

September 9, 2016
Selection Committee
Canadian Open Government Civil Society Network

October 6th, 2017

Dear Selection Committee Members:

Please accept this application package as an expression of my interest in being considered for a position on the Civil Society Network. I am applying because I would like to collaborate with like-minded colleagues in pursuit of helping the Government of Canada meet its open government commitments. As a registered professional urban planner, I have a long-standing commitment to meaningful civic engagement that predates the open government movement. I have been working on civic engagement issues at the local scale since the beginning of my career in 1994. As the open government movement gained momentum I quickly realized there was an easy fit between my earlier research and practice and its goals of transparency, accountability, openness and participation.

A review of my CV will show that I have been directly active in open government research and practice for the last 4 years. I have published academic and popular press articles on a range of open government related issues including open data use, civic hackathon impacts, and the ethics of governments working with scraped data.

In the last two years I have been an invited speaker at six different staff leadership events for over 800 public servants including the Ministry of Government & Consumer Services' Open Government Symposium (2017), Ministry of Municipal Affairs Division Days' panel on digital governance, Metrolinx's Transportation Symposium panel "Making it Happen: A Call to Action." (2017). I am also the chair of the City of Toronto's Local Appeal Body nominating committee. This arms-length civic appointments committee is a direct output of the City's open government efforts.

I lead a collaboration between Code for Canada staff and Ryerson University. Together we developed and now deliver a new course called "CVUP 110 Digital Government and Civic Tech" to government staff and community members with an interest in this work (7 weeks, 3 hours a week). Next we plan to launch a "Government 101" course for CivicTech developers to help them better learn and understand how governments work. We have also offered two purpose built versions of the course to Ministry of Transportation staff. At the School of Urban and Regional Planning at Ryerson, I developed and teach the only civic tech course for urban planning students in Canada.

I have a range of high level leadership and communications experience that would help me serve effectively in this civil society network. From 2009-2012, I was selected one of two North American delegates to UN-Habitat's Research Advisory Board. This position required participation at an annual meeting in Mombassa Kenya at which we peer-reviewed their Global Report on Human Settlements

and provided strategic advice to HABITAT's senior leadership team. Since 2010 I have had the privilege of writing a regular column for Spacing Magazine - Canada's national magazine focusing on urban public space issues. I regularly use my column to write about open government issues. Since spring 2013 I have been a researcher on the Geothink.ca research team which examines how the geospatial web is shifting conversations between government staff and citizens. This grant team has over 30 government partners across Canada and we have been active in sharing our research with government and citizen audiences. My research has always centred around issues of open data and open government - my cv provides further details. For twenty years I have conducted research on Canadian municipal response to climate change. While not seemingly directly related to Canadian Open Government work, I have a deep working knowledge of Federal-Provincial-Local Government relations in Canada. And in 2012 I was retained by the Council of Senior Policy Officials (C-SPO) to conduct research on interprovincial climate response. I presented this work to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs from each province and territory at their annual working group meeting.

I think it is important to also note that I held significant leadership positions in local, regional and provincially focused efforts including serving as a board member for the Metcalf Foundation; board member and vice chair of the board of directors for the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation; and participant, and vice and co-chair of five different Metrolinx Stakeholder Advisory Committees. This focus on sub-state leadership opportunities has been in part, pragmatic. I am the parent of two kids and have, until relatively recently, tried to minimize the need to travel for leadership opportunities. I have also completed Rotman's Not for Profit Leadership Board Member training and teach parliamentary procedure to undergraduate students. Finally, I serve on the Toronto Public Library's Innovation Council. Here I work with leaders from technology, artistic and activist communities to advise the Library on technology and innovation program and service delivery. These experiences position me well to be an effective member of your network.

