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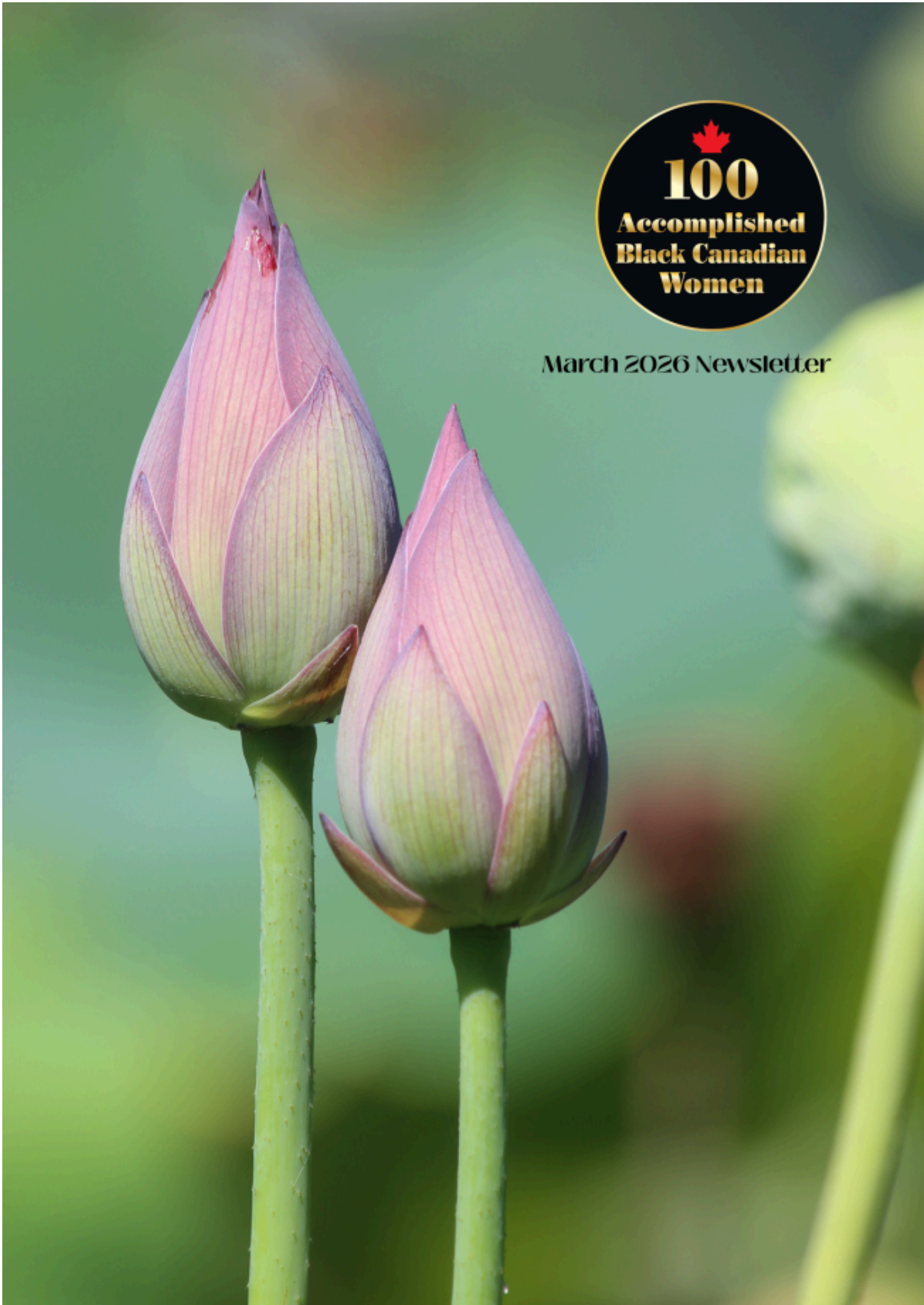
**100ABCWomen spotlights  
and recognizes  
Accomplished Black  
Canadian Women. Please  
check our website for more  
information.  
[www.100ABCWomen.ca](http://www.100ABCWomen.ca)**

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



**100ABCWomen Book Launch & Award  
Ceremony on Saturday, September 19, 2026  
from 6 until 10:30 pm EST – Woodbine  
Banquet Hall, 30 Vice Regent Blvd, Toronto**

Buy your tickets for only \$150 now:  
<https://www.100abcwomen.ca/product-category/2026-gala-tickets/>



  
**100**  
**Accomplished**  
**Black Canadian**  
**Women**

March 2026 Newsletter

Quote of the Month

**“Never allow yourself to be discouraged or stop fighting to improve conditions for others.”**

-Anna Jarvis



# CONGRATULATIONS!



**“I received a congratulatory letter from the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba on my appointment to the Order of Canada.”**

**-Brenda Okorogba**



# I am my Sister's Keeper



## Dr. Nancy Simms, Ed.D.

Truth's enduring question, "Ain't I a woman too?" continues to resonate today. While we rightly celebrate the progress Black women have made, we must also look beyond the immediate and remain committed to confronting and eradicating the forces that continue to harm and hinder us.

