## RICHARD GILBERT



Richard Gilbert has had several careers, including working as a high-school teacher in the 1950s, as a university professor and researcher in the 1960s and 1970s, as a municipal politician in the 1970s and 1980s, and as a consultant and author since the early 1990s, more-or-less retiring in 2012.

His work as a consultant focused on transport and energy issues, and urban governance. His main client until 2006 was the Parisbased Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He worked too for the International Energy Agency, the

governments of Austria, Canada, The Netherlands, the U.S., and Quebec, and many NGOs and private-sector clients in Asia and North America.

Richard Gilbert has a 1966 PhD in experimental psychology. In the 1960s and 1970s, he taught psychology and behavioural pharmacology at universities in Ireland, Scotland, the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. He was associated with what was then the Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario from 1968 to 1991, and held registration as a clinical psychologist in Ontario from 1974 to 2001.

More recently he taught graduate courses in planning and urban governance at York, Simon Fraser, and Ryerson Universities. For several years until 2019, he conducted an annual three-hour class on transportation futures in the graduate program of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Engineering.

He was elected six times as a Toronto councillor with increasing majorities, serving from 1976 to 1991 and representing a district of some 70,000 residents. He was president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 1986-1987, and Chair and CEO of the Toronto District Heating Corporation (now Enwave Energy Corporation) from 1982 to 1989. On retiring as a municipal politician, he became the first president and CEO of the Canadian Urban Institute, and worked as an independent consultant from 1993.

Richard has produced 15 nonfiction books on numerous topics, and several hundred scholarly and popular articles, book chapters, and major reports for clients. The last nonfiction book, written with Anthony Perl, was *Transport Revolutions: Moving People and Freight Without Oil*,

the second edition of which was published in May 2010 by New Society Publishers (Gabriola Island, BC). See <a href="www.richardgilbert.ca">www.richardgilbert.ca</a>, where much of what he's written since 2003 is available.

A retirement project was writing a novel, *Skinner's Quests*, describing a (fictional) trip made by psychologist BF Skinner to England in 1939. There, Skinner encountered, among others, Anna and Sigmund Freud, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Alan Turing. Details are at <a href="https://www.bordenhouse.info">www.bordenhouse.info</a>. Richard is now struggling with turning *Skinner's Quests* into an audiobook and with writing another novel that for the moment has two not-well-related threads: climate politics and whether the "locked-in" syndrome can be faked. (The first of these has been severely confounded by COVID-19.)

Richard competed in the Canadian team at four World Triathlon Championships from 2011 (Beijing) to 2015 (Chicago). In the last he came fifth of 18 finalists (75-79 age group, Olympic distance).

Richard has a daughter and three sons – in their 40s and 50s – and seven grandchildren: four aged 20-28 and three under eight years. In 2016, he and Rosalind moved from the house in downtown Toronto where they'd lived for 46 years to a nearby apartment.

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