

The Canadian Urban Forest Network (CUFN)

As part of the [Canadian Urban Forest Strategy](#), the Canadian Urban Forest Network has been created with particular reference to section 6 of the National Forest Strategy; Urban Forestry and Public Engagement in Sustainability. This Network is dedicated to ensuring that the federal and provincial governments actively support Canada's urban forests through "A new deal for urban forestry." The main component of the "new deal" consists of the Government of Canada setting aside \$24 million annually (\$1 per person, residing in urban centers of Canada) to assist in the ongoing support of this nation's urban forests.

Recently, the **Canadian Urban Forest Network** initiated the establishment of a **National Steering Committee** to set a strategic direction for the **Network** and to create a clear orientation for organization. This requires that a representative from each of the following Regions: British Columbia, Alberta, Prairies (Manitoba, Saskatchewan), Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada will be nominated.

The Ontario Urban Forest Council nominated 2 persons to represent Ontario, because some 100 Ontario members are members of CUFN's 200 Canadian membership. The two representatives that were nominated are **Adrina Ambrosii, MFC, PhD Candidate** www.adrina.ca who is an active director of the OUFC and **Philip van Wassenauer, MFC**, pwassenauer1022@rogers.com who is an OUFC Advisor and one of many past OUFC Presidents.

The representatives would understandably need to represent all the groups in Ontario. OUFC nominated these 2 individuals with strong urban forestry credentials and association with OUFC, who would strongly represent our 120 Ontario members on the steering committee of the CUFN network as well as **the network of Ontario-communities that are involved with OUFC in Urban Forestry**. The OUFC, created from its forerunner the OSTC, is an organization which has been involved since 1965 in the development and promotion of the Urban Forestry Concept in Ontario, as outlined in ONTARIO URBAN FORESTS-SCRAPBOOK II (*see below for candidate statements of interest*).

Urban forestry is the sustained planning, planting, protection, maintenance, and care of trees, forests, green space and related resources in and around cities and communities for economic, environmental, social, and public health benefits for people. The definition includes retaining trees and forest cover as urban populations expand into surrounding rural areas and restoring critical parts of the urban environment after construction.

Expansion at the urban/rural interface raises environmental and public health safety concerns, as well as opportunities to create educational and environmental links between urban people and nature. In addition, urban and community forestry includes the development of citizen involvement and support for investments in long-term on-going tree planting, protection, and care programs.

Welcome to the Canadian Urban Forest Network!

As an advocacy group for Canadian Urban Forestry, our mission is to increase awareness of the urgent issues facing Canada's urban forests and to stimulate action to address those issues.

Our vision for Canadian towns and cities is a canopy of trees, sheltering and protecting our communities; part of a green infrastructure that promotes habitat, healthy air, clean water, quality of life and economic prosperity.

The focus of the Network is to:

- Advance Canadian urban forestry everywhere across our nation
- Build value by helping those who practice urban forestry
- Build power and influence by helping those who are interested in urban forestry
- Facilitate the exchange of information about urban forestry in Canada
- Increase awareness about the urgent issues facing Canada's urban forests
- Call for the federal government to implement actions to address these urgent issues now

The Canadian Urban Forest Network members include:

- Municipal forestry professionals
- Provincial and Federal Environmental and Natural Resources agencies
- Professional organizations (e.g. Society of Municipal Arborists, ISA, etc.)
- Relevant Business Associations (e.g. Landscape B.C.)
- Educational Institutions (e.g. University of Toronto, Malaspina, etc.)
- National and provincial environmental non-governmental organizations
- Community groups
- The people of Canada and interested individuals from around the world

A list of Network members can be found on the Canadian Urban Forest Network website:
www.cufn-rcfu.ca

Sign on to [CANUFNET](#), an emailing list that facilitates the exchange of urban forestry information and stimulates discussion. There are currently just over 200 people subscribed to the list, through networking and communication among concerned citizens, we can easily increase the number of subscribers to this list.

Here is a [list of Canadian municipalities](#) putting efforts in enhancing their urban forests.

Candidate Statements of Interest

Candidate #1: Adrina Ambrosii, MFC, PhD Candidate

I believe that I am an excellent candidate for the steering committee because I can bring fresh perspectives combined with a strong foundation in urban forestry education and experience. Also, due to my close and active affiliations with various organizations the two university faculties (U of T Forestry and Environmental Studies at York) and other stakeholders (Toronto District School Board and Toronto Public Health), I can effectively bridge multiple networks to obtain meaningful input and participation in helping to steer the national committee's direction.

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I am exceedingly dedicated to the urban forestry work we do. For the past 5 years I've been working with Tree Canada on various projects including CUFN initiatives and resources (Best Management Practices for Canadian Urban Forests, various funding proposals, etc.); I also initiated and secured funding from the Canadian International Development Agency for Tree Canada's first international project. As a consultant for Trees Ontario I was also able to help secure a Trillium Grant (2007) for their Capacity Building Program. My dedication and motivation are immeasurable. I frequently publish articles, give conference presentations and speak to school groups about the various facets and importance of our urban forests.

I am a Director of the Ontario Urban Forest Council, a steering member of the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition Shade Policy Committee and the President of the Faculty of Forestry Alumni Association. As a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University, I am studying the Political Ecology of Urban Forestry. I am a strategic thinker and planner with excellent organization skills. I believe I am a strong asset to the various organizations I represent and would serve likewise to the CUFN national steering committee. See my website for more details:

www.adrina.ca

Candidate #2: Philip van Wassanaer, MFC

Philip van Wassenaer is the principal consulting arborist and founder of Urban Forest Innovations Inc. (UFI). UFI specializes in the preservation, enhancement and management of all aspects of the urban forest using a research and science based approach. With over 15 years experience as a practicing arborist, Philip has been a certified arborist through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) since 1996, a member of the prestigious American Society of Consulting Arborists since 1999, a member of the SAG Baumstatik since 2005 and in 2006 attended the inaugural Municipal Forester Institute sponsored by the SMA. His academic qualifications include an undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences and a Masters Degree in Urban Forest Conservation.

As a Director and President of the Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFC), he organized and co-chaired the 5th CUFC (2002) with Andy Kenney. The conference was designed to generate output that was summarized and compiled as a submission to the National Forest Strategy Committee. Philip attended a working meeting of the NFS in Winnipeg to advocate for the inclusion of urban forests. He was also one of the "Winnipeg 14", a group of Canadian urban foresters that met in 2006 to discuss national urban forestry issues and implementing a Canadian Urban Forest Strategy.

Through his professional and volunteer efforts Philip has worked locally, nationally and internationally on projects dealing with urban forestry including over 20 Ontario municipalities. This breadth of experience will be an asset to fulfilling the role of representing Ontario on the CUFN steering committee.