



LONDON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

X-246 DUNDAS STREET
LONDON, ONTARIO

INFO@LYAC.CA
226.271.1189

WWW.LYAC.CA

Before getting into specifics, I want to thank the city staff and consultants who assisted in the ReThink portion and in developing the published London Plan. I have read eight to nine hundred of the 1,485 paragraphs included in the plan and truly struggled to find areas that I disagreed with.

My name is Scott Wilkinson, I am 25 years old. I grew up in ward 8, left for university and have returned to begin my professional career in public accounting. After working professionally for 3 years, now I am at a fork in the road and am deciding where I want to plant my roots and buy a house. My options are to choose to stay and live in London or seek work elsewhere.

I first want to agree with the definition of millennials (Age 14-34 years old) in paragraph 9 of The London Plan. We are less automobile focused, more environmentally conscious, more likely to seek out highly urban environments and place a high premium on staying connected through social behaviours and technology. At a recent London Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) meeting, there was consensus among the elected youth councillors that we agreed with these traits to describe our generation. But a key trait was brought up during the meeting that wasn't included in the millennial definition. That is our mobility. If we aren't happy our current situation, it is easy to pack up our possessions and leave the city. For the past few years city council has been trying to determine how to mitigate brain drain. Following the principles and spirit of The London Plan, this will achieve exactly that goal of creating an exciting, vibrant and contemporary city that will not only keep people in this town but attract from elsewhere.

I was very impressed with the concept of intensification. The idea that it costs the city three times less to develop and operate the same services to a compact city as opposed to our current urban sprawl or "spread" as they call it in The London Plan is profound. That is a huge amount of savings! As I mentioned previously the millennial generation is seeking more affordable, highly urban environments which allows residents to be more connected. This is the exact answer to what my generation is looking for.

As a politician, this will allow for less costs per capita which means you can reduce taxes or increase the services. Luckily, I'm not here today to discuss those options with you. A perfect complement to the intensification recommended in this plan is rapid transit. The idea that an additional 77,000 people are going to be living in this city and be using the roads is terrifying. Frankly, it is unsustainable for this city to expand in population without a better public transit system. The idea that getting from Masonville to White Oaks would be faster by public transit than by car is something unthinkable, but I look forward to the day that it happens.

By changing planning of services and development from a reactive to proactive policy, a more cost effective, connected and culturally rich city can be created. I look forward to living in a city that is just that.

Thank you for your time.

Scott Wilkinson, CPA, CA
LYAC Ward 8 Youth City Councillor
@scottwilkinson3