

City of London - Application for Appointment to City of London Community Advisory Committees

Application

Committee you are interested in serving on: **Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee**

Contact Information

Name: **Lela Burt**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6A1Y2**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Advisory Committee, please provide dates and details. (max. 250 characters): **N/A**

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters):

I want to contribute the knowledge and experience that I have gained as a Master of Environment and Sustainability at Western University and hope to learn more about the municipal process of enacting tangible change in the city of London.

How will you support the work of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters):

I am very passionate about supporting environmental sustainability related activities and changes in the city. This passion fuels my commitment committee work where I will share my skills consistently, wherever needed, and for the entire duration of my term.

We value the contributions of Londoners with diverse experiences and welcome applications from individuals who share our commitment. Please describe how your work, community or lived experience will enhance these efforts through Community Advisory Committee work. (max. 3000 characters):

As a young adult who was born and raised in London and as a student at Western University, I bring a unique perspective to Community Advisory Committee work that will help facilitate a better connection between the city, young people, and the university. During my Master of Environment and Sustainability I received education on topics such as environmental planning and management, stormwater management, and sustainable business practices; acted as a student consultant crafting an Environment Social Governance strategy for Forests Ontario/Forest Recovery Canada; and participated in 20 environment and sustainability workshops lead by industry leaders. This breadth of knowledge has given me a diverse and current perspective on trends and common practices in the environmental sustainability field. I also have 3 years of work experience with Kettle Creek Conservation Authority and will be completing a co-op with ALUS Middlesex in partnership with Lower Thames Conservation Authority this summer. These roles help me achieve a better understanding of the unique interests of agricultural landowners, their relationship with conservation authorities, and each group's individual relationship with the city of London. Additionally, I have extensive experience with Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization work through my work on the Governance Committee for the London Environmental Network, on the Board of Directors for Camp Kintail and from serving as an LGBTQI identifying person on the Presbyterian Church in Canada's Committee on Church Doctrine and the Special Committee RE Confession to LGBTQI persons. In these roles I have gained tangible experience in policy development specifically with an EDID lens and helped to facilitate more inclusive organizational practices. Having the lived experience of a lesbian woman working in these spaces, I understand the importance of diversity especially on public committees that will have an influence on the people of London. This experience has motivated me to better understand the experiences of other marginalized groups and strive to listen to and incorporate diverse voices and perspectives in the work that I do.

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Community Advisory Committee Member. (max. 250 characters):

I have served as an elder on the governing body of Westmount Presbyterian Church, where I have gained experience in organizational leadership, finance and stewardship, change management, staffing and hiring, and effective community engagement.

Attach resume or other document here, if needed: **Resume April 2024.pdf**

Attach more files here, if needed:

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that the commitment may be up to 4 hours per month to attend meetings and prepare.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity:

(optional): **Word of mouth**

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

Submitted on: **4/26/2024 3:46:50 PM**

LELA BURT (she/her)

London, ON

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 years of experience working for Kettle Creek Conservation Authority supervising seasonal staff, managing campground operations, and assisting in environmental protection measures
- Technical knowledge in forestry, wildlife, soil, aquatics, invasive species, species-at-risk, climate change, and environmental sustainability
- Innovation North's 2024 Systems Innovation Challenge participant
- Highly effective written and oral communication with practical experience in policy development
- Experienced in relationship management on Westmount Presbyterian Church's Transition Team
- Conducted a qualitative research study on the history of Western University's Drama Workshop
- Obtained DELF B1 French language proficiency certification
- Dedicated to Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion education and engagement

EDUCATION

Master of Environment and Sustainability

Graduate August 2024

Western University

London, ON

- Acquired extensive knowledge of climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem health, environmental planning, the Duty to Consult, and sustainability frameworks
- Analyzed a range of data and developed figures using RStudio, Excel, and QGIS
- Engaged in workshops on Team Building, Artificial Intelligence, International Environmental Law, ArcGIS Dashboards and Story Maps, Environmental Assessment Process, Impacts and Effects Assessment, ESG in the Supply Chain, Waste Management, Sustainable Buildings (LEED), Green House Gas accounting, Corporate Social Responsibility, Life Cycle Assessments, CleanTech, Agrivoltaics, and Federal Environmental Policies
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Bachelor of Arts

Graduated April 2021

Honours Specialization in English Language and Literature, Major in Theatre Studies

