

Committee: **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

Name: **Jim Sanders**

Address:

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Occupation: **President/Owner - Playchek Services Inc., London ON**

Work experience: **Playchek Services Inc. - provider of third-party playspace compliance inspections and risk-management consultation - [www.playchek.com](http://www.playchek.com)** Experience includes a lengthy background (30+ years) in various customer-service and business-management roles. Prior to starting my own company, Playchek Services Inc. (2003) was 10 years spent as a start-up director (Pres., Vice-Pres.) of a local commercial playstructure manufacturing firm that remains viable today.

Education: **Post-Secondary graduate of Sir Sandford Fleming College, Lindsay ON - Forest Technician Diploma, 1979 Registered Playground Practitioner, Ontario Parks Association – since 2001 and currently valid Canadian Certified Playground Inspector, Canadian Playground Safety Institute – since 1998 and currently valid Certified Playground Safety Inspector, National Parks and Recreation Association (U.S.) – 1994 to 1997**

Skills: Perhaps my general business skills and organizational mindset are my strongest attributes in this regard. As a business director I have strong and successful background in time and project management. Thus, if any task is recognised as needed I can offer these skills to ensure it is completed.

Interest reason: **Through the efforts and development of the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and the subsequent Accessible Built Environment Standard, the field of Play and Playspaces is recognising the need for improvements regarding inclusion to opportunities in this regard. As a long-time advocate for play and accessibility this opportunity to work hands-on in a direct advisory role to the City of London is most welcomed.**

Contributions: **I would rate my business and management skills as my strongest “general” asset to this committee. However, my strong background in play and outdoor recreation should provide a very unique opportunity and perspective to this committee. The knowledge and experiences I’ve applied to our general parks and playspaces from accessible routes, to high-risk fall protection, to creative challenges and risk opportunities “for-all” should, and I feel will, parallel many other considerations in terms of accessibility in our future “built-environments”.**

Past contributions: **Am a founding member of CAPP, the Canadian Association of Playground Practitioners. Since it’s conception in 1999 we have grown to 70-plus members throughout Canada. Served as President-elect from 2004 through to 2009, and presently still active on the executive council as website administrator and membership co-ordinator. Served on the Whitehills Childcare Board of Directors from 1988 through to 1993, as President/Chair for the 1992, 1993 terms. Served on the TVDSB, Wilfrid Jury Elementary School Parent Council from 1994 through to 1998 including 2 terms as Chair Served on the TVDSB, City of London Parent Council, 1997-1998 Served on the City of London, Storybook Gardens Business Plan Implementation Task Force – 2008, as Chair of the Interactive Play Committee. Presently serving with the Ontario Parks Association as Sub-Committee Chair of a task-force to design and implement an accredited training course regarding accessibility to its membership. Presently a volunteer with Participation House, London as a “helpful maintenance guy” on an as needed basis for simple handy-man repairs throughout their many area homes. (active since March 2010)**

Interpersonal: **From my position as a third-party playspace compliance inspector, the awareness and need for hazard-based regulations and criteria is strong. For outdoor playspaces in particular compliance with the CSA-Z614 National Standard of Canada for Public Playspaces and Equipment is an essential and critical risk-management tool. As such, I must first be intimately aware of this complex standard and how to apply it within a realistic risk-management program. Example: Too often black and white rules become very complex to manage, particularly when dealing with limited budgets and community acceptance. As such, I have strong experience with rational compromises in a strong**

**hazard-based risk-management environment. Although this acceptance is often seen as a negative compromise it naturally becomes an essential tool when dealing with broad opinions and views. The work I have done as a basic volunteer with Participation House, London in the recent years has first-hand opened my eyes to the strengths, needs, and abilities of members of our society that have accessibility challenges. As such I have a strong appreciation of what we can offer by working together in this regard, and a strong respect of the need to listen.**

Interview interest: **Yes**