

Committee: **London Public Library Board**

Organization/Sector represented: **835598194 RM 0001**

Name: **Mariam Hamou**

Occupation:

Work experience: **Political Advocacy and Government Consultant — 2016-Present Consult local, federal and international groups on government lobbying. Done political advocacy for Ontario Library Association both federally and provincially. North American PR and Media Director, Syrian Opposition Coalition; Istanbul, Turkey — 2012-2016 Advocate, lobbyist and political activist for a free and democratic Syria. Brief and pitch stories to major US journalists. Maintain all social media accounts. Meet with US Senators, Congress and high ranking American bureaucrats to garner support for a free Syria. Press conferences, write and edit speeches for President of the Coalition, direct major worldwide media campaigns, write talking points and advise the Media Office on media angles. Written Opeds published in NYT, and WSJ in President of the Coalition's name. Adjunct Professor, Continuing Education - Fanshawe College — 2013 - Present Teach courses in writing, professional writing, crisis communications and business communications. Executive Assistant/Chief of Staff to Glen Pearson, MP; Parliament of Canada — 2006-2012 Managed, staffed and kept records for both Ottawa and London Offices. Attended all meetings with stakeholders with MP – prepare all briefings and ensure all objectives of meetings are met as well as represent MP at various functions and ceremonies. Ensured all constituent needs are met specifically if the constituent is having trouble with a federal agency. Advocating for all segments of the population with their needs in London, Ontario. Organized special events to showcase and promote London, Ontario to visiting dignitaries and other Members of Parliament. Represented MP at: London Homeless Coalition – London, Ontario – Member – 2006 City Council Meetings The Salvation Army Anti-Trafficking Committee – London, Ontario – Member 2006-2008 Financial Aid Officer, Western University; London, ON — 2002-2006 Worked on projects related to bursaries and scholarships in Financial Aid. Distributed and administered scholarships and bursaries to incoming students at Western. Dealt directly with students in financial distress or need to ensure their monetary needs are met during their time at UWO. Administered International Student Financial Aid related programs. Position included dealing directly with students' needs, staff, and faculty with direct reporting to the Ministry of Training and Universities. Administered bursaries to senior students. Committees and Memberships United Way – Staff Representative for Registrarial Services/UWO – 2002-2005 Canadian Cancer Society – Staff Representative for UWO – 2002-2004**

Education: **Western University, London, ON - Master of Library and Information Sciences, 1999 Western University, London, ON - Honours BA., Language and Literature, 2004 Western University, London ON - BA., English, 1997 South Secondary School, London, ON - High School Diploma, 1993**

Skills: **I'm a professional librarian but have also been involved heavily in municipal, provincial and federal politics. My job would be to advocate for libraries. I understand libraries implicitly and have become a bit of an expert in the area of library governance. I have not only written articles about it, but I've given presentations to the Ontario Library Association Super Conference about the issue.**

Interest reason: **I believe libraries are no longer just bricks and mortar places that house books. While books remain a very important part of the library, libraries have now become community hubs that service a great deal of municipal needs for a city. Each library or branch has its own community feel which reflect the diversity of the area. Furthermore, libraries are the great equalizer. They provide resources for those who don't have the ability or cannot afford to purchase materials themselves. They are a place where true democracy happens. Those who have no access to information or resources can attain them by visiting the library. I believe this is how I can help London, Ontario really meet some of its potential. By advocating for libraries, I really feel as though I'm helping those in poverty who cannot afford resources, those who are newcomers trying to find a job, those who can't understand how a process works, those who are trying to learn, and those who want to come to a public space to read their newspaper. This is my contribution to our great city.**

Contributions: **I have done a great deal of work in the area of library board governance. I am currently on the London Public Library Board of Directors and subsequently represent**

the LPL the Southern Ontario Library Service as a Trustee. Furthermore, I'm the 2018 President of the Ontario Library Board Association and a Board Member of the Ontario Library Association. My mandate as Board President is both to include remote, rural communities and to ensure there is fair representation by Native and First Nations communities. Throughout my tenure, I've become the editor for the InsideOLBA, which is the newsletter that goes out to all Library Board members all over Ontario. Here is the link:

[http://www.accessola.org/web/OLA/OLBA/OLBA\\_Publications/OLA/Media/Publications/InsideOLBA.aspx](http://www.accessola.org/web/OLA/OLBA/OLBA_Publications/OLA/Media/Publications/InsideOLBA.aspx) . I both write articles for the publication as well as answer governance related questions for other board members. Also, I presented at the OLA Super Conference on two topics found here: <http://www.olasuperconference.ca/SC2017/speaker/mariam-hamou/> I recently presented to the Ontario Library Service - North on "Board Orientation Tips." I'm also hoping to work on a project with both the Ontario Library Association and the Southern Ontario Library Services as well as the Ontario Library Services - North to educate all Ontario Library CEO on Board Governance.

Past contributions: I have been involved with many non-profits and feel as though I've had many successes with really good boards. The latest success we've had is implementing and having approved Safe Injection Sites in London. Being on the Board of Directors on RHAC as well as being really vocal about it and advocating everywhere possible has made it possible. Below are a list of where I've served: London Public Library - Board of Directors - 2014-Present Appointed by London City Council Southern Ontario Library Service - Board of Directors - 2014-Present OLBA - Board of Directors - 2014- Present RHAC - Board of Directors - 2016- Present Striking Committee of London, ON - Appointed by the City Council to advise council of qualified candidates to sit on city committees. 2010-2014 London Celebrates Canada - Executive Board Member/Secretary - Canada Day celebrations at Harris Park as well as other notables like the Queen's Jubilee and War of 1812. Association of London Muslims - Previous Board Member - now on Advisory Board. London Muslim Mosque Board of Directors - served as secretary from 2005-2009, 2012 Postsecondary Education Advisory Board for First Generation Students - Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities - Appointed by the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities. United Way - Staff representative for Western Canadian Cancer Society - Staff representative for Western Multicultural Community of London - Previous Member of the Board Run for the Cure - Team Captain Syrian Forum of London - Chair and Co-founder Syrian Canadian Council - Board Member - March 2011- Aug 2011 Syrian Expats - Active Member of communications team Council of United Syrian Americans - Cofounder and VP - Communications

Interpersonal: I love serving on a board. I also like it when others in the group have differing opinions than I do because it gives me another perspective....maybe one I've never heard before and it could change my mind on an issue. I respect all opinions and try to hear people out. I also recognize that every person has a different context and try to understand how they came to their opinion. Many voices are important. The more the merrier - it's how we can make good decisions. Building consensus and trying to find the best solutions through all voices is how I like to work.

Interview interest: Yes