

City of London - Application for Appointment to a City of London Board or Commission

Application

Please choose the Board or Commission you are interested in serving on: **LMCH**

Contact Information

Name: **Philip Squire**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N5Y 3S9**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Board or Commission, please provide dates and details. (max. 3000 characters):

- 1. London City Council (Ward 6) 2014-2021**
- 2. London Transit Commission (2014-2021, Chair 2019-2021)**
- 3. London Public Library Board (2015-2018)**
- 4. London Middlesex Community Housing (Member and Chair 2021)**

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters): **As a member of the Board I would bring my experience and knowledge as it applies to both board governance and board responsibilities. I understand the governance role of a board as distinct from the role of board administration. It is important for any board member to understand that it is not responsible for the day to day operations of the board which must be left to board administration. This may sound like a straightforward issue but any board I have served on has had challenges with this. It is also important to understand the relationship between LMCH and other housing providers in the City and County. As a board member I would always look to other housing providers as partners who should be worked with rather than competed with. This is very important as no housing provider should work in isolation. I will bring my past experience in working with others to my role on the board. I am also very aware of the relationship between the City of London and LMCH as both a member of City Council and of City Boards. This can sometimes be a challenge but one that should be met directly and courteously. I also bring 40 years of experience as a lawyer to the board. I am very aware that nothing can be done without legislative compliance. In terms of learning, I am committed to learning more about how LMCH housing can be integrated with other forms of affordable housing. This is a huge challenge with all of the competing interests in housing in London and the County but I am committed to finding out how it can be done.**

How will you support the work of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters): **There are two ways that I would support the work of the board. The first is to support the board itself in implementing policy and in it's oversight of the work of administration. It is very important that some board members have experience in the work of the board and how it carries out it's mandate. My experience in governance will hopefully allow me to help focus the decision-making of the board to issues that it can address. These issues should not include the day to day operation of LMHC which must be done by administration. Board members should always be encouraged to discuss operations with staff outside of the board meetings. The actual subject matter of housing is something I do have extensive experience in from my role as a lawyer, Chair of Habitat for Humanity and City Council member. That experience allows me to understand the roles of all of the parties involved in housing and I would certainly try to bring that to bear on the decision-making of the board. Boards that implement decisions that can not be operationalized often find their impact being limited as administration struggles to implement their decision. My knowledge of the role of LMCH within the larger framework of housing with hopefully help the board to make effective decisions. The second way that I can help the board is by taking a role in furthering decisions made by the board and implemented by staff. This means explaining and seeking support for these decisions within the City of London and with other housing providers. My experience with the housing and political community in London would hopefully give me some credibility in doing this.**

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Board or Commission Member. (max. 3000 characters): **I have served on various boards in the City of London continuously since I have been a lawyer. I think this**

varied experience in public service serves me well in any board position I might take. My legal and volunteer experience in the areas of Mental Health law and housing gives me a very clear understanding of the interplay between various types of housing. My specific service as a member and Chair of Habitat for Humanity helped me to understand how different types of housing is needed in the community. I would never view LMCH in isolation. It is important to consider its role in conjunction with all other types of housing in London. I am able to do that and hopefully bring it to the board.

I also believe that my 20 plus years of political experience is helpful. That knowledge without any need for political ends allows me to use the experience to understand the various levels of political decision making that affects LMCH. It is also helpful to hopefully have credibility with politicians who are called upon to help LMCH achieve it's goals. I believe that I can do that.

Please tell us about your interest in being a part of the London Middlesex Community Housing board. Why are you interested in this particular opportunity? What do you hope to contribute, and how would you support the work of the London Middlesex Community Housing board?(max. 3000 characters): **I am interested in this opportunity because housing has been such a large part of both my professional career and my public service. As a lawyer representing patients with mental illness and now adjudicating issues arising for the same clients I am very aware of the role housing plays in providing stability in lives. As a member of Habitat for Humanity I learned first hand of the challenges of finding and building affordable housing in both London and Middlesex County. Anyone who knows me knows how passionate I am about housing and I want to continue that work on this board. I also want to continue the work that LMCH started while I was a member of the board. I was involved in the hiring of a new CEO and would like the chance to work with the new leadership in implementing the goal of integrating social housing into other housing forms which has been started by the board. All of my experience that I outlined earlier would be focused on moving LMCH forward which would be my primary contribution. I do not believe that LMCH can exist without changing.**

Please tell us about your educational background, professional credentials, or any other training which is relevant to this position. (max. 3000 characters): **1. LLB (now JD) Western University 1981
2. Member of the Law Society of Ontario since 1983
3. Current member of the Middlesex Law Association and London Criminal Lawyers Association.
4. Appointed to the Ontario Consent and Capacity Board as a lawyer member in October 2021 by Order in Council**

Please describe any relevant work and/or lived experience you have. (max. 3000 characters): **I believe I have detailed my work experience in my earlier responses. They include both my professional work as a lawyer and politician and my volunteer positions.**

Tell us about your involvement in any public or private sector boards, community involvement, or other experiences that are relevant to this position. Please describe the roles you played and the period of time you were involved.(max. 3000 characters): **I believe I have described in detail my service on public and private sector boards which includes two elected positions as a Catholic School Board Trustee and Chair and a member of City Council and related boards. My key position in private boards was as a member and Chair of Habitat for Humanity in London and area. I have earlier provided the dates of my service although in the case of the London District Catholic School Board I served from 2010-2014 and was a member of the Habitat Board from approximately 2005 until my election as a Councillor in 2014. These were all leadership positions involving representation on boards. My current position as a lawyer member of the Consent and Capacity Board commenced in October of 2021 and involves making decisions for persons subject to various provincial acts including the Mental Health Act and the Health Care Consent Act.**

If necessary, please provide any additional relevant information that is not captured in your previous answers.(max. 3000 characters): **None**

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am a resident of London. ; I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity: (optional): **Other**

Submitted on: **7/5/2022 4:15:12 PM**