

Committee: **Striking Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Michael Hale**

Address:

151 Bonaventure Drive, Unit 38, N5V 4M1

Occupation: **Project Coordinator**

Work experience: **Currently, I am working as a project coordinator for UnLondon Digital Media Association. My responsibilities focus on developing and delivering Maker Workshops for the public. At the same time, I am working as an independent consultant for Toronto Association of the Deaf, developing the concept and business model for a new community centre in Toronto. As a volunteer, I am a member of the Royal Ontario Museum Accessibility Advisory Committee (ROMAAC), providing recommendations for increased accessibility for the ROM. In addition, I am currently providing consulting services for a private condo owner to audit and report on the accessibility of recently acquired condo units. Previously, I worked the Downtown Chatham Centre on redevelopment of the shopping centre, under new ownership, to create an inclusive shopping centre and improved user experience.**

Education: **In 2013, I graduated, with distinction, from Conestoga College with a BA in Architectural Project and Facility Management. My thesis for my final year was Inclusive Space for Deaf - which focus on innovative design and accessibility for the Deaf. Previously, I graduated with honours from St. Clair College with an advanced diploma in the Architectural Technology program (2006).**

Skills: **I have a strong architectural and facility management background which helps me to understand built environments as they are as well as how they can be developed to improve user experience. I also have a strong positive background in service delivery knowledge which is important for accessibility. I bring a unique perspective as a Deaf person in addition to my professional specialized skills.**

Interest reason: **I resided in this city as a child and young teen. I have seen many accessibility issues that London can tackle and become a leader in urban development. I am fighting for better accessibility in Ontario and Canada. I am currently on committee for improved accessibility at the Royal Ontario Museum so I am naturally interested in contributing to something that will actually see a real result which in this case would be the City of London. Real change!**

Contributions: **I can enhance the accessibility specifically for Deaf which in turn will benefit seniors who face diminished hearing. I have a talent for seeing environments from a user-friendly perspective and developing innovative and unique ideas. I often have found that I can notice things that others don't. I see so much potential for the City of London.**

Past contributions: **In the ROMAAC setting, I contributed a preliminary draft of the designer guideline which helps the exhibition and galleries designers to design environments and displays that are inclusive. I conducted an audit which directly led to improved service, as well as providing direction for the committee itself to function more efficiently to produce more action rather than going around in circles with just discussion. I helped create a structured process that made it possible for the committee to deliver action. 'just do it' - that's what I contribute**

Interpersonal: **My profession is project and facilities manager which requires me to be a participant in a team, facilitating the teamwork. I have a strong personality and am a vibrant person. I'm open minded and respectful of others. In a team environment, I try my best to apply each individual's unique skills to make the end result better.**

Interview interest: **Yes**