To conclude, the chance to join the Civil Society Network would be a terrific opportunity to share my open government research in way in which the work might make a difference. I welcome the chance to work creatively and collaboratively with a diverse stakeholder group to help of the Government of Canada keep its open government commitments. Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Pamela Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Pamela Robinson, MICP RPP
Associate Professor, School of Urban and Regional Planning
Associate Dean Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives, Faculty of Community Services

Curriculum Vitae

Pamela J. Robinson MCIP RPP, Associate Professor (tenured), School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University; Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives, Faculty of Community Services
Member of the Graduate Faculty - Yes

EDUCATION

Ph.D. – Doctor of Philosophy

Department of Geography, University of Toronto, Sept. 1996 – May 2000

- Supervisor: Rodney White, Director of Institute for Environmental Studies
- Dissertation: *Canadian Municipal Response to Climate Change: A framework for understanding barriers*.
- Initiated research partnership with Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Municipalities Table (a working group of the National Committee on Air Issues). My research was used by these two organizations to help develop the Canadian response to the Kyoto Protocol.
- Recipient of multiple academic awards including Ontario Graduate Scholarship (1996, 1997, 1999), and University of Toronto Open Fellowship (1996-1999)

M.PL. – Master's of Urban and Regional Planning

Queen's University, Kingston Ontario, 1992- 1994

- Professional Paper: *Municipal Guidelines for Community Gardening*. Supervisor: Dr. Sue Hendler.
- Recipient, **Ida Mmari Award**, May 1994. Awarded to the student with the highest grade point average in the graduating class.
- Recipient, *Dean's Award*, September 1993

BA.H. – Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Political Studies

Queen's University, Kingston Ontario, 1987- 1991

- Undergraduate Thesis: "Assessing Canada's Role as a Uranium Exporter in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty". Supervisor: Dr. David Haglund.

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives, Faculty of Community Services

Ryerson University, July 2017-present

- Works collaboratively with the Dean, Associate Dean, Directors of the Schools within the Faculty of Community Services, YSGS, Graduate Program Directors, Graduate Program Administrators, and Dean's Office Staff will provide strategic leadership in the areas of student engagement, curriculum, community initiatives, and faculty development in research and teaching for our Graduate Programs.
- Provides leadership to a number of strategic initiatives at the Faculty of Community Services, in support of our overall academic plan including: internationalization strategy, digitally enhanced learning, and community partnership building.

Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Special Projects, Faculty of Community Services [half-time]

Ryerson University, July 2015-June 2017

- Provides strategic leadership in the areas of student engagement, curriculum, community initiatives, and faculty development in research and teaching for six graduate program
- Represents Faculty for university-level decision-making and governance related to graduate studies

Graduate Program Director

- School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University, July 2013-June 2015
- Chair, Admissions and Awards Committee (275 applicants, 2013-14 cycle; 225 applicants, 2014-15 cycle)
- Contributor to 2014-19 Academic Plan

Associate Professor

- School of Urban and Regional Planning, Ryerson University, July 2005-present
- MATERNITY LEAVE TAKEN: SEPTEMBER 2006-MAY 2007

Lecturer

- Urban and Environmental Studies, Innis College, University of Toronto, July 2001 – May 2003, January 2004-June 2005, permanent faculty position. *Maternity leave taken: May – December 2003*
- Full-time faculty member Faculty of Arts and Science, cross appointed to School of Graduate Studies through the Institute for Environmental Studies
- teaching only, full-time academic appointment

Post Doctoral Fellowship

Sustainable Development Research Institute, University of British Columbia, Adaptations and Impacts Research Group, Environment Canada, September 1999-September 2000.

Georgia Basin Futures Project (GBFP)

My contribution to the project's research agenda included: designing and implementing a research process to identify issues of importance to stakeholders of the Georgia Basin; research into criteria for the development an effective user-friendly interface for QUEST model (a regional integrated assessment model with a user-friendly interface); designing public consultation processes to engage the stakeholders of the Georgia Basin in a dialogue about sustainable future scenarios; and designing an evaluation process for public consultation process that evaluates the effectiveness of the QUEST model as a tool for public consultation.

