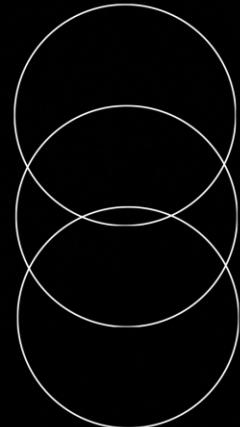




POWER OF INCLUSION

A LOOK WITHIN



VOL.
04

NOV 2024
19 – 23
5 Day Event
Virtual & In Person

LE POUVOIR DE L'INCLUSION : UN REGARD INTÉRIEUR

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PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

November 19–23, 2024



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 4th Power of Inclusion event, hosted by the Council of Nigerian Professionals.

This event offers a wonderful opportunity for participants to share their knowledge and experiences with respect to equity, diversity and inclusion. I am certain that everyone in attendance will appreciate this chance to learn from their peers and will come away feeling inspired and empowered.

I would like to thank the organizers for putting together an informative program for everyone in attendance. Canada is truly a multicultural nation, made stronger and more resilient by our diversity.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Du 19 au 23 novembre 2024

Chères amies,
Chers amis,

Je suis heureux de présenter mes salutations les plus chaleureuses à toutes les personnes qui participent au 4^e événement Power of Inclusion, organisé par le Council of Nigerian Professionals.



Cet événement est une excellente occasion pour les participants de communiquer leurs connaissances et leurs expériences en matière d'équité, de diversité et d'inclusion. Je suis convaincu que toutes les personnes présentes apprécieront cette occasion d'apprendre de leurs pairs, et en tireront une inspiration et une force renouvelées.

Je félicite également les membres du comité organisateur d'avoir préparé un programme instructif pour tous les participants. Le Canada est véritablement une nation multiculturelle, rendue plus forte et plus résiliente par sa diversité.

Je vous souhaite des moments aussi agréables que mémorables.

Cordialement,

Le très hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, C.P., député
Premier ministre du Canada





THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

November 19, 2024



I wish to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending this year's Power of Inclusion event. The Council of Nigerian Professionals has done exceptional work in bringing people together and pushing forward this meaningful cause. Gatherings like this spark new ideas, challenge perceptions, and open doors to fresh ways of ensuring everyone has a voice.

This event provides an opportunity to reflect on past achievements and, more importantly, to look ahead at what remains to be accomplished in fostering environments that celebrate and embrace diversity in all its forms.

As the representative of the Crown in Ontario, I commend the Council for their ongoing dedication, and I know that the energy and insights shared during these five days will ripple far beyond this moment.

Je vous offre mes plus sincères remerciements pour votre engagement à appuyer l'épanouissement de communautés toujours plus accueillantes et bienveillantes

Salutations distinguées

The Honourable Edith Dumont,
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario





Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario

November 19 – 23, 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

Warm greetings to everyone taking part in the Power of Inclusion:
A Look Within.

People from around the world have been coming to our great province for generations, to find opportunity, raise families and build vibrant communities. Ontario is proud to be home to many professionals who have roots in Nigeria and other parts of Africa. Through their skills and talents, they have made their mark in every field — and have helped make our province strong.

Many thanks to the Council of Nigerian Professionals for hosting this event and for its commitment to helping Nigerian Canadians build beneficial networks, update their skills, find opportunities and succeed. The council and its allied organizations are valued partners in helping newcomers participate fully in the life of our province.

Best wishes for a successful event.

A handwritten signature of Doug Ford in black ink.

Doug Ford
Premier





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the Power of Inclusion event hosted by the Council of Nigerian Professionals Inc. (CNP) and the Council of African Professionals (CAP).

This year's theme "Power of Inclusion: A Look Within" brings people together to celebrate and honour leaders from all cultures supporting equity, diversity and inclusion.

Thank you to the CNP and CAP for helping promote inclusivity and empowerment to Canadian professionals, entrepreneurs and youth of African heritage through your work.

I am pleased you have chosen to host this event in Toronto. It celebrates the diverse cultures that make the City of Toronto so unique and contribute to its motto: "Diversity Our Strength."

