

Ward 13 – Rideau-Rockliffe

Renewable City

1. Over the last term of council, initiatives to address climate change have been delayed, under-staffed and under-financed. It's even unclear whether city-wide emissions have been rising or falling over the past six years. Meanwhile, some spending on city infrastructure (e.g., road expansions) is impeding or negating progress from climate investments made under the environment portfolio. At the federal level, the government has mandated a new climate lens assessment for its infrastructure funding program, investing in Canada.

If elected, will you make climate action a Term of Council Priority, increase funding and staffing commitments commensurate with this prioritization, and mandate a climate lens for the City's assessment for all infrastructure investments?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! I'm committed to this mandate in order shape the future of our city with sustainable development and to proactively consult with our community and groups like Ecology Ottawa, in order to benefit from your expertise in supporting the environment and mitigating climate change.

Oui! Je m'engage dans ce mandat afin de façonner l'avenir de notre ville en matière de développement durable et de consulter proactivement notre communauté et des groupes comme Écologie Ottawa afin de bénéficier de votre expertise en matière de soutien de l'environnement et d'atténuation des changements climatiques.

2. The City of Ottawa reports on community-wide climate emissions once every four years through the Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan. This infrequent reporting makes tracking progress toward our climate goals very difficult, and is far behind the standard set by leading cities such as Edmonton and Montreal.

If elected, will you commit to increasing the frequency of the City's community-wide emissions reporting to at least once per year?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! More reporting results in better data for effective decision making and implementation of related policies.

Oui! D'avantage de rapports résultent dans de meilleures données, ce qui contribue à l'efficacité de la prise de décisions et à la mise en œuvre des politiques liées.

3. Climate change is accelerating, and cities around the world are rushing to adapt to the impacts of severe weather, flooding and invasive species. The City of Ottawa has committed to developing a Climate Adaptation Plan but hasn't yet delivered.

If elected, will you commit to ensuring the release and initial implementation of a Climate Adaptation Plan within the next term of council?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! City staff are working hard to deliver on climate priorities and I will continue to ensure that we can achieve this goal.

Oui! Le personnel de la ville d'Ottawa travaille dur pour atteindre les priorités climatiques et je continuerai à faire en sorte que nous puissions réaliser cet objectif.

4. Development of Ottawa's next Official Plan will begin in January 2019 and conclude during the next term of council. The Official Plan sets the ground rules that can make it easier or virtually impossible for cities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions—from transportation patterns and sprawl, to housing densities and unit sizes, to options for local renewable energy production, to the services, amenities, and greenspaces residents can access within walking distance. Official Plans developed with climate change in mind deliver powerful benefits that make neighbourhoods healthier, safer, and more liveable.

If elected, will you support and work for a revised Official Plan that makes low-carbon development a top priority, in a way that delivers healthier, safer, more liveable neighbourhoods for your constituents?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes. Absolutely! We can encourage sustainable development along with the creation of green space and parks in new developments that contribute to growing vibrant communities and improving the livability and health of all residents.

Oui. Absolument! Nous pouvons encourager le développement durable ainsi que la création d'espaces verts et de parcs dans de nouveaux développements, ce qui contribue à l'expansion de communautés dynamiques et à l'amélioration de la qualité de vie et de la santé de tous les résidents.

Active City

5. Evidence from numerous studies of “induced demand” shows that widening highways and building new roads does nothing to alleviate traffic congestion. Instead, new roads and new lanes are quickly filled up with cars. Congestion is only relieved through investment in alternative forms of travel – by bike, by foot and by public transit.

If elected, will you commit to prioritizing pedestrian, cycling, and affordable public transit infrastructure over automobile infrastructure in meeting the future growth in travel demand in your ward?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! I'm also committed to implementing a “Free Fare Transit Zone” within the downtown core, to encourage movement between LeBreton Flats, the Rideau Centre, University of Ottawa and St. Laurent Mall, by Light Rail Transit (LRT). This will encourage more ridership, and provide affordable access for residents who are going to the new central library.

Oui! Je m'engage également à mettre en place une «zone de transit gratuite» dans le centre-ville afin d'encourager les déplacements entre les plaines LeBreton, le Centre Rideau, université d'Ottawa, et le Centre d'Achats St. Laurent. Cela encouragera une plus grande fréquentation et offrira un accès abordable aux résidents qui se rendent à la nouvelle bibliothèque centrale.

