

Ward 6 Candidate: Rowan Fraser



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:	Partially /Other	If there are areas that are prone to floods that need enhanced mitigation I absolutely will commit to ensuring they have adequate storm water management capabilities.
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:	Partially /Other	I have important plans regarding transit. Fleet electrification is definitely on the docket. I also support the upcoming on demand pilot to resolve the first and last mile issue, and a full re-optimization of current routes to prevent needless waste.
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:	Partially /Other	There is no reason why I should not support relief efforts to help with climate change challenges moving forward. Absolutely I will commit to this.
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:	Partially /Other	This area is not my expertise, but I would be willing to listen to any suggestions that residents may have to improve our biodiversity plans here in the city. Without know what concrete actions are proposed I cannot endorse them however.
Question 5		Aggregate Moratorium: To safeguard Burlington's groundwater, air quality, and the Escarpment ecosystem, will you commit to support the <u>Reform Gravel Mining Coalition's call for a provincial moratorium</u> (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:	Partially /Other	No I would not support this moratorium. In fact, I think a province wide moratorium on aggregate mining will result in more emissions. Basically any construction or roadworks project uses aggregate. If we cannot source it locally we must haul it in from elsewhere at great expense. This would also emit more GHGs from the longer routes that this moratorium would necessitate.
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 <u>City's Horizon 2050 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:	Partially /Other	We should always be looking to improve the energy efficiency and sustainability of our construction projects. I would absolutely advocate for these measures.
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:	Partially /Other	The Horizon 2050 vision is not a realistic framework to base our city's growth on. While I realize it can be very attractive from an environmental standpoint, we are still 14 years away from Horizon 2040 and we aren't even achieving those goals.
Question 8		Personal Commitment: What are some actions you personally take to minimize your environmental footprint?
Response:		I strive every day to use as little GHG generating energy. I advocate for walking and cycling. In my first term of council I plan to update our transit model to include arterial cycleways into Burlington to separate our road and active transport infrastructure. I also want to double transit ridership in the next 4 years.