

## Ward 3 council candidate Alice Cotton's opening statement

I have lived in Sackville for close to 30 years and I've brought up my two sons here. I work as a private tutor and translator, a gardener in the summer and I work in a professional kitchen. I support the Sackville Farmers Market and enjoy being a coffee vendor there along with my husband year round. I've been involved with local non-profit and community groups over the years like Eos-Eco Energy Community Food Smart and the Sackville Commons.

I have protested against fracking, and for the preservation of French immersion and of our hospital. I spoke up for university students' right to vote in municipal elections.

I think we are fortunate to live in an area so rich with natural and human resources. And I think we need to work hard to protect our environment and all the people living in it.

There will be a lot of work to do to make this new municipality equitable for all its constituents. And to improve existing services. I want to promote better understanding of how municipal service functions so that our council may be as transparent as possible. We need to communicate to the public in a timely manner about the work Council does and the decisions it has to make.

I worry about climate change and its effects on our region. And I think we are responsible to use all the information that experts give us about the risks of catastrophic flooding and dyke failure and solutions like re-establishing salt marshes as buffers to protect the dykes.

I applaud the work of the volunteers in the Regional Health Action Group led by John Higham. They have done a lot of work to hire nurses and LPNs and improve morale. Our council must do all it can to help hire more doctors and give the community a voice in our health services.

The lack of affordable housing and the commodification of the basic right to shelter have motivated me to run for office. We must work with the new housing hub and groups like Acorn to find solutions to the affordable housing crisis. A working group from council needs to be tasked with coming up with creative

housing solutions, working on zoning bylaws and partnering with local concerned citizens and organizations.