Committee: London Police Services Board

Organization/Sector represented: n/a

Name: Susan Toth

Occupation: Lawyer & Adjunct Professor

Work experience: I am currently a partner at Polishuk, Camman & Steele, specializing in employment, labour, and human rights law, in addition to general civil litigation. I am also currently an adjunct professor at Western and Brescia, teaching Law and Inequality, Media Law and Ethics, and Diversity and the Canadian Family.

Education: I am a lawyer by profession and also have a Bachelor's of Science degree. Skills: I believe my legal expertise can help especially with respect to labour relations. There are currently numerous legislative changes expected with respect to the Police Services Act and I believe my background will be beneficial as those changes are enacted. I have specific experience with labour laws as well, and expertise in human rights, diversity and anti-oppression.

Interest reason: I believe that diversity of backgrounds and lived experience is important in all Boards, but particularly in ones involving policing. I am a woman of colour and 1st generation Canadian. In addition, my legal background and the importance of some experience and continuity (I refer to this more below).

Contributions: I was appointed to the Board in April 2017. It is a steep learning curve, and after 1.5 years, I hitting my stride. We have a very new Board, and after November 30th, I will be the most experienced Board Member. I believe some continuity of experience will be very beneficial. During my tenure on the Board, I believe I have already been part of many contributions, including asking the province to appoint an Indigenous person to the Board, updating the sexual assault investigation policy, moving LPSB meetings to City Hall, endorsing safe injection sites, and working on improved mental health collaborations and improved mental health for officers by hiring a full time psychologist etc.

Past contributions: I am currently a director of the Urban League. Previously, I served on the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

Interpersonal: As a legal advocate, exchanging views is part of the job. As a professor, I also work with my students to have fulsome discussions, which includes appreciating what my students have to bring to the table. In addition, I have spent that last 1.5 years on the LPSB working with administration and the LPA. While there have been points of disagreement, I believe that we have also worked together on many crucial issues, including the sexual assault investigation policy, endorsing safe injection sites etc.

Interview interest: Yes