

Committee: **London Hydro Inc. Board of Directors**

Organization/Sector represented: **Environment**

Name: **Skylar Franke**

Occupation: **Executive Director**

Work experience: **I've worked in the environmental sector for the last 6 years at ReForest London and the London Environmental Network. Previous to that I worked in the post-secondary educational sector with Ivey Business School and King's University College. For the last 2.5 years I've been the Executive Director with the London Environmental Network.**

Education: **I attended King's University College and completed by Honours BA. in Social Justice and Peace Studies and French Studies. Having a liberal arts education has improved my ability to critically analyze problems and communicate solutions effectively. I also have a Professional Certificate in Leadership from Western Continuing Studies.**

Skills: **I have sat on Boards in the past (Urban League of London, Halton Organization for Pride and Education) and understand the work that a Board of Directors is responsible for (fiscal responsibility, risk management and good governance). I've taken courses from Pillar Nonprofit on Board Governance as well and know I understand the role of a Board member. I am a responsible and diligent committee member, I read the reports, ask inquiring and relevant questions, respect confidentiality and ensure that organizations are striving to achieve their full potential. I am aware of regulations and policy changes that affect LDC's as I stay current with policies changes that affect many levels of the environmental sector. Our work is also impacted by changing legislation so I receive regular communications regarding these changes. I would continue to ensure that I'm aware of municipal, provincial and federal regulations and changes that would impact the work of London Hydro Inc. As Executive Director at the London Environmental Network, I've supported our organization in a variety of related initiatives. (small in comparison to London Hydro with around \$250,000/year operating and 5 staff but still relevant). I'm responsible for ensuring good financial management, human resource decisions and supporting the Board in executing the strategic vision of the organization. This work is transferable to understanding the needs of London Hydro as an organization.**

Interest reason: **The London Environmental Network recently launched Green Economy London, a Hub for business sustainability. This Hub will assist London businesses with reducing their energy, waste and water use. I see this work being particularly relevant and would love to sit on the London Hydro Board of Directors so I could learn about what services London Hydro could offer these small to medium sized enterprises. I'd also like to offer support and ideas for how London Hydro could connect with the various London businesses and ensure quality conservation management of their facilities. I've also heard from colleagues across Ontario that London Hydro is a leader in cutting edge technology and other LDC's across Ontario learn from the best practices set out by London Hydro. I'd love to be a small part of helping continue that innovation and leadership. I am very familiar with targets outlined in the City's Community Energy Action Plan and London Hydro Inc. plays a large role in that plan. I'm keen to see how the CEAP is implemented through London Hydro's offerings. I am very aware of many City of London initiatives that would relate to London Hydro's operations. I'm very interested overall in ensuring London Hydro Inc. continues to be a local leader in the community by ensuring good governance from a Board level. I'm also keen to see that London Hydro remains a public asset for the City of London. It is a major asset for the City of London and provides an excellent annual dividend that helps fund the important work the City of London does for our community.**

Contributions: **I believe the main contribution I could offer to the London Hydro Board of Directors is a strong connection and understanding of what the business community of London needs to support their work in reducing their energy use and becoming more efficient. Through Green Economy London, our organization will be working actively with members of the business community to find these efficiencies. Our organization recently joined the London Chamber of Commerce as a member and would be able to connect into their membership with information if required. Another strong connection would be to the local environmental nonprofit sector and in particular the London Electric Vehicle Association which has teamed up with London Hydro in the past regarding the installation**

of public chargers and hosting a Plug n' Drive event. I also have a strong connection to the London community through my work as the Urban League of London Board and could communicate community level initiatives. As residents, my partner and I have taken advantage of London Hydro's free Smart Meter installation program and enjoy seeing our heat or cooling shut off during peak periods - how cool to be a small part of city-wide conservation demand management! Plus we use Energate and can remotely turn off the heat/cooling from our phones and check our data out on the My Green Button app.

Past contributions: Through my work at the London Environmental Network I've sat on many committees including; Agricultural Advisory Committee, Urban Agriculture Steering Committee and the Waste Management Community Liaison Committee. During the time I sat on the Agricultural Advisory Committee I led a coalition of advisory committees (ACE, TFAC, AAC etc.) in organizing annual conferences including; Urban Agriculture Conference (2016), Resilient Cities Conference (2017) and the River Talks Conference (2018). The Urban Agriculture Strategy developed by the City of London leveraged many contacts from the 2016 Urban Agriculture Conference and we assisted in promoting the development of that strategy. I now sit of the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee to help advise on the implementation of the strategy. In my role on the Waste Management Community Liaison committee as Co-Chair, we presented to council our support for a 60% Diversion target for the city and our support in having a Green Bin program for London residents. I'm happy to contribute to the good governance of committee, commission and board work, as well as helping organize events and support strategy development and implementation as seen above. I can take a project from an idea to execution.

Interpersonal: I aim to seek understanding from those I do not agree with and enjoy discussing issues from a variety of perspectives. I have taken courses on conflict management and active listening and am experienced in respectful dialogue. I aim to find solutions, not more problems, through discussions. During my time on the Agricultural Advisory Committee I demonstrated that despite not sharing similar perspectives when it comes to industrial farming versus sustainable farming, I was always pleasant and respectful in our dialogue.

Interview interest: Yes