Committee: **Trees and Forests Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented: **Non-Profit Organization (Environmental Sector)**

Name: **Kaitlin Richardson**
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 944 Western Counties Road

 N6C6A9

Occupation: **Project Manager - Naturalizations and Aftercare**
Work experience: **I have quite a bit of local London work experience. I am currently the Project Manager for ReForest London, taking care of all aspects of the naturalizations and aftercare programs. This involves a close relationship with City of London Parks Planning staff to determine appropriate sites for planting. Previously, I was the Habitat Stewardship Coordinator for the Thames Talbot Land Trust. While in this role, I was responsible for developing and implementing ecological restoration activities on the conservation properties, forest inventory work and the research and development of effective monitoring programs to track and evaluate stewardship actions. During my Master's program, I was a research assistant conducting independent forest inventory work and looking at forest management techniques in woodlands from the London area north to Sault St. Marie. I have also taught geographic information studies (GIS) labs at Wilfrid Laurier University. I have done consulting work in the forestry sector with B.A. Blackwell and Associates for the City of London's woodland management and long term monitoring initiatives. In addition, I worked directly with the City of London in 2013 as the Urban Forestry Technician under the supervision of Sara Rowland, Urban Forestry Planner.**
Education: **I hold a Master of Environmental Studies degree from Wilfrid Laurier University. My research focus was the identification of resilient adaptation strategies, in light of climate change, for sugar bush management in Ontario. This research has been published by the International Society of Arboriculture. My Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree is from University of Waterloo, along with diplomas in Ecological Restoration and Rehabilitation (with distinction) and Environmental Assessment. My research focus for my undergraduate thesis was using ecological land classification to determine scientifically sound benchmarks for optimal natural area sizes in Muskoka, Ontario. The professional credentials I have that would be applicable to this committee include: ISA Certified Arborist, a Forestry Exterminator License for invasive species management and Ecological Land Classification (by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources).**
Skills: **I have a thorough knowledge of Ontario's terrestrial ecosystems, especially forests, and a local insight to London's urban forest. With my current position as well as my history working with the City of London and the Thames Talbot Land Trust (TTLT), I am well aware of environmental efforts and policy regarding trees across the City. My specialized knowledge is in the relationship between trees and climate change. I specialize in adaptive management of forests (including urban forests) for climate change using inter- and intra-species diversity, assisted migration and restoration plantings. I can offer insight into the ecology of London's urban forests and how we might plan for the implications of climate change as well as restoration planning and forest health in an urban environment. I have experienced almost all of London's urban forest first hand through my experiences and I am happy to contribute to discussions in any way possible. I am a keen researcher as well, as a result of my academic background. I would be willing to take on independent research work that the committee would need in order to provide scientifically accurate recommendations.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in serving the City of London on this body because of my connection with the City and its forested areas as well as my passion for ecology and the environment in general. In addition to this, I think it is important for ReForest London to be represented on this committee. My favourite thing about the City of London is that they work so closely with the other organizations in the environmental sector and I would love to be part of that.**
Contributions: **I can represent the non-profit environmental sector and work with the**

committee on reaching the canopy cover goals identified in the urban forest strategy. I am a direct link for a lot of Londoners who volunteer with ReForest London to plant trees so I have a great sense of where interests and passions are in terms of trees. I can also contribute my research expertise and local knowledge of the environmental programming within the City.

Past contributions: **I am the current chair of the Thames Talbot Land Trust's property management committee. On that committee, I run the meetings to discuss management and restoration actions on all 15 of the conservation properties. These projects happen at a very large scale and the committee serves to advise the staff responsible for executing the projects, usually the Conservation Property Manager.**

Interpersonal: **I was elected as chair of the property management committee at TTLT because the committee recognized my dedication to the environmental field and my passion for ecology. I'm amiable in discussions and I have a high level of respect for the skills and abilities of others involved in discussions. I am quite analytical; meaning expressing my views strongly would come only after thorough research that my views were indeed accurate. ReForest London staff come from many different backgrounds and I have no issue communicating with all other staff in a respectful manner. I also work closely with core volunteers at ReForest London and TTLT as well as the general public, including many multicultural groups, when they volunteer at ReForest London's planting events.**

Interview interest: **Yes**