

**From:**

**Sent:** December 6, 2017 3:37 AM

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**Subject:** Blue Dot Declaration

Dear Mayor and Council,

Over the past three years I have watched with interest the rapid growth of a simple, yet elegant idea spreading across Canada. The Blue Dot program, initiated by David Suzuki, aims to enshrine basic human environmental rights in Federal Legislation. Those rights are Clean air, Clean water, Healthy food and the Right to be informed of pollutants in our environment.

To that end, Mr. Suzuki is building support from the Grass Roots level, asking individuals to sign the Blue Dot Declaration ([BlueDot.ca/join-us](http://BlueDot.ca/join-us)), and Municipalities to make Declarations on behalf of their citizens.

To date, I am delighted to see that many mayor cities such as Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, Hamilton, Brampton and Oakville, as well as many local and regional municipalities, including Stratford, Kitchener, Guelph, Ajax, Cambridge, Milton and Mississauga have all made declarations.

Already there are 110,621 individual members and 160 municipalities represented, and the list is growing quickly. I was pleased to discover that 25 of our own citizens have already signed on.

As a new member of the Community Liaison Committee Of St. Marys Cement, I see this initiative as a wonderful opportunity and obvious first step for St. Marys in addressing the environmental challenges we face.

A declaration of basic environmental human rights would set clear parameters for our discussions, and being aligned with the extensive research base available from David Suzuki.org would bring to the table an objectivity and credibility beyond our individual, subjective opinions.

I urge you, therefore, as a Council, to set the stage for meaningful dialogue and transparency by passing a Blue Dot Declaration on behalf of our children and the future of our town. Ref. [www.BlueDot.ca](http://www.BlueDot.ca)

A Sample Declaration for your consideration:

The Municipality of St. Marys declares that its citizens have the civic right to clean air, clean water and healthy food, and that they have a voice in all environmental decisions that affect them.

We further declare, that in our public policies, the best practices of science and research will be adopted to enshrine these rights for future generations.

(For more specific details see "What would a declaration of environmental rights mean for my community?" under Municipal Declaration of Environmental Rights-FAQs under [www.BlueDot.ca](http://www.BlueDot.ca))

Merry Christmas to you all, and many thanks for the fine work you have done this year, and the dedication you have shown to St. Marys as we prepare for the future.

And now on behalf of the children I leave you with this Christmas wish.

I wish that every child, your children and grandchildren, and mine, might breathe clean air, drink pure water, and eat healthy food in the New Year and that you will declare it to be so.

Sylvia Harvey