



## Ward 3 Candidate: Luke McEachern

Question 1	If elected, will you commit to the protection of Burlington greenspace and Halton farmland, including opposing the construction of Highway 413, and prioritizing the establishment of <b>complete, 15-minute communities</b> in your ward/throughout the city?
Response:	<b>Yes. Fifteen minute communities as the video points out are a relatively new concept and at a glance it's a fantastic one. The reality is that this concept somewhat ignores the human aspect of a need to work where employment is available and living where one can afford to be accommodated. Years ago there were many transportation firms located in Burlington that have since moved elsewhere, this has necessitated the drivers to commute farther to work. This requires a very long term vision for implementation.</b>
Question 2a	<p>Transportation is the largest source of carbon emissions in Burlington, and currently accounts for over 40% of total emissions. Reducing emissions from this sector is an essential step to reach Burlington's goal of community carbon neutrality by 2050. If elected:</p> <p>A) Will you support the changes and funding investments required to boost public transit ridership (e.g. purchase more (electric) buses; enhance frequency, range, reliability, density &amp; directness) to make public transit an appealing and effective option in Burlington?</p>
Response:	<b>Yes. Investments in infrastructure to support the planned deployment of EV's as well as purchasing the Capital Equipment must be balanced with a stable tax base for the businesses and residents alike.</b>
Question 2b	What specific actions will you take to make active transportation (cycling, walking, ...) an appealing and effective option in Burlington?

Response:	<b>Shopping areas, malls, strip malls or stand alone businesses should have to provide some secure parking for cyclists.</b>
Question 2c	Will you support opportunities to increase and prioritize public EV chargers to ensure equitable distribution on City property across the community and with consideration of accessible design standards?
Response:	<b>No. It is neither the City's nor the Region's responsibility to ensure or even provide 'equitable distribution' of EV Chargers.</b>
Question 3	We are facing a sixth mass extinction event. Biodiversity is critical for climate mitigation/adaptation and local accessible nature is vital for mental and physical well-being, but Burlington does not have a biodiversity action plan. If elected, will you champion the creation of a <a href="#">biodiversity action plan</a> within the next 4 years and advocate for the resources/budget to initiate its implementation?
Response:	<b>Yes. The City and the Region have demonstrated that they can assist or supplement The Provincial agencies such as MNR by closing roadways for the Jefferson Salamanders in spring as has been done on King Road. Any further work in this regard should really be directed by the appropriate level of government, either Federally or Provincially.</b>
Question 4	If elected, will you actively demonstrate your support for the <a href="#">Reform Gravel Mining Coalition</a> push for a temporary moratorium on new gravel mining applications in Ontario, by supporting a pause on all new and expanded quarry permits in Burlington?
Response:	<b>Yes. While the City or the Region can advocate for such a moratorium the final authority is Provincially Administered and or Controlled. it has long been my position that Municipalities should have a full time liason or Employee to advocate and lobby the higher levels of government wrt long term developments and plans. Burlington has been caught short a number of times with new highway proposals that at the time of their announcement no one at the City or the Region seemed to be aware that such a plan even existed.</b>
Question 5	Climate Change is worsening existing inequities and putting marginalized community members at increased risk of harm if mitigation and adaptation efforts are not carefully planned (see <a href="#">Health in a Changing Climate report</a> ).  If elected, will you champion the effective integration of measures such as vulnerability and equity impact assessments into city plans and processes to prevent avoidable harm to marginalized Burlington residents, and encourage other members of council to support this as a top priority?
Response:	<b>Yes. Any decisions the City makes should actually already be implementing this perspective.</b>
Question 6	Please share some of the actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint:

**Response:**

**My Wife and I built a 4m by 9m Garden in our yard that this year delivered a bushel of Tomatos as well as Green beans, Cucumber, Lettuce, Beets, Carrots, Onions, Brussel Sprouts. Asparagus takes a few years.**