



## OXFAM CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2013

### CANDIDATE PROFILE

**Name of Candidate: Brett Banks**  
**Position Sought: At Large Director**

#### **PART 1: Candidate Statement**

#### **How does serving on the Oxfam Canada Board fit with your values and commitment to ending global poverty and injustice?**

It was 10 years ago today that I found myself a lost and without direction in my life. I was fortunate, at that time, to succeed in obtaining a internship position in Ecuador. It was my time spent there, working with the local population and seeing the immense poverty and inequality that motivated me to act. I knew then that I had to use my unique skills to aid in reducing global poverty and social injustice. The first step was to get the necessary education. I focused my MA on the idea of alternative methods of funding development through international taxation. The problem is not a lack of funds but a lack of will to effectively redistribute on a global scale. My dissertation laid out the blueprint for a better way to spread global wealth.

It is my desire to make a difference and utilize my skills and education to influence those in power and those who are as fortunate as I to live in a developed country. I believe we are on the cusp of a sea-change in how we act towards global social injustice. That is why I need to help Oxfam take advantage of the growing movement towards global citizenry. Oxfam is perfectly situated and has the tools and experience to help Canadian citizens become engaged global citizens who can effectively reduce gender inequality and global poverty around the globe. As a member of the national board of directors, I can help guide Oxfam in this process.

#### **How do you believe Oxfam Canada could increase its impact in ending poverty and injustice?**

Given the nature of our democratic political system it is vital that citizens of Canada engage their members of parliament to encourage change. Our political representatives will not give the issues of international development and gender equality the attention and necessary funds unless they believe that acting will aid in maintaining popular support in their riding. Oxfam thus must further develop their programs aiming at engaging everyday citizens of Canada. We need to strengthen the ability of our regional committees to engage both members and the population at large. They need to be given the necessary tools to educate and motivate their friends and neighbours so that they will likewise educate and engage those around them.

Education should focus on people's empathetic natures and social justice but also on the idea that it is in our best interests as global citizens to reduce poverty, and inequality through empowering women around the globe. In today's globalized, "flat" world, disasters and strife around the globe can have an immediate effect on our economic stability. Corporate interests can be convinced to do more in the fight against global poverty and gender inequality once they realize that a stable global environment is essential to a stable global economic environment. Oxfam thus needs to broaden its message in order to speak to a larger segment of our population.

Oxfam can thus increase its impact in ending poverty and injustice through a strengthening of its grass-roots activism and a broadening of its messaging.

## PART 2: Board Competencies

The competencies required by the Oxfam Canada Board include combinations and variations of the following:

- Experience on Non-Profit Boards
- Financial Management
- Fundraising
- Governance/Accountability
- Women's Rights and Gender Equality
- Strategic Planning
- International Development

### Please note your areas of strength related to these competencies:

I have served for a year on the Ontario Regional Steering Committee. I was the Finance Officer for two years on UBC's International Relations Student Association Council. I was a Resource Development Officer for VSO Canada. I was responsible for all direct mail campaigns related to VSO's international Development work as well as the writing, and production of their Marafiki newsletter. I was also responsible for planning the fundraising budget and deciding what campaigns would best motivate and engage our supporters which included a large focus on gender issues. I also spent 6 months working in Ecuador as a Development intern.

### Please note any relevant professional designations or qualifications

BA International Relations, Minor in Economics  
MA International Political Economy

## PART 3: Board, Work, Leadership and Life Experience

### Board Experience

Name of Organization/Agency/Enterprise	From (date)	To (date)	Position on Board
Oxfam's Ontario Regional Steering Committee	29/11/08	Currently	Member
UBC's International Relations Student Association Council	01/09/04	01/04/06	Finance Officer

### Work and Leadership Experience

Name of Company/Agency/Organization and Position	From (date)	To (date)	Accomplishments
Industry Canada, Economic Policy Analyst	22/02/10	currently	Developed stakeholder engagement strategy and client relations management

			database for reporting on the engagement
VSO Canada, Resource Development Officer	01/01/08	20/12/09	Developed numerous direct mail fundraising campaigns including the writing, editing and production of VSO's Marafiki newsletter. Developed Major Donor campaign. Developed and maintained the fundraising budget for the fiscal year.
UBC's Global Citizenship Seminar Series; Writer, Editor and Contributor	05/09/04	21/04/06	Responsible for developing topics, inviting speakers, as well as the writing and editing of articles and FAQs for the Series' website
UBC Fund, Alumni Fund Coordinator	05/09/05	21/04/06	Responsible for supervising a team of 10 student fundraisers. Responsible for calling and engaging with alumni and faculty for support. Responsible for major donor relations including face to face encounters at various stewardship events
CIDA, Development Intern	23/09/01	20/04/02	Hired by Canadian government to work in Ecuador on a Eco-tourism related project. Developed interpretive trail, taught English and helped open a tourism office in the resort town of Manglaralto. Helped write and follow -up report to aid future interns and maintain funding for the program

