



OXFAM CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010 – 2013

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name of Candidate: Nnaemeka (Emeka) Ekwosimba
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 am committed to ending global poverty and injustice and I believe that guaranteeing freedom and fundamental rights which allows citizens to participate in decision making (especially when those decisions affect their daily living) is one of the first steps in ensuring the end to global poverty. Oxfam activities, policies and visions are aligned with my work in my community. As a member of the board, I will use my experience as a youth activist and currently as a Development Consultant to ensure that workable policies are continued to be implemented and that the youths inputs are well presented.

The importance of developing the right sets of policies at the Board level cannot be underestimated. As an active youth in my community and having been involved in activities which promote social justice and the end of global poverty, I have seen situations where Board or executive decisions are not in line with strategic visions promoted by the youths. It is critical that actions from both sides (developers of the policies, and the implementers) are in sync.

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

Over the years, the work of various Canadian organizations including Oxfam, and youths who volunteer abroad or who take a year off from studies to travel and get a sense of life in other parts of the world, have influenced Canada's perception and contribution to ending poverty and injustice. I believe that the youths play prominent role in shaping policies especially those policies geared towards ending poverty. I equally believe that any organization that has a very strong youth focus helps in aggregating youth opinion and also shaping and channeling that opinion to shape public policy. Oxfam is unique in this perspective and I believe a continued focus on youth mobilization, a stronger partnership with other youth organization is one critical way to ending poverty. This is because, while such groups could develop initiatives to raise funds and support the families in developing countries, they can equally greatly influence domestic policy especially those relating to ending global policy and injustice by influencing election outcomes, or even influencing issues that come up on government's policy agenda.

Oxfam Canada could increase its impact in ending poverty and injustice by increasingly focusing on youths with diverse background and experience as well as entering into partnership with other organizations with similar visions and who have strong youth focus. By creating a partnership, efforts will be synchronized and issues can be better tackled and addressed.

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 areas of strength include: Fundraising, governance/accountability, strategic planning and international development. I have been involved in several fundraising initiatives and campaigns which raised funding for various development initiatives including supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and general HIV/AIDS campaign. Current work enables me to be involved in the strategic planning of development projects (mostly in the infrastructure sector) as well as conducting legal reviews in the case of a need to develop a responsive and responsible legal regime.

Please note any relevant professional designations or qualifications:

Masters in International Affairs (MA)

PART 3: Board, Work, Leadership and Life Experience

Board Experience

Name of Organization/Agency/Enterprise	From (date)	To (date)	Position on Board

Work and Leadership Experience

Name of Company/Agency/Organization and Position	From (date)	To (date)	Accomplishments
CPCS Transcom	April 09	Present	Participate in project structuring
International Student Services Office, Carleton University	May 07	April 08	Organized first international photo competition as well as developed and organized the first off-campus international students orientation

Race, Ethnicity and Culture Hall,	May 05	April 07	Initiated and led panel discussions to assess development issues and how students could help
Carleton University AIDS Awareness Society	Jan. 2004	April 06	Organized and led the first Campus AIDS Walk; Created a campus-wide fundraising initiative for HIV/AIDS; led the society for 2 years as President and later advisor
United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC)	May 05	April 07	Part of 10 youths selected across Canada to participate in this initiative; Organized HIV/AIDS youth seminar in Ottawa; represented Ottawa at the 2007 International AIDS Conference in Toronto; Developed policy recommendations on HIV/AIDS

Life Experience

Life Experience:

I was born in Cameroun, grew up in Nigeria and have lived in Canada since 2003. I have been privileged to meet a cross section of people who share great passion and have undying enthusiasm in participating in issues to change the world into a better place especially as regards helping the most vulnerable who survive on less than a dollar a day and who have no voice to speak in decision making processes. My experience living and working in a developing country enables me to approach development from a third world approach. While this perspective doesn't make me the greatest contributor to development, it reminds me of milestones already achieved and the road yet ahead. As well, my experience living, schooling, and now working in Canada provides me an added advantage to compare and contrast how issues are approached. It also enables me to combine different approaches and u see the best way to resolve an issue and effectively make workable decisions.

Nnaemeka (Emeka) Ekwosimba

OBJECTIVE

To secure the *At Large Youth Director* position in the Oxfam Canada Board elections. To utilize knowledge and involvement in youth's activities directed towards ending global poverty and injustice to facilitate policies and framework for effective action oriented events.

