From:	Erwin Dreessen
To:	Councillor Scott Moffatt (Scott.Moffatt@ottawa.ca)
Subject:	Congratulations from the Greenspace Alliance
Date:	Thursday, November 13, 2014 4:01:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png

Dear Councillor Moffatt,

On behalf of the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital, I wish to congratulate you on your convincing win in the municipal election. We look forward to working with you, all of Council and staff over the next term for the betterment of our fair city.

We also thank you for responding to the four propositions we put to all candidates on September 14. You indicated no support for a site alteration by-law in rural areas. We fear there may be some misunderstanding about the regulation of site alteration as permitted by the *Municipal Act*. Among other things, section 142(6) of the *Act* explicitly excludes top soil removal "as an incidental part of a normal agricultural practice" from falling within the scope of a site alteration by-law. A "strong" site alteration by-law, such as adopted in at least half a dozen Ontario cities, includes provisions about vegetation and trees. It can be instrumental in preventing "tree massacres" or wetland destruction and may find applications in urban areas but the primary need for it is in rural areas that may become urban, where the urban tree preservation by-law does not yet apply.

You may have heard that, at the environmental debate organized by Ecology Ottawa on September 24, the Mayor came out in favour of bringing forward this long-awaited by-law. (He went further and said he would lobby the province for the ability to levy stronger fines against violators.) Eight of the 13 winning candidates who responded to our letter expressed support for our proposition. Councillors or Councillors-elect Wilkinson, Fleury, Nussbaum, McKenney, Leiper, Brockington, Chernuschenko and Qaqish were supportive; Councillors Egli and Monette expressed conditional support.

On the proposal for a firm allocation for the acquisition of environmental land we received nine clear votes in favour. We interpreted your response, along with that of Councillor-elect Brockington, as a conditional expression of support.

Our suggestion to stand firm on the prohibition of further country lot subdivisions received unequivocal support from eight elected candidates. Our proposal for a more meaningful role of volunteer advisory committees received support from nine winning candidates; one additional support was somewhat tentative. While we appreciate your responses to these two propositions, we do not feel that they warranted counting them as supportive. They invite further discussion.

The table below summarizes the responses. Winning candidates' full responses can be read at http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/winners.

It is good to remember that our propositions were endorsed by 150 individuals from across the city and by the following 16 local organizations:

Ecology Ottawa (Graham Saul, Executive Director)

Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club (Fenja Brodo, President)

Ottawa-Carleton Wildlife Centre (Donna DuBreuil, President)

South March Highlands-Carp River Conservation (Prue Thomson, President)

Peace and Environment Resource Centre (Elaine Gibson, Chair, Board of Directors)

Heron Park Community Association (James McLaren, President)

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ottawa Valley Chapter (John McDonnell, Executive Director)

Bishops Mills Natural History Centre (Frederick W. Schueler & Aleta Karstad)

Woodroffe North Community Association (Dave Grosvenor, President)

UnpublishedOttawa.com (James O'Grady, Founder)

Poets' Pathway (Jane Moore, Chair)

International Communication for Animal Justice (Joan Reddy, Founder and President)

The Champlain Oaks Project (Daniel Buckles)

Hintonburg Community Association (Matt Whitehead, President)

Rockcliffe Park Residents Association (Marilyn Venner, Secretary)

Rideau Trail Association - Ottawa Club (Sheila Parry, Chair)

Again, our congratulations and we look forward to a constructive dialogue on these and other issues over the next term of Council.

Sincerely,

Erwin Dreessen

Co-chair,

Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital

Ref.:

http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/election2014

http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/election2014MR

http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/lettertowatson

http://www.greenspace-alliance.ca/winners

Founded in 1997, the Greenspace Alliance works to preserve and enhance green spaces in the National Capital area, and engages with all levels of government. We believe that urban greenness is essential for a community's quality of life, contributing to our personal, social, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being. They also connect us with the natural and cultural history of our region.

Table

Ward		**P1**	**P2**	**P3**	**P4**

X 1	Bob Monette	yes?	?	?	yes
X 4	Marianne Wilkinson	yes	yes	yes	yes
X 9	Keith Egli	yes?	yes	yes	yes
X 10	Diane Deans	?	?	?	?
X 12	Mathieu Fleury	yes	yes	yes	yes
13	Tobi Nussbaum	yes	yes	yes	yes
14	Catherine McKenney	yes	yes	yes	yes
15	Jeff Leiper	yes	yes	yes	yes
16	Riley Brockington	yes	yes?	?	yes
X 17	David Chernushenko	yes	yes	yes	yes?
X 19	Stephen Blais	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a
X 21	Scott Moffatt	no	yes?	?	?
22	Michael Qaqish	yes	yes	yes	yes

Legend:

Yes = Support
Yes? = Conditional or Tentative Support
?, n/a = Unclear , No Answer
No? = Conditional or Tentative No Support
No = No Support

Propositions:

1 = Support for a strong site alteration by-law, with emphasis on "strong."
2 = Renewed commitment to an annual allocation towards an environmental lands acquisition fund.
3 = Standing firm in support of the prohibition against future country lot subdivisions.
4 = The City's Advisory Committees should be genuine bridges between the public and Council.