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an informative and enjoyable event.

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
416-397-CITY (2489) mayor_chow@toronto.ca





Mayor's Message

On behalf of the Town of Milton, we congratulate the Council of Nigerian Professionals and the Council of African Professionals on the continued success of your annual event, Power of Inclusion. Your dedication to empowering Canadian professionals, entrepreneurs and youth of African heritage is inspiring and important to our community.

The theme for this year, "Power of Inclusion: A Look Within," is a powerful reminder of the importance of empathy, understanding and unity across all cultures. We commend your continued commitment to fostering a more inclusive and empowered Canada.

Congratulations and may this event continue to inspire and empower professionals!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Krantz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke on the right side.

Gord Krantz

Mayor, Town of Milton

Parliamentary Office / Bureau parlementaire
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

ADAM VAN KOEVERDEN, M.P.
MILTON

October 7th, 2024

Dear Adejisola Atiba, the Members of the Council of Nigerian Professionals, and the Council of African Professionals (CAP),

Congratulations on the incredible milestone of the Power of Inclusion (POI) 2024 event! This initiative continues to inspire and uplift professionals, entrepreneurs, and youth from African heritage, while fostering a deeper commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and empowerment across Canada.

The theme this year, "Power of Inclusion: A Look Within," is both timely and essential. By encouraging reflection on the roles we all play in shaping an inclusive future, you highlight the importance of introspection and accountability in driving real change. I am particularly appreciative of the comprehensive approach to the event, exploring vital areas such as governance, technology, law, and the charitable sector, all through the lens of inclusion.

In a society as diverse as ours, ensuring equal opportunities for all is critical. Governance, as emphasized, plays a foundational role in establishing policies that promote transparency, accountability, and meaningful participation. By addressing barriers and creating pathways for marginalized communities, we can build stronger, more equitable systems that work for everyone.

Your leadership in advancing the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion has a profound impact, and I want to commend everyone involved in this initiative. Through the Power of Inclusion, you are not just creating dialogue—you are empowering the next generation of leaders and change-makers.

I look forward to celebrating the success of POI 2024 and honoring the incredible individuals who contribute to building a more inclusive, compassionate, and united Canada. Your work continues to inspire, and I am proud to support your mission.

Warmest regards,

Adam van Koeverden, M.P. for Milton



Greetings



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Power of Inclusion 2024

Dear Friends,

It is my great pleasure on behalf of the Federal Government, to welcome you to the Council of Nigerian Professionals and Council of African Professionals, *Power of Inclusion 2024*.

Each year, these esteemed organizations promote inclusivity and empowerment for individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds. As a Member of Parliament, I embrace every opportunity to learn how we can make our government, and our country a more inclusive place. Coming from a finance background I was particularly pleased to see the importance of inclusion being explored in the financial services industry.

I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to this year's organizers, volunteers, staff, and sponsors. Without your tireless dedication, events like this Gala would not be possible.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to this year's award recipients. Your commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion is truly inspiring!

With warm regards,

Charles Sousa





MP PAUL CHIANG

MARKHAM-UNIONVILLE

November 19th, 2024

A message from your MP!

As the Member of Parliament for Markham-Unionville, I am proud to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Council of Nigerian Professionals (CNP) and Council of African Professionals (CAP) on the occasion of Power of Inclusion (POI) 2024!

It is with great enthusiasm that I congratulate you on celebrating this wonderful five day event. With events like these come new opportunities for the future, and I am so excited for what the future holds; both for the attendees of POI, and for your respective organizations. Events like this are immense importance as they highlight the importance of diversity and inclusion initiatives, and push for positive change.

Additionally, it is so crucial that we support the professionals, entrepreneurs, and youths of African heritage. It is only when we are all included that we truly succeed as a society.

Please accept my warmest congratulations once again on the joyous occasion of your Power of Inclusion 2024!

