



OXFAM CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2013

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name of Candidate: Anna Smith

Position Sought: Youth 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?

I was first drawn to the Oxfam organization when I learned of the Make Trade Fair campaign in 2005. Since then, I have remained inspired by, passionate about, and a part of the organization because of the focus on Women's Rights and Climate Change. This focus has shaped my perspective on the injustice in our world and my understanding of the factors which feed into global poverty. It has inspired a change in my value system while inspiring me to make change, which has lead me to apply for the position with the Board of Directors of Oxfam Canada.

I understand that necessary change comes about in many ways and as a combination of varying efforts. Of them all, education and awareness rings true for me the most. I believe that an educated and aware population is the solid foundation for creating positive change – and within this, I believe that it is educated and aware youth that will be able to make the biggest difference in the world.

The power of inspired, outraged, and enabled youth is immeasurable. To be able to provide the support – the connections, resources, experience, and education – to youth leaders is something I have been working towards with a free social justice conference at my University in St. John's, Newfoundland. To have the opportunity to provide this support from Oxfam Canada to youth leaders across the country is a commitment which places me in the centre of all that I value and hope to accomplish.

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

I believe that if we are to build "relationships of solidarity and partnership to achieve fundamental social change", then these relationships must strengthened with Oxfam youth across our country.

The lines of communication between the Oxfam Canada organization and its university chapters must be increased. Oxfam Canada needs to make the effort to connect with these organizations and use their incredible power for its own benefit. I have been involved with one such organization, MUN Oxfam, for 4 years, and during this time, I have witnessed the power of university chapters first hand. Within MUN Oxfam alone, university students on all levels have raised over \$25,000 for Oxfam Canada and its efforts; have more than tripled on-campus membership; have increased awareness of Oxfam's focus on women's rights and climate change and the Public Services campaign, and have accomplished all of these things (and so much more) in the most creative, interactive, and effective ways possible.

And I know Oxfams across this country have accomplished an incredible amount as well. Oxfam Canada needs to go beyond acknowledging these accomplishments to treating these incredible contributors as respected equals. We need to do more to empower them and instill a sense of ownership in these campus groups, and we need to set expectations way higher at Change. The rewards of this kind of commitment to Oxfam youth will be unlimited – both for Oxfam Canada's efforts, and for the world.

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

Note that candidates for Youth Director are not expected to have the same depth or breadth of experience and that this will not jeopardize their candidacy.

Please note your areas of strength related to these competencies:

MUN Oxfam: Served on the Board since we adopted structure in 2007. Assumed the first formal position as treasurer, managing the finances until I left the position in 2009. Gained 4 years of valuable experience planning and executing fundraisers, including a world record attempt, multiple concerts and World Water Day month-long activities.

RADHOC (a coalition of social justice organizations on MUN campus): Served as treasurer for a semester before becoming internal coordinator, where I am responsible for planning the conference expecting over 150 high school students for 3 days from across Atlantic Canada in March.

In both organizations I have received education in both women's rights and international development.

Please note any relevant professional designations or qualifications:

In professional positions with Memorial University of Newfoundland, and as an Honours student in English Language and Literature, I have developed extensive communication skills in research, writing, editing and publication. I have compiled departmental networks from a variety of sources for the Faculty of Arts, assisted in developing and executing a program for students on Academic Probation, and worked to troubleshoot student's academic issues effectively as a peer tutor.

Both work and volunteer experience has made me a confident presenter and contributor in discussion. I have developed a strong critical eye and believe I can provide valuable insights on arising issues.

PART 3: Board, Work, Leadership and Life Experience

Board Experience

Name of Organization/Agency/Enterprise	From (date)	To (date)	Position on Board
MUN Oxfam	Sept. 2007	Sept. 2009	Treasurer
MUN Oxfam	Sept. 2009	Present	Director at Large

Responsibility, Action, and Development: Highschool Outreach Champions (RADHOC) Committee	Sept. 2009	Jan. 2010	Secretary Treasurer
RADHOC Committee	Jan. 2010	Present	Internal Coordinator