In the spirit of uplifting Black joy and excellence, we must intentionally look within our own communities to recognize and applaud the extraordinary women among us. The 100 ABC Accomplished Black Women project shines a light on hundreds of Black women who have broken barriers and forged new paths against all odds. From 2016 to 2024, 100 ABC has recognized and commemorated more than 600 remarkable Black women, with another 100 set to be honored in September 2026.

Below, I've highlighted a few of these inspiring women—no easy task. How do you choose a single star when you're gazing at the whole sky? I invite you to follow along and honour their stories with me, and to share them with the people in your life.

Dauna Jones-Simmonds, BA,  
SHRMC, DCSTs,

President, The Rotary Club of Toronto and co-  
Co-Author and Architect- 100 Accomplished  
Black Women Project.

Honourable, Dr. Jean  
Augustine

The first African Canadian woman elected to  
Canada's House of Commons, and Author and  
Architect- 100 Accomplished Black Women  
Project.

Dr. Denise Green

President, Denise O'Neil Green Consulting, and  
Author and Architect- 100 Accomplished Black  
Women Project.

Tiney Beckles, R.N.

Board member for Sickle Cell Disease Association  
Canada and Dottie Nichols Sickle Cell Scholarship  
Fund Association, and Coordinator for A-Supreme  
Seniors' program.

Dr. Itah Sadu

A distinguished storyteller and children's  
author and also co-owner of a popular Toronto  
bookstore, A Different Booklist.

Indeed, some Black women have accomplished a great deal, and those achievements are worthy of celebration. We must take pride in the milestones Black women have reached across every sector of society. Yet even as we rejoice, I am reminded of a profound truth: **until all Black women are free, none of us will truly be free.**

Black women are not a homogeneous group. Our experiences, needs, aspirations, and challenges are diverse. While some of us have broken barriers and found pathways to opportunity, many of our sisters continue to face systemic inequities that impact their daily lives. The progress of a few, though worthy of honour, cannot obscure the realities faced by many. There is still much work for us to do.

Despite the limited research and data centering the lives and experiences of Black women in Canada, the existing evidence paints a deeply concerning picture and I have highlighted a few below:

1. [Approximately 40% of Black women in Canada are living below the poverty line.](#)
2. [Black women are among the most educated groups in the country, yet remain among the most economically vulnerable.](#)
3. [One in three Black women has experienced some form intimate partner violence.](#)
4. [Black women are also disproportionately represented in maternal deaths in Canada.](#)

This data is a stark reminder that inequities persist even within the Canadian healthcare system that is meant to care for us. This brief list is only the **tip of the iceberg**. It offers just a glimpse into the structural barriers, systemic discrimination, and social inequities that continue to impact Black women's lives daily.

For those of us who occupy positions of privilege, influence, or opportunity, we cannot look away from these truths. We must turn our gaze toward them with honesty, responsibility and accountability. We must, as my mother would say, "**take up the mantle.**" We must commit ourselves to the **long** and necessary work of systemic change—work that seeks not only incremental improvements, but lasting transformation that uplifts the lives of each and every Black woman.

Some may ask, "*Why me?*" To that I respond, "*If not us, then who?*"

Our collective progress depends on our willingness to be courageous and act. Each and every Black woman is our relative—our community, our kin, our sister. And I believe deeply that I owe it to my sister to fight for a world where her life is valued, protected, and allowed to flourish. Because the truth is simple and profound: **I am my sister, and my sister is me. I am my sister's keeper.** Ubuntu!

