From:	Erwin Dreessen
To:	Councillor David Chernushenko (David.Chernushenko@ottawa.ca)
Subject:	Congratulations from the Greenspace Alliance
Date:	Thursday, November 13, 2014 3:54:00 PM
Attachments:	image001.png image002.png image003.png

Dear Councillor Chernushenko,

On behalf of the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital, I wish to congratulate you on your strong 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 your general support of the four propositions we put to all candidates on September 14. On the first one -- about a "strong" site alteration by-law -- 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.) Including you, eight of the 13 winning candidates who responded to our letter expressed support for a "strong" by-law -- one that includes provisions about vegetation and trees.

Supportive in addition to you were Councillors or Councillors-elect Wilkinson, Fleury, Nussbaum, McKenney, Leiper, Brockington, and Qaqish. Councillors Egli and Monette expressed conditional support.

On the proposal for a firm allocation for the acquisition of environmental land we received your and eight other clear votes in favour, plus two conditional expressions of support.

Our suggestion to stand firm on the prohibition of further country lot subdivisions received unequivocal support from you and seven other elected candidates.

Our proposal for a more meaningful role of volunteer advisory committees received support from nine winning candidates; we interpreted your support as tentative. David, we would be pleased to discuss the potential role of volunteer advisory committees with you further. As we put it bluntly in our post-election letter to the Mayor, "the whole advisory committee structure in the City needs a significant re-think and your recent reforms not only missed the mark but made things worse. We are particularly keen to revisit the role and mandate of the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee and would be pleased to meet with the new Chair of the Environment Committee to discuss the need for not only more frequent meetings but also how ESAC can work together with community organizations and tap into the considerable talents present in the community."

The table below summarizes the responses of the winning candidates. Their 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.