Work and Leadership Experience

Name of Company/Agency/Organization and Position	From (date)	To (date)	Accomplishments
Jungle Jim's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manager	Aug. 2006	Dec. 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed strong interpersonal skills - Improved leadership techniques - Instituted a recycling plan for the restaurant
MUN Oxfam, Member	Sept. 2006	Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organized multiple fundraising events and outreach opportunities on campus and in the community - Held first formal position in the organization as treasurer - Facilitated workshops and meetings for the organization
Faculty of Arts, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Communications Assistant	May 2009	Oct. 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisted with program development and delivery - Created a promotional campaign for the Faculty of Arts - Compiled and edited 15 departmental handbooks
Responsibility, Action, and Development: Highschool Outreach Champions (RADHOC), Committee Member; Internal Coordinator	Sept. 2009	Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordinated social justice outreach conferences for highschool students in Atlantic Canada - Expanded reach of existing organization and conference - Developed and facilitated workshops for 25 students
Writing Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Undergraduate Tutor	Jan. 2010	Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported fellow students with writing, editing and communication skills - Assisted students in troubleshooting and problem solving while improving relevant skills

Life Experience

Life Experience:
<p>The "diversity" factor is interesting for a 130 pound white woman with blonde hair and blue eyes. But I think in my case, and for many others like me, the question of life experience is equivalent to volunteer experience.</p> <p>It is the diversity of this experience that has shaped who I am. I have had life-changing experience right here in St. John's with advocates for social justice, international students, and improvisers. Through</p>

these avenues, I have played squareball for 28 hours straight. I have seen 30 high school students commit to a tangible, specific change in front of their peers. I have seen other cultures; learned another language. I have witnessed the power of a quick mind and a confident presence.

Newfoundland and Labrador is an indescribable community of ridiculously different individuals. We foster a population of intrepid, innovative and passionate people – and I believe that Oxfam Canada is an organization that deserves to have one of us on their Board of Directors.

Summary of Qualifications

Interpersonal/Communication Skills

- Edited video, press releases, backgrounders, and a delegate handbook for the 2010 Engineers Without Borders National Conference
- Experience writing speeches and articles; giving effective interviews
- Developed and facilitated workshops for 30 students as part of the RADHOC (Responsibility, Action and Development: Highschool Outreach Champions) Youth Outreach Conference 2009
- Professional writing, editing, and publishing skills developed through academic career

Financial/Organizational Skills

- Served as Treasurer of MUN Oxfam for 3 years, creating budgets and managing finances
- Managed budget of \$5000 for the RADHOC Youth Outreach Conference 2009
- Extensive experience organizing successful fundraising and outreach events

Research/Analytical Skills

- Identified and compiled relevant sources for research; presented concise interpretations
- Completed academic papers using a variety of sources
- Compiled and edited information for instructional handbooks

Teamwork/Leadership Skills

- Co-coordinating the RADHOC Youth Leadership Conference 2010, managing a team of 13 individuals
- Four years experience volunteering with Oxfam Canada holding a director position within the Memorial University chapter
- Co-facilitated weekly meetings of 30 people

Education

Bachelor of Arts Honours (Major: English, Minor: Linguistics)

Sept. 2006-present

Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL

- Cumulative GPA 3.8

Awards Received

- 2008-2009 Dean's List for the Faculty of Arts
- Graduated from ArtsWorks™: Personal Development and Employability Program (2009)
- Bronze Level Volunteer Award through the MUN Student Volunteer Bureau (2009)
- 2007-2008 Dean's List for the Faculty of Arts

Professional Work Experience

Peer Tutor (Jan. 2010-Present)

Writing Centre, Memorial University of Newfoundland

- Providing professional advice, support and troubleshooting to university students
- Working independently and efficiently with a variety of students and subjects
- Learning valuable teaching and communication skills

Manager, Supervisor, Waitress (Aug. 2006-Dec. 2010)

Jungle Jim's, St. John's, NL

- Responsible for balancing cash, closing and locking the restaurant
- Managed labor costs, customer satisfaction and a staff consisting of 10-15 workers
- Maintained the cleanliness, organization and appeal of the restaurant
- Developed strong interpersonal skills, both with fellow staff and the general public
- Thrived in high-pressure situations

Communications Assistant (Jun. 2009-Oct. 2009)

Student Affairs and Services/Faculty of Arts, Memorial University of Newfoundland

- Compiled and edited 15 departmental handbooks for the Faculty of Arts
- Organized a promotional campaign for the Faculty of Arts
- Maintained a professional relationship with University administrators
- Performed organizational office tasks and assisted with program development and delivery
- Organized and assisted with events and special activities

Volunteer Experience

- **Committee Member, Internal Coordinator**, the RADHOC Youth Leadership Conference (November 2009-present)
 - **Volunteer Coordinator**, Multicultural Night (2009-2010)
 - **Volunteer, Judge**, Newfoundland Improv Games (Fall 2009-present)
 - **Member**, La Sociedad de Hispánica de Memorial (Fall 2008-present)
 - **Member, treasurer and meeting facilitator** of MUN Oxfam, a division of Oxfam Canada (Fall 2006-present)
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