



## OXFAM CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2013

### CANDIDATE PROFILE

**Name of Candidate:** Emily Wiseman

**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?

Working actively on global poverty and social justice issues is my passion. As a social activist I have campaigned throughout my high school, university and post-graduate careers on issues relating to poverty alleviation, human rights, sustainable development and gender equality. I am confident that by serving on the Oxfam Canada Board as the At Large Youth Director I will be able to apply my passion and knowledge in these areas to Oxfam Canada activities that make positive social change.

As a youth activist I have organized food and clothing drives and raised awareness on women's rights and the impact of war on children and learned the crucial role that education plays in ending global poverty and injustice. As a student, through courses on public policy in the global south and international development, I committed myself to studying the root causes of poverty and social injustice, focusing on the gender dimensions and women's economic empowerment. By combining these studies with public outreach, advocacy, and fundraising I was empowered by the impact individuals can make by taking action.

Finally, from January until October 2009 I interned with Oxfam Canada in Toronto. In this role I gained amazing insight into Oxfam Canada's development models, its focus on women, public services and the environment. I believe in the work Oxfam Canada does within Canada and abroad on global poverty and injustice. As a result, serving on the board that ensures Oxfam Canada is fulfilling its mission is a natural complement to my values and work.

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

Canadians, as part of Oxfam's global network are a major political force, with the projects that Canadians fund making a significant difference in local communities around the world. As a result within Canada the key to ending global poverty and injustice globally is education and increased public awareness of what Oxfam Canada does as an organization and the ways in which it tackles global poverty and injustice. Raising Oxfam's profile serves to increase the number of individuals who engage with Oxfam Canada and by extension increases the potential pool from which Oxfam Canada draw to raise funds for its projects.

Through public engagement and social networking Oxfam Canada has an amazing youth movement on university and college campuses that it harnesses through engagement with staff and other volunteers and CHANGE. Expanding this base into high schools through school clubs or activities is an amazing way to raise awareness about social justice issues among youth and tap into youth activism- expanding Oxfam Canada's base of active members.

Finally, building on the number of interactive networks available for members and the public to engage with Oxfam Canada is crucial for raising awareness among members and for attracting new members to the organization. In creating more opportunities, like those established through twitter, facebook and community groups, Oxfam Canada can increase the number of opportunities available for both

members and non-members to engage in knowledge-sharing, increase advocacy, campaign and fundraising efforts that will help to end poverty and injustice.

## **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:**

My internship with Oxfam Canada made me uniquely knowledgeable about how the organization has seamlessly integrated Women's Rights and Gender Equality analyses into all of its campaigns. Additionally, I became acutely aware of how to effectively raise public awareness on Oxfam's campaigns and overcome impediments to successful campaigning.

Through my participation in the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, The Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group, and coalition work with Pedal for the Planet, I've gained professional experience and insight into how NGO's within Canada and around the world approach international development and strategically plan their activities.

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

As a Ex-Officio member of the Scarborough Campus Student Union Standing Committee for External Affairs from September 2004 to November 2005 I Reviewed and adopted policies regarding the activities student organizations could undertake, I represented undergraduate student viewpoints to appropriate levels of government (municipal, provincial and national), and attended monthly meetings regarding school operations and their connection to the broader community and the Provincial and Federal governments. Additionally, I was a part of a forum for discussing issues that transcend the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus community, and reviewed fundraising guideline and health and dental plan policies.

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

Name of Organization/Agency/Enterprise	From (date)	To (date)	Position on Board
Scarborough Campus Students Union- Standing Committee for External Affairs	September 2004	November 2005	Ex-Officio Representative

**Work and Leadership Experience**

Name of Company/Agency/Organization and Position	From (date)	To (date)	Accomplishments
Oxfam Canada (Policy and Outreach Intern)	January 2009	October 2009	-Guided campus clubs in lobbying MPs on international development aid -Prepared public engagement/ educational tools/ training resources for Oxfam volunteer campaigner
Hon. Dan McTeague, MP (communications assistant)	May 2005	May 2005	- Responded to inquiries and concerns from members of an economically/ethnically diverse constituency -Researched matters of government -Wrote articles for monthly publications addressing government and community issues
Re-elect Dan McTeague Campaign ( Volunteer Coordinator)	September 2008	October 2008	-Recruited and organized over 150 volunteers during federal election
The University of British Columbia (Teaching assistant)	September 2007	May 2008	-Led discussion groups/answered questions on issues of the Canadian and International politics -Taught and supervised over 120 students
Student World Assembly at U of T Scarborough (Vice President)	September 2005	May 2005	-Organized and planned fundraisers for a water pump in East Africa. -Chaired meetings regarding strategies for fundraisers and public awareness campaigns -Sought and found links for donations from businesses in the Toronto area

**Life Experience****Life Experience:**

As a young woman who has had to overcome medical disabilities throughout high school and university while also working full time and actively campaigning on issues relating to global poverty, social injustice and women's rights, I have gained a unique perspective about what it means to overcome adversity. I have also gained the important personality traits of determination and desire to achieve my goals and ambitions despite the challenges I have faced. In having to overcome my own challenges I have gained a strong sense of compassion for others and empowerment which I have always sought to share with others through my work and volunteer activities. As a result, working in the field of international development and with an organization that focuses women's rights and gender equality, with a commitment to end global poverty and injustice, is not only my passion but also a compliment to my personal experiences.

