

Committee: **London Diversity & Race Relations Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Vi Vo**

Address:

**94 Edgevalley Road  
London, Ontario  
N5Y 5M7**

Occupation: **Graduate Student**

Work experience: **I've had the privilege of teaching and facilitating an equity and social justice course at The University of Western (UWO) in the Faculty of Education from 2011 to present. I also have had the privilege of working for some exceptional professors (at Robarts Research Institute and Western's Faculty of Education), as their lab assistant and research assistant, from 2004 to 2007 and from 2008 to 2012, respectively. I was involved with Literacy London Inc., as a literacy & numeracy tutor from 2006 to 2012. During this time, I was hired as an educational consultant. I was appointed to create their workplace violence and harassment prevention policy and program, and customer service policy.**

Education: **Doctorate of Education (PhD) (in progress), UWO, Area: Equity and Social Justice Masters of Education (MEd), UWO, (Completed August 2010), Area: Educational Studies Bachelor of Education, University of Windsor, (Completed April 2008),**

**Concentration: Primary/Junior Bachelor of Arts, UWO, (Completed August 2007), Major: Sociology, Minors: Family Studies & Health Sciences**

Skills: **I have experience teaching issues of equity and social justice (e.g. racism, classism, homophobia, Islamophobia, gender identity, etc) to students at UWO. For my graduate studies, I am specializing in the area of equity and inclusive education. My dissertation focuses on racial stereotypes, racism, anti-oppressive education and intersectionality of oppression.**

Interest reason: **Community involvement is really important to me. I wish I knew that this committee existed when I started my graduate work. This is a piece that is missing in my own learning and I want to make a contribution, not just to academia, but in a community that I call my home. I believe I have as much to learn as I think I have to contribute. Issues of equity and social justice are incredibly complex and dynamic and I think this will be a valuable learning and enriching experience. Furthermore, I think engaging with the community about these equity issues is important and my hope is that this collective work will influence policies and practices that can help the most disadvantaged groups in our community.**

Contributions: **My hope is that I can be one voice, another voice on this committee. I have discussed a lot of these equity issues, such as racism, in theory. But I realize that racism is not something that can be discussed just in abstract terms. It has real consequences. It is experienced and impacts real people, every day. I hope that I can contribute what I have learned in my graduate studies, research, work and personal experiences.**

Past contributions: **I have worked with Literacy London Inc., a non-profit organization, as an education consultant, developing their customer service policies, which details their complaint and resolution process. I also developed their policy and program for workplace violence and harassment prevention.**

Interpersonal: **I was a course instructor and teaching assistant for an equity and social justice course at UWO for two years. In this course, we focused on pedagogical frameworks, teaching strategies and issues of race, culture, religion, gender, social class, and sexuality in education. An objective of this course was to make the students familiar with issues of inequities in education. Students had opportunities to critically examine and discuss these issues. It was also about examining the meaning of equity and social justice, especially with an increasingly diverse student population.**

Interview interest: **Yes**