

Committee: **Striking Committee**

Organization/Sector represented: N/A

Name: **Jean-Marc Metrailler**

Address:

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London, ON  
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Occupation: **Law Student**

Work experience: **I currently work at the UWO Law Library providing research and clerical support. In the past I have worked for the Canadian Competition Bureau, an independent law enforcement agency of the federal government. In this role I was responsible for reviewing corporate mergers, with the ultimate purpose of preventing the formation of monopolies. Prior to the Bureau, I worked in the Compliance Department of Equitable Bank. In this role I was extensively involved in managing projects to ensure compliance with banking legislation. These projects involved changes to corporate governance and business processes, including complaint handling and consumer disclosure. While completing my undergraduate degree at McMaster University, I was employed as the Chairperson of the McMaster Student Union's Bylaws and Procedures Committee. In this role I worked with committee members to devise and recommend changes to student council, relating to changes in corporate bylaws and other governance matters. I have been hired as an Articling Student, to commence in the summer of 2015, at a large law firm in London.**

Education: **I hold an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from McMaster University in Economics and Political Science, graduated summa cum laude. I am currently enrolled in the final year of a Law (JD) program at the University of Western Ontario. I will soon commence the licensing process for lawyers, and expect to be a professionally licensed lawyer by 2016.**

Skills: **I have substantial experience and knowledge of the functioning of government, specifically as it relates to hiring and appointments. At my time at McMaster University, I sat on the student council, and Executive Board of the McMaster Students Union. In this role, I was in many instances responsible for evaluating and appointing/hiring candidates for committees and for paid positions. In doing so, I learned how to establish the unique criteria required for an individual to successfully fill a role, and then how to effectively evaluate the candidates, by use of interviews, prepared speeches, written statements, or resumes. In 2012, I sat of the Grants Committee of Western's University Students Council, where we were responsible for approving funding requests from various groups and individuals. This, again, provided me with experience in evaluating competing proposals and candidates, searching for the right criteria, and making tough decisions between many options. In 2013/2014, I was the Speaker/Meeting Chair for UWO's Student Legal Society, in which I enforced Robert's Rules of Order, kept meeting decorum and encouraged consensus, and interpreted the organization's bylaws and constitution. My wide range of experience and abilities learned in student government would no-doubt prove to be assets I could bring to the Striking Committee. My work experiences, and my degree in Economics and Political Science, have given me a solid knowledge of the interaction between business and government, which I feel is very important in a municipal context. My legal education has also given me knowledge useful for municipal government, having taken courses on Planning, Municipal, and Administrative Law. In addition to my more technical knowledge and abilities, I am also familiar and connected with the London community. For two years I have volunteered at the Dundas St courthouse, helping low-income Londoners with Family Law issues. Last year I was involved with helping the London and District Distress center adapt their corporate governance to new laws. I also own a home in London, and am an active member of my community association. As previously mentioned, I have already been hired to work in London, full-time, after graduation. If given the opportunity to serve on the Striking Committee, I would bring with me not only substantial experience and knowledge of government, appointment criteria, and municipal law, but also a connection to London and a good idea of what its citizens expect from local government.**

**Interest reason: Having resided here for over 2 years now, I have really fallen in love with London, as demonstrated by my commitment to staying here after graduation and my involvement in the London community (as detailed in the skill section above). I want to give back to a city that has given me so many opportunities. I have always been interested in government and politics, but I am specifically interested in getting more involved with municipal politics because it is less partisan than other levels, and is an area where I believe people are more open to new ideas and working together. The Striking Committee, in particular, interests me because it has a wide range of subject matters, and implicitly impacts many issues and committees. In recommending the right individuals be in the right positions, a committee like this plays an important and significant role in ensuring London's local government functions effectively. It's a role I would very much like to be a part of.**

**Contributions: I believe I can provide a relatively unique perspective and voice on the Striking Committee. I am connected enough to London to know its important issues and how its civic life functions, but I am new enough to the city to be able to look at things objectively. As a young adult, given the opportunity to sit on the Striking Committee, I think I could be a voice for fresh ideas. Unencumbered by any significant local political affiliations, I would hope to be able to provide impartial opinions, grounded in my past experience with government and appointment selection.**

**Past contributions: As explained in the "skills" section above, I have had numerous experiences sitting on similar bodies to the Striking Committee. In all of these experiences I have proven myself to be an effective problem solver, and source of innovative ideas: - As Chairperson of the McMaster Student Union's Bylaws and Procedures Committee, I spearheaded changes to the organization's elections bylaws and its bylaws governing affiliation with external lobbying groups, obtaining compromise from committee members who otherwise often disagreed. -As a member of the McMaster Student Union's council and Executive Board, I worked with a team to recommend/select individuals from roles ranging from committee members to paid staff. -As Vice-President of the McMaster Young Liberals, I gathered feedback from our members and local politicians, and drafted the group's first ever policy statement on an important local issue. -As a member of UWO's Grants Committee, I worked with other members to evaluate and prioritize grant funding to help out worthy community causes and activities.**

**Interpersonal: In addition to my student government positions as outlined above, my work at Equitable Bank and the Competition Bureau involved extensive team-work skills. At Equitable Bank, I worked in the Compliance Department, and was responsible for managing an extensive project to modify the Bank's complaint handling procedures. This task involved working with numerous other business units, and evaluating their specific needs, abilities, and views. The interests of the business and of compliance sometimes appeared to be in conflict, but I successfully found compromise on many issues. In completing this task, I worked with the IT department to create new complaint tracking software, which would help address our compliance concerns but which would also make it easier for the business units to manage complaints. I also worked with the business units to establish written procedures, and training, to strengthen their complaint resolution process. At the Competition Bureau, I gained more unique team-work experience. Much of my role involved reaching out to market participants, and lawyers in the private sector, to request information and gather evidence. Though their views often differed (and in some cases could have been in conflict with) the views of the Bureau, I was able to successfully point out our shared interests, and establish relationships to get the required information. Files were often assigned on a team-basis, with individuals from different backgrounds and with different abilities. In this role I was able to evaluate team-members' unique strengths, and work with them to complete work most efficiently.**

**Interview interest: Yes**