

Committee: **Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Derek Ellis**

Address:

**293 Hyman Street
London, ON
N6B 2G6**

Occupation: **Graduate Student**

Work experience: **Internship with PEI Environmental Health Coop, 2 Years with urban watershed group on Prince Edward Island - Ellen's Creek Watershed Group. Project officer for watershed awareness project and field crew supervisor of Watershed restoration project.**

Education: **BA Philosophy from University of Prince Edward Island. Many electives in biology, chemistry and environmental studies. Master of Environment and Sustainability candidate at University of Western (Class of 2014)**

Skills: **Strong communicator - both verbally and written. Strong critical thinking skills. Experience with urban environmental pressures associated with development. Experience in Riparian health assessments. Research experience in municipal climate change adaptation measures.**

Interest reason: **I want to apply the skills and knowledge I'm developing as a student in Western's MES program to real world situations. I've learned that the city of London values the environmental perspective and I want to contribute, as I have genuine interest in integrating environmental theory and practice.**

Contributions: **Despite the fact that I am studying environmental and sustainability issues, my philosophy background gives me the ability to remain neutral in assessing environmental, social, and economic points of view.**

Past contributions: **I've was involved in board meetings of two NGOs - Ellen's Creek Watershed Group and the PEI Environmental Health Coop. I contribute creative strategic ideas toward implementing theory and policy. Able to formulate tough questions in a non-threatening manner.**

Interpersonal: **As a member of the PEI Environmental Health Coop, I met with local school district officials in discussing alternative cleaning supply options in Island schools with respect to VOCs and other toxins. Strategy is important in implementing change, as these officials did not want to be told they were doing a poor job of maintaining the health and safety of students and staff in their district. Discussions were constructive and productive rather than combative and insulting.**

Interview interest: **Yes**