

Ecology Ottawa Climate Change team in Ward 9: Knoxdale-Merivale
Letters to Candidates asking for their support of the City of Ottawa's
Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan - 2014

September 19, 2014

Dear Mr. Egli:

As a key councillor who voted in favour of the [Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan](#) in May of this year, you have shown the leadership that Ottawa citizens need in the fight against further climate change. Thank you. As the Ward 9 leader's group working alongside Ecology Ottawa we would kindly ask for your continued support of this plan, if re-elected, and the implementation of its many positive features. We feel it should be made a top priority in the 2014-2018 budget, its objectives prioritized over the first 5-year period, and implemented in close consultation with Gatineau. Working out this plan, we feel, is important and a top priority for many reasons.

Climate change is an issue that falls within the jurisdiction of cities to a major degree, according to the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities](#). [According to Ecology Ottawa research](#), 49% of Ottawa's GHG emissions come from buildings for which zoning, permits, and building codes are under the direct control of the city. 40% of our emissions come from transportation, the management of which is directed by the city.

Climate change is **a health issue** causing problems that the city can address directly and indirectly. Better public transit, along with improved conditions for cycling and walking instead of driving, helps reduce emissions while improving health. Our otherwise expanding vehicle use not only leads to a further increase in these emissions and more traffic congestion, but also more low-level ozone and problems with asthma and other respiratory

conditions. These in turn put more pressure on our emergency departments, doctors, patient wait times, and our health care dollars. The British medical journal, The Lancet, declares climate change to be the number one health threat of the 21st century, against which we all must engage in fighting.

Climate change is now becoming **a business issue**, whether in the private or public sphere. Former Secretaries of the U.S. Treasury, including Henry Paulson, Robert Rubin, and George Schulz, point out that business as usual can no longer be the rule. Much is said to explain this on their website, [RISKY BUSINESS](#).

Climate change is **a moral issue**. We have no right to rapaciously use up the earth's resources without better 'cradle to grave' management, poison the air with CO₂, bring about the extinction of hundreds of species, and destroy the future for ourselves and future generations.

Climate change is **a personal issue**. Dealing with potential problems is the personal responsibility of each of us. We will always have emergencies. With the ever-increasing number of problems due to extreme weather events such as those we have witnessed in Calgary, southern Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Toronto, and the Maritimes in the last 15 months, we must be prepared for events that could easily happen in Ottawa. In Canmore, Alberta, sections of the town were washed out with the massive flooding. If similar flooding along the Rideau River were to occur, the existing pipeline that is being proposed for use by the Energy East pipeline proposal could easily be ruptured, leaving Ottawa devastated.

Attention must be given to this potential emergency in our Climate Change Management Plan, and actions taken to prevent it from happening. This is our beautiful city and you and I and all Ottawa

citizens must take every measure to prevent problems from happening in the first place and, as well, have a management plan that might mitigate the consequences of what could be a catastrophic event.

A [Canada 2020 poll](#) found that 76% of Canadians are either ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ concerned about global warming. This figure would suggest that 600,000 people in Ottawa would have such concerns. **Our group will be encouraging such people** to share these concerns with you in order to provide you and the city with what these concerns might mean in practical terms.!

As a group, **we are also looking forward to having a chance to talk with you** in person about your future plans for our city, particularly as they relate to this Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan.

In closing, we have been pleased to note in the action plan (Document 2) that work has been ongoing and is to be continued. The Ottawa River Action Plan, as just one example, has already received support from the Ontario government and committed funding. In addition, Mr. Baird has been saying that the federal government will also commit funds. All this gives us hope.

Once again, thank you for your past work on this many- faceted critical issue.

Ward 9 leader team: Larry Dobson, Doug Adams, Kelsey Huus, James O’Grady, Leslie Creelman, Gwenn Hughes, Kim Scott, Matthew Ladd.

Reply from Mr. Egli:

September 22, 2014

Larry

Thank you for your detailed and informative email on climate change and air quality. If re-elected I will certainly continue to support the Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan.

Thank you for the work that you do.

Keith

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September 19, 2014

Dear Mr. Lambiri:

We would first like to thank you for stepping forth and entering the race to be the next Ottawa city councillor of Ward 9. Civic politics puts a heavy burden on councillors, but their role is extremely important.

We, the Ward 9 leaders' group working alongside Ecology Ottawa, are writing to express our support for the present City Council's Environment Committee's *'Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan - 2014'*, that was passed by council in May 2014. It has many positive features, and we feel it should be made a top priority in the 2014-2018 budget, its objectives prioritized over the first 5-year period, and implemented in close consultation with Gatineau. Working out this plan, we feel, is important and a top priority for many reasons.

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As a group, we are also looking forward to having a chance to talk with you in person about your future plans for our city, particularly as they relate to this Air Quality and Climate Change Management Plan.

In closing, we have been pleased to note in the action plan (Document 2)⁴ that work has been ongoing and is to be continued. The Ottawa River Action Plan, as just one example, has already received support from the Ontario government and committed funding. In addition, Mr. Baird has been saying that the federal government will also commit funds. All this gives us hope.

Once again, thank you for joining the race and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on this many-faceted critical issue.

Ward 9 leader team: Larry Dobson, Doug Adams, Kelsey Huus, James O'Grady, Leslie Creelman, Gwenn Hughes, Kim Scott, Matthew Ladd.

Reply from Mr. Lambiri:

September 22, 2014

Dear Mr Dobson:

Thank you very much for reaching out to me. The information that you have provided is very interesting and presents actionable items at the municipal level.

If elected I will look forward to working with your group and others of the same persuasion to help take adaptive actions that would help us tackle the issue of Climate Change.

I appreciate the invitation to meet in person. It would be great to meet with you and your leader team. I will let you know possible times once I get some stride into my campaign.

Sincerely,

/Cristian Lambiri, PhD/

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