



## OXFAM CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2013

### CANDIDATE PROFILE

**Name of Candidate: Anastasia Gaisenok**

**Position Acclaimed: Regional Director – British Columbia & Yukon**

#### PART 1: Candidate Statement

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

Ever since I immigrated to Canada I knew I wanted to be involved with improving peoples' lives around the world. Coming from a very different place, I recognize the privileges we enjoy as Canadians, as well as the power we have to bring change for those who are less fortunate. Through my lived experience and academic study I arrived at a certain understanding of the development process that values the agency and the rights of people whose lives we are striving to improve, especially those whose voices are often silenced and/or dismissed. This understanding is very much aligned with Oxfam's approach, and this is why I am committed to support Oxfam Canada in its efforts to end global poverty and injustice in any way I can.

I have been actively involved with Oxfam's work in BC/Yukon region for the past three years on all levels – as an intern, volunteer and staff. Serving on Oxfam Canada's Board as the Regional Director and representing the diverse and energetic BC/Yukon Oxfamily would be both a great honor and a privilege for me.

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

Oxfam Canada, just as other Oxfams around the world, is doing amazing work both at home through campaigning and advocacy, and on the ground abroad. I am a strong believer in cooperation and effective coordination among all the actors involved, and this is why I welcome the news on Oxfams' amalgamation, which will undoubtedly create a more effective and stronger global organization. However, before this happens the organization will have to undergo a challenging process of restructuring which will require careful consideration and deep analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of its different components, and of the ways of efficient international integration.

I strongly support OC's focus on women's rights as the cornerstone of ending poverty and injustice, and believe that this focus should continue to inform all of our work. I think Oxfam should continue its support for the social justice movements both at home and abroad, and work closely in alliance with local civil society groups. Oxfam Canada will undoubtedly increase its impact by continuing to bring greater awareness about global issues and by offering Canadians the opportunities to engage with those issues locally through campaigning, advocacy and outreach as active citizens.

## **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 believe I have all the competencies required for this position.

For the past two years I have been a member of the Oxfam Canada BC/Yukon Regional Steering Committee, which gave me an opportunity to engage with the issues of organizational governance and accountability.

For the last three years I have been also involved with the We Can End All violence against Women BC campaign in a coordinating role, at first through Oxfam Canada, and now as a part of my current employment with the Justice Education Society. At present I am serving as the Secretary/Treasurer on the Steering Committee of the We Can BC coalition, which performs the duties of the board. In this position I am responsible for campaign's financial management, accountability to coalition members, issues of governance, strategic planning, human resources, volunteer coordination and training, as well as communications. My work with the We Can campaign is directly related to women's rights and gender equality, and is supported by my academic work. I also participated in several international learning exchanges on gender-based violence involving Oxfam Great Britain, NOVIB and other partners, two of which took place in India and greatly contributed to my understanding of the issue and the challenges of advancing women's rights in 'developing' countries.

Prior to that, I have been involved with a number of student initiatives related to international development as an organizer and a volunteer (school building project in Uganda, income generation project for women living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa, etc.).

### **Please note any relevant professional designations or qualifications:**

I have been working and volunteering in non-profit sector for more than five year. I currently work as a Special Project Coordinator at the Justice Education Society of BC on projects related to public legal education, both domestically an internationally.

I have BA (Hons.) in Anthropology, and currently doing my MA in International Studies at Simon Fraser University focusing on social movements and women's rights in the context of international development.

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

**Board Experience**

Name of Organization/Agency/Enterprise	From (date)	To (date)	Position on Board
We Can Coalition of BC	April 1, 2009	April 1, 2010	Secretary/Treasurer

**Work and Leadership Experience**

Name of Company/Agency/Organization and Position	From (date)	To (date)	Accomplishments
We Can Campaign	2007	present	Assisted with building and maintaining a strong, diverse and vibrant coalition; participated in campaign development and implementation; recruited, engaged and motivated Change Makers.
Justice Education Society	2008	present	Provided reliable support to a number of projects; managed a project working with a great team of staff and volunteers.
Oxfam Canada	2007	present	Helped to organize a number of successful events and outreach activities; recruited, trained and supported dedicated volunteers and interns; contributed to the work of the Regional Steering Committee to the best of my ability.
SFU Anthropology and Sociology Student Union	2006	2008	Revitalized the union that had been inactive for two years prior to my involvement; built a strong team of members who continue running the union to this day.

**Life Experience**

Life Experience:
I was born and raised in Belarus, spent significant amount of time in Kazakhstan, and lived in Thailand for three years before coming to Canada. Since my arrival to Canada in 2003 I have volunteered and worked with a number of diverse organizations in both for-profit and non-profit sectors.

**KEY SKILLS**

- Excellent organizational, interpersonal and research skills
- Experience in project management, strategic planning, program development, human resources, finances, fundraising, communications, event planning and coordination
- Strong facilitation skills, educational material development and training delivery
- Proficient in MS Office applications, various graphic design software and Web 2.0
- Cultural and diversity sensitivity

**INTERESTS** Women's rights, rights-based approaches to development, social movements, gender and development; ethnography, visual anthropology; photography.

**EDUCATION**

**MA in International Studies** (International Development stream)

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada

September 2009 - August 2010

**BA with Honors in Anthropology**

Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada

January 2004 - April 2008

**Diploma with Honors in Translation** (Russian/English)

Minsk Linguistic Gymnasium-College N. 24, Minsk, Belarus

2001 - 2003

**RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Justice Education Society of BC**

April 2009 - present

*Special Project Coordinator*

- Management of federally funded project in public legal education for violence prevention
- Development of educational resources and training delivery
- Event planning and coordination
- Volunteer recruitment, training and supervision
- Partnership building

**Justice Education Society of BC**

April 2008 – April 2009

*Contract, Project Assistant*

- Development, design and production of outreach materials
- Assistance in curriculum development
- Research, writing and editing
- Event planning and coordination

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## Anastasia Gaisenok

### **Oxfam Canada (Vancouver office)**

May 2008 – August 2008

*Program and Fundraising Assistant*

- Regional program coordination in advocacy, policy and outreach
- Volunteer recruitment, training and supervision
- Event coordination
- Organization and participation in delegation to India

### **Simon Fraser University**

January 2006 - April 2007

*Research Assistant*

- Research on Canadian experimental ethnography practitioners

### **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**

May 2005 - August 2005

*Administrative Assistant*

- Fundraising
- Event planning
- General administrative support

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

### **We Can End All Violence against Women BC campaign**

September 2007 – present

*Campaign Coordinator, Secretary/Treasurer, Steering Committee member*

### **Oxfam Canada**

September 2007 - present

*BC/Yukon Regional Steering Committee member*

### **Oxfam Canada**

September 2007 - April 2008

*Intern*

### **SFU Sociology & Anthropology Student Union**

2006 - 2008

*Organizer/Chair*

### **Students for Students (SFU student club)**

2007 - 2008

*Organizer*

### **National Model United Nations (SFU student club)**

2005 - 2007

*Delegate to NMUN in New York, ECOSOC director at Vancouver conference*

**LANGUAGES** English, Russian, Belarusian