

# STEERING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENT

## 1. Applicant information

First name: Ian  
Last name: Soutar  
Nationality: Canadian  
Country of residence: Canada  
Date of birth: November 30, 1990  
Gender: Cis-male  
Region: Americas  
Organisation: Green Party of Canada, Young Greens of Canada  
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*For the following three sections 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

In chronological order:

- Worked as social media chair on local campaign for 2015 federal elections in Canada
- Elected Communications chair for the Young Greens of Canada
- Elected Co-Chair of the Young Greens of Canada, Youth Representative on Federal Council of the Green Party of Canada
- CEO of local Green Party of Canada Electoral District Association (EDA)
- Selected as representative for the FPVA (Federacion de los Partidos Verdes de las Americas) at Global Greens Congress in Liverpool

- Passed resolution in collaboration with the Green Party of Argentina condemning Barrick Gold for dumping arsenic in the rivers of Argentina
- Passed resolution in the Global Young Greens statutes for GYG database
- In regular communication with all the Young Greens of the Americas (13 countries)
- Ran as a candidate for BC Greens in provincial election, secured 12% (up from 4%)
- Formed YGC International Committee, collaborating with Greens from every Federation
- Helped elect more Young Greens to GPC Federal Council, from 2/18 to 5/18 members
- Helped increase number of university campus clubs across Canada, from 4 to 16
- Running in municipal elections for City Councillor position (October 2018)
- Organizing GYG event in Vancouver (February 5-9)
- Helped write final report from GYG membership poll on purpose for organization
- Fluent in French, Spanish and Portuguese
- Consistent access to internet, dedicated to putting time aside for GYG

### **3. Motivation to join the SC**

Working directly with Elizabeth May, leader of the Canadian Greens, I have been inspired to live truly as a Green, adhering to the Global Green values in my day to day life. As a Canadian Green, with an average polling of 4% historically, it has been incredibly important for us to act as a voice of reason across the country (we are often considered the conscience of Canadian politics). While we continue working on the ground to grow our movement, my international experience (lived 1 year in Mexico, 1 in Australia and 2 in Brazil) has drawn me to participate in Global Greens work, I see incredible potential in connecting Young Greens around the world with each other. For example, having interacted with Chloe Swarbrick, 23 year old MP recently elected in New Zealand, I am inspired by her success and want to grow that impact and have everyone know about her success and how we can work together for the collective benefit.

Often in futuristic movies we are presented with the idea of “President of Earth,” and the only place I can see a global government coming is from the Global Greens. The more mobilised and connected we are, the more likely that Greens will take over the world and make it a beautiful, peaceful and sustainable place. I recognize that we are a long way away from that, but I am in it for the long haul!

#### **4. How do you want to help develop GYG?**

With the database for the Federation of the Americas nearly completed, I am turning my sights to Africa and Asia Pacific to make sure that their databases are also completed. When we are all connected with up-to-date, active members, we can really start the hard work!

Beyond just keeping everyone up to speed with what’s going on internationally, I want to start working on collaborative projects and connecting YGs from all different countries. I believe information should flow through and around GYG, and that our role as a steering committee is to expedite and facilitate that process.

I also want to help organize more events and start training YGs on how to be more effective global citizens, to create an army of Young Greens ready to take over the political world in their respective countries. We should be leaders in what we preach, including anti-corruption, inclusive diversity and social justice. These are not always the easiest areas to excel at, but we definitely have the capacity and the precedent to get there!

During these events, we also need to come up with a fundraising plan- typically youth movements are considered as expense-only, and we need to disprove that with a couple of effective fundraisers.

Lastly, I would like to see the movement grow by increasing our presence within Green Parties around the world, and by finding and drawing in other organizations that share our core values. We need all the help we can get, and there are many meaningful connections yet to be made around the world.