

Committee: Accessibility Committee for the City of London-Postsecondary student non-voting position

Organization/Sector represented: N/A

Name: **Nicole Turner**

Address:

**432 Quebec Street
London, ON
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Occupation: **Social work student**

Work experience: **I am currently employed as a Youth Engagement Facilitator at Thames Valley Children's Centre, where I have been working for over five years. In addition to planning and facilitating activities for youth living with disabilities, I also cofounded a youth mentor program, use social media to communicate with clients, their families, and community partners; and sit on a couple of boards and working groups, including a Client Advisory committee and a social media policy making group. In addition to my work at TVCC, I worked as a peer mentor for four years for the Sexual Assault Centre of London. There, I worked with a group of young women living with disabilities to create a program for other young women with disabilities to talk about relationship challenges and the everyday stigma these people face. Most recently, I was appointed to be a research assistant for the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth. I am currently researching child protective services globally and writing a literature review that will provide recommendations for Ontario as to how to improve our current services in this area.**

Education: **I am currently in my final year of the BSW program at King's University College. As this is a generalist program, I have attended classes on a variety of topics at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels, including a course on social policy and change.**

Additionally, my placement experiences have allowed me to work with people facing barriers to employment and education as a result of living with a variety of disabilities.

Skills: **First of all, I have the lived experience of being a student, and person in general, with a disability. I believe this provides a unique perspective compared to a student who is studying in a field related to disability. I am very capable of integrating my personal experience into objective situations and using my examples to help people understand larger, more general challenges. Furthermore, I have been involved in advocacy and ability awareness activities since I was 11 years old, giving community speeches, joining a band comprised mostly of people with disabilities, and organizing a march downtown to celebrate differences, debunk myths, and celebrate how far the city has come in regards to accessibility. I also set on a provincial youth advisory committee that is challenging the provincial government to create a more inclusive Ontario for all. In addition to the skills mentioned above, I have strong research and writing skills. I am also quite dedicated and responsible, fulfilling my commitments regardless of any challenges I may face. Finally, I have exceptional public speaking skills, as I have presented to our dance is as large as 1000 people and on live television.**

Interest reason: **I am very passionate about creating a community that is truly inclusive of all its citizens. My hopes are that it can help draw attention to accessibility and inclusivity challenges around the city, while offering a collaborative problem solving approach to such challenges. I also believe it could learn much from sitting on the committee and further build my social work skills. My career goal is to become a child and youth advocate, and I believe this experience will help me gain the skills necessary for creating macro level social change.**

Contributions: **Again, I think my experience of living with a disability will be quite valuable to the committee, even if other members also have disabilities because each person is so unique. Furthermore, I present a youth voice which could be helpful in identifying different issues and solutions due to my creative problem-solving approach. Finally, it could be quite helpful in researching different topics and writing proposals for changes the committee would like to see within the city.**

Past contributions: **I am quite typically the team member who does any presentations due to my strong public speaking ability. I most recently became an executive member of the provincial youth advisory committee, where I help organize each meeting, moderate, and**

ensure each member is feeling included. I am also quite skilled in advertising different events and getting people involved.

Interpersonal: In all of my employment and educational experiences mentioned above, working with diverse groups of people with many different ideas and perspectives has been constant. As a social worker, we have to be ethical obligation to honor the inherent of all human beings and to respect their autonomy and diversity. Personally, I think it is interesting to hear every person's perspective because I typically learn something or have to at least think critically about what another person is saying. I recognize that each individual provides a different set of skills and knowledge, and this is the best way to come up with effective and creative solution to different issues.

Interview interest: **Yes**