## Emily Wiseman

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### Education

University of British Columbia 2007-2008  
Master of Arts in Political Science concentrated in International Relations  
*Thesis: From Rhetoric To Inaction: The Failure to Implement Gender Norms in The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo*

University of Toronto 2003-2007  
Honours Bachelor of Arts with High Distinction  
Majors: International Development Studies, Political Science, Minor: History  
Completed 2006 University of Toronto exchange program; University of Oxford, UK

### Transferable Skills/ Qualifications

- Extensive leadership skills and experience
- Strong ability to synthesize information, highly analytical and research-oriented
- Strong organizational skills and excellent attention to detail
- Able to work professionally as part of a team or individually
- Experience working with governments, civil society and non-governmental organizations
- Comprehensive knowledge of Canadian gender and networks
- Strong familiarity with Canadian and international policy
- Very quick learner who can adapt to multiple environments
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Fluent in English with a comprehensive knowledge of French

### Employment Experience

**Oxfam Canada** (Toronto, Canada) January 2009-October 2009  
*Program Assistant, Policy and Outreach Team- Public Engagement, Advocacy and Campaigns (Intern)*

- Compiled report on the impact of Oxfam lobbying efforts at 2008 World AIDS Conference
- Compiled background reports on HIV/AIDS and HIV/AIDS organizations
- Guided students in lobbying Members of Parliament on international development aid
- Prepared public engagement/ educational tools/ training resources for Oxfam volunteer campaigners
- Supported use of online tools for posting campaign stories, volunteer opportunities and events
- Attended/ took notes for Canada Policy and Outreach Team meetings and G8 civil society meetings
- Assisted in training new interns and volunteers on Oxfam Canada campaigns and procedures
- Worked with Canadian civil society organizations to organize public engagement/advocacy campaigns
- Devised campaign strategy, coordinated volunteers and interns nationally at Virgin Music Festival 2009
- Coordinated Oxfam campaign presence and engagement at Coldplay 2009 Concert

### **Hon. Dan McTeague, P.C., M.P. Constituency Office (Toronto, Ontario)**

*Constituency Assistant/ Communications Officer* April 2005-May 2009

- Answered and recorded phone calls from Members of Parliament, the media, constituents
- Responded to inquiries and concerns from members of an economically/ethnically diverse constituency
- Explained the opinions/policy decisions of the Hon. Member to the residents through correspondence
- Researched and explained matters of government and policy for residents and the Hon. Member
- Wrote articles for monthly publications addressing constituency, policy and government issues

### **Liberal Party of Canada**

*Volunteer Co-ordinator for Pickering-Scarborough East* September-October 2008

- Recruited and organized and tracked over 150 volunteers during federal election
- Responsible for organizing activities and creating tasks for volunteers participation
- Reviewed and edited campaign and policy materials before distribution

**The University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia)**

*Teaching Assistant (Intro to Canadian and International Relations)*

September 2007- May 2008

- Led discussion groups/answered questions/ explained political concepts to students
- Developed lesson plans, marked presentations, papers, exams and kept excel records of student grades

**Conference Experience**

**How Will Disenfranchised Peoples Adapt to Climate Change?** York University

April 2009

**Extreme Poverty, Human Rights and Health.** University of Toronto, Canada

*Observer/ Participant*

January 2009

**Crisis in the DRC Forum**

*Speaker/Discussant*

November 2008

**Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group**

*Participant*

November 2008- present

**The United Nations 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

*Observer/ Participant*

February 2008

**State-Building and Reconstruction After Conflict: Comparative and International Perspectives**

*Observer/ Participant*

October 2007

**Volunteer/ Extra-Curricular Experience**

**Peacebuild**, formerly the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee

September- December-2008

- Assisted in the organization of, and presented at a conference on the DRC
- Provided background documents on the DRC for presentation by director of Gender and Peacebuilding
- Attended sessions of the Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group

**University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Model United Nations Club**

September 2003-2007

- Researched and wrote position papers regarding global issues
- Drafted, debated and presented policy resolutions to large audiences

**Greater Toronto Area Youth for Disaster Relief (Pakistan and Guatemala)**

*Chair*

November 2005- December 2005

- Co-ordinated with CARE Canada the donation of funds
- Oversaw the operations of fundraising events such as dinners, auctions, guest speakers

**Student World Assembly**

*Vice President*

September 2005- May 2005

- Organized and planned fundraisers for a water pump in East Africa.
- Chaired meetings regarding strategies for fundraisers and public awareness campaigns
- Sought and found links for donations from businesses in the Toronto area

**Scarborough Campus Student Union- Standing Committee for External Affairs**

*Ex-Officio Representative*

September 2004- November 2005

- Reviewed and adopted policies regarding the affairs and conduct of student organizations
- Represented undergraduate student viewpoints to appropriate levels of government
- Part of a forum for discussion regarding issues that transcend the UTSC community
- Attended monthly meetings regarding school operations and their connection to the broader community

**Amnesty International**

*General Representative*

September 2004-May 2005

- Assisted in co-ordination, advertisement of 2004 Human Rights Workshop
- Participated in public awareness campaigns on the university campus