



Western
FIMS

Faculty of Information & Media Studies

City of London
300 Dufferin Ave.
London, Ontario
N6B 1Z2
July 4, 2020

Re: Sam Trosow, Applicant, London Public Library Board

This is a letter of reference for Dr. Sam Trosow who has applied for an open position on the Board of London Public Library.

Sam is a professional librarian, holding an MLIS degree. He has several years of professional practice meaning that he has experienced and understands first-hand the work of libraries. Since completing his PhD in Library & Information Science (LIS) at the University of California and taking on a joint faculty appointment in Law and in the LIS program at Western University, he has generously served as a resource for libraries (including LPL) and library associations such as the Ontario Library Association. He has given many professional development presentations and workshops. He has acted as a consultant in the development of policies and practices related to copyright, access to information, fair use, intellectual freedom, internet filtering and privacy at the local, provincial, national, and international levels. He has also worked with ALISE, the international Association for Library and Information Science Education, to share his expertise with LIS educators.

Sam is also a lawyer. His teaching, research and service work with LIS practice has focussed on the intersection of libraries and other information organizations and relevant law and policy. This combination of expertise in both LIS and law is rare and highly valuable. Libraries are governed and shaped by all sorts of laws, from, for example, *The Public Libraries Act* to federal and provincial legislation governing copyright and obscene materials (pornography), and the issues associated with them.

Sam's expertise and the quality of his work is reflected in his scholarship. He has many publications, directed at scholars in both law and LIS but also ordinary people and governing organizations. Examples include *Canadian Copyright: A Citizen's Guide* (2nd ed, 2013), "*Submission to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada: Consultation on Consent and Privacy*" (2016) and the timely "What is Fair Dealing in

Copyright: Here's why it Matters when Moving Classes Online due to Coronavirus" (2020).

Finally, one thing that makes Sam particularly well suited to serving on the London Public Library Board, is his knowledge of and deep involvement in the community of London. Sam has been a tireless volunteer in many areas of city life. He has been a frequent observer and presenter at meetings of London City Council and many of its committees. He has worked with groups interested in things such as heritage buildings, the use of pesticides within the city, animal rights and Imagine London. This enables him to bring a wider community context and perspective to local public library issues. The city is fortunate to have an applicant like Sam Trosow to serve on the Board of London Public Library.

Yours truly



Lynne (E.F.) McKechnie
Professor Emerita
Faculty of Information & Media Studies
Western University

Note: I worked for London Public Library for twelve years. My last position was as head of the Jalna Branch Library which was developed and built during my time in that position. I am recently retired from Western where I was a full Professor and taught primarily in the areas of public libraries and materials and services for children.