



OXFAM CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2013

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name of Candidate: Marty Venalainen
Position Acclaimed: Regional Director – Ontario

PART 1: Candidate Statement

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

From early on I sought an explanation as to why our society tolerates vast disparities in wealth and rights based, in large part, merely on one's place of birth. Such an explanation was not forthcoming. I thus committed myself to striving for a more equitable world, and that is why I am standing for re-election.

I have worked toward the goal of a more equitable world through my studies in international development, corporate social responsibility, governance, sustainable business, public policy, international law, and non-profit management.

I have worked toward that goal through my leadership of the Queen's Project on International Development and the International Legal Partnership. I have also worked toward that goal through my volunteer work around the world, including with Oxfam Australia.

In my legal career, I am working toward that goal as part of the generation that will put an effective price on carbon emissions. For example, I recently returned from Copenhagen where I provided pro bono assistance to negotiators for small island developing states.

In my 7+ years with Oxfam Canada, I have chaired the Toronto Local Committee and the Ontario Regional Steering Committee. I have also served, or am serving, on Board committees on Membership & Volunteer Development, Finance, Program, By-Laws and Rules, Board Evaluation, and the National Assembly.

It is in these ways that I have demonstrated values and a commitment consistent with Oxfam Canada's mission. I hope to build on the momentum in a second term as Ontario's Regional Director.

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

The first way Oxfam Canada can increase its impact in ending poverty and injustice is by achieving the goals set out in the 2007-2012 strategic plan. My experience on the Board's Finance Committee and Membership & Volunteer Development Committee has made me most invested in the goals of boosting our budget and mobilizing more members.

As we come out of the recession, it will be critical to redouble our fundraising efforts. Having engaged with Trailwalker, both as a board member and as a participant, I consider developing it as our signature event to be priority. I also see navigating the transition to new media as an integral component to meeting our fundraising goals.

Our membership-based nature allows us to truly work in solidarity with the global south. One of our objectives is to increase our membership tenfold to 30,000. While our early work has focused on solidifying our core membership, it is now time to draw upon our membership to build networks in new frontiers. There are far more than 30,000 Canadians interested in ending global poverty and injustice.

In designing the next strategic plan, the 2010-2013 Board will need to work closely with our colleagues in Oxfam International to develop a united front. The Board will also need to listen carefully to the recommendations of Oxfam's staff. One attractive option may be to increase our programming in climate change adaptation, while increasing our advocacy of emissions reduction.

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:

My post-secondary education in development studies, business, and law has exposed me to relevant coursework in non-profit management, boards of directors, finance, accounting, marketing, international development, corporate law, international law, and strategic management.

I have further developed these competencies by applying them. My leadership of the Queen's Project on International Development and the International Legal Partnership strengthened my skills in all of the above areas, as has my service on the Oxfam Canada board.

I would consider my relative strengths to be in financial management and governance/accountability.

Please note any relevant professional designations or qualifications:

Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), Queen's School of Business (Queen's University)

Master of Business Administration, Schulich School of Business (York University)

Juris Doctor, Osgoode Hall Law School (York University)

Certificate in International, Comparative, and Transnational Law, Osgoode Hall Law School (York University)

Called to the Bar of Ontario

PART 3: Board, Work, Leadership and Life Experience

Board Experience

Name of Organization/Agency/Enterprise	From (date)	To (date)	Position on Board
Etobicoke North Federal Liberal Association	2009	Present	Director and Treasurer
Oxfam Canada	2007	Present	Ontario Regional Director. Member of Finance Committee and Program Committee. Member of ad hoc committee on Board Evaluation and ad hoc committee on the National Assembly. From 2005 to 2007, in capacity as Chair of Regional Chairs, served on the Membership and Volunteer Development Committee. Also served on the Board's ad hoc By-Law and Rules Committee.
International Legal Partnership	2006	2008	Student Director
Queen's Project on International Development	2001	2002	Co-Director

Work and Leadership Experience

Name of Company/Agency/Organization and Position	From (date)	To (date)	Accomplishments
Associate, McMillan LLP	2009	Present	Member of the Emissions Trading and Climate Change Group and the Business Law Group. Previously served as Summer Law Student (2007) and Student-at-Law (2008-2009).
Student Director, International Legal Partnership (ILP)	2006	2008	Previously served as Deputy Director (2005-2006). Led ILP's inaugural project, working with Kenya's judiciary (Summer 2006).
Legislative Assistant to the Parliamentary Assistant, Office of the Ontario Minister of Children's Services	2003	2004	Prepared legislative remarks for the Member of Provincial Parliament and assisted with stakeholder relations.
Co-Director, Queen's Project on International Development	2001	2002	Previously served as External Fundraiser (2000-2001). Member of the Bolivia team (Summer 2001).

