

Committee: **London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented: **YMCA Learning centre**

Name: **Suzanna Kotilehti**

Address:

**825 Clearview ave
N6H 2N1**

Occupation: **Special Education teacher**

Work experience: **I have been working with very diverse population as a special education ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher.**

Education: **B Ed-special education M Ed Special Education and educational Psychology
TESL Ontario certificate WrapAround certificate**

Skills: **I am understanding demographic changes within our city (society continues to become more linguistically, ethnically, and culturally diverse). I understand the services the diverse population needs (health, educational service, language service, resettlement services etc). Being a special educator establishing the first special education program for newcomers I developed an educational program tailored to the needs of diverse learners. groups of learners I am able to recognize bias and discrimination within diverse communities and able to advocate for their rights**

Interest reason: **I believe that civilian involvement of my own city is very important for me at a personal level as I would like to contribute to the well being of our diverse city. I am also hoping that the city can benefit from my experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm.**

Contributions: **As a culturally diverse individual myself I have been experiencing the challenges since I immigrated Canada. I can share to obstacles and also how I and the organizations handled them successfully. As an educator, and facilitator of resettlement for many individuals I strongly believe that my accumulated knowledge and passion can be shared and spread. My graduate degree in this area can be also utilized within the community.**

Past contributions: **I volunteered in an ethnic school. Presently I work for the YMCA Learning Centre as a Special Educator for Newcomers (mostly refugees) I am a part of a faith based organization.**

Interpersonal: **I value of difference, appreciate for inclusive schools and classrooms (I advocate for all students' right to be in an inclusive educational setting if they choose to), I value and practice inclusive and culturally sensitive language, and I celebrate of cultural difference**

Interview interest: **Yes**