

Christie Kent, MPI, MCIP, RPP

Senior Consultant

Christie provides expertise in the areas of student accommodation and capital planning, business case development, and municipal relations. Prior to joining Watson in 2023, she was a Planner with two Ontario school boards and several municipalities across Canada.

EDUCATION

Current, University of Western Ontario
Master of Public Administration (MPA Candidate)

2016, University of Guelph
Master of Planning, Rural Planning and Development

2011, University of Waterloo
Bachelor of Environmental Studies

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current
Senior Consultant, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

- Focused on student accommodation and capital planning, business case development, and municipal relations.

2021 & 2022-2023

Senior Planner, Waterloo Region District School Board, ON

- Led scenario modelling for student enrolment projections.
- Developed scenarios and time-bound recommendations for student accommodation planning and the Board's Long-Term Accommodation Plan.
- Undertook data synthesis and visualization, graphic design and mapping to support analysis and stakeholder communications.
- Supported administrative policy and procedure reviews within the Planning department.
- Prepared business case submissions for capital funding grants with funding secured for a new elementary school (\$16.5 M investment).



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY cont'd

2021-2022

Manager of Planning and Development, Town of Aylmer, ON

- Managed and directed current land use and long-range policy planning projects and strategic initiatives in cooperation with Town Council, senior administration and stakeholders.
- Developed and presented recommendations and professional planning opinions related to land use planning, real property and other matters of public interest.
- Supported grant applications for infrastructure and land development projects, resulting in \$3.5 M of funding investments.

2019-2020

Planner, Thames Valley District School Board, ON

- Provided long-term strategic and day-to-day operational direction for the Planning Department with supervisory responsibility for two staff.
- Developed data- and information-driven strategic and operational plans for short- and long-term student accommodation and capital planning across the district.
- Conceptualized and primary author of the Board's Accommodation Plan and Ministry of Education grant submissions for capital investments valued at \$72 M in 2019/20 with funding secured for two new elementary schools (\$19.5 M & \$8.7 M investments).
- Facilitated successful initiatives, including an interactive workshop for planning professional across the district, initiation of participation in a post-secondary cooperative education program, and on-going relationship building with community partners.

2017-2019

Planner, County of Middlesex, ON

2016 (3-month contract)

Planner, Oxford County, ON

- Reviewed development applications made under the Planning Act on behalf of the County and area municipalities.
- Undertook special planning policy projects and comprehensive document consolidations.
- Directed and managed local planning processes, including the preparation and presentation of professional planning advice, research, reports and recommendations to local Municipal Councils.
- Liaised with and responded to enquiries from municipal Councils, staff, public body agencies and the general public.



EMPLOYMENT HISTORY cont'd

2015-2016 (contract)

Planner, Rural Municipality of Britannia, Lloydminster, SK

- Researched, developed and drafted policies and regulations for a new Official Community Plan and Zoning By-law.
- Supervised and mentored the Development Services Officer in legislative interpretations, review of applications, and the preparation of planning recommendations and rationale.
- Designed and executed community-wide engagement initiatives.
- Liaised extensively with Council, community organizations, ratepayers and industry professionals to establish municipal direction and adapt regulatory approaches.

2013-2014

Municipal Planner, City of Airdrie, AB

2011-2012 (contract)

Municipal Planner, City of Prince George, BC

- Reviewed, processed and prepared comments for land use and development applications, including planning advice, policy interpretation, and conceptual diagrammatic solutions.
- Developed and summarized professional recommendations in the form of reports and briefing notes on land use applications and other planning matters for presentation to internal staff, Municipal Planning Commission, Council, and the general public.
- Identified design, transportation, and other site opportunities in preliminary development proposals.
- Mentored and explored local planning paradigms and processes in a reciprocal learning experience with the department's intern from the Alberta Municipal Internship Program.

EXPERTISE

- Long term accommodation planning
- Education development charges (EDC)
- Pupil accommodation reviews (PAR)
- Capital priority business case submission
- Enrolment projections and demographic studies
- Business cases
- Education financial and capital planning
- EDC growth forecasts