

Committee: **London Public Library Board**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Kathryn Gilbert**

Occupation: **Law Student**

Work experience: **Prior to entering Western Law, I worked in a project-based HR and recruiting environment. My role as Project Manager managing a complex contract meant that I had many opportunities to navigate conflict while managing 10+ staff, a high-volume workload, and 20+ client managers. While in law school, I have worked at a small local London law firm focusing on family law, real estate, and wills and estates. This opportunity has enhanced my client service and legal research skills. My work history also includes operational administrative experience.**

Education: **I am currently a third-year law student at UWO. I am currently completing a research project on Precarious Employment in Ontario and the impact to the ability to access legal rights and remedies. I completed my undergraduate studies at Carleton University in Humanities and Anthropology in 2011. This program is designed as a classic liberal arts degree with a focus on philosophy, literature, and history. I have also completed training in teaching English as a Second Language and Human Resources credentials.**

Skills: **I have strong organizational skills to manage complex projects, to meet deadlines, and to ensure the smooth dissemination of information. I can work with diverse groups of people to seek consensus. My work experience and legal training have fostered the ability to break problems down and creatively problem-solve in a way that is inclusive of all stakeholders. I have experience with drafting policy and administrative documents, hiring and recruitment processes, and leading project-based working groups.**

Interest reason: **I have lived in London since I was a young child and my local library branch was a huge influence in my young life. The library fostered my love of reading, exposed me to ideas and literature I would not have otherwise had access to, and played an important role in my neighbourhood community. As a parent with two young children I know the importance of library programming to families and hope to foster the same love of reading in my children through exposure to the library.**

Contributions: **As a part of the library board I would aim to ensure that the library is best equipped to serve all members of our community and is a welcoming space for all. I would work to ensure the library can provide a wide range of resources and that information about library programs and resources can be disseminated widely within the community to ensure that utilization rates are high. I am a strong team player and would work to ensure that the Board overall functions in a cohesive, efficient manner.**

Past contributions: **I have previous experience drafting and reviewing organizational and operational policy and procedure. I also have experience working with outreach and community building campaigns for local not-for-profit groups to foster community engagement.**

Interpersonal: **I have gained significant experience working with people with diverse backgrounds in a variety of professional and volunteer settings. These opportunities have allowed me to develop strong listening skills and the ability to meet people where they are. The ability to listen without judgement is critical to being open to understanding differing viewpoints. My leadership roles in my professional life have fostered the ability to recognize and facilitate opportunities for others. I believe in the importance of regularly asking for and implementing feedback from across a team and recognize that diverse opinions make teams stronger. My experiences managing conflict in a professional setting taught me tact and diplomacy as well as how to look for alternative solutions that will meet the needs of all parties. My professional experience offers a unique insight into navigating conflict and seeking solutions.**

Interview interest: **Yes**