London, ON

Western University

- Enhanced oral and written communication through textual and performance-based analysis
- Conducted a qualitative research study on the history of Western University's Drama Workshop
- Represented student body on the Arts and Humanities Students' Council as Financial Portfolio Associate, Assistant Vice President Finance, Student Donation Fund chair, and Play Coordinator

WORK EXPERIENCE

Kettle Creek Conservation Authority

April 2022 – September 2023

Crew Lead (Lake Whittaker Conservation Area)

St. Thomas, ON

- Supervised and mentored seasonal staff ensuring the safe execution of campground operations
- Assisted in lake sampling, invasive species management, and wildlife conservation projects
- Obtained skills and knowledge in construction, plumbing, electrical, power tool operation, outdoor pool maintenance, security and rule enforcement, and gatehouse administration
- Honed workplace conflict management skills by relying on good communication with upper management and fostering a safe space for feedback within the team of seasonal staff

Crew Member (Dalewood Conservation Area)

June 2021 – September 2021

- Encouraged efficient park operations through general maintenance and cleaning, landscaping, security, customer service, and managing the gatehouse reservation system

Barista

November 2021 – present

Black Walnut Bakery Cafe

London, ON

- Provided customers with an exceptional dining experience through efficient and friendly service
- Developed strong multi-tasking abilities and experience working in a fast-paced environment

LELA BURT (she/her)

London, ON

Western Summer Student Teaching Support Intern

June 2020 – September 2020

Western University

London, ON

- Supported university professors in transitioning course content to online delivery
- Developed resources to aid faculty in operating the university learning management system
- Collaborated with interns and faculty to establish and evaluate departmental needs

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Governance Committee Member

January 2024 – present

London Environmental Network

London, ON

- Develop and recommend governance principles, policies, standards, and practices to the Board
- Recruit members, provide orientation, and assess individual and group performance of the Board

Consultant (Volunteer)

December 2023 – present

Forest Recovery Canada/Western University

London, ON

- Research and analyse corporate and non-governmental organization ESG activities, metrics, reporting practices, and carbon accounting models, for Forest Recovery Canada
- Develop a project proposal and management plan, ensuring positive client relations

First Anniversary Celebration Volunteer

October 2023

Wampum Learning Lodge

London, ON

- Coordinated with volunteers to ensure efficient and organized event delivery
- Connected with and learned from local Indigenous people hosting the events

Facilitation Assistant

September 2023

Clean50 Summit

Toronto, ON

- Recorded facilitated discussions between prominent leaders in the sustainability industry
- Networked with industry leaders and gained insights from their expertise in the field

Board Member

October 2021 – present

Camp Kintail

Goderich, ON

- Review, develop, and revise summer camp policies and procedures
- Make decisions regarding camp operations, budget, staffing, human resources, and property

Board Member (Ruling Elder)

2017 – present

Westmount Presbyterian Church

London, ON

- Oversee and manage all church operations including finance and stewardship, property, staffing, worship, rentals, human resources, policy, and technology
- Cultivated skills in change management and conflict resolution by partnering with consultants to guide the church through a period of healing and transition

Committee on Church Doctrine Member

June 2022 – present

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Toronto, ON

- Fulfill mandate to have LGBTQI+ representation on all national church committees
- Determine and document the church's confessional position on matters assigned to and proposed by the committee, such as Unity and Diversity, The Doctrine of Discovery, and Church and State.

Special Committee Re: Confession to LGBTQI people Member

June 2021 – June 2022

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Toronto, ON

- Crafted a confession recognizing the church's role in causing harm to LGBTQI people
- Served as an LGBTQI representative providing guidance on language inclusivity and tone

LELA BURT (she/her)

London, ON

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Western University Symphony Orchestra** (French horn), 2022 – present
- **Systems Innovation Challenge**, Innovation North Studios, 2024
- ***Connecting For Climate Change Action***, Western University / Coursera, 2024
- ***Indigenous Canada***, University of Alberta / Coursera, 2024
- ***Gender Based Analysis Plus***, Government of Canada, 2024
- **Anti-Racism Foundations Certificate Program**, Western University, 2023
- **Facilitation Assistant**, Clean50 Summit, 2023
- **DELF B1 French Language Proficiency certificate**, Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques, 2017
- **Envirothon Regional and Provincial Competitor / Mentor**, Forests Ontario, 2015 – 2017, 2024