

Committee: **Trees and Forests Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Gillian Barker**

Address:

**99 Euclid Ave**

**London, ON N6C 1C3**

Occupation: **Professor**

Work experience: **I have been a University professor since 1995, at the Indiana University, Simon Fraser University, Bucknell University and now Western University in London. I have been at Western since 2008. I am a teacher and researcher in the Roman Institute of Philosophy, and specialize in issues concerning scientific knowledge, research and applications in the life sciences. Before attending graduate school I worked for 2 summers as a gardener for the Toronto Parks Department, and for one summer as a research assistant for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife Branch.**

Education: **I have a PhD in Philosophy/Science Studies from the University of California, San Diego, and a BA in History and Philosophy of Science, with minors in Physics and Biology, from the University of Toronto.**

Skills: **I have expertise in understanding scientific and social-scientific research, and in thinking about its broader social and policy implications. I have extensive non-expert knowledge of our local ecology, urban ecology, and horticulture. I have extensive experience in working with others in a committee-structured institutional setting.**

Interest reason: **I very much value and appreciate London's urban forest, and would like to contribute to thinking about how best to manage and strengthen it for the benefit of the city, its residents, and our local ecology, as well as for its potential contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation.**

Contributions: **I have broad knowledge and experience in a range of areas that may be relevant to the committee's work. I am a thoughtful and careful contributor to committee work, good at exploring possibilities, facilitating productive discussion between diverse participants, and moving forward with practical action. I believe I can help the committee in research, decision-making and the production and presentation of reports.**

Past contributions: **Perhaps the closest I have come is working with colleagues to establish the Rotman Institute of Philosophy here at Western University in 2008-2010. I contributed in many different ways to the research, decision-making, and action that was involved in this important institutional innovation. In a rather different way I was actively involved in community activity in a Trout Unlimited chapter in Pennsylvania, helping to plan and carry out community activities to educate community members about watershed issues and protect and improve local streams and rivers.**

Interpersonal: **I have extensive experience in doing this, as an instructor and colleague at an educational institution and as someone who has been actively involved with community organizations that bring together quite diverse constituencies of people with different kinds of knowledge and different values. I believe strongly that a diverse group of people, with a wide range of different kinds of skills, abilities and knowledge, is best for making wise decisions. I recognize the challenges that this brings, and seek to meet it with openness and respect.**

Interview interest: **Yes**