Innis College, University of Toronto, Sept. 1998 – April 1999

- course taught: *Environmental Policy and Decision Making*

Planner, Township of Pittsburgh, Feb. 1995 – Sept. 1996

- Responsible for background research and contribution to policy development for new comprehensive Official Plan, and the contribution to an award-winning community involvement campaign.
- Position required liaison with Council, local community groups, provincial government, residents and developers
- Areas of policy development: urban and suburban growth management, environmental protection, aggregate resource protection, and agricultural land preservation

HONOURS / AWARDS

- **2017 – Recipient** – YSGS Outstanding Contribution to Graduate Education Award, Ryerson University
- **2015 – Nominee**, Usha George Faculty Recognition Award, Faculty of Community Services
- **2014 – Recipient**, Faculty of Community Sue Williams Services Excellence in Teaching Award
- **2013-14 – Nominee**, 'Profs Who Made a Mark', Ryerson Student Housing Services
- **2012 - Recipient**, Faculty of Community Services Outstanding Research Award, Ryerson University
- **2012- Recipient**, Ryerson Faculty of Community Services Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, Ryerson University
- **2004 - Recipient**, CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD: Nomination Category: Innovative Teaching / Projects in Sustainability. Nominated by colleagues from City of

Toronto, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation and the Ministry of Environment, Province of Ontario.

- **1996 - Recipient, Communications Award for Planning Excellence:** *Ontario Professional Planner's Institute*, 1996 - Award received for work on public consultation program and publications.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- **Full Member & Registered Professional Planner**, *Ontario Professional Planner's Institute and Canadian Institute of Planners*, 1994 – present
- **Editorial Board Member**, *International Journal of E-Planning Research*, January 2017-present
- **Advisor, Innovation Council, Toronto Public Library**, November 2016-present
- **Member, Precinct Advisory Committee, Friends of Fort York**, August 2013-present
- **Member, Academic Priorities Committee, Planning Standards Board**, January 2014-March 2017
- **Columnist, Spacing Magazine**, Fall 2011-present
- **Chair, City of Toronto Local Appeal Body Appointments Committee**, June 2016-present
- **Director, Metcalf Foundation, Board of Directors**, December 2010-present
- **Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation**, Sept 2013- Dec 2015.
- **Vice Chair, Greenbelt Fund, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation**, Sept 2013-December 2015.
- **Member, Research Advisory Committee, Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation**, January 2014-June 2015
- **Mentor (3 mentees)**, *Ontario Professional Planners Institute*, January 2014 – present
- **Sponsor**, *Ontario Professional Planners Institute*, 2013-17: 4 members sponsored
- **Co-Chair, Relief Line Network Study**, *Metrolinx*, September 2013-present
- **North American Delegate, Research Advisory Committee, UN-Habitat Advisory Service**, August 2009-August 2012
- **Co-Chair, Big Move 2.0 Review**, *Metrolinx*, September 2011- July 2013.
- **Expert Panelist, "Status of Women in University Research"**, *Council of Canadian Academies*, Panel Chair: Lorna Marsden, March 2010-April 2012
- **Director, Secretary of the Board**, *Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation*, Spring 2006-August 2012
- **Scientific Advisor**, *City of Toronto Climate Change Scientific Advisory Committee*, Fall 2010-August 2012
- **Peer-reviewer, Fifth Assessment Report, AR-5**, *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, July – September 2011
- **Vice Chair, Electrification Study**, *Metrolinx*, July – October 2009

PUBLICATIONS / SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

Relevant Research Contributions in field of Open Government

Refereed Contributions - Chapters in Books:

Robinson P. and Dereuyter M. (2016) "Bigger nets and faster stamps: The potential vs. the reality of social media deployment in municipal land use planning activities." in *Planning Canada: A Case Study Approach*. Ren Thomas ed. Oxford University Press: Toronto. pp. 260-268

Tudge, PH., R. Sieber, Y. Wiersma, J Corbett, S. Chung, P. Allen, P. Robinson. (2012). Collaborating Towards Innovation: Lessons from the Participatory GeoWeb GEOIDE Network. In Nicholas Chrisman and Monica Wachowicz (eds). *The Added Value of Scientific Networking*. GEOIDE Network, Quebec City, QC. pages 103-118.