Life Experience**Life Experience:**

My experiences volunteering, studying and working on six continents, including at home, have exposed me to many different cultures and a strong understanding of the strength we gain in diversity.

MARTY P. VENALAINEN

ACADEMIC HISTORY AND AWARDS

- 2004 – 2008** **Osgoode Hall Law School, York University**
Juris Doctor and Certificate in International, Comparative & Transnational Law
At the request of the Judiciary of the Republic of Kenya, led a team conducting primary and comparative research on continuing judicial education. Recipient of the Dean's Gold Key, the Honourable F.C. Hayes Memorial Award and the JD/MBA Students' Association Award.
- 2005 – 2008** **Schulich School of Business, York University**
Master of Business Administration
Specialized in Sustainable Business and Public Administration. Recipient of the H. Ian MacDonald Award in Public Administration and member of the Dean's Honour List.
- 1999 – 2003** **Queen's School of Business, Queen's University**
Bachelor of Commerce (Honours)
Specialized in Corporate Social Responsibility. Completed an option in Development Studies. Studied abroad at the International Study Centre (U.K.) and the University of Western Australia. Recipient of the Dean's Special Award and member of the Dean's Honour List.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2009 –** **McMillan LLP**
Associate
- 2008 – 2009** **McMillan LLP**
Student-at-Law
- 2007 – 2008** **Schulich School of Business, York University**
Teaching Assistant to Professor Jean Adams (Fall) and Professor David Barrows (Winter)
- 2007 - 2008** **Osgoode Hall Law School, York University**
Research Assistant to Professor Aaron Dhir (Social/Environmental Securities Disclosure)
- Summer 2007** **McMillan Binch Mendelsohn LLP**
Summer Law Student
- 2003 - 2004** **Ministry of Children and Youth Services (Ontario), Office of the Minister**
Legislative Assistant to the Parliamentary Assistant
- Summer 2002** **Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa**
Information Strategist

DIRECTORSHIPS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2009 – Climate Change Lawyers Network**
Executive Member
- 2007 – Oxfam Canada**
Ontario Regional Director and Finance Committee Member
- 2005 – International Legal Partnership, Osgoode Hall Law School**
2008 *Student Director (2006-2008) and Deputy Director (2005-2006)*
- 2001 – Queen’s Project on International Development, Queen’s University**
2002 *Co-Director*
- Summer 2003 Peaceful Children’s Home, Cambodia**
Teacher
- Summer 2001 Comart Tukuypaj, Bolivia**
Marketing Consultant
- Winter 1999 Djibo Ecole “A”, Burkina Faso**
Teaching Assistant

PRESENTATIONS

“Carbon Market Integration” (Toronto, April 2009) *Federated Press Emissions Trading Course* (with Barbara Hendrickson).

“Climate Change Disclosure for Canadian Public Companies (Toronto, November 2008) *Centre for the Environment, University of Toronto* (with Barbara Hendrickson).

“Extraterritorial Liability for Transboundary Harm: A Race to the Top?” (Ottawa, September 2008) *Conference of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature*.

PUBLICATIONS

“Canadian Implications of the Waxman-Markey Bill” (May 2009) *Law360* (received the Mondaq Award for most popular article in Canada).

“Talking Up a Green Streak” (April 2009) *Mining Environmental Management* (with Barbara Hendrickson and Brian Studniberg).

“Offsets and Olympics” (February 2009) *Environmental Finance* (with Barbara Hendrickson and Rosanne Van Schie).

“Cashing in on Kyoto: Opportunities for the Mining Industry” (February 2008) *Northern Miner* (with Barbara Hendrickson).

“Emissions Trading in the United States” (February 2008) *Thomson Carswell Securities Law Newsletter* (with Barbara Hendrickson and Virginia Huang).

NATIONALITIES

Canadian, Finnish

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), French (near fluent) and Spanish (advanced)