
**100ABCWomen spotlights
and recognizes
Accomplished Black
Canadian Women. Please
check our website for more
information.
www.100ABCWomen.ca**

*Co-founders and co-authors - Hon. Dr. Jean
Augustine, Dauna Jones-Simmonds & Dr. Denise
O'Neil Green!*





January 2026
newsletter



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

30 Years: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations

Black History Month and 365 Days of Black Excellence



Black History Month in Canada is not a ceremonial nod to the past. It is a necessary annual reminder that Canadian people of African descent constitute a distinct group whose human rights must be actively promoted, protected, and defended every single day of the year.

In Canada, this recognition exists because of the tireless advocacy of Black trailblazers, including The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine. As the first Black woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Dr. Augustine introduced the motion that led to the federal recognition of February as Black History Month in the House of Commons in 1995. More than a simple designation, this annual federal recognition is a powerful affirmation that Black Canadian history, Black Canadian contributions, and Black Canadian excellence are foundational to the very fabric of this country.

That legacy deserves recognition. It also requires honesty about the present reality.

Across Canada, racialized employees, particularly Black employees, continue to be terminated, sidelined, and retaliated against in direct violation of employment and human rights laws. In 2026, we continue to witness a retreat from justice and accountability, accompanied by a growing disregard for equality and equity-based obligations in the workplace. This is true despite the existence and application of various federal and provincial human rights and workplace legislation, as well as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms where applicable.

Too many employers have walked away from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) commitments, treating them as optional initiatives rather than legal and ethical responsibilities.

This Black History Month must serve as a clear call to action.

Amplifying the work of the Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine and other Black Canadian leaders requires sustained resistance to workplace cultures that normalize racism or dismiss it as inconsequential. Justice and equality are not political trends. They are legal human rights and their relevance should never fluctuate with shifting sociopolitical winds or changes in leadership.



2026 100 ABC HONOUREES

Adaeze Oputa Anu
Alethia Cadore
Amanda JHamer
Andrea McCormack
Angela JHenry
Anika Forde
Anthonette Jacob
Aquilas K Dapaah
Attasha Jordan
Dr. Barbara Hamilton-Jinch
Barbara Ademolu
Barbara Grace Porter
Carline Zamar
Carmella Goodridge
Celestina Aleobua
Cereise Ross
Charline Grant
Cherryl Lewis
Christie Nelson
Dr. Ciann Wilson
Claudette Rutherford
Dr. Cynthia Maxwell
Dr. Danielle Brown-Shreves
Dr. d'bi.young anitafrika
Debbie Remekie-Maxey
Dr. Deborah-Zita Somakoko
Desiree T. Smith
Dr. Dolana Mogadime
Dolly Williams
Dorin Adenekan
Dwanita McLarty-Peele
elle de Lyon
Georgia Lindsay

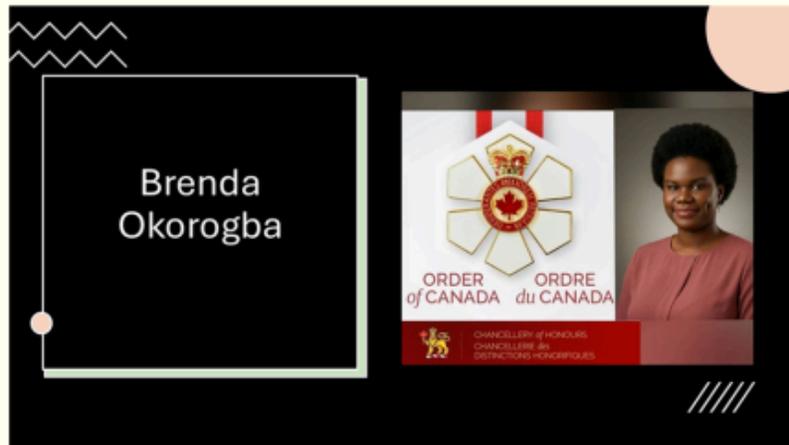
Glacier Effs-Samuel
Dr. Ifeatu Sandra Efu
Dr. Ijeoma Uche-Ezeala
Isis Ament
Dr. Jacqueline Benn-John
Jael Richardson
Jaelle Kouatchou Kouadop
Jerisha Grant-JHall
Josephine Sindani
June Kelly
Dr. Kadaajah Johnson-Louis
KAMELA JH Blair
Karen Robinson-Scantlebury
Keisha Assivero
Kelly De Fogain
Khadidiatou Ndiaye
Kimora Lee Harris-Taylor
Lana Talbot
Latoya Belfon
Lillian Missy Searl
Loreena Gabriel
Lydia Gill Blackett
Malika Yoh
Marcia Banfield Smith
Margaret Mubanda
Mariat Jibril
Marium Tolson-Murty
Dr. Marlyn Morris
Dr. Mary Louise McCarthy
Mavis McLaren
Melissa Alexander
Micah Smith
Michelle Fenton

