, Ward 5
Diane C. Ingram, Ward 21
Donna DuBreuil, Ward 5
Dr Michael Sawada, Ward 1
Dylan Hogg, Ward 8
Edith E. Moore, Ward 14
Ellen Kammermayer, Ward 15
Ev Abell, Ward 4
Evelyn Nugent, Ward 21
Frances Singlehurst, Ward 16
Gary Sealey, Ward 4
George Bushell, Ward 2
George Coffey, Ward 11
Gert Dreessen, Ward 16
Hanny Ernst, Ward 5
Heather Pearl, Ward 15
Honey & Rod Radbourne, Ward 3
Iola Price, Ward 13
Iris Hansen, Ward 5
Jackie Bower, Ward 6
Jacques Bissinger, Ward 5
James Mihaychuk, Ward 16
James O'Grady, Ward 9
Janice Frankland, Ward 12
Janice Seline, Ward 13
Janus Wilson, Ward 8
Jason Kania, Ward 16
Jay Baltz, Ward 15

Jean McKibbon, Ward 15
Jean Wilmot, Ward 5
Joan Mason, Past President, New Edinburgh Community Alliance, Ward 13
Joe Parchelo, Ward 16
John Almstedt, Ward 15
Juan Pedro Unger, Ward 1
Judy Makin, Past President, March Rural Community Association, Ward 5
Julie Burke, Ward 2
Kate Partridge, Ward 8
Katherine Shotton, Ward 17
Kathleen MacNeil, Ward 7
Ken McRae, Ward 18
Khalida Badran, Ward 7
Leah J. Travis, Ward 7
Larry and Lynn Duffy, Ward 21
Leslie James, Ward 20
Leslie Perowne, Ward 5
Linda Butcher, Ward 17
Linda Leckie, Ward 3
Linda McCormick, Ward 5
Lori Joy Taverner, Ward 17
Lorne Peterson, resident of Kichisipi-Westboro, Ward 15
Ludmilla La Brie, Ward 16
Lynda Craig, Ward 20
Lynn O'Shaughnessy, Ward 13
Margaret Annabel Booth, Ward 7
Margaret Churchill, Ward 7
Mari Wellman, Ward 15
Martha Webber, Ward 5
Martin Callsen, Ward 23
Martin Cashin, Ward 22
Mary Hegan, Ward 21
Mary Sarumi, Ward 3
Mary-Louise Blair, Ward 21
Maura Hope, Ward 3
Meg Sears, Ward 5
Michael Brownell, Ward 7
Michaël Gazier, Ward 17
Mikelis Svilans, Ward 4
Neal Glyn Davies Ward 5
Nicole Langis, Ward 11
Niky (Nicole) Joyce, Ward 22
Pamela and James Burr, Ward 17
Patricia Hehner, Ward 18
Paul McGuire, Ward 18
Paul Renaud, Ward 6
Penelope Gould, Ward 22

Peter Eady, Ward 15
Phillip Bosloy, Ward 17
Pierre Guitard, Ward 9
Richard Day, Ward 7
Richard Spearman, Ward 3
Robert Farley, Ward 10
Royleen Robinson, Ward 16
Sandra Garland, Ward 17
Sandra Hamel, Ward 16
Shannon Lee Mannion, Ward 14
Sharon Wolfe, Ward 21
Shayna Shuster, Ward 9
Sol Shuster, Ward 9
Stephen G. McKenna, Ward 18
Stephen Taylor, Ward 18
Steve Hulaj, Ward 4
Sue Manns, Ward 7
Susan (Celeste) Vermette, Ward 17
Susan Evelyn Davies Ward 5
Susan Marie Stefko, Ward 17
Susan Oliver, Ward 22
Tanya Castonguay, Ward 14
Tom Hanrahan Ward 7
Trevor Haché, worker, Healthy Transportation Coalition, Ward 23
Victor Taylor, Ward 4
Wendy Burpee, Ward 9
Wendy Yendall, Ward 9
William Muir Hawes, Ward 4
Willy Ernst, Ward 5