

Committee: **Western University Board of Governors**

Organization/Sector represented: **Multicultural/Visible Minority/Ethnic**

Name: **Harold Usher**

Occupation: **Engineer, Trainer**

Work experience: **24 years as an Engineer/Supervising Engineer with Bell Canada; 18 years as a City Councillor of London, Ontario, including member of several Standing Committees and with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).**

Education: **Bachelor of Engineering (Civil - Honours), Sir George Williams (currently Concordia) University, Montreal; Professional Engineer (P. Eng.); Member Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO); Member Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE).**

Skills: **Passion, Commitment, Integrity, Communicator, Listener, Team Player - all fully demonstrated during while serving on the several BOARDS, including: Toastmasters International 1992-94; London Library 1992-94; Fanshawe College Governors 1994-2000; Elgin, Middlesex, Oxford Workforce Planning & Development 2000-15; Goodwill Industries 2005-12; London City Council 2000-18; Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2002-18; and more.**

Interest reason: **I'd like to continue giving to the Community via a different avenue than Politics! A wider more advance level of the Education Sector seem to be appropriate, considering my previous experience and service with Fanshawe, the Library and the City. Contributions: The Education sector, particularly at the advance levels, the curriculum and the Research is constantly expanding and diversifying, both Locally, Nationally and Internationally and I believe I can envision some of those dimensions and add a little light to the future!**

Past contributions: **My six years with Fanshawe College Board has been a great experience. It is during that time that we started talking about the idea of a Degree in Nursing, which ultimately resulted in a Joint Fanshawe/Western Nursing Degree. There's others!**

Interpersonal: **This is what I did for 18 years as a City Councillor, and before that with Fanshawe and the Library and all the other Boards I sat on!**

Interview interest: **Yes**

# Brief Biography of Harold Usher, P. Eng., DTM, (Updated November 19, 2018)

HAROLD USHER, P. Eng., DTM  
Former City Councillor (London, Ontario)  
Professional Engineer  
Personal Development Trainer  
Inspirational Speaker  
Author

## *Cultural Background* *Belizean (Creole) born*

Actively voluntarily giving to individuals and the Community at home and abroad for over 50 years. Has touched many lives.

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Until November 30, 2018, Harold Usher was a **City Councillor**, representing Ward 12 in London, Ontario, Canada. He is the first person of African/Caribbean/Latin American (Belize Creole) ancestry to be **elected to London City Council** (5 successive Terms/18th year since November 2000.) His **Mission** in life is to **'inspire, empower and enable individuals to better their personal disposition and quality of life.'** He is a 1972 **Civil Engineering graduate** of Sir George Williams (currently Concordia) University in Montreal. He worked for Bell Canada for 24 years, after which he became an Inspirational Speaker, Personnel Development Trainer, and an advocate for embracing diversity, inclusivity, equity, human rights and social justice issues, including: equity, race relations, opportunities for the less privileged, quality of life and harmony for all in the community. He is also a BIG advocate and promoter of London as a **COMPASSIONATE CITY**.

A past member of the Jaycees (JCI), and now in his 35th year as a member of Toastmasters International, Harold served on the International Board of Directors of Toastmasters International; Board of Governors of Fanshawe College, the London Library Board, The Board of Directors of London Multicultural Youths Association, London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee (Chair), The London and District Distress Centre, The Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, Ontario Great Lakes; Elgin Middlesex, Oxford Workforce Planning and Development Board (Chair); Western Fair District Board of Governors; The Racial Justice and Gender Justice Advisory Committee of the United Church of Canada; and London Ontario's Community-University Research Alliance (CURA2) Media and Government Relations Committee.

He also served on the 'City of London's Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee; Civic Works Committee (Chair); Corporate Services Committee; Community and Protective Services Committee (Chair); Planning and Environment Committee; the London Transit Commission (Chair); The Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System Joint Board of Management (Chair); City of London's Council Housing Leadership Committee; City of London Creative City Committee; The London Transit Long-Term Working Group; the City of London Age Friendly Committee.

He currently serves on the following 'City of London' Standing Committees: Civic Works Committee; and Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee; as well as Dearness Home Committee of Management (Chair); Rapid Transit Implementation Working Group (RTIWG); Waste Management Working Group (Chair); Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System Joint Board of Management (Chair); as well as The Board of Directors of The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) serving on 4 of its Standing Committees; The National (Canada) Zero Waste Council Management Board; The Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racial Discrimination (CCMARD) Advisory Committee; and The International Board of Directors of The **Consortium for Belizean Development**;

Harold has been the recipient of several honours and awards, including: the Canada 125th Commemorative Medal; the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal; The Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM) Designation from Toastmasters International – **three times**; the Toastmasters International President's Citation; the joint Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) and Ontario Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) **Citizenship Award**; the London (Ontario) Black Community Achievement Award; The Toronto Ethnic *Pride News Magazine* African **Canadian Achievement Award (ACAA)** for "Excellence in Politics;" The London Ontario **Latino Man of the Year**; London North Centre Honours Award; The Congress of Black Women (London Chapter) Honouree of the Year (2018), and many others.

Harold is the founder, owner and President of "*Adventures in . . .*" **SEMINARS & SPEECHES**, a company that offers high-impact human resources development workshops to organizations and individuals for learning, leading and performing in the workplace, at home and socially. His workshops include training in Improving Communication Skills, Leadership Skills, Interpersonal Relations, Time Management, Networking and Team Building. He speaks on such topics as, Becoming

Intentionally Appealing; YOU are the Magic; Building Your First, Second and Third Impressions; Developing Your Own Personal Mission Statement; Being a Better YOU; Reliability; Appreciation/Gratitude; Persistence; Character; Where do You Go from Here? The Compassionate City; and Prostate a Problem of Men! He believes that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to Human Life.

Harold is a prostate cancer survivor (2000), a heart attack survivor (2002) and a colon cancer survivor (2011). He is Co-Author of the easy-to-read, informative, inspiring, patient-friendly, book, entitled **“PROSTATE! PROSTATE! PROSTATE! A Problem of Men,”** in collaboration with his renowned Canadian urologist, Dr. Joseph Chin, in which he tells his story and what he learned, and encourages men to get a regular medical check-up and to take action quickly when they are diagnosed positively with prostate cancer. He is a well-spoken advocate for regular medical check-up and screening, to prevent or catch symptoms early for Heart Failure, Prostate Cancer, Colon Cancer and other diseases. Notwithstanding all this, he remains Sensational – promoting Health, laughter, Positive Mental Attitude and Compassion for others!

Harold is well known for his “fairness,” “compassion,” “integrity” and “Positive Mental Attitude.” He is an excellent role-model for all. He serves as mentor to several people, (youth and adult) inspiring them to “tap their full potential” and preparing them to “become leaders for a world beyond tomorrow.”



*I am committed to:*

*“Do all the good I can. By all the means I can. In all the ways I can. In all the places I can.  
At all the times I can. To all the people I can. As long as ever I can.” - Adopted from John Wesley*

*I am also committed to making my community stronger, more vibrant and a better place to live, work, and play.  
I recognize that what makes an Exceptional Team is a Great Group that embraces Differences.*