

City of London - Application for Appointment to City of London Community Advisory Committees

Application

Committee you are interested in serving on: **Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee**

Contact Information

Name: **Darian Fournie**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6B3R5**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Advisory Committee, please provide dates and details. (max. 250 characters):

I do not have any previous experience working on one of London's Advisory Committees, but I am looking forward to the opportunity to contribute to my local community.

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters):

I intend to bring expertise from my own identity to the City, and I hope to gain new insights from others' experiences, perspectives, and knowledge, which will enhance my ability to approach challenges and solutions more holistically and inclusively.

How will you support the work of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters):

Using my professional background and lived experience (described below), I will work with the City to develop equitable policies and programs, and will make recommendations to support individuals and communities who have historically been oppressed.

We value the contributions of Londoners with diverse experiences and welcome applications from individuals who share our commitment. Please describe how your work, community or lived experience will enhance these efforts through Community Advisory Committee work. (max. 3000 characters):

From a young age, I was interested in EDI tenets as my family had child welfare involvement due to neglect and emotional abuse. My mother struggled with mental health issues which prevented her from properly being able to support my sister and me. I went into the Social Service Worker program at Fanshawe College because of my passion for supporting young people who were struggling. There I completed my placement at N'Amerind Friendship Centre in their Indigenous Families First program where I learned about the continued implicit and explicit racism that continues to be embedded in our structures and systems. During this time, I was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia at the age of 22. I went through treatment largely alone as I was strained from my family. I learned how difficult it can be to have a life-altering illness, and still need to get up and go to work every day because you need to pay for rent, food, and survive. I was also coming to terms with being a queer person, all while applying for graduate school. I continued on to obtain two master's degrees. At Carleton University, I completed a placement opportunity at The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD), where I got first-hand experience learning about how deep-rooted homophobia and transphobia remain in our society and the importance of education to overcome these ideologies. During my time in the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid

Laurier University, I spearheaded the Equity Committee where I advocated for student needs across a broad range of EDI topics, including advocating for Universal Design for Learning in MSW coursework and gender-neutral washrooms on the WLU Kitchener campus.

Taking an intersectional approach, I plan on using my background as a queer person who has experienced deep poverty, chronic illness & disability, child abuse, and mental illness to not only better understand the needs of marginalized individuals in the City of London, but to make recommendations to better support them on an individual and structural level.

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Community Advisory Committee Member. (max. 250 characters):

I have a Master's degree from Carleton University in Women & Gender Studies, with a focus on critical race theory, and a Master of Social Work degree from Wilfrid Laurier University focusing on structural oppression.

Attach resume or other document here, if needed: **D. Fournie - Resume.pdf**

Attach more files here, if needed:

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that the commitment may be up to 4 hours per month to attend meetings and prepare.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity: (optional): **Social media**

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

Submitted on: **5/2/2024 3:21:48 PM**

DARIAN FOURNIE

MASTER OF ARTS (MA) & MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

CONTACT



 London, Ontario



EDUCATION

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

Wilfrid Laurier University

2020–2022

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

Women & Gender Studies

Carleton University

2018-2020

HARD SKILLS

- Project Management/Coordination
- Budgeting
- Proposal Writing
- Advocacy

SOFT SKILLS

- Critical Thinking
- Problem-Solving/Resourcefulness
- Time Management
- Adaptability/Flexibility
- Leadership

PROFILE

With nearly ten years of experience in project management and leadership, I have developed skills in handling a wide range of administrative and coordination duties. Throughout my career, I have been responsible for managing backend operations for multiple projects as well as leading diverse teams across various sectors. As a strategic planner, team coordinator, and policy developer, I enhance organizational efficiency and drive project success.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ACCOUNT MANAGER/GRANT WRITER & STRATEGIST

Grantsimple | Remote | July 2022 - January 2024

Led a team of two grant writers and two placement students, overseeing a diverse portfolio of 18 Canadian charities.

- Successfully secured over \$650,000 in grant funding in 2023.
- Crafted and managed 350+ grant applications (including budgets).
- Specialized in tailoring grant applications to meet specific client needs and funder criteria.
- Contributed to the organization's strategic planning, including staff hiring.

SENIOR RESEARCH COORDINATOR

The Child Welfare TRUTH-Telling Collective | Remote | May 2021 - July 2023

Coordinated multiple research and non-research projects, while also providing leadership and support to over ten MSW research assistants and placement students.

- Managed backend operations for five research projects, spearheaded team meetings, directed project trajectories, and liaised with the Principal Investigator on progress.
- Coordinated research assistant tasks, ensured quality control, developed and implemented project onboarding materials, and contributed to the hiring process.
- Administered participant stipends and managed financial records.

DARIAN FOURNIE

MASTER OF ARTS (MA) & MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW)

CERTIFICATIONS

MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

CERTIFICATE, Wilfrid Laurier University, *In Progress*

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

TRAINING, Mental Health Commission of Canada, 2019

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES (AODA) AND

IASR TRAINING, Ontario Human Rights Commission, 2018

NONVIOLENT CRISIS

INTERVENTION TRAINING, Crisis Prevention Institute, 2017

AWARDS

DR. GARY CAMERON SCHOLARSHIP

IN SOCIAL WORK, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2022

WILLIAM AND MARION MARR

GRADUATE AWARD, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2021

NOMINATED FOR AN OUTSTANDING TEACHING

ASSISTANT AWARD, Carleton University, 2018

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK'S EQUITY COMMITTEE RESEARCH ASSISTANT/CO-CHAIR

Wilfrid Laurier University | Kitchener, ON | January 2021 - April 2022

Co-chaired the Metrics & Accountability and Decolonizing Practices groups, where I organized and facilitated meetings, and supported the Committee's research projects alongside the Faculty Lead.

- Helped draft the Educational Equity Policy and Student Complaint Policy.
- Advocated for student needs to the FSW (e.g., gender-neutral washroom and Universal Design for Learning).
- Organized the Equity Committee's backend, including file management, communications, and group coordination.

INDIGENOUS FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAM WORKER/PLACEMENT STUDENT N'Amerind Friendship Centre | London, ON | September 2017 - August 2018

As a placement student and later as a staff member, I advocated for the equitable treatment of Indigenous families who were navigating the complexities of the Children's Aid Society (CAS).

- Supported and advocated for families during client CAS home visits, family meetings, and court sessions.
- Presided over supervised access visits between non-custodial parent(s) and children.
- Assisted families in system navigation, researching and connecting with community supports, and helping complete documentation.

VOLUNTEERISM

ADMINISTRATIVE/GRANT COORDINATOR

The Child Welfare TRUTH-Telling Collective | Remote | July 2023 - Present

- Lead the Communications Team and the Grant Writing Team.
- Streamline organizational operations, manage correspondence, and spearhead communication strategies.
- Teach grant writing sessions, review proposals, and provide strategic direction on fundraising.
- Supervise MSW & BSW placement students.