

Committee: **London & Middlesex Housing Corporation**

Organization/Sector represented: **Non-profit/Community Development**

Name: **Rachelle Coleman**

Occupation: **Executive Director**

Work experience: **Currently, I am the Executive Director for the Northwest London Resource Centre and have been for 3 years now. In my current role, I work with children, youth and families on a grassroots level, empowering them to become active members of their community. We work to break down silos in the neighbourhood and work through community partnerships to support residents in Northwest London neighbourhoods. In addition to this, I currently also work part-time for Lambton College of Applied Arts & Technology as a Faculty Advisor for the Child & Youth Work Program.**

Education: **I have a background in Child & Youth Care and have been working in the field of children, youth and families for 14 years now. In addition to this field, I also have certifications in: -Community Development -ACE (currently practising on a neighbourhood level with a focus on families and a special focus on at-risk young people) -Essential Skills Facilitator -On-Board Programming (Board Governance) with Pillar -Member of the Ontario Association for Child & Youth Counsellors -Certified in PMAB & CPI -Collaborative Problem Solving Certificate -Cognitive Restructuring Certificate -Mental Health First Aid Training -Level C First Aid & CPR -Fire Safety & WHMIS Certified -Level One Trauma & Loss Specialist -Delivery of Performance Appraisals -Leading for Change Certificate -Strategic Planning Skills: In addition to the training listed above, I have a community development background and currently work in the field. I am a community leader with years of experience and a solid reputation in the not-for-profit sector, working with residents including families in crisis and the newcomer population, I have worked with families who are connected to housing as well as several community partners who work with the agency to ensure families have what they need both presently as well as moving forward. The specific skills and abilities I have include: -ability to understand both sides (family perspective and agency reality) -I am energetic, driven, and motivated with a record of great initiative, proven results and a strong work ethic. -I demonstrate exceptional relationship-building and have a proven track record of developing solid working relationships based on caring, compassion, trust, respect, open and honest communication with students, employees and volunteers, management, community partners and residents. -I am a self-starter and creative thinker with a proven ability to build and deploy successful organizational changes, delivering results under tight deadlines. -I have a demonstrated ability to develop and deliver training as a natural motivator and mentor with exceptional leadership experience in directing resources and promoting career growth.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in this position because I am passionate about helping children, youth and families and understand that housing is one of the core organizations in our community that works to assist some of our most vulnerable population. It is a serious responsibility that needs serious and dedicated individuals to be involved. I am confident that I have the skills, abilities and expertise that can assist the board in providing excellent governance to the organization. I believe I have a lot to offer in terms of community development and guiding what is best for both the clients served and the reality and needs of the organization.**

Contributions: **I am a hard worker who is always ready for a challenge. I enjoy working as part of a multi-disciplinary team with a common vision and goal. I believe I will bring a perspective inclusive of community development as well as experience and knowledge in good board governance of an organization from my training and lived experiences. I would like to be part of your team and assist in making a difference for one of London's most vulnerable populations.**

Past contributions: **In terms of a board of directors, I currently sit on the board of the Northwest London Resource Centre as a non-voting member (Executive Director) and am familiar with the roles and responsibilities of board members as well as the governance of an organization. I have been an active part of rebuilding our board (from 3 to 9 directors) and have been the forefront of implementing best practices from the Pillar On-Board Certification course I took in 2012. I have worked in both senior and front line staffing roles in many different organizations that serve vulnerable people including the YMCA of Western Ontario, Anago NonResidential Resources, LUSO Community Services, Western Area Youth Services, Lambton College, St. Clair Child and Youth Services, Lambton Kent District School Board and the Boys & Girls Club to name a few.**

Interpersonal: **In my current role both as a board member and the leader of an organization, I work on many different levels to ensure voices are heard and considered in decisions being made. I am confident in my abilities and feel comfortable sharing from my area of expertise, but also possess the skills required to allow others to have a space for sharing. As a trained counsellor, I am in tune with different learning styles, personalities and the need for everyone to have a safe and supportive environment for sharing their feedback, thoughts and opinions. A board is made up of a diverse group of individuals for a very specific reason. Each individual, their expertise and lived experience needs to**

**be shared, respected and taken into consideration when decisions are made. I am happy to be an active part of such a process.**

Interview interest: **Yes**