Sincerely,

MP Paul Chiang
Markham-Unionville





Shaun Chen

Member of Parliament / Député
Scarborough North / Scarborough–Nord



November 23, 2024

A Personal Message from MP Shaun Chen

As the Member of Parliament for Scarborough North, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the organizers and attendees of the Power of Inclusion 2024, hosted by the Council of Nigerian Professionals and the Council of African Professionals.

Today's event is a wonderful opportunity to empower Canadian professionals, entrepreneurs, and youths of African heritage. Your support for these individuals is leaving a significant impact, shaping their futures, and empowering them to excel in their chosen paths ahead.

I congratulate the Council of Nigerian Professionals and the Council of African Professionals for your commitment to organizing today's event. Ceremonies like this are vital in fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity within our diverse society.

Please accept my best wishes for a most successful event.

Sincerely,



Shaun Chen
Member of Parliament
Scarborough North





Councillor Lily Cheng
would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to

Council Nigerian Professionals
on the occasion of the
Power of Inclusion Gala & Awards Ceremony

This gala celebrates your dedication towards cultural enrichment, community engagement, and empowering individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds within the Canadian ecosystem.

Your dedicated support for business professionals and entrepreneurs within our city is commendable. Your efforts have enriched our city's cultural landscape and also contributed to the prosperity and diversity of Toronto.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes for a successful Gala.



L

Lily Cheng
City of Toronto
November 19th, 2024





Member of Provincial Parliament

Greetings from Billy Pang, MPP

*As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Markham-Unionville, I am pleased to extend my warmest regards and congratulatory wishes to the **Council of Nigerian Professionals (CNP)** and the **Council of African Professionals (CAP)** for co-hosting **Power of Inclusion 2024** on November 19-23, 2024.*

For the past 6 years, CNP and CAP have been dedicated to empowering Canadian professionals, entrepreneurs and youth of African heritage while promoting inclusivity and empowerment for individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds within the Canadian ecosystem. This year's theme "Power of Inclusion: A Look Within" brings together professionals with the focus on holistic well-being.

Thank you to everyone involved in organizing this event. I wish you all much health, happiness and success.



Sincerely yours,

A handwritten purple signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Billy Pang".

Billy Pang, MPP
Markham-Unionville



Message from
the Founder and President:

Power of Inclusion – A Look Within



Dear Friends, Community and Partners,
It's my great pleasure to welcome you to this year's "Power of Inclusion: A Look Within." This theme encourages each of us to consider not only the external strides we can make toward inclusion but also the introspective work needed to create real, lasting change. Inclusion is not just a principle; it is an ongoing commitment to building a world where everyone feels seen, respected, and valued. As we dive into this theme, we will explore critical areas that underpin a truly inclusive society—each represented in our event's sub-themes.

Exploring the Sub-Themes: Pathways to Inclusive Progress

This year, our conversations will focus on the impact and potential of the following domains, each essential to our journey toward a more inclusive world. I would like to appreciate all our Industry and community leaders that have volunteered their time to support us in unpacking these various sub-themes.

1. The Legal System and Justice: The legal system is the backbone of a fair and just society.

HRH Adejisola Atiba (Lady ABHA) Obaatapaa Nana Akosua Mpontuemaa 1

However, inequalities persist. Data from Statistics Canada reveals that racialized groups face a 3x higher likelihood of legal challenges and systemic bias in the justice system. By understanding these disparities and exploring ways to bridge them, we can advance toward a legal system that truly protects and represents all.

2. Governance and Policy: Inclusive governance sets the tone for equal opportunity and rights. Studies show that when governments enact inclusive policies, the likelihood of social cohesion increases by up to 20%. This theme highlights the importance of involving diverse voices in decision-making processes to ensure that policies reflect the needs of all citizens.

3. Technology and Digital Inclusion: Technology has the power to break down barriers, but it can also create divides. Recent data from the World Economic Forum shows that marginalized communities are 35% less likely to have digital access. By fostering digital inclusion, we can empower individuals with the tools and knowledge they need to succeed in an



increasingly tech-driven world.

