

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Roger Colton

Roger Colton is a partner in the firm Fisher, Sheehan & Colton, Public Finance and General Economics (FSC) of Belmont, Massachusetts. An attorney and an economist, Roger engages in legal and technical research, program design and program evaluation. His work on helping to design, implement and fund low-income affordability programs has been with state and local governments; with the federal government; with natural gas, electric and water utilities; and with a variety of community-based organizations in more than 35 states.

Roger does extensive work in Canada. He has worked with two low-income advocacy organizations in Toronto (the Low-Income Energy Network and Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario) on issues relating to rate affordability, energy efficiency, and customer service for nearly ten years. He has also worked with advocates in Nova Scotia and Manitoba on rate affordability issues.

Roger authors the annual Home Energy Affordability Gap, which calculates the dollar difference between actual home energy bills and affordable home energy bills on a county-by-county basis for the entire country. In 2003, he created the Home Energy Insecurity Scale for the federal LIHEAP office, a tool for measuring the outcomes of energy assistance programs that is being incorporated into program evaluation nationwide.

Roger was the recipient of the 1998 National Low-Income Energy Consortium (NLIEC) individual achievement award for career accomplishment with respect to low-income energy issues. He received the 2001 Sister Pat Kelley Award from the National Fuel Funds Network (NFFN) for his career-long work in helping to create and support fuel funds nationwide.

Outside his professional work, Roger is the Chair of the municipal Energy Committee for Belmont (MA), the coordinator of the Belmont Affordable Shelter Fund (a local crisis intervention fund), and, as a professional juggler, is a member of the International Jugglers Association. He has reportedly been seen rooting for the Boston Red Sox.

Takis Plagiannakos

Takis has been with the Ontario Energy Board for 4 years and currently is the Manager of Rates, Conservation and Policy Evaluation in the Regulatory Policy Business Unit. Before coming to the Board, Takis worked for three years as Senior Advisor on energy policy issues at the Ontario Ministry of Energy. For the previous 20 years, Takis was with Ontario Hydro and later with Ontario Power Generation and has served in different management positions in Economics and Load Forecasting, Energy Management, Strategic Planning and Environment. Takis holds an M.B.A. degree from Schulich School of Business of York University, a Masters degree in Economics from York University and a B.A. in Economics from University of Athens. Takis has also published papers on Corporate Sustainable Development Indicators, quantifying and monetizing the environmental impacts of electricity generation, estimating the costs and benefits of energy conservation and assessing the impacts of electricity free trade on the air quality of the province of Ontario.

Andrew Pride

Andrew Pride was appointed Vice President, Conservation, in November 2010. He leads the OPA's efforts to help Ontario achieve its ambitious electricity conservation targets. These efforts include working with Ontario's local distribution companies to deliver customer-focused conservation programs across the province, fostering energy innovation in the province, partnering with governments and industry to achieve greater efficiency through improved building codes and standards for equipment and appliances, and educating and raising the awareness of Ontarians of the significant benefits of conservation.

Prior to joining the Ontario Power Authority, he was with the Minto Group for about 11 years, where he was instrumental in promoting a culture of conservation and in transforming Minto into an internationally recognized leader in green real estate. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Waterloo. Andrew served as the vice-chair of the Canada Green Building Council; is a member of Natural Resources Canada's Standing Committee on Energy Efficient Buildings; is a member of the Waterloo Institute

for Sustainable Energy and sits on the dean's advisory council in the faculty of environment at the University of Waterloo.

Mary Todorow

Mary Todorow is a research/policy analyst with the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), a specialty legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario. ACTO serves province-wide to improve the housing situation of Ontario's low-income residents (including tenants, co-op members and the homeless) by engaging in test case litigation and law reform. ACTO is one of the founding members of the Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN) and is represented on LIEN's steering committee. Prior to joining ACTO, Mary was a policy officer with the Municipal Electric Association (now the Electricity Distributors Association). She has also been an advocate in the non-profit co-operative housing sector, and worked at Queen's Park for over 20 years in a variety of positions both in opposition and for government.

Jennifer Lopinski

Jennifer Lopinski is the program administrator for an energy program called the Emergency Home Energy & Resource program at A Place Called Home (APCH). APCH is a not-for-profit organization that strives to reduce homelessness in the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County by providing a number of homelessness prevention programs.

Jennifer has a Social Service Worker diploma and has been administering emergency energy programs for the last 7 years. Jennifer directly administers the Emergency Energy Fund, the Utility Arrears Program, Winter Warmth and LEAP programs. Jennifer participated in the Ontario Energy Board's Financial Assistance Working Group to develop the new provincial Low Income Emergency Assistance Program (LEAP). Jennifer is currently a LIEN Steering Committee and Legal Committee Member and also sits on the City of Kawartha Lakes Poverty Coalition as well as the Access to Permanent Housing Association in her community.

Bill Chihata has about 20 years of field experience in the Energy sector in the Industrial, Commercial and Residential markets. Bill works for Enbridge Gas Distribution as a Portfolio Manager, Mass Markets DSM in the Market Development Group. Bill's current mandate is to develop and deliver energy conservation programs to the Residential, Low Income and the SME (Small and Medium Size) Commercial sectors within the Enbridge Franchised area.

Bill holds a bachelor degree in Mechanical Engineering from Concordia University in Montreal and a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. Bill is a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) and Certified Demand Side Manager (CDSM) by the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE). Also, he holds a gas technician "G1" licence as administered by TSSA. Bill also teaches Facility Management courses part-time at Seneca College.

Tracey Brooks is the Manager of Low Income Marketing at Union Gas. Tracey joined Union in 2007 in their Commercial DSM Marketing Department, focusing on Union's Commercial prescriptive programs before she moved over to the Residential DSM Marketing Department where she worked on Union's Low Income and Market Transformation portfolios. Tracey's current role is focused on managing the growth and development of Union Gas' Low Income DSM portfolio.

Barb De Ruyter

Barb is a strategic research and marketing professional who has twenty-five years of experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors. She conducted countless focus groups for CBC, including programs which made it to air and those which did not. Since 2000, she has applied her skills to her passion – working with non-profit organizations, including Green Communities Canada, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association and the Canadian Executive Services Organization, to assist them in identifying their needs and strategically fulfill their mandates. Barb holds an M.A. in Community Development and is a certified Project Manager.