

Committee: **London & Middlesex Housing Corporation**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Cavita Meetun**

Address:

1201 Gough Road

Occupation: **Student/Customer Service Representative/Teaching Assistant**

Work experience: **I currently work at TD Bank as a Customer Service Representative in London, Ontario. My role at TD as a CSR has been an extremely valuable learning experience. For the past two years I have had assisted clients with their financial needs by learning the products and services offered at TD and then using my integrity and judgment to match clients with products. I have learnt about financial management and even branch management through learning the opening and closing procedures of the branch. In addition to my work at TD I have also been employed by Western University for the past two years as a Teaching Assistant in the Sociology department on Main Campus. My responsibilities as a teaching assistant were planning and facilitating weekly tutorials for 60-80 students and grading assignments. This experience was invaluable, learning how to impart knowledge in an effective manner whilst still facilitating discussion and collaboration allowed me to develop excellent communication skills. A surprisingly rewarding aspect of this position was the ability to mentor students and share with them my knowledge of a topic that I am very passionate about.**

Education: **I am currently in the process of completing a Master of Arts in the Sociology department at Western University where my research looks at the economic integration of immigrants in Canada. I study whether or not income, net-worth and housing disparities exist between immigrants and native-born Canadians. I have been fortunate enough to have presented my research findings at multiple national conferences and upon the completion of my Masters I hope to publish my findings in an academic journal. This year I also earned a Certificate in Business and Consulting: Mini-MBA which was a course offered by the Graduate Management Consulting Association that taught me basic business concepts. Prior to my Masters I completed my Bachelor of Arts in Criminology at Western University and in September 2017 I will begin a Ph.D. at Western University.**

Skills: **From my work experience in the financial sector I have an understanding of finances, corporate stewardship and risk management. As a result of being responsible for the processing of financial transactions on a daily basis it is imperative that I follow compliance procedures to manage risk for customers and TD Bank. I also have great communication skills as a large part of my job at TD was interacting with customers who have different perspectives and are from diverse backgrounds. Arguably more important than my financial expertise is my educational background. As a sociology student for the past six years I have had to privilege of learning about social relationships and institutions and how they interact to influence peoples' lives. I understand both the individual and structural factors that combine to create social inequality and I can think critically and creatively. I also have extensive research skills as a result of planning my own thesis research project. This project has involved the use of both academic literature and quantitative data methodologies to collect and analyze financial data.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in serving the City of London on this committee because I believe that I can add value to the London & Middlesex Housing Corporation. I enjoy being a community stakeholder and learning about the city of London and I also enjoy meeting new people and collaborating on projects that will better the lives of other people. I am specifically interested in joining this committee because I think it will give me a good balance of community engagement and professional experience.**

Contributions: **I believe that given my unique qualifications I can offer a new perspective and add diversity to the committee. I come with my research experience, professional experience and a desire to learn. I hope that by applying to something new and unfamiliar that I can learn from other committee members new ways of thinking about housing issues while still making a contribution myself.**

Past contributions: **I recently volunteered as a Community Diversity and Inclusion Champion with the City of London where I worked with other Londoners to formulate an actionable Community Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. I also worked on a project with Pillar Non-Profit and the Migration and Ethnic Relations Centre to develop a presentation**

to combat myths about refugees which was presented at multiple London Public Library locations. Through Western University I have had the opportunity to organize a graduate student conference and participate as a Student Committee member on the Pathways to Prosperity Standing Committee on Student Engagement, a SSHRC funded partnership between federal and provincial ministries and university researchers specializing in migration related research.

Interpersonal: I have extensive experience exchanging my views with others in a respectful and collaborative way. Whether it be working on a paper with another student or just helping a customer at work, working with others is a skill that develops with experience. I have learnt that what makes me the most effective leader is my ability to listen to the opinions of others around me.

Interview interest: **Yes**