#### References

- [Battered Women's Support Services](#)
- [Better Outcome Registry & Network](#)
- [Homeless Hub: Black Communities](#)
- [The Sojourner Truth Project](#)



## CONGRATULATIONS Alethia Cadore!

For receiving the **Community Champion Award** at the **Organization for Economic Development and Diplomacy (OEDD) Conference**, in recognition of her leadership and commitment to mentoring youth.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!! Kathy Grant

King Charles III,  
Coronation Medal



# CONGRATULATIONS!

Candies Kotchapaw

Christine Dikongue

Meseret Haileyesus



**MIPAD**  
 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

**RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE**   
 CANADA EDITION

**Most Influential Top 10 Black Canadians To Watch in 2026**

#BlackHistoryMonth

IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS



- |    |                      |  |   |
|----|----------------------|--|---|
| 1  | Arielle Kayabaga     | MP, London West; Deputy House Leader, Canadian Parliament      |  |
| 2  | Candies Kotchapaw    | Executive Director, OEDD                                       |  |
| 3  | Christine Dikongué   | Global Strategist & Consultant                                 |  |
| 4  | Chukwuebuka Anyaduba | Lawyer, Humanitarian   |  |
| 5  | Gwen Madiba          | Editor in Chief - Rollingstone Africa                          |  |
| 6  | Linda Osodo          | Acting Chief People and Culture Officer, Mastercard Foundation |  |
| 7  | Masai Ujiri          | Founder, <i>Giants of Africa</i>                               |  |
| 8  | Meseret Haileyesus   | CEO, Canadian Center for Women Empowerment                     |  |
| 9  | Michel Chikwanine    | Author, Keynote Speaker  |  |
| 10 | Tiffany Callender    | Co-Founder and CEO, FACE                                       |  |



# Volunteer!

WITH 100ABCWOMEN



*Fireside Chats*  
March – July 2026

## LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

Friday, September 18, 2026

**6th** Book Launch & Award Ceremony  
Saturday, September 19, 2026

We are seeking passionate volunteers to support event production, logistics, livestream coordination, marketing, stakeholder engagement, and on-site execution.



## VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

General Volunteers Apply Here:

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Gain experience.  
Build networks.  
Advance Black  
excellence across  
Canada.



**TD READY  
COMMITMENT**



2026 FIRESIDE CHATS - SEASON 5 - EPISODE #12

# ARTS, CREATIVITY & CULTURAL INFLUENCE

How creative expression shapes community, identity, market influence, and global culture. Black women artists, curators, and creatives share journeys and lessons.

JOIN US on  
**SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 2026**  
3 to 4:30pm EST



MODERATOR  
YVETTE BLACKBURN



PANELIST  
LATOYA BELFON



PANELIST  
ROHENE BOUAJRAM



PANELIST  
DEBBIE NICHOLLS-SKERRITT

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2026 FIRESIDE CHATS - SEASON 5 - EPISODE #13

# PARENTING & EDUCATION IN CHANGING TIMES



MODERATOR  
KATHY MCDONALD

Strategies for guiding children through complex academic and social landscapes – with tips from educators, parents, and child advocates.



PANELIST  
LILLY MISSY SEARL



PANELIST  
KAYLA STEPHENSON



PANELIST  
CLAUDETTE RUTHERFORD



PANELIST  
THANDO HYMAN



PANELIST  
GINELLE SKERRITT



PANELIST  
ANIKA FORDE

## SUNDAY APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> 2026 3 to 4:30pm EST

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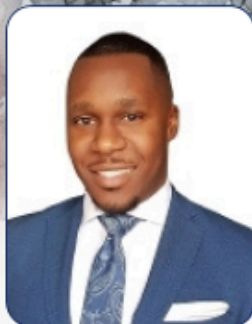
ETFO



FEEO



# FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR EVERY LIFE STAGE



MODERATOR  
JERMAINE DACRES



PANELIST  
LATOYA BELFON



PANELIST  
DR. KARINE COEN-SANCHEZ



PANELIST  
ANIKA FORDE

Dynamic conversation on budgeting, retirement planning, investing, and wealth preservation – practical insights for beginners to seasoned planners.

JOIN US on  
**SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> 2026**  
**3 to 4:30pm EST**

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2026 FIRESIDE CHATS - SEASON 5 - EPISODE #14

# INVISIBLE WORK: CAREGIVING IN BLACK COMMUNITIES

**SUNDAY  
APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> 2026  
3 to 4:30pm EST**

Recognition and support for those providing elder, child, or family care – with conversation on policy, community resources, and emotional wellbeing



