



Together we make a difference

June 25, 2018

Dear MPP-elect McKenna:

On behalf of BurlingtonGreen, I would like to congratulate you on your recent success at the polls, and also thank you again for taking the time to respond to BurlingtonGreen's pre-election all-candidate survey.

As you may know, BurlingtonGreen is a recognized, award-winning leader in environmental sustainability. As a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, BurlingtonGreen provides the largest presence of environment-related programming, services and impact in the City of Burlington with over 10,000 participants engaging each year in a range of community programs. Last year we celebrated our 10th anniversary with a sold out event at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre featuring renowned environmentalist David Suzuki. Our mission continues to be "together with the community, [to] protect the environment, mitigate climate change and create a healthier, more environmentally responsible Burlington", and is delivered through our successful 'triple A' approach: Awareness, Advocacy and Action.

While our focus is primarily local, engaging us broadly and often with Burlington's citizens and municipal governments, we nevertheless keep an eye on both provincial and national issues and events that impact the environment, focusing our attention on those issues that could directly effect the quality of life in Burlington. We believe the most important of these is climate change, which will impact us all universally, regardless of location; accordingly, we have made climate change mitigation/adaptation the first of our three strategic goals for the next five years, the other two being community empowerment and capacity, accountability and impact. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a copy of BurlingtonGreen's "*Branching Out*", our Strategic Plan for 2018-2023, to help familiarize you with our organization.

Recognizing that you will be very busy over the coming weeks during the transition of Ontario's government, we would like to invite you to meet with us once you've had the opportunity to settle into your role as MPP for Burlington. We were encouraged by your commitment on behalf of the PC party to safeguard the Green Belt, support a forest carbon strategy, strengthen Producer Responsibility, and ensure that adequate regulations are in place to prevent aggregate extraction from infringing on wetlands, designated green space or farmland. We also appreciated your personal stance on issues such as reducing plastic waste, phasing out water taking permits and eliminating single use plastic water bottles, and hope you will leverage your personal convictions to influence your colleagues in government to take action on these issues. As you might expect, we do have some serious concerns about Premier-elect Ford's cancellation of the GreenON energy efficiency programs as well as his avowal to eliminate the cap-and-trade carbon reduction strategy, and are similarly worried about the future of the green vehicle incentive program and related electric vehicle infrastructure development. We strongly believe that the marketplace alone will not achieve the magnitude of change in both producer

and consumer behaviour that we need within a very short time to reduce Ontario's carbon footprint, and that innovative leadership from governments will be essential to Canada achieving its Paris Climate Accord commitment. In light of this, we would therefore like to understand what the new government's specific plans are to address climate change in Ontario. And we also hope that we can explore constructive ways to work with you, as well as our municipal representatives, to ensure that Burlington achieves its strategic goal of becoming a healthier and greener city.

We will be in touch with your office to arrange a meeting with you at your convenience; in the meantime, we want to wish you well as you embark on your new work, and hope you will accept our cordial invitation to visit our booth on Canada Day in Spencer Smith Park and attend as our guest our next Eco Film Festival event, "*A Silent Transformation*", a film about the transformative power of the cooperative enterprise model. We are hosting this event in partnership with the Burlington Public Library and Halton Green Screens on September 19th at the Burlington Central Library. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and we hope to see you there.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gloria Reid".

Gloria Reid
President, Burlington Green Environmental Association