

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

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Jeff Smith**

Address:

**60 Nathaniel Crt  
N5X 2N5  
London, ON**

Occupation: **Graduate Student, Western University**

Work experience: **I've spent 8 years working with indigenous communities in Thailand, helping them develop more sustainable systems for managing their elephants - an endangered species. To successfully implement change in this rural and traditional industry, my work required extensive stakeholder engagement, building economic resilience, and innovative strategies for resource management. My greatest achievement was encouraging the village of Huay Pakoot to register as Thailand's first elephant owners' co-operative, a conservation organization based on a farmers' co-op model. Before moving to Thailand I was trained as an environmental engineer, and I have experience working in consulting with Connestoga Rovers and Associates out of their Waterloo office. I've also worked as a bartender, which has prepared me for a surprisingly diverse area of new experiences.**

Education: **- Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) in Environmental Engineering, with Chemical Specialization; University of Waterloo - Master of Environment and Sustainability (2014 candidate); Western University**

Skills: **Working knowledge of: - Environmental engineering - Wetland restoration - Conservation of endangered species - Project management and meetings facilitation - Environmental Assessment - Phase II and III Environmental Site Assessments - US EPA Superfund and Canadian site remediation - Hazardous and non-hazardous waste manifesting, transportation, and disposal - Municipal waste water treatment**

Interest reason: **I am interested in understanding how the wheels of London's democracy turn, and hope to contribute to the sustainable future of our local ecology and environment.**

Contributions: **Advise the council based on my knowledge and experience.**

Past contributions: **Other than stated in my work experience, I have not participated in this sort of organization before, but I am very eager to learn.**

Interpersonal: **Working with indigenous elephant-keeping communities in Thailand, I would host cross-cultural training and facilitation with western visitors. Over a period of 3 years or so, I was able to learn to speak Thai and also some basic concepts of traditional elephant management from my host community members. I initiated a study of medicinal plant species based on local traditional knowledge, connecting tribal elders with a professor from Chiang Mai University. I currently attend courses at Western University, and like to think I am able to exchange views with my professors and my peers in a respectful and professional manner.**

Interview interest: **Yes**