MODERATOR  
GINELLE SKERRITT



PANELIST  
MARIAT JIBRIL



PANELIST  
LILLY MISSY SEARL



PANELIST  
MARIE CLARKE-WALKER



PANELIST  
THANDO HYMAN

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## 2026 100 ABC HONOUREES

Adaye Oputa Anu  
 Alethia Cadore  
 Amanda J'amer  
 Andrea McCormack  
 Angela J'Henry  
 Anika Forde  
 Anthonette Jacob  
 Aquilas K Dapaah  
 Attasha Jordan  
 Dr. Barbara J'Hamilton-J'inch  
 Barbara Ademolu  
 Barbara Grace Porter  
 Carline Zamar  
 Carmella Goodridge  
 Celestina Aleobua  
 Cereise Ross  
 Charline Grant  
 Cheryl 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  
 Dwanja 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-J'hall  
 Josephine Sindani  
 June Kelly  
 Dr. Kadaajah Johnson-Louis  
 KAMELA'H Blair  
 Karen Robinson-Scantlebury  
 Keisha Assivero  
 Kelly De Fogain  
 Khadidiatou Ndiaye  
 Kimora Lee J'Harris-Taylor  
 Lana Talbot  
 Latoya Belton  
 Lillian Missy Searl  
 Loreena Gabriel  
 Lydia Gill Blackett  
 Malika Yoh  
 Marcia Banfield Smith  
 Margaret Mubanda  
 Mariat Jibril  
 Marium Tolson-Murty  
 Dr. Marilyn Morris  
 Dr. Mary Louise McCarthy  
 Mavis McLaren  
 Melissa Alexander  
 Micah Smith  
 Michelle Penton

Michelle Green  
 Dr. Mireille Ntambwe  
 Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass  
 Mumbi T'indyebwa Otu  
 Musu Kanu T'aylor-Lewis  
 Nailah Gordon-Decicico  
 Natalie Bell  
 Nekpen Obasogie  
 Nicola Simpson  
 Dr. Novlette Mitchell  
 NyAshia Jordan Tafari  
 Dr. Oluwanifemi Fagbobun  
 Patricia Neely-McCurdy  
 Patricia S. Brown  
 Dr. Rhonda McEwen  
 Rohene Bouajram  
 Sandy Thomas  
 Dr. Shade Kolade  
 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 T shabalala Mogadime

CONGRATULATIONS!

600  
Exceptional Black Canadian Women  
Poster

**600**  
**EXCEPTIONAL BLACK CANADIAN WOMEN**  
*Pioneers of Progress and Promise*



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27<sup>th</sup>  
**ANNUAL  
CELEBRITY CHEFS**

**BATTLE  
OF THE SEXES**

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Paediatric Program (Sickle Cell Disease Support)  
William Osler Health System, Brampton Civic Hospital



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**\$60 Per Adult  
\$40 Per Senior  
\$40 Per Student**

Includes 7 Samples  
& After Party

MUSIC  
DJ MR. AL

EMCEE  
CHARLES MATTHEWS JR.



**6 - 6:45 PM  
SOCIAL HOUR / ENTERTAINMENT**

**6:45 - 7 PM  
INTRODUCTION OF  
CHEFS & CELEBRITY JUDGES**

**7 - 9 PM  
FOOD SAMPLING**

**9 PM - Midnight  
AFTER PARTY**

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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 15, 2026

## The Overlooked Reality of Intersectionality on **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK**

By Lavinia Latham B.A.(Hons.), J.D.



This year, International Day of Pink falls on April 8, 2026, a day when millions of people will stand in solidarity against bullying, discrimination, and hate.

As accomplished Black Canadian women, and those who support us, we know the cost of showing up, day after day, in spaces that were not designed with us in mind. We know what it means to have our competence questioned and our humanity tested.

That is precisely why the fight for LGBTQ+ inclusion is our fight too.

For Black queer women and girls in Canada, the intersection of race and sexual or gender identity often results in overlapping and compounding discrimination. They are too Black for some spaces and too queer for others. It shows up in the exhaustion of code-switching in multiple directions and in the constant question of whether the people standing beside you truly see you in full.

### **Solidarity Is an Action Verb**

Wearing pink matters. Symbols matter. But the question I return to in my work as an employment lawyer and workplace investigator is this: what are we doing on April 8 and beyond, particularly in the spaces where our decisions carry weight?

Bullying does not only happen in hallways. It happens in boardrooms, in performance evaluations, and in the quiet, cumulative ways that are often difficult to capture in policy but are immediately felt by those experiencing them.

As women who continue to fight for our place at the table, we must also ensure that the tables we occupy are inclusive in practice, not just in principle.

**Graphic design services for this newsletter provided by:**

**Gregory Wright**

**Contact me for commissions and business inquiries**

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