

## LEO N. JOHNSON

### Motivational Speaker & Community Activist

Empowerment 101:  
Resources vs.  
Resourcefulness

Development 101: Helping  
people help others

Youth Engagement 101: we  
are the best solution to our  
problems

Motivational Leadership  
through Community  
development through youth  
empowerment

Life skills & Personal  
development through  
Community engagement

Vision, Strategy & Execution  
in development

Youth engagement &  
building self driven leaders

Relevant Links:

<http://empowermentsquared.com/>

<http://www.shaidsofgrey.com/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/nextprime/eminister/blog/2008/11/leo-johnson-enters-the-competition-1.html>

<http://www.thespec.com/article/295135>

### Co – Founder & Executive Director – Empowerment Squared

Empowerment Squared is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people help others by encouraging the development of stable environments rooted in peace, independence, and self-sufficiency.

“In 2007, McMaster University’s Global Citizenship Conference brought together three young individuals to spark a powerful social movement in the Hamilton community. More than one hundred people had gathered in the small room to hear a young man named Leo Johnson share his personal story. A refugee from Liberia, Leo explained from his own successes and challenges that youth aren’t needy, they just long for opportunities to prove their worth. He then shared his vision for a youth-driven organization that promises resourcefulness, compassion, diversity – and most of all, empowerment. Since then, there has been no looking back.”

### Youth Activist/Community Opinion Leader

Youth activist and community opinion leader for eight years with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Liberian Refugee Welfare Council and a host of other Organizations on two refugee camps in Cote d’Ivoire and Ghana respectively.

### Life Skills Trainer for Immigrants, Refugees and youth

Teaching networking skills, capacity building, conflict resolution, goal setting, financial planning, etc.

### Motivating & mobilizing youth for education/empowerment

Mobilized a group of 25 youth from Liberia, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan and Iraq for the sole purpose of education at the Immigrant Culture and Arts Association (ICAA).

### International Conference on the Rights of Refugees

Represented the City of Hamilton twice at the Canadian Council for Refugees’ International Conference on the Rights of Refugees.

[http://www.cbc.ca/nextprimer/minister/blog/2009/01/leojohnsons\\_community\\_event.html](http://www.cbc.ca/nextprimer/minister/blog/2009/01/leojohnsons_community_event.html)

<http://www.lovesweatandgears.com/sweat.php>

[http://www.iteams.ca/media/momentum/momentum\\_2008-07.pdf](http://www.iteams.ca/media/momentum/momentum_2008-07.pdf)

[http://matthewhousewindsof.com/NewsLetter/Newsletter\\_July\\_2008.pdf](http://matthewhousewindsof.com/NewsLetter/Newsletter_July_2008.pdf)

<http://www.hcci.ca/about.html>

<http://www.thespec.com/article/453359>

<http://unitedfccanada.webs.com>

<http://www.thespec.com/article/787237>

<http://www.gcc.furi.ca/Saturday%20Keynote%20Profiles.pdf>

<http://www.canadianimmigrant.ca/immigrantstories/culture/article/6454>

<http://www.torontomeds.com/ghe/?p=105>

<http://www.thespec.com/article/767737>

[http://www.iteams.ca/resources\\_momentum\\_article.php?p=9](http://www.iteams.ca/resources_momentum_article.php?p=9)

## **World University Service of Canada Annual General Assembly**

Represented the McMaster chapter in 2007 at the General Assembly in Ottawa which was host to Dr. Ashraf Ghani as Guest Lecturer.

## **J. C. Holland Awards for Excellence & Youth Achievement**

2007 Recipient of the John C. Holland awards for Excellence and Youth Achievement

## **Semi – finalist CBC Canada’s Next Great Prime Minister (2008)**

“What started as a written essay contest in 1995 by Magna International Inc. has become a nationally televised program on CBC Television and the largest online political debate in Canada.”

Young Canadians aged 18-25 are invited to apply and campaign to be a finalist. Through debates and challenges, the candidates are narrowed down to four who appear on CBC Television, where they engage in a heated debate on the issues facing Canada today.

*“Canada's Next Great Prime Minister's illustrious judging panel is comprised of former Canadian prime ministers and acting premiers, those who have dedicated their lives to lead our country. Throughout the show, these political powerhouses will grill the contestants on their visions for Canada, challenge them with pointed political questions and assess their performance. However, in the end the true judging power lies in the hands of the people -- our nationally representative studio audience.”*

## **Hamilton’s Top 40 Under 40 Award**

A special feature celebrating 40 exceptional people under 40 who are making a difference in our communities.

## **Jobs Prosperity Collaborative (Hamilton) Member**

The Jobs Prosperity Collaborative is a group of approximately 65 members who are committed to promoting Hamilton’s prosperity through job creation and retention. Members of

the JPC include leaders from all sectors including government, business, labour, education, environment, social services, not-for-profit organizations, healthcare, and others.

### **Community Engagement: Tackling the issues (ShAIDS of Grey)**

Taking its inspiration from a local Hamilton woman who lost her husband to AIDS in 1990, *ShAIDS of Grey* uses vignettes, songs, and dances to weave together the stories of men, women and children affected by the disease into a thought-provoking and modern masterpiece, an original play by Empowerment Squared.

### **Community Leadership: Homework Club**

Six months after arriving in Canada, I facilitated the production of a newsletter by five Chinese youth who were unable to speak English as newcomers to Canada. During the process, other youth in the community who were facing difficulties at school began pouring in with academic work which led to the establishment of a community homework club helping 40 – 50 youth on a weekly basis.

### **Community Leadership: meeting the First and only Female Head of State in Africa**

Arrange and facilitated a meeting with H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (President of Liberia) and the Liberian community in Canada. The highlight of the meeting included consolidating community resources for reconstruction efforts in Liberia.

### **Global Health Elective: University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine**

Spoke alongside James Orbinski regarding the politics of medical care in low resource settings and NGOs. Education from a personal level on providing emergency humanitarian aid.