Michelle Green
Dr. Mireille Ntambwe
Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass
Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu
Musu Kanu Taylor-Lewis
Nailah Gordon-Decicio
Natalie Bell
Nekpen Obasogie
Nicola Simpson
Dr. Novlette Mitchell
NyAshia Jordan Tafari
Dr. Oluwanifemi Fagbohun
Patricia Neely-McCurdy
Patricia S. Brown
Dr. Rhonda McEwen
Rohene Bouajram
Sandy Thomas
Dr. Shade Kolade
Lana Talbot
Shelly Ann Skinner
Simone Donaldson
Sonia Ellis-Seguin
Sophia Jacob
Sophia Etuhube
Stacia Steward
Takara Small
Tanesha Bloomfield
Tania Clarke
Tanya Walker
Tanya Phillipps-Stevens
Tenisha Noel
Dr. Tiffany Marie Gordon
Tina Garnett
Vera Mercier
Vivian Odii

Vanguard Award Winner - Caroline Goodie Tshabalala Mogadime

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS!



30 Honouring
years Black Brilliance
Across Generations

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SAVE THE DATE | |
| BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT | |
| SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST 2026 | |
| LOCATION | CENTURY GARDENS RECREATION CENTRE 340 VODDEN ST.E BRAMPTON, ON L6V 2N2 |
| PEEL UNITED CULTURAL PARTNERS 416-707-7059 | |
|  |  |