4. Non-Profit and Charitable Organizations: Charitable organizations play a unique role in addressing societal gaps that traditional systems often overlook. Research by Imagine Canada shows that 80% of Canadians have benefited from non-profit support, especially in marginalized communities. Their work is a testament to the power of community-led change, and our conversations will explore how their contributions can be expanded to further the goals of inclusivity.

5. Religion and Interfaith Collaboration: Religion has long been a unifying force, but differences can sometimes create divides. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates that 30% of communities with active interfaith initiatives report greater social cohesion and understanding. Through this sub-theme, we will discuss how faith-based efforts can foster unity, empathy, and understanding in our diverse society.

6. The Financial Industry's Role in Economic Inclusion: Financial access is foundational to achieving socioeconomic equity. The World Bank highlights that communities with equitable access to banking and financial resources experience a 15% reduction in poverty rates. By addressing barriers to financial inclusion, we can create more resilient, prosperous communities where everyone has a fair chance to thrive.

A Call to Action: Building an Inclusive Future

As we embark on these discussions, I ask each of you to think about what inclusion truly means to you and how you can contribute to this goal in your own community. Let's take these insights and apply them—each conversation, each action helping to shape a world where everyone, regardless of background, could succeed.

Together, let us strive for a future that celebrates diversity, ensures equity, and creates a safe,

welcoming space for all. Thank you for being part of this journey, and for your commitment to making our world a better place.

HRH Adejisola Atiba

HRH Adejisola Atiba (Lady ABHA)

Obaantapaa Nana Akosua Mpontuema 1

Founder and President, CNP+CAP

Sources

1. Statistics Canada. "Visible Minority Status and Systemic Bias in Legal Outcomes," 2023.
2. World Economic Forum. "Digital Divide in Marginalized Communities," 2023.
3. Imagine Canada. "Impact of Non-Profit Organizations in Canadian Communities," 2022.
4. Pew Research Center. "Interfaith Collaboration and Community Cohesion," 2023.
5. World Bank Group. "Financial Inclusion and Socioeconomic Development," 2023.



INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

In recent years, inclusion has moved from being just a concept to becoming a powerful catalyst for positive change in workplaces, communities, and institutions. It is more than a trend; it represents a profound shift in our understanding of diversity, equity, and belonging. Increasingly, inclusion is recognized as a critical component of social progress, economic advancement, and personal development. But what does genuine inclusion entail, and why is it essential as we move forward?

Inclusion means creating environments where all people, regardless of their background, identity, or abilities, feel welcome, respected, and valued. It is an active commitment to engage every individual within a community or organization, dismantling barriers that might separate people based on race, gender, socioeconomic status, ability, religion, or other identity markers.

While related to diversity and equity, inclusion is distinct. Diversity focuses on representation, and equity ensures fair access and opportunity, while inclusion fosters an environment where people feel a true sense of belonging. In inclusive settings, individuals are not only invited in; they are encouraged to contribute meaningfully and are valued for their unique perspectives.

The Current Landscape

The push for inclusion has gained momentum globally, as organizations work to create fairer and more supportive environments. Many have established diversity and inclusion departments, policies to support parents, and accessibility measures for individuals with disabilities, along with training to address unconscious bias. However, even with these efforts, barriers to inclusion remain.

In an interconnected, diverse world, inclusive environments are increasingly necessary. Workplaces now employ people from varied cultures and generations, and communities benefit from diverse perspectives. Research highlights that inclusive workplaces foster better collaboration, enhance problem-solving, and improve employee satisfaction. Companies with inclusive cultures are twice as likely to exceed financial goals, six times more likely to innovate, and better at retaining talent. Similarly, inclusive educational settings produce graduates who are more prepared for a global

A Vital Imperative for Transformative Change

workforce, with well-developed people skills.

Inclusive Leadership

Inclusive leadership is a style that prioritizes understanding, respecting, and appreciating the diverse experiences and perspectives of all team members. Inclusive leaders actively work to build equitable workplaces where diversity of thought, culture, gender, race, ability, and background is valued and utilized for organizational benefit.

This leadership approach requires skills like active listening, empathy, open-mindedness, and a commitment to addressing bias. Inclusive leaders create environments where everyone feels they belong, leading to stronger morale, engagement, innovation, and performance.

