

Committee: **London Diversity & Race Relations Advisory Committee**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Aden Hamza**

Address:

**99 Laurel Street
London, ON
N6H 4W7**

Occupation: **Registered Nurse and Masters Student**

Work experience: **I currently work as a Registered Nurse at University Hospital in the General Surgery Unit. I also have worked as a teaching assistant and clinical instructor for nursing students, which has provided me with the opportunity to teach students how the community reaches out to families in London and what resources are available for a wide range of families.**

Education: **I have a Bachelor's in Nursing and am in my second year of my Masters of Science in Nursing. Professional Credentials: Registered Nurse with the College of Nurses of Ontario. Member of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario.**

Skills: **Along with my nursing career I have also been active in community organizations such as United Way, London Urban Services Organization, ACFOLA, London Youth Advisory Council and Northeast Community Conversations. Through my experience in the community, I have learned how to work with people of all different backgrounds, whether that be race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, etc. I have learned to participate as well as lead diverse teams, organize conferences as well as workshops. As part of these teams, I was able to provide a unique perspective on being a youth in London, a student as well as a healthcare provider. Therefore, I am able to provide input in these different areas while also appreciating the value of other contributions and voices. Also, as a member of the Youth Empowerment Committee for the African Canadian Federation of London and Area, I have heard what visible minorities are looking for in terms of personal, academic and career goals and hope to bring this perspective to the committee as well.**

Interest reason: **As a citizen of London I always felt that this was my home and I want to give back in a way that is meaningful and helps to strengthen our city. After sitting on the inaugural London Youth Advisory Council, I learned a lot about how City Council was run and about the different opportunities available for citizens to get involved. Now that this position has become available, I really want to see how I can help make London inclusive and celebrate our diversity as a city. I have previously helped organize cultural events with the Northeast Community Conversations group as well as the Ethiopian Association of London and have found that some of the most rewarding work is embedded in appreciating and valuing various cultures. Although there are challenges that visible minorities face in London, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to build an inclusive and culturally sensitive environment for all Londoners.**

Contributions: **As a member of this committee I believe that I can provide an unique perspective as a youth, employee working in London and student. But even further, I think that my links to the community as a member of the Northeast Community Conversations Steering Committee, a founding member of the Youth Empowerment Committee at ACFOLA, as well as previous collaborations and relationships I've developed in the community, are all assets to the London Diversity and Race Relations Committee. It provides an opportunity for me to share what I have learned while working with these organizations, but also as a link for us to reach out and understand how the policies being made are affecting the diversity and race relations in London.**

Past contributions: **As a member of the Steering Committee of the Northeast Community Conversations group, I have co-lead a session of Spirituality, social change and youth, gathering members of the community as well as working with sponsors from Couchiching Institute. In my time as a youth councilor on the London Youth Advisory Council I organized the London Youth Forum complete with speakers and workshops as an opportunity to better understand the needs of London youth. I was also recruited to be a member on the Governor General Youth Engagement Roundtable Organizing Committee organized by United Way. Also, currently in my role as a Youth Empowerment Committee**

Member of ACFOLA, I help to organize bi-monthly sessions for youth based on identified needs. Therefore, my community experience has provided me with many opportunities to work in a team to identify and act on issues affecting Londoners.

Interpersonal: I have been privileged with the opportunity to lead many workshops and facilitate discussions in a variety of settings. Through these activities I have learned to maintain an open-mind as well as understand that there are many ways to solve the same problem or address an issue. Listening first and truly trying to comprehend the views of others is a key skill that I have learned and which has helped prevent misunderstandings and also provided a safe space in which to work towards an amicable solution. I enjoy being in environments where there is a variety of skills, abilities and knowledge as it provides for a richer experience.

Interview interest: **Yes**