



OTTAWA VOTES
NOVEMBER 13

Environmental coalition

BY JAKE RUPERT

A coalition of environmentalists released report cards yesterday for Ottawa city council members, giving almost half failing grades.

The voting records of Mayor Bob Chiarelli and the 21 councillors were so bad, according to the group, that they had to use a bell curve that made 30 per cent a passing grade.

Despite that, 10 out of the 22

municipal politicians still got Fs or F minuses on their report cards, which were produced by members of the Sierra Club of Canada's Ottawa chapter, the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital and the Coalition for a Healthy Ottawa.

"The message is pretty clear," spokesman Erwin Dreessen said. "The past council could have done a much better job on issues of environmental concern."

The group looked at the voting records of each politician on 19 decisions dealing with environmental issues on the council term that is now coming to an end.

These include a 16-4 vote to eliminate recycling of some plastics, which was later overturned, two successful motions to cut tree planting and maintenance, a vote to allow development on environmentally sensitive land in Kanata, and in-

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gives 10 councillors an 'F'

creasing transit fares, among other decisions made since 2003.

Mr. Dreessen said the group worked hard to select votes that had clear ramifications for the environment, and he believes the process followed was "fair" to all councillors and the mayor.

Councillors Jan Harder, Gord Hunter, Shawn Little, Doug Thompson, Rick Chiarelli, Glenn Brooks, Rob Jellet and

Eli El-Chantiry were given F minuses.

According to the report, they are "real disruptions to good environmental governance (and) voted against anything environmentally beneficial."

Peter Hume, who chairs the city's planning and environment committee, got an F, as did Maria McRae. According to the group, that makes means the two "almost never considered the environment in voting

and were hindrances to good environmental governance."

Rainer Bloess, Diane Deans and Bob Chiarelli got Ds. Michel Bellemare received a C minus. Georges Bédard and Peggy Feltmate scored Cs, Janet Stavinga got a B, and Jacques Legendre got a B plus. Clive Doucet and Diane Holmes got As.

Only Bay Councillor Alex Cullen got an A plus, and the "Excellent work" tag.