

1. Applicant information

First name: Ian

Last name: Soutar

Nationality: Canadian

Country of residence: Canada

Date of birth: November 30, 1990

Gender: Male

Region: Greater Vancouver (BC)

Organisation: Young Greens of Canada (Co-Chair)

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For the following three questions you should make reference to the first page of this document, which outlines some details of the Steering Committee role and also some of the required skills.

2. Experience

I have a great deal of experience in global relations, environmental and political activism, as well as youth advocacy. At fifteen years old I was selected to act as an ambassador for Canada and study as an exchange student in Mexico for a year with Rotary International. I gave many speeches in Spanish while abroad, and did many presentations upon returning to Canada to promote the international exchange program to fellow youth and to other Rotary Clubs, to encourage further participation from both sides. I had already spent six years studying in French immersion in the Canadian school system, so I was previously confident performing in foreign languages in public. I later travelled to Australia where I lived for a year, continuing to build relationships with Rotary International before I moved to Brazil where I lived for a further two years, studying Portuguese and teaching English as a second language.

When I returned to Canada once more, I got involved with the Green Party where I was elected to the Council of the Young Greens of Canada, and have since been appointed Youth Representative on the GPC Federal Council. Now I have been selected to go as a delegate for Canada to the Global Greens Congress as well as to represent Canada for the FPVA, both as a translator and a voting member.

My experience with youth advocacy (apart from my work with the Young Greens) includes participating in youth leadership programs (Rotary

Youth Leadership Awards), and now I am working as one of the head facilitators for the newly formed Rotary Youth In Action program.

I also have worked as Communications Chair for the Young Greens of Canada and my own Electoral District Association for the Green Party of Canada in Port Moody – Coquitlam. My work as Vice-President for the Tri-Cities Rotaract Club also entails managing the communications for our club. I typically respond to my emails several times a day, and I am always easy to get ahold of.

3. Motivation to join the SC

I can see much potential for the GYG movement, and I have studied some of the difficulties that encompass working with international organizations. I feel that I can offer much insight for working with countries that are less advantaged, where it might be dangerous to identify with the Green movement by utilising technology such as email and social media to coordinate a safe and effective effort to bring as many youth and nations into the fold as possible. I also believe that my international experience, as well as fluency in French, Spanish and Portuguese, and my work teaching ESL, can provide invaluable productivity to the communications between divisions of the Global Young Greens.

I feel that the GYG movement is on the cusp of making a big splash into global politics, and I know that if I am part of the steering committee that I will be able to dedicate a great deal of effort and all of my experiences working across borders and time zones to make the most out of this important and dedicated team.

4. How do you want to help develop GYG?

I want to help bridge the gaps between countries that may not always see eye to eye on priorities or particular issues. I want to help pull people out of their narrow scopes and get everyone into focusing on the bigger picture that is the global movement. As our planet surges faster and faster towards a globalised unit, I want to help keep people out of fussing over the minutia in regional issues to keep a positive and optimistic look on the global focus. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the atrocities in one region or another, and it's easy to forget that regardless of who has been elected president in one country, or what has happened to the continental framework of trade in another continent, we are all part of the same global picture, and we can only make progress if we focus on the common good and pool our collective efforts into projects that we can all agree on.

I also want to help find innovative ways to grow the Green movement in places where it may not be acceptable or even legal to do so, to help protect aspiring young climate activists in doing their integral work wherever they may be. I understand that there may be great barriers in doing this from country to

country, but with a global team working together and bringing several different cultures and experiences to the table, I believe that we have all the precedent and tools available to make a real surge forwards with the GYG movement.