

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to express my interest in joining the Open Government Multi-stakeholder Forum.

I have dedicated my career to increasing government openness and transparency. In 2013, after completing my PhD in conservation ecology at the University of Ottawa, I co-founded a non-partisan, non-profit organization called Evidence for Democracy with the mission to advocate for the transparent use of evidence in government decision-making. I became the organization's first Executive Director and led its growth from a new volunteer-run organization to an established national voice for public-interest science, government transparency and evidence-based decision-making.

One of the core issues I have been working on is increasing the open communication of publicly funded scientific information to the public and the media. Our work has led to concrete improvements in how open and available scientific information is to the public.

In 2013, I co-authored a report titled 'Can Scientists Speak' that analyzed the communication policies at federal government departments to see to what extent they supported open communication for scientists. The report found that media policies in most departments did not support open communication and could prevent taxpayer-funded scientists from sharing their expertise with the public. I led the communications and media outreach around the report resulting in substantial national media coverage.

Following on the report, I worked to mobilize hundreds of volunteers across the country to make open communication of science an issue during the 2015 federal election. Following the 2015 federal election, I worked closely with the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC) to help enshrine a 'right to speak' clause in the collective agreement for government scientists and a commitment from the government to create Science Integrity Policies in federal departments. I continue to work with PIPSC to support drafting robust Science Integrity Policies that will safeguard open communication of science.

Evidence for Democracy has started to explore science integrity and open communication at the provincial level. In April 2017, I co-authored a report called Oversight at Risk looking at science integrity issues in British Columbia. We based the report on a survey of government scientists in BC asking questions related to communication, independence and capacity for government science research.

I have become a well-known and trusted voice on science policy and government transparency issues in Canada and built strong relationships with the science and policy communities. I was an original planning committee member for the Science Integrity project that brought together 75 leaders in science and policy across Canada to draft a statement of principles for evidence-based decision-making. I have had numerous opportunities to comment publicly on the importance of public science, including

speaking at national and international events and frequently commenting in print, on radio and TV about science policy and government transparency. I have been a repeated speaker the Canadian Science Policy Conference, and will be participating in a panel at this year's conference titled "Science Integrity: Jump-starting Public Science."

I have a long track record successfully leading local, regional and national organizations. Before co-founding Evidence for Democracy, I served a term as the President of a housing co-op managing an approximately million-dollar budget and was Co-Chair of the Young Greens of Canada from 2007 to 2010. I am current on the Board of Directors for Water Rangers, an Ottawa based organization that builds tools to help citizens and scientists easily record and analyze water data. In 2015, I made the shortlist for Samara's Everyday Political Citizen.

Over the past two years, I have led initiatives providing input into government policy consultation. In early 2016, the government announced a consultation period to help define the mandate of a new Chief Science Advisor position. Through Evidence for Democracy, I canvassed our supporters for their input and coalesced hundreds of responses into one submission to the government. The government acted on most of our suggestions, and the new Chief Science Advisor was named in September. Creating this position is something that Evidence for Democracy has been advocating for since 2014. One of the mandates of the position is to ensure that government science is open and available to the public.

The Open Government Partnership has already made significant progress in increasing government openness and transparency, and I would relish the opportunity to be a part of continuing that progress. I think my unique background advocating for openness and transparency around government science would be an asset to the forum, particularly concerning the open science component of the plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Gibbs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Gibbs

Katie Gibbs

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Work Experience

Executive Director

January 2013 - Present

Evidence for Democracy (E4D)

- Co-founded Evidence for Democracy in 2013 and secured funding to hire staff
- Led the organization and charted its strategic direction
- Provided leadership and management of E4D's research projects and campaigns, including:
 - Co-authored a report evaluating communication policies for federal government scientists
 - Developed E4D's list of priority policy recommendations for the 2015 election and met with representatives of major parties to secure commitments
 - Engaged E4D supporters and prominent Canadian scientists in consultation to develop a submission to the Minister of Science regarding the proposed Chief Science Officer
 - Co-authored a report looking at science integrity issues in British Columbia
- Developed and executed annual planning and budgets
- Managed staff, contractors and volunteers
- Provided frequent comment in national print, radio and TV media including the Globe and Mail, CBC's Power and Politics, CBC Radio and The Agenda

Planning Committee Member

May 2014 – October 2015

Science Integrity Project

- Helped conceive of and lead the project which involved bringing together 75 leaders in science and policy across Canada to create a statement of principles for evidence-based decision-making in Canada
- Helped draft the final statement of principles and the launch strategy

Biologist consultant

November 2013 – March 2014

Environment Canada

- Assessed whether new international guidelines for making non-detrimental findings under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) apply in the Canadian context

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Phone Canvassing Coordinator

