

Committee: **University of Western Ontario Board of Governors**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Andrea Loewen Nair**

Occupation: **Head of School: Infinity School (also cert. counsellor -- CCPA_**

Work experience: **I am currently the Head of School of Infinity School (infinityschool.ca). I began this educational venture four years ago -- we are an "Acton Academy" affiliate. I am co-founder, having started this current program from scratch. In 2005, I completed my Master's degree in Counselling Psychotherapy and since that date have worked in private practice, written parenting articles, conducted workshops, and created a parenting "connect four parenting" program. You can find my writing or quotes in Today's Parent magazine, MacLean's magazine, The Globe and Mail, The Atlantic, The New York Times parenting blog, among others. I have also become a parenting media panelist, with invitations to TV programs like Canada AM, The Social, and breakfast TV. Before that, I was a high school and junior high physics, chemistry, and math teacher. In the space between finishing my teaching career and getting my private practice in London going, my husband, Dr Vineet Nair, and I created and opened The Core Family Health Centre, a family doctor practice at 825 Richmond St. I am the co-owner of this facility, with Vineet running the day-to-day operations. Volunteer: Merrymount "Be Merry Gala" committee Chamber of Commerce: marketing committee Director: Children's Business Fair (annual event)**

Education: **Bachelor of Education Master's Degree in Counselling Psychotherapy Member in good standing: American Association of Psychotherapists -- AAP Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association -- CCPA**

Skills: **Over the past twenty-five years working with people in a variety of capacities as an employee, employer, counsellor, parenting coach, and leader of a school, I have become skilled at dealing with difficult people and situations. I am regularly challenged with often very large problems that need to be handled quickly, calmly, and delicately. I have learned how to get to the root of the situation and identify potential solutions. Once those are clear, to create a protocol for carrying one of those out to completion. I am currently part of a team who encourages critical thinking and helps bring out the best in people, even when faced with tough situations. We are future-thinkers, attending to the moment but also keenly aware of pushing creativity and innovation. We have been re-examining and re-thinking education. In the process of doing my parenting work and opening the school, I have also become skilled in marketing and promotions. My training as a counsellor in combination with my business and leadership experience have taught me a great deal about connecting with people and how to organize and lead a large group. Here are the websites that have more information about me: www.infinityschool.ca www.andrealoewen.ca www.corefamilyhealth.com <https://www.childrensbusinessfair.org/londonontario>**

Interest reason: **I have lived near Western at 40 Victoria St, now on Colborne near Huron by King's College. I am not an alumnus of Western so can look at situations and potentially come with ideas and fresh eyes. We have hired Western students to work for us, am on campus for various reasons at least twice a week, and have a strong educational background. We also have Education students doing student teaching rotations in our school. I am interested in serving the City in this way because I would like to be involved with an organization that has an impact on my business, home-life, neighbourhood, and family. This is a place my young children aspire to attending in the future and want to learn about the challenges Western is facing and help be part of the team addressing those and keeping Western the innovation and academic leader it is.**

Contributions: **My apologies for applying late for this position and I understand if it cannot be accepted. I only became aware of the posting now and wanted to see if it was possible to still be considered. I believe that my experience in handling difficult people, situations, and groups, in combination with looking to be innovative and cutting-edge can help this Board. I am keenly aware of language and its power, and carefully pay attention to messages beyond emotions. Being the best person I can be, including attending to mistakes by myself and others around me with an air of learning to improve and respect helps everyone move forward in a positive direction. Something I often say to myself is this, "Now that we know ___ is necessary, how can we make this happen? What is possible?"**

Past contributions: **I work in this capacity at Infinity School on a daily basis. My goal is to**

support these children, their families, and our staff to rise about their challenges to become far greater than they could have imagined. I believe I am also helping to chart a course for positive change within the Chamber of Commerce.

Interpersonal: In addition to what I have already mentioned, I regularly have experience working in a collaborative team to hear my staff's ideas with my "leader" hat on. It is my role to provide an environment where they feel enabled to be their creative selves, while considering the logical, logistical, and rational results of their ideas. I also am careful to not micromanage my staff, truly trusting in the capabilities. Respecting others is at the forefront of my interaction with people. A question I consider regularly is this one: "How do people feel about themselves as a result of spending time with me?" I believe it is important to honour individuals, even when boundaries and limits need to be used, and tough conversations need to be had. We all trying to do our best. Sometimes our self-preservation drive overrules our good judgement and its important we support each other when this happens. Thank you for considering my application, Andrea

Interview interest: **Yes**