Keynote Speaker

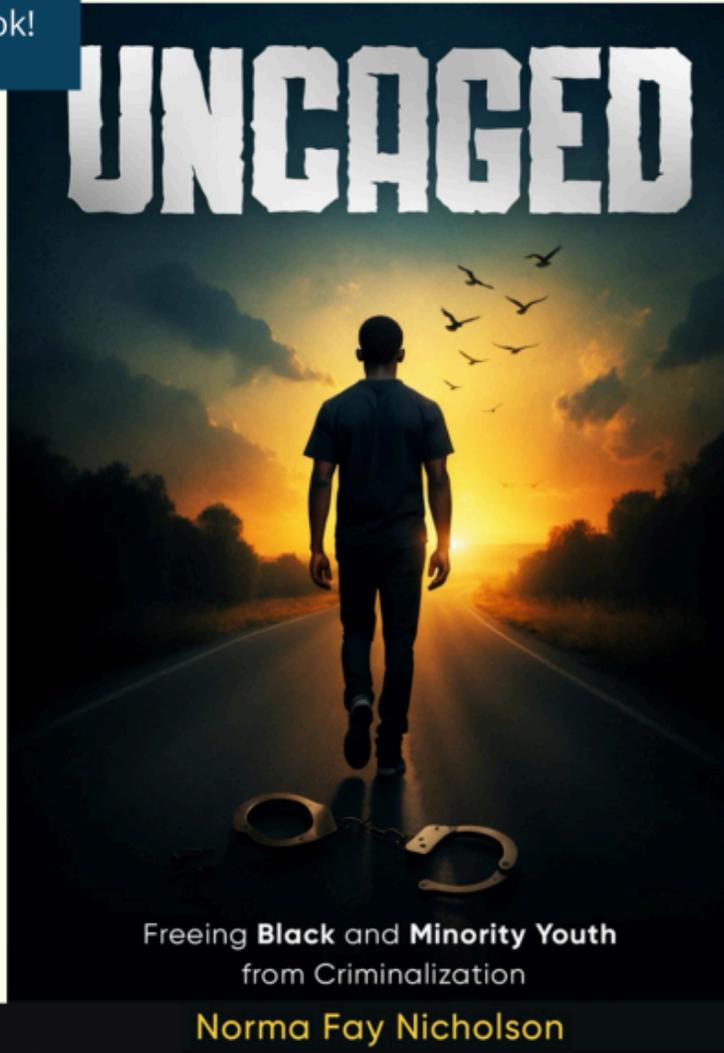
Dauna Jones Simmonds

Co-Author/Co-Founder & Architect of 100ABCWomen

&

1st Black President
of The Rotary Club of Toronto

Norma
Nicholson's
Best Selling Book!



Hi Norma,

Many many congratulations 🎉 We did it!

Your book is now #1 in Amazon's global bestseller ranking. And the best part is it's #1 in all three amazing categories.

Ash's team had been on it since last night and our hard-work paid off ❤️



media
education
group

100ABCWomen is pleased and excited to share that we have developed this awesome relationship with TVO Media Education Group. This is a tremendous opportunity to continue to highlight, spotlight and showcase the work of our Honourees! Thank you TVO.

“We are pleased to share that we have added your organization and website to our supplementary resource highlighting Black owned businesses. In this resource, students will be using your resource to learn about successful business owners and examples of resilience to anti-racism in the business world. We are also highlighting your organization in our teacher toolkit as a recommended resource for their students.

We are also sharing the podcast with Collette Murray in our resource on the Toronto Caribbean Festival and again highlighting your organization in our teacher toolkit.”

– **tvo** media
education
group



SLT+

Short Story

It has truly been an honour to be a 100ABCWomen honouree and to witness 100ABCWomen continuing positive impacts. In 2018, I was honoured for my leadership contributions to Black women and the transformative impacts my leadership has had on the African-Black community.

I have had the privilege of teaching the power of transformative leadership through an inside out approach. One of the most prized processes that I lead is going into its 16th year - Sacred Leaders Training© (SLT+). This leadership process is designed for Black, Indigenous and racialized women leaders.

I'm filled with joy as I prepare for the 2026 SLT+ cohort. I know the tangible life changing experiences women leaders are about to experience as they shift from feelings of loss to clarity of vision, from depletion to overflow. Taking leaders from compounding overwhelm to joy, purpose and freedom is simply priceless.

This 16-year-old leadership development process is not just about personal growth. It's a journey through deep self-exploration and awakening to a legacy.

So, I am so very excited to bear witness to women defining and experiencing their well-deserved success, overflowing with ease, balance and unconditional self-love.

We're currently open for applications to the 2026 cohort. I invite women who are ready for radical shifts in their lives to journey with us and grow with like-minded leaders. Come experience the magic of the SLT+ community of shapeshifters.

[Learn more](#)

-Ania Nia

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Black legacy lives on and the work continues through a new generation of young leaders. The City of Brampton's Black Economic, Social, Cultural, Youth and Civic Development Unit in collaboration with Mayor Brown's Office and the Black History Month Committee invite you to the Black History Month launch event.



The Hon. Justice Dr. Irving W. Andre
Dr. Irving Andre is a jurist, scholar, and author of Dominican heritage, whose distinguished career bridges law, history, and public service across the Caribbean and Canada.

30 YEARS OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH: HONOURING BLACK BRILLIANCE ACROSS GENERATIONS

FEBRUARY 7 | 6 - 9 PM

THE ROSE | 1 THEATRE LN, BRAMPTON

MIX & MINGLE | 6 PM

Light refreshments, lively entertainment, vendor marketplace and a chance to connect with local community and business booths.

