

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

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Chris Evans**

Address:

**1203-744 Wonderland Road South  
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London, ON**

Occupation: **Environmental Planner - MTO**

Work experience: **I am currently employed at the Ministry of Transportation as an Environmental Planner. I work within the Windsor Border Initiatives Implementation Group and have assisted in the planning and implementation of the Right Honorable Herb Gray Parkway Project in Windsor, Ontario. Prior to this, I completed a co-op term with the Ministry as an Assistant Environmental Planner. After completing my undergraduate degree in Environmental Science I worked for 2cg, a London-based environmental consulting company that specializes in waste management. Furthermore, I have worked as a Personal Support Worker (PSW). During this time I was able to assist children with special needs and adults living with mental health challenges in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Lastly, I spent two summers working for the City of London in the Solid Waste Management Division.**

Education: **In 2014, I received my Honors Specialization degree in Environmental Science from Western University. More recently, I completed my Masters of Environment and Sustainability degree from Western. While completing these degrees I have acquired knowledge in multiple subject areas that are relevant to the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee including ecology, chemistry, geology and social geography. I recently completed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Ecological Land Classification training in Algonquin Park. This training provided insights into the provincial database of substrates and ecosystems that helps to inform decision makers on whether or not to develop a parcel of land. In June 2016, I acquired my Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Associate certification. Lastly, I am currently working towards my Certified Associate in Project Management designation, from the Project Management Institute.**

Skills: **The data analysis skills I developed during my undergraduate Honors thesis project will assist EEPAC. I completed my Honors thesis project on the impacts of temperature and nutrient availability on the methylation of mercury in Boreal peatlands. Sulfate reducing bacteria naturally convert inorganic mercury to an organic species of mercury that build up in aquatic organisms and accumulates up the food chain. Methyl mercury is a known neuro-toxin and poses a significant health risk to humans. I hypothesized a positive correlation between temperature and the total volume of methyl mercury. This experience allowed me to hone my experience working with and explaining technical information in understandable language. While working as a PSW in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories I gained invaluable experience working with a diverse group of co-workers and clients. My time up north allowed me to improve my communication, time management and leadership skills. From working at the MTO I have acquired knowledge of the Environmental Impact Assessment process and species at risk habitat restoration work. One of the largest remaining remnant patches of tallgrass prairie exists in Windsor and is adjacent to the Parkway/401 extension. After several species at risk were discovered within the project footprint, the Ministry was required to relocate and monitor the health of 5 plant SARs and 2 snake SARs (in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, 2007). I am hopeful of bringing the aforementioned skills and specialized knowledge to EEPAC.**

Interest reason: **I was born and raised in London, and feel a strong connection to my community. While I currently live in the Westmount neighbourhood, I have also lived in the downtown core and in the Masonville area. My experience living in these neighbourhoods has allowed me to explore and appreciate unique ecological areas like the Stoneycreek watershed. I have also been exposed to the promise and benefits of sustainable development while living downtown on Talbot Street. I feel an obligation to help protect London's natural heritage for the benefit of my community.**

Contributions: **I am hoping to bring the perspective and priorities of London's youth to EEPAC. I am in my mid-twenties and have a vision of London as a progressive and**

**sustainable city. Furthermore, I believe I can assist the EEPAC members to incorporate ecological, social and economic variables into the decision making process to improve the City of London's Official Plan.**

**Past contributions: During my undergraduate degree I served as an Executive member of the University Student Council's Envirowestern. While an executive of Envirowestern I assisted in the organization of two panel discussions on a variety of topics including: the pros and cons of wind energy and the viability of Canada's Oil Sands. While moderating these discussions I gained experience interacting with experts such as Dr. Gordon McBean an internationally recognized meteorologist and climate change expert and Mr. Don Thompson former President of The Oil Sands Developers Group (OSDG). These panels were open to the Western student body and helped disseminate factual information, and a variety of perspectives on contentious issues facing Canada's energy industry.**

**Interpersonal: During my time living in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories I worked as a Personal Support Worker within the YWCA's 'Independent Living' program. This program was designed to support the independence of adults living with mental health challenges. This work experience exposed me to a diverse group of clients while working within a network of unique stakeholders. I was able to liaise with NWT government employees, medical staff, family members and the clients in order to reach consensus. I feel confident that my ability to communicate effectively with people of varying skills, abilities and knowledge makes me an ideal candidate for the Environmental and Ecological Planning Committee.**

**Interview interest: Yes**