Inclusive Leadership Essentials

Organizations that champion inclusivity and diversity reap tangible benefits—they are more innovative, resilient, and adaptable. They attract top talent, retain employees longer, and establish deeper connections with clients and customers. Here's why inclusive leadership is crucial in today's world:

Creativity and Innovation: Diverse teams bring unique perspectives that foster creativity and problem-solving. Inclusive environments are essential in addressing the complex challenges of today's fast-evolving world.

Enhanced Engagement: Individuals, particularly employees, are more motivated and productive in environments where they feel respected and valued, resulting in higher engagement and job satisfaction.

Strengthened Reputation: Consumers today prefer companies that reflect socially responsible values. Inclusive leadership demonstrates a commitment to social responsibility, enhancing a company's appeal to conscious clients and partners.

Improved Decision-Making: Diverse teams, under inclusive leadership, tend to make more balanced, well-rounded decisions. By mitigating bias and considering multiple perspectives, inclusive teams arrive at more sustainable solutions.

Core Principles of Inclusive Leadership

To cultivate inclusivity, leaders need to commit to several key principles:

Unconscious Bias Awareness: Recognizing personal biases and



working to counteract them is fundamental to inclusive leadership. Leaders who are conscious of their assumptions foster more equitable team environments.

Active Listening and Empathy: Inclusive leaders encourage open communication, creating safe spaces where team members feel comfortable expressing their thoughts. Empathy helps leaders connect with team members and understand their individual strengths and challenges.

Commitment to Fairness: Inclusive leaders champion fair treatment, tailoring approaches to individual needs to ensure everyone has access to the same opportunities.

Facilitation of Diverse Perspectives: Inclusive leaders actively seek diverse viewpoints and create opportunities for underrepresented voices to be heard.

Adaptability and Agility: Inclusive leaders are open to feedback and willing to adapt to the evolving needs of a diverse team, continuously seeking growth through training, selfreflection, and feedback.

Steps Toward Inclusive Leadership

Incorporate Self-Awareness: Leaders must understand their own biases and strive for growth. This can be achieved through training, seeking feedback, and utilizing diversity and inclusion resources.

Champion Diverse Mobility: Building diverse teams starts with inclusive hiring practices that look for talent from varied backgrounds and consider non-traditional qualifications. Inclusive leaders also ensure that all employees have fair access to advancement.

Advance Psychological Safety: Creating a safe environment is essential for inclusivity, where team members feel comfortable taking risks, speaking up, and sharing ideas without fear of retribution.

Deploy Inclusive Policies: Leaders should advocate for policies that support diversity and inclusion, such as flexible work schedules, accessible workspaces, and transparent pay structures.

Accountability: Inclusive leaders regularly evaluate their teams' dynamics and organizational culture, striving to improve inclusivity. They hold themselves and others accountable for maintaining respect, equity, and inclusion.

Current Challenges

Despite its advantages, the journey to becoming an inclusive leader is fraught with challenges. Leaders may encounter resistance, both personally and organizationally, as old biases and traditional ways of thinking are questioned. Balancing diverse perspectives and needs can sometimes create conflicts, and it takes time to build trust and understanding among team members.

Additionally, the pursuit of inclusivity requires constant commitment and openness to learning. Inclusive leadership is not a one-time goal but an ongoing process that evolves with

the changing needs of the workforce and society. Leaders may need to deal with uncomfortable and courageous conversations and difficult feedback, which can be challenging but essential for growth.

The Road Ahead

As societies, communities, and organizations continue to recognize the value and promise of inclusion, the demand for inclusive leadership is expected to exponentially rise. Communities will likely increase investment in leadership development programs that focus on inclusivity, empathy, and cross-cultural competencies. Furthermore, technology will play a pivotal role in supporting inclusivity through tools for virtual collaboration, AI-driven bias detection, and enhanced communication methods can all contribute to more inclusive collaborative communities.

In the road ahead, inclusive leadership will not only transform individual organizations but also contribute to broader societal changes and advancements, promoting sustainable equality and opportunity for all. In a world that values transparency and equity, inclusive leaders are poised to be the agents of change, steering their teams toward success while building a more compassionate and conducive environment.

