



Canadian Society for Chemistry | **For Our Future**
Société canadienne de chimie | **Pour notre avenir**

2021 CSC Director-at-Large Candidate – Samantha Smith

Statement of Interest

I hereby nominate myself, Samantha Smith, for the position of Director-at-Large. I am an early career chemist having graduated from the University of Toronto PhD program in 2018. While at the University of Toronto, I held executive positions in the Chemical Institute of Canada's Toronto local section over about 4 years. I was heavily involved in the local section, taking part in organizing events and conferences, participating in outreach programs and leading the local section as Chair of the committee. I volunteered for other student organizations and had a hand in developing partnerships between them and the CIC local section, leading to very successful programs and events. Since leaving Toronto, I have been active in the Kingston local section as a general volunteer. I want to sit on the CSC Board of Directors as a Director-at-Large because I am passionate about this beautiful community built by people just like me. I would like to take this opportunity to learn more about the CSC on a national level and make lasting changes to benefit our members. I use my personal time to help give back to a community that has given me so much, and I only wish to help our members the way the CIC has helped me evolve as an individual, a volunteer, and a professional.

Biography

Samantha Smith was born in Ontario and spent a lot of her childhood moving from town to town because her family was stricken by poverty. Samantha attended over a dozen schools by the time she reached secondary school and although she had faced many challenges through her early life, she gained the ability to adapt quickly to her new surroundings. She heavily relied on her community for support and in turn started to give back by volunteering for the local Legions and other community groups. She put a lot of effort into keeping up in school and when she reached secondary school, she realized how much she enjoyed chemistry and mathematics, deciding to continue studying both at the University level after graduating at the top of her class.

Samantha started her academic journey at Wilfrid Laurier University as a student in the chemistry and mathematics double major program. During her time at WLU, she started to teach mathematics tutorials in her first year and volunteered for the Green Hawks (environment student group) and the Laurier Chemistry Association. In her second year, she gained her first research experience under the supervision of Prof. Gusev. Prof. Gusev kept Samantha as a Research Assistant for the remainder of her degree and sent her to conferences including Inorganic Discussion Weekend, at which she won her first poster award, and the Royal Society of Chemistry Conference in Toronto. At the latter, Samantha first met with Prof. Morris from the University of Toronto and soon after it was decided that she wanted to join his group at the graduate level.

Samantha joined the University of Toronto in 2013 as a direct PhD student under Prof. Morris' supervision and soon after attended her first CIC local section meeting. A coworker of hers, Demyan Prokopchuk, was a Member-at-Large and the committee at the time consisted of only a handful of people. Samantha made those committee meetings a priority from then on. As a student, she successfully published many papers, a book chapter, and presented at national and international conferences on her research and on behalf of student organizations. She also attended the ACS Green Chemistry Summer School and spent three months as an exchange student at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster in Germany where she helped establish a lasting collaboration between the Morris and Hahn research groups. As a volunteer, Samantha helped grow the CIC local section committee and improve the quality of events and initiatives organized by their many volunteers. She split her time between research and volunteering for sometimes up to three organizations at a time, but always made her volunteer work a priority for she felt a duty and responsibility to her community. Samantha feels forever fortunate for the experience she gained through her volunteer work with the CIC, for she gained mentors who made lasting impressions on her and helped her become the professional she is today.

While volunteering for the CIC and other student groups, as well as attending over a dozen conferences and symposia, Samantha had successfully garnered a wide network of chemists and chemical engineers, including those at GreenCentre Canada where she held her first professional position after obtaining her Doctorate. She spent close to three years at GreenCentre as a Development Scientist working on R&D style projects. Samantha took on many initiatives and roles at GreenCentre Canada. She joined the JHSC as a worker representative and made lasting changes to the organization's safety culture. Immediately after moving to Kingston, Samantha met with the Chair of the CIC Kingston local section to talk about how her experience in running a local section could help improve their visibility and involvement and has since continued to work hard for the section as a general volunteer.

Samantha just recently joined the Canopy Growth Corporation's Scientific Development team as a Formulation Chemist working on new and existing cannabis infused products for the global market. This career move was made so that she could learn about consumer products and all regulations associated with that work as she has become interested in pursuing a career in Regulatory Affairs.

Although Samantha's life started out as a struggle, she has become a successful, hard-working, and passionate early career chemist who cares for her community as she believes that students and professionals alike can greatly benefit from a positive and supportive environment such as our chemistry community here in Canada, just like she has.