6. Upon completion, the City of Ottawa's light rail transit (LRT) network will bring 70% of the population to within five kilometres of a light rail station. It will be easier than ever for Ottawans to travel to and from their target destinations using sustainable transportation options, but only if the City prioritizes shared mobility services and pedestrian, cycling and transit connectivity near transit hubs.

Currently, the City of Ottawa only plans for connectivity within 600 metres of transit hubs. If elected, will you commit to widening this connectivity planning radius to five kilometres?

Jerry Kovacs: YES.

7. The City of Ottawa adopted a complete streets policy in 2013 and an implementation plan in 2015. Now, all new roads must be built to be accessible to all ages, users and abilities – including pedestrians, cyclists and transit users – rather than just car drivers. However, evidence shows that the policy alone is not sufficient to create complete streets. Councillor leadership is vital to ensure streets are as “complete” as possible and follow through on priority pedestrian and cycling projects identified in the Transportation Master Plan.

If elected, will you commit to ensuring that complete streets and priority pedestrian and cycling projects are built in your ward?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! As an avid cyclist and pedestrian, I know the value and importance of complete streets in common-sense city planning!

Oui! En tant que cycliste et marcheur passionné, je connais la valeur et l'importance de rues construites selon une planification urbaine de bon sens!

8. Between 2010 and 2014, 148 people died on Ottawa's streets. These deaths were entirely avoidable – they were a by-product of the way we have designed our streets. Toronto and Edmonton have embraced a “Vision Zero” approach to road design that considers all traffic deaths and serious injuries preventable. A Vision Zero policy involves design changes (i.e. reducing speeds and separating road users), funding for these changes and public reporting on progress.

If elected, will you commit to adopting a Vision Zero policy for Ottawa?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! As someone who walks and cycles every day during the spring, summer and fall, we need to fight for the safety of everyone especially the most vulnerable road users.

Oui! En tant que personne qui marche et fait du vélo tous les jours (trois saisons), on doit se battre pour la sécurité de tous, en particulier les plus vulnérables.

Living City

9. In 2017, the City of Ottawa adopted a strong Urban Forest Management Plan designed to safeguard and strengthen Ottawa's tree canopy. The plan contains a 20-year action plan that requires sustained attention and investment.

If elected, will you commit to fully implementing and fully funding the Urban Forest Management Plan?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! We need to ensure the protection of our trees and canopy, throughout Ward 13 where our urban forest is most vulnerable to future development.

Oui! Nous devons assurer la protection de nos arbres et de notre canopée, partout Cartier 13, où notre forêt urbaine est la plus vulnérable au développement futur.

10. Flooding and severe weather events are happening in Ottawa more frequently than in the past. It's more important than ever that the City adapt to climate change by systematically scaling up development of green infrastructure – living and built systems designed to slow down, soak up, and filter rainwater, such as trees, rain gardens and permeable pavements. The City has the policy tools to do this, but remains at the pilot phase and has not moved to wide-scale implementation.

If elected, will you work to ensure that all street resurfacing and new road construction integrate green infrastructure wherever possible?

Jerry Kovacs: YES.

11. Urban greenspace is a precious commodity. Yet sprawling development patterns, infill developments, and road widenings regularly threaten our trees, greenspace and biodiversity.

If elected, will you commit to prioritizing greenspace preservation as part of the planning process?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! Absolutely! I'm committed to green space preservation and have been encouraging all residents of Rideau-Rockliffe Ward to plant Local Ontario Wildflowers that I have been handing out!

Absolument! Je suis engagé dans la protection des espaces verts et j'encourage tous les résidents du quartier Rideau-Rockliffe à planter des fleurs sauvages de l'Ontario que je distribue.

12. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories is proposing a permanent radioactive waste facility alongside the Ottawa River, upstream from Ottawa. Mayors of over 100 Quebec municipalities have banded together to oppose this proposal, citing a serious risk to drinking water from the Ottawa River.

If elected, will you join them in opposing this dangerous nuclear waste dump?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! As a lawyer who has taught and practiced environmental law, this matter is a provincial issue. I will use my expertise and influence as your city councillor to pursue this effectively at all levels of government.