EDUCATION

- Masters in International Affairs, Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON (Focus on International Institutions and Global Governance)
- Bachelor of Arts (Highest Honours), Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION AND SCHOLARSHIPS (CARLETON UNIVERSITY)

2007: Graduate Scholarship, \$4,000

2006-2009: Teaching Assistantships, \$18,170

2007: Bachelor of Arts in Law and Political Science (Minor) with Highest Honours

2006-2007: Richard Van Loon Scholarship, \$5,000

2004-2006: Dean's Honours List

RESEARCH & PROGRAM MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

2009 – Present: Consultant, CPCS Transcom, Ottawa, ON

- Develops institutional strengthening and capacity building framework for infrastructure projects, makes recommendations on implementation strategy
- Develops project proposals and expressions of interest regarding large-scale, national-level infrastructure projects in developing countries
- Conducts feasibility studies, SWOT analysis for infrastructure projects in developing countries including Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda
- Coordinates and participates in high-level meetings with multi stakeholders and representatives of State Governments and international institutions including the World Bank
- Conducts policy, legal and regulatory review of projects

2005 – 2007: Research Assistantship, Department Of Law, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

Researched, reviewed and contributed to the publication of articles pertinent to:

- International Law and International Human Rights Law
- Oil and Poverty in the Niger Delta, Nigeria
- Good Governance and the role of regional integrations in entrenching good governance in West African States including Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone
- Corporate Social Responsibility and Oil companies in the Niger Delta
- Globalization and Developing countries
- Global Communicable Diseases: HIV/AIDS

2005 – 2007: Research Intern, United Nations Association in Canada, Ottawa, ON

Part of 10 member team which developed a Canada Youth Advocacy on HIV/AIDS

- Researched social determinants of health and proposed policy measures
- Supported the development and publication of a youth research kit
- Organized and coordinated conferences and stakeholder meetings in Ottawa
- Liaised with civil society representative in Rwanda to develop joint HIV/AIDS strategy

2007 – 2008: Program Co-ordinator, International Student Services Office, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

- Developed and Coordinated new opportunities for international students
- Initiated internet tools and campus programs geared towards creating an enabling environment for international students' success with development of program framework, evaluation and reporting mechanisms
- Developed volunteer, and internship opportunities specifically for international students
- Acted in a mentorship and advisory capacity for foreign students
- Acted as liaison between University management and administration with respect to issues arising in relation to: foreign/international student groups; employees and volunteers

2008 (May-Aug): Project Research, Abuja, Nigeria

- Conducted research on the governance capacity of ECOWAS member states including Nigeria and how it is impacted by ECOWAS legal instruments on good governance
- Undertook extensive personal interviews with representatives of the governance team at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Conducted literature reviews and explored the effects and influence of ECOWAS in entrenching good governance in Member States as well as facilitating trade

2006 – 2009: Teaching Assistant, Law Department, Carleton University

- Developed and led seminars, and moderated discussions
- Managed and led discussion groups for 20 – 50 undergraduate students (Include the Year if 3rd and 4th).
- Graded and provided feedback and advice on research papers
- Served as Guest Lecturer (Undergraduate Law)

2005 – 2007: Coordinator (Admin. & Programs), Race, Ethnicity and Culture Programs, Carleton University

- Developed and managed annual budget for more than different 10 projects
- Organized seminars on race, gender, and development issues
- Developed new advocacy for HIV/AIDS issues at Carleton University, and oversaw the University's fundraising and organizing the AIDS march
- Revamped and coordinated the development, publication and circulation of *ReInterlock* magazine
- Initiated and organized panel discussions on development issues including Corporate Social Responsibility, Unfair Trade, and North South relations
- Supervised up to 10 different people

2001 – 2003: Manager (Project & Development), JONEK Oil Ltd, Lagos, Nigeria

- Coordinated and managed the daily operation of the company
- Developed and supervised strategic expansion of the company
- Supervised up to 50 staff

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Spearheaded the formation of the Carleton University AIDS Awareness Society; first society to focus on HIV/AIDS Awareness and fundraising at Carleton University
- Spearheaded the organization of the first ever Carleton University AIDS WALK. Fundraised and donated more than \$20,000. This project has become an annual event at Carleton University
- Liaised and developed partnership with HIV/AIDS Society Organizations in Ottawa with strong youth involvement

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS REPRESENTATIVE – DELEGATE

2006: *Time to Deliver: The XVI International AIDS Conference*; Toronto, ON (Representative of the United Nations Association in Canada)

2006: *The Architects of the Future: Reforming the United Nations to meet the Millennium Development Goals*; United Nations Secretariat, New York, NY (Representative and Presenter)

- Selected to join a resolution drafting committee
- Participated in the research and drafting of the final resolution on United Nations' reform and Millennium Development Goals for the conference
- Presented and defended a two-page resolution before an audience of 440 people

2006: Canadian Model United Nations Conference; Ottawa, ON, (Delegate)

- Winner of the Best Delegate Award

2004: Annual Meeting of the Canadian Council on International Law; Ottawa, ON (Student representative)

2004: *Africa Now: Untold Stories*; Ottawa, ON (Delegate)

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS - PRESENTER

2009: Twenty-second Annual Educational Conference on World Issues, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

Title: *Military Coup in West Africa: A Dying Political Option?*

2008: Twenty-first Annual Educational Conference on World Issues, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON

Title: *HIV/AIDS in China and India: How has the world fared?*

2004: Model United Nations Conference, Ottawa, ON

Title: *The United Nations and HIV/AIDS: What needs to be done?*

LANGUAGES

- On-going interest in new cultures and languages
- Current languages written and spoken: English (University level); French (in progress); Igbo (Native Speaker)

TECHNICAL & SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Extensive use of computer based technologies and programs to develop and design presentations, create graphs from data input to analyze information. Programs include:

- Internet, PowerPoint, Excel, MSWord, PDF, MSProject, MSVisio, SPSS