STAGE PROGRAMMING | 7 PM

Experience an exciting lineup, including:

- Host Bakari Savage, co-anchor of CP24 Live at 5
- **Mayor's Community Awards and Black Empowerment Unit Awards celebrating Black leaders**
- Inspiring performances by Dance Caribe Performing Company and Crawford 7th Day Adventist Academy Choir
- **Knowing Your Past to Guarantee Your Future: A compelling discussion with The Hon. Justice Dr. Irving W. Andre**

Free tickets available at the door

LEARN MORE AT BRAMPTON.CA/BHM OR EMAIL BEU@BRAMPTON.CA FOR DETAILS

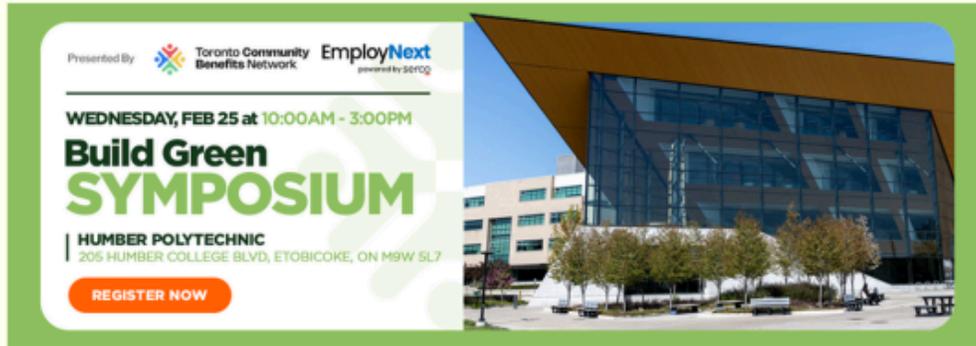
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UNIVERSITY

Toronto Pearson 

BLACK
EMPOWERMENT
UNIT **beu**

 **BRAMPTON**

A promotional banner for the 'Build Green Symposium'. The left side is a white box with green and orange accents. It features logos for 'Presented By Toronto Community Benefits Network' and 'EmployNext powered by SERCO'. The event details are: 'WEDNESDAY, FEB 25 at 10:00AM - 3:00PM', 'Build Green SYMPOSIUM', and 'HUMBER POLYTECHNIC 205 HUMBER COLLEGE BLVD, ETOBICOKE, ON M9W 5L7'. An orange 'REGISTER NOW' button is at the bottom. The right side shows a photograph of a modern building with a large glass facade.

Presented By  Toronto Community Benefits Network  EmployNext
powered by SERCO

WEDNESDAY, FEB 25 at 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Build Green
SYMPOSIUM

HUMBER POLYTECHNIC
205 HUMBER COLLEGE BLVD, ETOBICOKE, ON M9W 5L7

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Register: carleton.ca/polisci/events



Fireside Chat is Coming Back!

Get ready for powerful conversations, fresh insights, and inspiring voices you won't want to miss. Stay tuned — details coming soon!

Fireside Chats

Schedule & Registration Links:

<https://shorturl.at/OoeQg>



2026 FIRESIDE CHAT
SEASON 5
EPISODE #3

INTERGENERATIONAL WEALTH & FINANCIAL FUTURES

EXPLORING STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING WEALTH
ACROSS GENERATIONS.



MODERATOR
YVETTE BLACKBURN



PANELIST
LATOYA BELFON



PANELIST
LAVINIA LATHAM



PANELIST
JOSEPHINE SINDANI



PANELIST
TENISHA NOEL

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 1ST 2026
3 to 4:30pm EST

LIVE STREAMED FROM OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Panelists discuss investment, homeownership, entrepreneurship, and financial planning tailored to Black Canadian communities — with practical takeaways for youth, professionals, and families.

VIRTUAL & FREE REGISTRATION LINK [HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/GACAK](https://shorturl.at/gacAK)

REVIEW THE SCHEDULE & REGISTER [WWW.100ABCWOMEN.CA](http://www.100abcwomen.ca)





2026 FIRESIDE CHAT
SEASON 5
EPISODE #4

THE POWER OF NARRATIVE: MEDIA & REPRESENTATION

HOW MEDIA SHAPES PERCEPTIONS OF BLACK WOMEN IN CANADA.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 8TH 2026
3 to 4:30pm EST

Panellists examine portrayal in film, news, social platforms, and storytelling, discussing representation, bias, cultural narratives, and pathways for authentic media influence.