Gore, Christopher, Pamela Robinson, & Richard Stren. (2012). "Governance and climate change: Assessing and Learning from Canadian Cities" In *Cities and climate change: Responding to an urgent agenda (Vol. 2 of 2)*, edited by Daniel Hoornweg, Mila Freire, Marcus J. Lee, Perinaz Bhada-Tata and Belinda Yuen. World Bank: Washington DC, pp. 498-523.

Refereed Contributions – Journal Papers with Open Government Focus:

- Robinson, P. and Ward-Mather, L. (2017). "Open Data Community Maturity: Libraries As Civic Infomediaries". Urban and Regional Information Science Association Journal. In press.
- Johnson, P. A., Sieber, R., Scassa, T., Stephens, M., & Robinson, P. (2017). The Cost(s) of Geospatial Open Data. *Transactions in GIS*, 21(3), 434-445. DOI: 10.1111/tgis.12283
- Robinson, P and Johnson, P. (2016). "Civic Hackathons: New Terrain for Local Government-Citizen Interaction?" *Urban Planning* (2016, Volume 1, Issue 2). DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17645/up.v1i2.627>
- Ward Mather, Lisa and Pamela Robinson (2016). "Civic Crafting in Urban Planning Public Consultation: Exploring Minecraft's Potential". *International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR)* 5(3) DOI: 10.4018/IJEPR.2016070104
- Sieber, R, Robinson, P, Johnson P. and Corbet, J. (2016) "Doing Public Participation on the Geospatial Web". *Annals Of The American Association Of Geographers* Vol. 106 , Iss. 5, 2016, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2016.1191325>
- Pamela Robinson and Peter Johnson (2016). "Civic Hackthons: New Terrain for Citizen-Local Government Interaction?" *Urban Planning*. Volume 1, Issue 2. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17645/up.v1i2.627>
- Robinson, P and Gore, C. (2015). "The Spaces In Between: A comparative analysis of municipal climate governance and action". *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 47: 1-18, doi:10.1177/0263774X15605940.
- Johnson, P. A., Corbett, J., Gore, C., Robinson, P. Allen, P., & Sieber, R.E. (2015). A Web of Expectations: Evolving Relationships in Community Participatory Geoweb Projects. *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies* 14(3): 791-826.
- Johnson, P. and Robinson, P. (2014), "Civic Hackathons: Innovation, Procurement, or Civic Engagement?". *Review of Policy Research*, 31: 349–357. doi: 10.1111/ropr.12074

Non-refereed contributions with Open Government Focus:

- Robinson, P. (2017) "More Than a Useful Vote". *Spacing*. Summer 2017: p. 26
- Landry, J-N., Webster, K., Wylie, B and P Robinson (2017). "How Can We Improve Urban Resilience with Open Data?". Open Data Institute: London UK. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B356JqI1-OL6RUtKOUloZWpZcmM/view>
- Wylie, B, Robinson, P, Malczewski, I (2017). "Big Data, Open Data in Planning". Ontario Planning Journal. Vol. 32, No. 3: 9-10
- Robinson, P. (2017) "Government as Platform", *Spacing* Winter 2017
- Graser, D. and Robinson P. (2016). "A Recipe for Fiscal Trust". Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance Perspectives Paper No. 13. Retrieved at: http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/350/imfgperspectives_no13_fiscaltrust_graser_robinson_july_21_2016.pdf
- Landry, J-N., and Robinson, P. (2016). "Open Data: Can it make Canadian cities more resilient?" Retrieved at: https://medium.com/@lisa_10612/worldwide-open-data-is-helping-to-fight-corruption-to-increase-government-efficiency-and-to-grow-3abc147b647a#.2anzr72xs
- Robinson, P. (2016) "Introduction: Women as City Builders", *Spacing* Fall 2016
- Robinson, P. and Gore, C. (2011) "Governance of Climate Change in the Canadian Municipal Sector". Caucus of Senior Policy Officials Climate Change Working Group: working paper.
- Robinson, P. (2015) "Civic Tech for Civic Good", *Spacing* Fall 2015