### Life Experience

#### Life Experience:

I came from a single parent household. My mother had to raise four young children without any support and little means for our day to day needs. Growing up in this environment gave me a strong appreciation for the vital role women play in our society. This is magnified much more on a global scale where women in some developing countries have to do very much the same thing my mother did but in much harsher conditions and without a social safety net to back them up. This life perspective and appreciation for what my mother sacrificed to raise us has given me insight into what is a very much global issue of the utmost importance.

# Brett Banks

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## Education

- 2004-2006**      **University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC**
- Bachelor of Arts in International Relations with a minor in Economics
  - Specialized degree program which accepts only 50-70 students/year
  - Graduated with over 82% average
  - Had essay published in UBC's Journal of International Affairs
- 2006-2007**      **Brussels School of International Studies, University of Kent at Brussels**
- MA in International Political Economy

## Professional Experience

- Presently**      **Economic Policy Analyst, *Policy Analysis and Intelligence* , Industry Canada, Ontario Regional Office, Toronto, Ontario**
- Coordination of bi-weekly intelligence report for HQ including editing and writing of reports based on economic issues relevant to the various industrial sectors prominent in Ontario. Intelligence briefings were then sent to the DM and various other stakeholders.
  - Attendance of various events, lectures and conferences relevant to industry in Ontario. Attendance included the reporting of the event and networking with various stakeholders present.
  - Monitoring of various stakeholders including business, municipal and government entities.
  - Writing and editing of various sections of IC Ontario Region's quarterly Ontario Economic Overview. Task required the analysis and interpretation of data relevant to the various sectors prominent in Ontario.
  - Development of a stakeholder engagement strategy, including a CRM database, for the tracking of stakeholder engagement for the fiscal year.
- 2008**      **Resource Development Officer, VSO Canada, Ottawa Ontario**
- Responsible for all aspects of VSO's direct mail and major donor fundraising initiatives.
  - Initiated Test Email Blast campaign. and major donor campaign, which included a planned giving aspect.
  - Responsible for all aspects of newsletter production including writing and editing of all articles.
- 2008-Present**      **Committee Member, *Oxfam Ontario Regional Steering Committee***
- Elected for one-year term on Oxfam Canada's Ontario Regional Steering

Committee.

- Responsible for helping guide Oxfam Canada's program and membership development on a regional level.
- Responsible for helping plan Oxfam Ontario's Regional General Assembly.

**2004-2006**

**Contributor, *UBC's Global Citizenship Seminar Series***

- Hired by head of International Relations program at UBC to arrange and organize a seminar based on the idea of global citizenship and dealing with topics that bridged the arts-science divide.
- Responsible for developing topics, inviting speakers as well as writing and editing of articles and FAQ's for the series' website.

**2005-2006**

**Fund Coordinator, *UBC Fund***

- Supervisor for a team of ten student fundraisers for UBC Development's fundraising call centre.
- Responsible for calling and engaging with alumni and faculty for support.
- Responsible for major donor relations including face-to-face encounters at various stewardship events and the crafting of letters to welcome new major donors.

**2004**

**Revision Officer, *Elections Canada***

- Revision agent for the 2004 federal election
- Responsible for customer relations with Canadian public
- Answered phone, entered data and dealt with public on enquiries related to election registration and voting.

**2001**

**Development intern, *College of the Rockies and HRDC, Ecuador***

- Hired by Canadian Government to travel to Ecuador to work on International Development project for 6 months.
- Built interpretive trail, taught English and helped open a tourist office in the resort town of Manglaralto.
- Wrote follow-up report to aid future interns.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

- Finance officer for UBC's International Relations Student Association
- Co-organizer for Night of a Thousand Dinners: Fundraiser for Landmine Awareness held by IRSA
- Editor for IRSA's Journal of International Affairs
- Had essay **published** in 2005-2006 UBC Journal of International Affairs
- Student Representative for International Political Economy program at BSIS
- Canvassed for Heart and Stroke Foundation and BC Cancer Foundation