En tant qu'avocat ayant enseigné et pratiqué le droit de l'environnement, cette question est une problématique provinciale. J'utiliserai mon expertise et mon influence en tant que conseiller municipal pour poursuivre l'efficacité à tous les niveaux du gouvernement.

Waste Management

13. In March 2018, City Council changed its contract with Orgaworld to allow dog waste and other organics to be placed in green bins using non-compostable plastic bag liners. There's no evidence that allowing plastics will encourage more people to compost. But the new rules will produce a new stream of unnecessary plastic waste that will complicate the disposal process and deliver lower-quality compost.

If elected, will you support rescinding the decision to allow non-compostable plastic bag liners and dog waste in the green bin program?

Jerry Kovacs: YES.

14. Ottawa's 44% waste recycling rate is the lowest of all major cities in Ontario, well below leading municipalities like York Region at 65%, Halton Region at 56%, and Toronto at 51%. That's partly because Ottawa only spends 50¢ per household per year to promote the program and educate residents.

If elected, will you support tripling the level of funding for promotion and education for waste prevention, recycling, and green bin programs to at least \$1.50 per household per year, a level closer to the average for large municipalities in Ontario?

Jerry Kovacs: Yes! We need to increase spending, and also ensure that it is effectively spent on educating and engaging our community in adopting best practices to encourage recycling, green bin programs and waste prevention.

Oui! Nous devons augmenter les dépenses et veiller à ce qu'elles soient effectivement utilisées pour éduquer et impliquer notre communauté dans l'adoption des meilleures pratiques pour encourager le recyclage, les programmes de poubelles vertes et la prévention des déchets.

15. Ottawa's 2011 waste management plan is out of date and irrelevant. The City has made no effort to update the plan, though the poor performance of its recycling and green bin programs falls far short of the 65% waste diversion rate in York Region, the leading municipality in the province.

If elected, will you support the development of a new waste management strategy and waste diversion action plan that follow best practices and set a 65% waste diversion target for Ottawa?

Jerry Kovacs: YES.

16. *If elected, what steps will you take to make Ottawa a leader on environmental issues during the next term of council?*

Jerry Kovacs: As your Councillor, my most important job is to listen to you – our neighbours and residents. And as your Councillor, the most valuable resource I can provide is my time. We're growing a vibrant community together in Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward and I'm thrilled by the amount of local wildflower seeds we're planting with your help as part of my environmental commitment and leadership for Ottawa during this campaign. These seeds will beautify our neighbourhoods and gardens for years to come!

By implementing a free fare zone on transit through the downtown core between LeBreton Flats and St. Laurent Mall, we will encourage ridership and increase affordable access of core city services – especially the new central library. This concept will be a key agenda item that I pursue with my fellow Councillors and OC Transpo over the course of my term.

I studied, practiced and taught environmental law, and possess a knowledge of municipal land use and planning from my experience in the legal department of an Ontario municipal corporation. This expertise will be invaluable to the residents of Rideau-Rockcliffe Ward as I fight for sustainable and affordable development with environmental priorities. We need to work together, with experience and passion to grow a vibrant community together!

En tant que votre Conseiller, mon travail le plus important est de vous écouter – voisins et résidents. Et en tant que Conseiller, la ressource la plus précieuse que je puisse vous fournir est mon temps. Nous développons une communauté dynamique dans la circonscription de Rideau-Rockcliffe et je suis ravi de la quantité de graines de fleurs sauvages locales que nous avons planté avec votre aide dans le cadre de mon engagement environnemental et de mon leadership pour Ottawa durant cette campagne. Ces graines embelliront nos quartiers et nos jardins pour les années à venir!

En mettant en place une zone de tarification gratuite dans le centre-ville, nous encouragerons l'achalandage et améliorerons l'accès abordable aux services municipaux, en particulier la nouvelle bibliothèque centrale. Ce concept sera un élément clé du programme que je poursuivrai avec mes collègues conseillers et OC Transpo au cours de mon mandat.

J'ai étudié, pratiqué et enseigné le droit de l'environnement et possède une connaissance de l'utilisation et de la planification des terres municipales grâce à mon expérience au sein du service juridique d'une société municipale de l'Ontario. Cette expertise sera inestimable pour les résidents de la circonscription de Rideau-

Rockliffe alors que je me bats pour un développement durable et abordable avec des priorités environnementales. Nous devons travailler ensemble, avec l'expérience et la passion pour développer ensemble une communauté dynamique!