Undoubtedly, inclusive leadership is no longer optional; it is the future of effective and responsible leadership. As leaders embrace inclusivity, they will find themselves fostering stronger, more innovative, and more resilient teams who strategically become high-performing workforce functioning in healthy workplaces and doing exploits in the marketplace. Granted, the journey to inclusive leadership is challenging, but the rewards in terms of employee satisfaction, company reputation, and long-term success are well worth the effort. By committing to inclusivity, leaders pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for their organizations and the world at large.



Ebere Morgan, Ph.D.



Taiwo Julius, popularly known as MC Teejay has over a decade of experience emceeing various corporate and social events and he's known for giving only 5-star events! He has emceed for notable organizations like the Council of Nigerian Professionals (CNP), Nigerian IT Professionals in Canada (NIPCA), the African-Caribbean Food Festival (AFRICAR) and the RBC Evolve Seminar to mention a few. He has hosted the Mayors of Mississauga, Brampton and Oakville at several events.

Taiwo is a distinguished Change Management and Human Resources figure with nearly two decades of leadership expertise. Armed with a BSc. in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management from Lagos State University, Nigeria. Taiwo further honed his skills through the esteemed Executive MBA program at the Ivey Business School, Western University of Ontario. He holds many certifications from globally recognized institutions, including Prosci Canada, CPHR Canada and SPHR-I USA which indicates his commitment to excellence.

With a career spanning North America and Africa, Taiwo has significantly contributed to various industries such as media, oil & gas, CPG, e-commerce, consulting, medical and insurance sectors. His proficiency lies in strategic change management, human resources consulting, BIPOC recruitment, leadership development, and performance enhancement.

As the Co-founder and Principal Consultant of Thami Wales Canada Inc., a management



MC Teejay

consulting firm, Taiwo provides invaluable counsel to businesses and individuals, guiding them through intricate transitions involving people, processes, and technology.



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COUNCIL OF AFRICAN PROFESSIONALS

1

Tuesday November 19th 6 PM EST

Importance of the Legal
System in Inclusion



COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Day 1 2024

Dr. Wendy Cukier

Founder and Academic Director, Diversity Institute/
Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation,
Toronto Metropolitan University

Wendy's full title:

Dr. Wendy Cukier, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Ted Rogers School of Management at Toronto Metropolitan University; Founder and Academic Director, Diversity Institute; Academic Director of the Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (WEKH); and Academic Research Director of the Future Skills Centre

Wendy's Bio:

Dr. Wendy Cukier is a professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Ted Rogers School of Management and the co-author of the bestseller, *Innovation Nation: Canadian Leadership From Java to Jurassic Park*. She is also the founder and Academic Director of the Diversity Institute at Toronto Metropolitan University, which has 100 full-time staff, 100 research associates from around the world and more than 200 industry partners focused on dimensions of diversity and inclusion in the workplace, future skills and entrepreneurship. She leads a number of large projects including Canada's Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub as well as projects for the Future Skills Centre and 50-30 Challenge.

Wendy is an active volunteer and serves on many boards including the Federation for African Canadian Economics (FACE), and the Lifelong Leadership Institute. Wendy has worked internationally on a range of projects and represented Canada in many regional and



global fora. She was recently part of Canada's W-20 delegation to the UN and has worked with governments of the U.K., Mexico, U.S., South Africa, France, Australia and New Zealand, as well as on projects in the global south. She is the founder of several startups, social enterprises and nonprofits. She holds a PhD in Information Systems from the Schulich School of Business, an MBA, an MA, and honorary doctorates from Laval and Concordia universities. Among her many awards, she is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Cross, one of Canada's highest civilian honours.



Dr. Ayoade Adeyemi

Business strategist and management consultant

Dr. Ayoade Adeyemi (also known as Ay Morgan) is a business strategist and management consultant with over two decades of experience in Human Resources, Enterprise Development, Marketing, and Project Management.

