

CSEE Council – 2023 Candidate Statements

Running for Student or Post-doctoral Fellow Council Member (3 candidates for 1 position)

Diana Zoie

I am an incoming Liber Ero Postdoctoral Fellow studying paint microplastics at the University of Toronto with partners at the Ocean Conservancy and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. I recently earned my Ph.D. in multisector mitigation of plastic pollution in the Marine Science and Conservation Division and Environmental Toxicology Program at Duke University. I am also a consultant for the World Bank and Council on Foreign Relations. I am passionate about interdisciplinary approaches to tackle wicked conservation problems and using science to inform policy. I co-founded and led the Duke University [Plastic Pollution Working Group](#) – an interdisciplinary group of scholars at all levels studying plastic pollution. As a CSEE Post-doctoral Councillor, I would focus on 1) creating tiered mentorship opportunities, 2) sharpening science communication, and 3) bridging the science-policy divide.

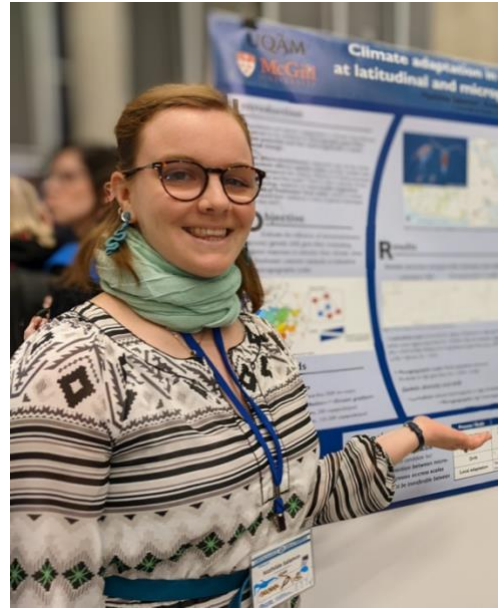


Takuji Usui

I am a final year PhD student at the University of British Columbia, starting a postdoc at the University of Toronto this summer. Having just spent the last 5.5 years as a student, I will bring to council perspectives from someone who has gone through the joys and struggles of graduate school, and about to enter my postdoctoral career. I am also a recent settler to Canada, and would therefore like to bring perspectives from an international student navigating the challenges of academia in a foreign country. During my time in council, first, I would like to ensure that the voices and perspectives from students and early career researchers across Canada remain heard, by acting as a liaison between students, post-docs and the CSEE to maintain active communication. Second, I would like to ensure that the decisions we make better support our students and postdocs, who are of course facing significant financial stress, but who are at the heart of driving eco-evolutionary research in Canada. It would be both an honour and a privilege to advocate for my fellow students and researchers at the CSEE council.

Mathilde Salamon

I recently obtained my Ph.D. in Biology at Université du Québec à Montréal, and I will be starting a postdoctoral position soon at McGill University as part of the BIOSCAN project. I have been a regular student member of the CSEE since 2018 and a CSEE student representative at UQAM since 2017. Since the beginning of my Ph.D., I have been an active member of our academic community at a local scale, as part of the student committee for the GRIL (Interuniversity Research Group in Limnology) and by co-organizing the GRIL-UQAM seminars (student-led presentations). I also have a keen interest in public science communication, for example by working as a science project coordinator for elementary school children with the Youth Fusion Association, or as a volunteer at the Montreal's Eureka! 2018 and 2022 festivals. My vision as a councillor is to promote public communication training for graduate students, to continue to improve inclusiveness in the CSEE, and to facilitate post-graduate integration into the job market.



Running for Regular Councillor Position (4 candidates for 2 positions)



Colin Garroway

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Manitoba. The research interests of my group are broad, but we anchor our work around understanding the origins of biodiversity and how it is threatened. We work on organisms ranging from sea lamprey and squirrels to polar bears and bowhead whales. We use various disciplinary approaches but come back to population genetics most often.

I am running for Council to give back to my home society. I attended my first CSEE meeting in Toronto in 2007 as a new graduate student, am on the local organizing committee for this year's meeting in Winnipeg, and am a lifetime member of the society. I have benefited considerably from the friendly sense of community and support fostered by the CSEE, particularly early in my career. Due to this experience, I see this support system as one of the most important activities of the CSEE and feel well-positioned to contribute to and further develop supports for early career researchers as a councillor. This advocacy would be both within the society and beyond. I helped organize our local #SupportOurScience rally here, and I think the CSEE can play an important role in maintaining that momentum nationally. As I reflect on no longer being able to call myself an early career professor, I think we as a society can probably do more to extend society support to early career professionals as well. I look forward to seeing everyone in Winnipeg!

Adam Ford

Hi there! I'm an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Wildlife Restoration Ecology at UBC-Okanagan in beautiful Kelowna, BC. In my work, I get to explore the incredible connections between humans and wildlife and then help restore those connections if they are damaged. I'm proud to be a part of not just one, but two IUCN Species Survival Groups. I actively contribute to the "Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence Specialist Group" and the "Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group." Additionally, I serve as a member of the British Columbia Minister's Wildlife Advisory

Council, which has helped create conservation scholarships for students in BC, and Co-Director at Biodiversity Pathways. I'm also excited to mention that our Wildlife Restoration Ecology Lab, strongly supports Indigenous-led conservation efforts. As we embark on the UN Decade on Ecological Restoration, and with a growing call for reconciliation in Canadian scientific practice, I would feel privileged to contribute to CSEE as a Regular Councillor. My aim is to facilitate CSEE's engagement with policy makers and community leaders, fostering trust in ecological sciences and promoting evidence-based decision making. It's an exciting time to support these changes to society, and I'm eager to be a part of this journey.



Joey Bernhardt

I am an integrative ecologist and Assistant Professor at the University of Guelph. My work aims to advance our fundamental understanding of the drivers of biodiversity change and the consequences of these changes for human well-being. My research advances a solution to this research challenge by studying the processes that unite all of life on Earth – the metabolic processes by which living systems uptake, store and convert energy, matter and information from their environments to grow and persist. As an ecologist, I aim to achieve solutions to global environmental problems through four pathways of impact: creating new knowledge, engaging with people with different perspectives, generating action, and ultimately producing improved outcomes for biodiversity and human well-being. I am interested in serving as a CSEE Councillor to advance efforts in key areas: 1) improving support for grad students, postdocs, and early career scientists in Canada, 2) promoting initiatives related to open and reproducible science and 3) furthering efforts to increase accessibility and EDI in CSEE and beyond.

Jon Mee

I'm an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Mount Royal University. Undergraduate research experiences are a major gateway to participation in STEM fields. Improving access and removing barriers to careers in Ecology and Evolution begins at the undergraduate level. I have been heavily involved in promoting positive change in my department and in the Faculty of Science and Technology at MRU, and I'm very interested in working toward positive change in and through our society. I've been chair of the board of directors for the Southern Alberta Chapter of CPAWS since 2020. I'm currently an NSERC DG panel member. I hope my experience and enthusiasm can be of value on the CSEE council.

