

**Speaking notes: Jim Wright to Richmond Council, Oct 14, 2014,
re Item 9, the Right to a Healthy Environment**

Mayor Brodie and Councillors,

On behalf of the Garden City Conservation Society, thank you for being on the leading edge for the Right to a Healthy Environment.

This is very much in keeping with our role as an International Eco-Safety Demonstrative City, which is an award but also a responsibility to be a model for the world.

When Chak Au brought back the award from the United Nations affiliate, IESCO, he said that the selection criteria are (1) leadership, (2) innovation, (3) participation and (4) impact. All four criteria are evident in what the community and city have been doing together on the Right to a Healthy Environment.

I like this quote from a press release in early 2011:

“Richmond scored very high in all areas,” [Chak] Au reported, “but what made the city stand out was citizen leadership and participation.”

That’s true now too. Within and around the Richmond Blue Dot team, I see lots of *new* faces (along with some familiar ones). We need that, and the warm response when they brought the opportunity to the parks committee last month is bound to have stoked the enthusiasm.

With the Blue Dot campaign, Richmond’s council and community are enabling good things in Richmond and across Canada. No doubt Councillor Au is still active in IESCO, so I imagine the effect will also spread further, maybe around the globe.

We’re all part of an all-around win-win happening.

In the exhilaration, we need to keep our feet on the ground. We need to stay down to *Earth*—the Blue Dot. So I’ll just end with another cliché: Keep up the good work!