

Committee: **London Public Library Board**

Organization/Sector represented: **Not applicable**

Name: **Allison Martin**

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Occupation: **Social Worker**

Work experience: **I have enjoyed my career as a Child Protection Worker over the last five years. This role has strengthened my multitasking ability, assessment skills, attention to detail, and capacity to work as part of a team. To be successful in this role one must have a strong ability to work well with others, search for and utilize people's strengths and assets, and be adept at conflict resolution. Prior to my career as a Child Protection Worker I enjoyed a diverse background of employment experience including nine years in customer service roles where I developed excellent communication and interpersonal skills. During previous work and volunteer opportunities I have had the privilege of working with very diverse individuals including support, counselling, referral and advocacy for individuals involved with the criminal justice system as well as youth at risk for delinquency; support groups for marginalized women; and support for geriatric mental health patients. Additionally, I had the pleasure of working with individuals facing intellectual and physical challenges and their families while a personal support worker for five years. I have also enjoyed previous work in researching, and supervising a research project, fundraising, public speaking and presentations, facilitating meetings and project management including budgeting.**

Education: **I obtained my Bachelor of Health Sciences Degree from the University of Western Ontario in 2004 and my Masters of Social Work Degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in 2009. The focus of my Masters degree was in Community, Policy, Planning and Organizations. I am currently registered with the College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers.**

Skills: **I have experience with project management including the creation of work plans, budgeting, program development and evaluation. I have held the position of chair and co-chair on various committees and have facilitated a community planning table. These roles allowed me to develop strong working relationships with leaders in various organizations across multiple service sectors. As past President of the Summerside Optimist Club I worked with our elected representatives to advocate for services in our neighbourhood. I believe that I possess excellent organizational skills and multitasking ability as well as strong oral and written communication skills. I thoroughly enjoy working with others from diverse backgrounds and collaborating as part of a team. I enjoy helping others and have developed strong advocacy skills.**

Interest reason: **I am proud to say that I have always had a passion for community service inspired by helping others and working with great people. This is the main reason I pursued my Master's Degree in Social Work. I have always been an avid reader, spending a great deal of my leisure time immersed in the adventure, mystery, intrigue and history of great books. It is important to me to read for pleasure every day and I am proud that my three year old son also demonstrates a passion for books; one of his favourite places in the City of London is the Central Library. I am not only passionate about books, I am passionate about community. The London Public Library has made huge strides in making the library an accessible meeting place for the entire community. I have booked rooms for community events, attended arts and culture events, joined in story time and other children's activities, and enjoyed the garden at the Central Library. I love the London Public Library and would like the opportunity to give back to this wonderful organization.**

Contributions: **I have a lot of energy and passion. I enjoy working to bring people and the community together. I have experience with fundraising and planning community events. As listed above, I have practical experience with facilitating meetings, decision making, working as a team, project management and budgeting. I have worked and collaborated with a very diverse range of individuals and try to keep all stakeholders needs in mind**

when making decisions regarding programs and services. I will work tirelessly in the pursuit of the fundamental human right to literacy and to the promotion of the London Public Library as a central hub for community activity and inclusion.

Past contributions: I have been a member of the Summerside Optimist Club since 2009. This community club organizes events for children and families in an attempt to bring residents together for celebrations. I believe this strengthens our community. The club also advocates for services and provides regular updates on relevant issues in our community by producing newsletters and utilizing social media; we maintain a website, Facebook and twitter accounts. I acted as Secretary-Treasurer from February 2012 to March 2013 at which time I was elected President of the club. I resigned from the President role in July 2014, a few weeks before the birth of my second son. I remain very active in Summerside Optimist Club and am currently serving as Treasurer in addition to chairing a few committees. I also had the privilege to contribute my ideas to the London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Residential Task Force.

Interpersonal: The role of a Child Protection Worker is to encourage and facilitate the collaboration of many individuals including family members, colleagues and service providers, to ensure the safety of children. I work from a capacity building ideology which seeks out and appreciates the skills, abilities and knowledge of others. Every individual has something to offer and I enjoy learning from all individuals and situations. As discussed above I have been very active in the Summerside Optimist Club, acting as President for a year and a half, chairing many committees, and collaborating on our newsletters and updates to the community. I have often been described as a good listener and respect and appreciate everyone's ideas and feedback. I make a concerted effort to ensure everyone has a voice and is comfortable expressing their thoughts.

Interview interest: Yes