He's a recipient of numerous awards, to mention a few, the Global Mentor Award 2022, and the Rotary International Distinguished Regional Service Award.

He lectures at a college in Toronto, Canada. He belongs to the membership of many professional associations in Canada.

He's a Rotarian and an environmental sustainability advocate.

M O D E R A T O R



Stephen J. Tanner

Chief of Police
Halton Regional Police Service

Chief of Police Stephen Tanner was born in Oakville, Ontario, and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Guelph before entering the policing profession as a member of the Halton Regional Police Service in the fall of 1982.

As a member of the Halton Regional Police Service, Steve worked in a variety of areas, including uniformed patrol, criminal investigations, tactical rescue, training, intelligence, and major crime (homicide as well as forensic polygraph examination). He also served as an elected representative and as the Chair of the Halton Regional Police Association. During his tenure he was actively involved at the provincial level with the Police Association of Ontario.

In 1998, Steve accepted the position of Deputy Chief of Operations with the Guelph Police Service, a position he held until relocating to Belleville as the Deputy Chief in 2000.

In 2001, Steve graduated from the Master of Public Administration degree program at the University of Western Ontario

In January 2002, he was chosen as Belleville's Chief of Police. At that time and at the age of 41, Steve was one of the youngest, if not the youngest, Chief of Police in Canada. In November 2008, Steve became the Chief of the Kingston Police Force.

In June 2012, Steve was named the Chief of the Halton Regional Police Service and returned home to his home town of Oakville, and commenced his duties with Halton in September 2012.

Steve has been actively involved over many years with a variety of organizations and boards, and a variety of sports teams and organizations. He has served as the President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, he is currently serving his 2nd term as the Chair of the Governing Body of the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario and is a



member of both the OACP and CACP Organized Crime Committees, and is also a long serving member of National Police Services National Advisory Committee (NPS NAC). He is also a founding board member of the recently formed Abraham Global Peace Initiative (AGPI) – a group fighting for human rights on a global front.

In January 2012, he was appointed by the Governor General of Canada as an Officer of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.

Steve is currently in his 42nd year of policing and in January 2024 completed 22 years as Chief of Police. Steve is currently the longest serving Police Chief in Canada (with three different police services).



Titilope Olatunji

Attorney | Partner at Platinum Law Firm

Titilope Olatunji is a highly accomplished attorney with a strong track record in Real Estate law. With over 10 years of experience, Titi has successfully represented clients in complex legal matters, including contract disputes, Wills & Estate Administration cases, and Family law issues.

During her legal career, Titi has had the privilege of working at esteemed organizations such as Olurotimi Williams & Co, she further honed her skills as a Partner at Orji & Olatunji & Co. Currently, she is proud to be associated with Platinum Law Firm, where she currently works as a Partner and continues to provide exceptional legal representation and advocate for the rights of my clients.

Titi has a diverse and comprehensive legal educational history that has equipped her with a strong foundation in the legal field. As a Member of the Law Society of Ontario, Canada, she is recognized as a qualified legal professional in the province. In addition, she holds a Master of Law (LLM) degree from the prestigious University of Lagos in Nigeria. Prior to that, she earned a Barrister-at-Law (B.L.) degree from the Nigerian Law School in Abuja, and her legal journey began with a Bachelor of Law (LL.B) degree from the University of Ilorin in Nigeria.

Titi is a member of several prominent legal associations, these include the Ontario Bar Association, which enables me to connect with legal professionals in Ontario, stay updated on legal developments, and contribute to the enhancement of the province's legal system. Furthermore, she is honored to be a part of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, an



esteemed organization that champions diversity and inclusion within the legal community.

Outside of her legal practice, Titi is an avid reader with a diverse taste in literature. She is also a passionate singer and finds solace and joy in music. Titi has a deep love for travel and immersing herself in different cultures. She believes that experiencing new places and meeting diverse individuals broadens her perspective and enhances her ability to connect with clients from all walks of life.



Honourable Justice Dr. Irving André

The Honourable Justice Dr. Irving André was born in Curaçao. He spent his formative years in Dominica and attended the Dominica Grammar School and later the Sixth Form College. In 1978, he graduated with three Advanced Level passes in English Literature, History and Economics in the Annual Cambridge Examinations.

