

Mayoral Candidate: Rory Nisan



Question 1		Flood Infrastructure & Stormwater: Burlington has faced repeated severe flooding, including the 2024 storm that impacted over <u>1,600</u> homes and businesses. Will you support accelerating the City's stormwater planning, flood-mapping and infrastructure investments needed to reduce the risk and impacts of future flooding?
Response:	Yes	Flood resilience is part of my plan for quality of life, and the 2024 storm showed how much is at stake for families and businesses across the city, urban and rural alike. I will support accelerating stormwater planning, updated flood mapping and the infrastructure needed to protect homes. This is exactly the kind of spending that proves its value; prevention costs far less than damage, insurance claims and disruption. I will also keep pressing the provincial and federal governments to pay their fair share, because Burlington taxpayers should not carry this alone.
Question 2		Transit Investment & Emission Reductions: With vehicle emissions generating <u>over 40%</u> of Burlington's greenhouse gases, improving and expanding public transit is central to reaching the target to be a net carbon neutral community by 2050. Will you commit to supporting increased funding investments and service enhancements – such as fleet electrification, increased frequency, route reliability, and network connectivity – to make transit a competitive alternative to driving?
Response:	Yes	As Deputy Mayor for the Environment, I have championed transit, cycling and our Integrated Mobility Plan, and I support fleet electrification, better frequency and reliable connections. Transit only works if it is a real choice. That means practical fixes like Guelph Line, where buses stopping in a live traffic lane hold up everyone at rush hour, and reduced or free fares for youth to build lifelong riders. I will fund these improvements the disciplined way: prioritizing transit as a core service, measuring ridership results, and securing every federal and provincial dollar available.
Question 3		Climate Equity & Vulnerable Communities: While every resident in the city of Burlington will be impacted by climate change, not every resident will be impacted equally. The most vulnerable residents who are facing financial, social, mental and physical barriers will experience compounding effects and bear disproportionate impacts of the

		climate crisis. (Burlington Climate Plan 2026-2031) Will you commit to supporting the budget investments required for the implementation of the City's climate mitigation, adaptation, and emergency response plans to protect these disproportionately impacted communities, and all residents?
Response:	Yes	Protecting the residents most exposed to extreme heat, flooding and storms is a core responsibility, and I support implementing the City's climate mitigation, adaptation and emergency response plans. I will prioritize the investments that protect people first: cooling and emergency supports, flood protection in vulnerable neighbourhoods, and outreach to seniors and residents living alone. Every investment should come with clear targets and public reporting so residents can see what it delivers. Climate action and fiscal responsibility are not in conflict; a wasted dollar is a dollar that could have protected someone.
Question 4		Biodiversity Action Plan: Burlington currently has no municipal Action Plan to protect and care for local nature, and yet the implications of the biodiversity crisis (such as the acceleration of invasive species) continue to grow. Will you commit to directing staff to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan by 2028 with associated budget investments required for its implementation?
Response:	Yes	I don't believe one office should direct staff alone, so I will bring a motion asking council to direct staff to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan by 2028. As Chair of the Conservation Halton Foundation, I know the pressure invasive species and habitat loss put on our natural areas. The plan should be built with Conservation Halton, the Region and community groups like BurlingtonGreen, so we build on existing work rather than duplicating it and focus funding where it protects the most. Mount Nemo, the Escarpment and our creeks are part of what makes Burlington special.
Question 5		Aggregate Moratorium: To safeguard Burlington's groundwater, air quality, and the Escarpment ecosystem, will you commit to support the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's call for a provincial moratorium (temporary pause) on new and expanding aggregate operations? (The purpose of a moratorium is to allow time to conduct a broad consultation process, with Indigenous Nations, affected communities, independent experts and scientists, to chart an improved path forward.)
Response:	Yes	I have stood with rural Burlington on aggregate issues as Ward 3 Councillor. I seconded council's unanimous motion asking the province to deny the Nelson quarry expansion, and I support the City seeking a review of the Tribunal's August decision. Ontario's own Auditor General found the province is not effectively overseeing aggregate operations. With substantial licensed supply already in place, a pause on new approvals while the province fixes the rules does not put housing at risk. Fix the system first. Quarry operators should pay the full cost of the roads their trucks wear down; taxpayers should never subsidize industry.

Question 6		Green Building & Development Standards: Provincial legislation <u>restricts municipalities' authority to mandate green building performance</u> beyond the Ontario Building Code. Consistent with the City's Horizon 2050 <u>net -zero commitments</u> , will you proactively advocate for stronger energy-efficiency and sustainability standards in Burlington's new developments, with associated incentives, planning processes, and legal tools available to the City?
Response:	Yes	Energy efficient homes are an affordability issue as much as an environmental one; they mean lower utility bills for families for decades. Within the limits the province has set, I will advocate for stronger standards and use the tools the City has: incentives, sustainability guidelines in our planning process, and faster approvals for projects that go beyond the Building Code. I will also press the province to restore municipal authority here. What I won't do is add cost or delay that makes housing harder to build; the goal is better homes, built sooner.
Question 7		Accountable Reporting: To ensure all Council members receive staff reports that are consistently accountable to the City's <u>Horizon 2050 Vision and 25-year Strategic Plan</u> guiding principles, will you direct staff to adopt an environmental, social, and economic lens to all reports, starting 2027? (example: <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals Framework</u>)
Response:	Yes	I will bring this to council rather than direct staff alone. Every staff report should show the full picture before council decides: the environmental impact, the effect on residents, and the full lifetime cost, including what it adds to the average household's tax bill. That is how Horizon 2050 becomes a working tool rather than a document on a shelf. The lens should be practical and in plain language, built into existing report templates, so it sharpens decisions without adding paperwork.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		I installed a heat pump in our home. I use public transit and cycling. We grow our own vegetables. I raise money for Conservation Halton as Chair of the Conservation Halton Foundation. Small choices add up, and I try to make the same practical choices at home that I ask City Hall to make.