Fall 2012 By-elections

Green Party of Canada

- Managed the national phone canvassing efforts for two by-election campaigns
- Recruited volunteers through bulk email communications and follow-up calls
- Motivated and organized hundreds of volunteers to make tens of thousands of phone calls

Information Centre Manager

2011 General Election

Green Party of Canada

- Trained and supervised a team of 20 staff members
- Wrote detailed policy responses for election questionnaires
- Created email and telephone response templates for questions received from the public
- Organized and managed over 500 volunteers for a national phone canvassing campaign

Volunteer Experience

Board Member

Present

Water Rangers

- Providing strategic direction and fundraising advice
- Providing input on a prototype of an app designed to facilitate citizen science engagement in sampling waterways in the Ottawa area
- Drafting and editing corporate documents including bylaws and resolutions

Fundraising Director

2014 Ottawa Municipal Election

Martin Canning Campaign

- Organized fundraising events and participated in door-to-door canvasses
- Developed communication and campaign strategies as part of the core campaign team

President

June 2012 - July 2013

Conservation Co-op Board of Directors

- Set the agenda and providing leadership for the Board and the Co-op
- Managed two staff members; prepared and overseeing annual budgets
- Coordinated the work of the Board, committees, members and staff
- Chaired Board meetings and all-member meetings

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Lead Organizer

Summer 2012

Death of Evidence Rally

- Helped conceive the idea for the event, planned and organized the execution of the event
- Wrote press releases and did media interviews for local, national and international press
- Managed approximately two dozen volunteers who were working on the event

Co-Chair/Co-Organizing Chair

January 2007 – February 2010

Young Greens of Canada

- Helped develop the Young Greens election plan and budget for the 2008 election
- Trained Young Greens to canvass door-to-door
- Presented ways to engage youth in at Green Party campaign universities

Education

Ph.D. in Biology

University of Ottawa. 2012. Dissertation: Species Declines: Examining patterns of species distribution, abundance, variability and conservation status in relation to anthropogenic activities.

Bachelor of Science degree with Honours

University of Guelph. 2006. Specialization: major in Zoology and minor in Statistics.

Selected Presentations, Publications, and Media Coverage

Media Coverage

CBC Radio The Current - Dear Mr. Prime Minister (October 20th, 2015): <http://goo.gl/HhbgGv>

The Agenda on TVO (October 15th, 2015): <http://goo.gl/ADXYQP>

Globe and Mail - Scientist urges straight talk on research ahead of federal vote (October 9th, 2015): <http://goo.gl/VqH7cp>

CBC Radio Ideas - Science Under Siege (June 5th, 2015): <http://goo.gl/mYYySU>

Globe and Mail - Scientists push campaign for evidence-based decision making from government (September 16th, 2013): <http://goo.gl/SM8ao2>

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Selected Invited Presentations

Invited speaker – Evidence Works 2016 (London, England, 2016)
Invited speaker – North American Congress for Conservation Biology (Madison, WI, 2016)
Invited speaker – Science in Society Speaker Series (Vernon, BC, 2016)
Invited panellist – Ontario Public Health Association conference (Toronto, ON, 2015)
Invited panellist – Get Science Right town hall (Halifax, NS, 2015)
Invited panellist – Queens University Vote Science event (Kingston, ON, 2015)
Invited panellist – Science and Society conference (Paris, France, 2015)
Invited panellist – Centre for Science in the Public Interest (Ottawa, ON, 2014)
Invited panellist – Canadian Science Policy Conference (Halifax, NS, 2014)
Invited speaker - Vanier College Humanities Symposium (Montreal, QC, 2014)
Invited keynote speaker - Parkland Conference (Edmonton, AB, 2013)

Selected Academic Publications and Commentaries

Media commentary: Katie Gibbs. 2015. Canada's future depends on a national science strategy that offers bold vision. Power and Influence Magazine. <https://goo.gl/8ip8Ax>

Opinion article: Katie Gibbs and Alana Westwood. 2015. We need a national debate on science. Toronto Star. <http://goo.gl/F7akJQ>

Research report: Katie Gibbs and Karen Magnuson-Ford. 2014. Can Scientists Speak? An assessment of media policies in Canadian federal science departments for openness of communication, protection against political interference, rights to free speech, and protection for whistleblowers. <http://goo.gl/MXrXjT>

Academic publication: Gibbs, K.E. and Currie, D.J. 2012. Protecting endangered species: Do the main legislative tools work? Plos One, 7, e35730.

Academic publication: Gibbs, K.E. et al. 2009. Human land-use, agriculture, pesticides and losses of imperiled species. Diversity and Distributions, 15, 242-253.

Volunteer Awards

Shortlist for Samara's Everyday Political Citizen award in 2015
Young Green Achievement Award from the Green Party of Canada in 2012
Volunteer of the Year award from Action Sandy Hill in 2010