**LIVE STREAMED FROM OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL**



MODERATOR
KATHY MCDONALD



PANELIST
LISA SKEETE



PANELIST
MUSU
TAYLOR-LEWIS



PANELIST
DR. OLUWANIFEMI
FAGBOHUN



PANELIST
LOREENA GABRIEL



PANELIST
SHARON HINDS

VIRTUAL & FREE REGISTRATION LINK [HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/R4XCI](https://shorturl.at/R4XCI)

REVIEW THE SCHEDULE & REGISTER [WWW.100ABCWOMEN.CA](http://www.100abcwomen.ca)



2026 FIRESIDE CHAT
SEASON 5
EPISODE #5

WELLNESS BEYOND THE SURFACE

A HOLISTIC TAKE ON MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING.



PANELIST
MARIE CLARKE-WALKER



PANELIST
ALETHIA CADORE



MODERATOR
NANCY SIMMS

Leaders share best practices for self-care, healing from trauma, resilience strategies, and community support systems.



PANELIST
DR. JACQUELINE BENN-JOHN



PANELIST
ROHENE BOUAJRAM

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 15TH 2026
3 to 4:30pm EST

LIVE STREAMED FROM OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL



PANELIST
DR. BARB HAMILTON-HINCH



PANELIST
PATRICE DE PEIZA

VIRTUAL & FREE REGISTRATION LINK [HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/MDUYQ](https://shorturl.at/mduyq)

REVIEW THE SCHEDULE & REGISTER [WWW.100ABCWOMEN.CA](http://www.100abcwomen.ca)



2026 FIRESIDE CHAT
SEASON 5
EPISODE #6

FUTURE OF WORK: INCLUSION & FLEXIBILITY

WHAT WORK WILL LOOK LIKE IN 2030 AND BEYOND.



MODERATOR
GINELLE SKERRITT



PANELIST
LILLIAN
MISSY SEARL



PANELIST
MARIE
CLARKE - WALKER



PANELIST
LISA SKEETE



PANELIST
JENNY OKONKWO

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 22ND 2026
3 to 4:30pm EST

LIVE STREAMED FROM OUR
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Panellists discuss hybrid models, equitable hiring, equitable compensation, accessibility, and systems that support Black professionals in evolving workplaces.

VIRTUAL & FREE REGISTRATION LINK [HTTPS://SHORTURLAT/ABWDE](https://shorturl.at/abwde)

REVIEW THE SCHEDULE & REGISTER [WWW.100ABCWOMEN.CA](http://www.100abcwomen.ca)

YJW Partners & Co.

Where Purpose Meets Strategy

Helping mission-led organizations and member communities elevate their brand, engage their people, and grow with clarity.

Build the Brand Your Mission Deserves

Your organisation is more than a logo. It's a movement built on purpose, driven by people, and sustained by community. Yet even the strongest missions can lose visibility when their story or strategy no longer reflect their impact.

At YJW Partners & Co., we help mission-led and membership-driven organisations transform how they show up and grow. Through strategy, storytelling, and design, we align how you look, sound, and communicate so your brand feels as powerful as the purpose behind it. When your brand reflects your mission, your impact expands.

Our Expertise

- Brand and messaging strategy that connects purpose with performance
- Content, social media, and video production developed fully in-house
- Sustainable engagement strategies that keep audiences connected and inspired
- Comprehensive service options tailored to your goals and capacity



Youri Wims-Rico,
Expert Brand & Growth
Strategist

With over a decade of experience shaping brands across the fashion, wellness, and social impact sectors, Youri brings a distinctive mix of creative vision and strategic depth to align brand, mission, and impact.

Trusted by mission-led organisations and global networks, including The Rotary Club of Toronto.

Ready to grow with clarity? Contact youri@yjwpartners.com

Quote of the Month

**“Nuture kindness and
integrity with
excellence as your
hallmark; they pay
huge dividends”**

- Dr.Innes M. Howe



2026 JAN - JULY



Fireside Chats

Powerful conversations | Critical issues

Sundays from 3 until 4:30 pm EST

SEPT 18

SAVE
THE
DATES

Symposium

Friday September 18th

High Rate of Suicide Amongst Young Black Girls
Injustice for Black Lawyers

SEPT 19

Saturday, September 19 | 6pm until 10:30 pm EST.

Book Launch & Awards Ceremony

Celebrating excellence

Tickets Go on sale March 1, 2026

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