

Committee: **London Public Library Board**

Organization/Sector represented: **London, ON community**

Name: **Ashley Janine Nicolas**

Occupation: **Student**

Work experience: **In the past, I have held the position of Production Worker at Sofina Foods, where my mom works. It was my first job, and was a jump start into working life and afforded me the opportunity to see life from the lens' of others and further my interpersonal relations skills. There was a wide array of people of people and personalities, and that diversity led to a learning experience far beyond what I had expected at the start of my position. I then went on to hold the position of Water Demand Intern at the City of London, and was based out of the Water Engineering division in City Hall. I was so excited to get the position, and absolutely loved the people I worked with and the opportunities that my position allowed me to have. As a Water Demand Intern, I participated in divisional meetings, brainstormed ideas with my colleagues, and proofread educational materials. I also researched for grants, and ultimately applied for a grant from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (FEF) for education materials under the name "Teaching Toolkit", which was eventually approved and received! I have also engaged in presentations with youth, particularly children and some high school-aged individuals, to promote water conservation and environmentally-conscious activities. My position with the City of London also involved, emailing companies for quotes regarding potential purchases and presentations, and visiting a local reserve to help out at a a Powwow. I'm incredibly lucky to have been given these opportunities, and hope to expand my horizons even more.**

Education: **My education background involves the persual of a Bachelor's degree in Honours Science at the University of Waterloo, in addition to a Minor in Psychology, Biology, and an Option in Aging Studies. My professional credentials (if this is applicable), include the possession of WHMIS certification and certifications in Standard First Aid and CPR Level HCP.**

Skills: **The skills and abilities that I have that will assist this body, are an attention to detail and professionalism that I bring to all jobs I pursue. I am open-minded, which leads me to consider all possibilities and points of view that are brought to the table, as well as potential liabilities and concerns that I may myself come up with. I do my best to be friendly towards everyone I meet, and believe that my relative youth will bring a form of specialized knowledge that may help me to see some issues in a different light than others on the Board, thus rounding out representation.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in serving the City of London on this body, because I have always loved the library and been interested in participating with what it stands for for a long time. When I was younger, I remember participating in the summer reading program for most every summer, and I loved picking out a book, and engaging in the activities that it involved. I remember how it fostered my love of reading, and how often my mom would take my brother and I to the library. The library always seemed so big, and it made me excited to become a part of the world one day, and see everything that comes with being an adult and one day venturing beyond your hometown. To this day, I still love being in libraries, whether it's in London, or at school in Waterloo, or on vacation in another city. To me, a library always feels like home.**

Contributions: **I believe that I can make a contribution to this body by providing fresh insights and potentially new suggestions to prospects that the London Public Library Board faces, as well as becoming a valuable part of the Board that learns from others and considers their viewpoints with merit while trying to work to together to make the best decisions possible.**

Past contributions: **On a similar body or organization, such as the Waterloo Chapter of the Wish Youth Network Society (WYNS) or the Water Demand Team at the City of London, I have made contributions that involve planning and executing events, contacting potential partners, suggesting activities, working with fellow executives to come up with the best compromise, and promoting our work to the community.**

Interpersonal: **I have an array of experience in exchanging my view with others and in appreciating and respecting the skills, abilities and knowledge of others. At my job at Sofina Foods, I had firsthand experience with others that had vastly different views and**

attitudes from my own and learned how to tackle sensitive situations by carefully considering their perspectives and knowing that considerate words can make all the difference. In various other experiences, such as group projects, or meetings at work, collaboration is always key and though I may have an idea of how I want something to go, it's important to hear others out and make everyone feel valued. I believe that everyone has something to bring to the table, and in meeting new people, I am so excited to learn not only what they are able to do or what they believe, but *why* they believe those things or what led them to do the actions that they have done.

Interview interest: **Yes**