

Department of Biology

January 7, 2022.

Dear members of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee,

I am delighted to write in support of Professor Sam Trosow's application for the vacant position on the London Public Library Board of Directors. I have known Sam for about five years, mostly from his excellent work and activism on behalf of Western's Faculty Association (UWOFA). I have also admired the breadth of service and leadership roles Sam has assumed across campus, and the high quality of his contributions. In his service to UWOFA's Board of Directors and Executive, the Provost's Task Force on Open Access, the University Senate, and the Board of Governors, Sam has repeatedly shown himself to be principled, energetic, and engaged with the best interest of the community. Between Sam's outstanding track record of service and governance at all levels, his expertise in law and in library science, his demonstrated ability to work productively and collegially with colleagues across campus, and his unswerving commitment to community libraries as a public good, I can't imagine a candidate more uniquely qualified to serve on the London Public Library Board.

Sam has made many contributions to the University community, but I will single out a few for special mention. First, during the spring and summer of 2020, when Western professors were struggling to move coursework online, Sam gave generously of his expertise in academic freedom, intellectual property, copyright, and fair use of educational materials. He educated faculty members around our rights and responsibilities in these areas. Second, Sam has been a public and vocal critic of administrative overreach. He was among the first to point out serious privacy concerns about Proctortrack, a remote-proctoring software that collects facial scans of students and monitored keystroke patterns, and also among the first to critically interrogate the University's ill-conceived lanyard project. In all of his roles, Sam has shown himself to be wise and detail-oriented, and can be relied on to speak truth to power. He is frequently interviewed by Western's student paper, reflecting the respect students have for him as a public intellectual. This esteem is

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shared by his faculty colleagues, as evidenced by his recent receipt of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) Distinguished Service Award.

To summarize, I hope that this letter conveys my respect and admiration for Professor Sam Trosow. He is an outstanding colleague and citizen within the University community, and I have no doubt he will bring the same energy, collegiality, sound judgment and expertise to the LPL Board. The City of London is fortunate to have a candidate of this calibre.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth MacDougall-Shackleton".

Elizabeth MacDougall-Shackleton

Professor of Biology and Past President of UWOFA