

Committee: **Agricultural Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Michael McAlpine**

Address:

**912 Dufferin Ave. London, ON N5W 3K2**

Occupation: **Librarian & Research Officer**

Work experience: **I have worked as a law librarian and research officer at a large London law firm since 2006. This work involves working with our lawyers and staff to provide information services. I work with them to understand their information needs, select resources to support their work and conduct research on their behalf as needed. Previously I spent several years working in agriculture. I spent several years working on large and small dairy farms in Ontario and the United States. I was involved in day to day management of the herd and general farm operations. Prior to my career as a librarian I worked in Taiwan and South Korea as an English teacher. As part of my education, I completed a co-op term working as a librarian at Environment Canada's Downsview office.**

Education: **I have a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree from Western (2007). As an undergraduate, I earned a Diploma in Agriculture (1998) and a BA (Hons) in Philosophy (2003) from the University of Guelph.**

Skills: **My work as a law librarian has given me experience in research and understanding laws and policies relevant to the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Planning & Environmental Committee and the City Council. I excel at finding, assessing and presenting knowledge in a way that is clear and focused on problem solving.**

Interest reason: **I have an education and a strong interest in agriculture, urban agriculture, food security and health. I believe in making use of my skills and experience to make a positive contribution to my community. I also believe in citizen engagement and participation in government. By joining this Committee I will be putting these skills and beliefs to work in a way that will positively benefit the London community. Having reviewed the London Plan, I understand how important agriculture and agricultural land is to the city. I would like to be part of the Advisory Committee in order to see that the London Plan is followed through on.**

Contributions: **I am detail-oriented with strong research skills and have experience working with different stakeholders to achieve desired outcomes. I believe these skills combined with my understanding of agriculture and municipal government will allow me to make a meaningful contribution to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.**

Past contributions: **I have not previously participated in a municipal advisory board, but in my professional career, I often participate in meetings requiring advanced preparation, careful consideration of multiple issues and an ability to make decisions. I have also participated in the Canadian Association of Law Libraries conference planning committee as part of the programming sub-committee. This involved setting priorities for programming, soliciting members for program suggestions, evaluating submissions and making final recommendations for the conference program schedule. In those experiences, my greatest contribution is my ability to consult with stakeholders and ensure that the outcome we are working towards is agreeable to all parties.**

Interpersonal: **As a librarian in a large law firm, I am constantly working with lawyers and staff to set priorities for my work and the information resources for the firm. This requires understanding their perspective and priorities (often balancing financial requirements) and then communicating what resources we have available and what our options are. Decisions can be difficult, but I have done this successfully for the last seven years. Previously in my career, I spent 3 years working abroad as an English teacher. The experience of teaching others and living in a new country taught me to be sensitive towards cultures and the different ways we communicate. I am a culturally sensitive individual who recognizes that our community is stronger for its diversity. I currently volunteer at the London Public Library as an ESL Book Club leader. This involves meeting new people, reading with them and providing informal English lessons and an opportunity to practice English conversation.**

Interview interest: **Yes**