Justice André won a U.S. Aid Scholarship to study at the University of the West-Indies in Jamaica. He read English, History and Philosophy at the University's Mona Campus, and in 1981 graduated with a First Class Honours Degree and a Gold Medal for the Best Overall Performance in the University's Faculty of Arts.

After a brief stint of teaching at the St. Mary's Academy in Dominica, Justice André won a scholarship to do a Doctorate in History at the Johns Hopkins University. He attended the university for two years but migrated to Canada before completion of his studies.

One year after arriving in Canada, Justice André attended the Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. He graduated three years later after winning academic prizes in Labour and Immigration Law. One of these essays on the Caribbean Agricultural Workers Program in Canada, was published in the 1990 edition of the Osgoode Hall Law Journal and has been referred to in a number of cases including one in the Supreme Court of Canada. He articled at the Ontario Ministry of Labour, and upon successful completion of his Bar Examinations, was called to the Ontario Bar in 1990.

Justice André later worked as a prosecutor for the Ontario Ministry of Labour, an Assistant Crown Attorney in Brampton, a Criminal Defence Lawyer and as a Vice-President of the Ontario Licence Appeals Tribunal. In 2002 he was appointed as a judge in the Ontario Court of Justice where he presided as the Local Administrative Judge in the Region of Peel until 2012.

Justice André earned a Masters Degree in Law in 2006, a Doctorate in Law in 2010 and became the first judge in the Ontario Court of Justice to hold a Doctorate Degree in Law.

In 2012 Justice André was appointed to the Supreme Court of Justice where he currently presides.

He has an extensive history of community service. He has served as the President of the United Achievers Club of Brampton and the Sisserou Cultural Club of Brampton. He has been a Board Member of the former Peel Memorial Hospital, the John Howard Society and the United Achievers Non-Profit Housing Corporation. He co-founded a group called RESQ which caters to the needs of youth at risk and for many years, co-organized an annual event called Youthquake in which professionals from all walks of life met for one day and shared their experiences with minority students. Justice André has also sponsored an



annual scholarship given to a student with a disadvantaged background who has achieved academic success at the tertiary or university level.

Justice André has received numerous community awards including the Dominica of Distinction Award, the Black History Makers Award, the YMCA Angel Award, the African Canadian Achievement Award, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Justice André has also written a number of books including biographies of Honourable Franklin Baron, Dominica's first Chief Minister, Honourable Edward Oliver LeBlanc, Dominica's first Premier, Dr. Desmond McIntyre, Dominica's first Surgeon and His Excellency Charles Maynard, the island's Ambassador to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. He also co-authored a book with Washington based attorney Gabriel Christian on the Service and Sacrifice of the British West-Indian Military.

Justice André is married to wife, Kathy and has two daughters.



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COUNCIL OF AFRICAN PROFESSIONALS

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Wednesday November 20th 6 PM EST

Importance of Governance in
Inclusion



COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS

Ola Ifidon

Executive Managing Partner at ValCon Inc.

Ola Ifidon is an experienced business and technology strategist and the Executive Managing Partner at ValCon Inc., a management consulting company in Alberta.

She is an accomplished professional with a wealth of expertise and credentials. She has MBA degrees from Cornell and Queens Universities and over 25 years of industry experience. She recently earned the Chartered Director (C.Dir.) Designation from the McMaster University.

An ex-Accenture strategy, and Business Architecture senior consultant, and a merit award graduate of Economics, with over 20 years of experience in management and business consulting, strategy, digital transformation, performance management, project delivery management, stakeholder management, Business Architecture and Business Analysis across various industries, including oil and gas, information technology, and banking.

An empathetic leader, author, business architect, and strategist, Ola is passionate about solving business problems, identifying opportunities, and creating value from ambiguities. Ola leverages her unique strategic perspective to innovate possibilities with a proven track record of delivering meaningful results.

As a thought leader, she provokes out-of-the-box thinking to constructively challenge the status quo, foster innovation, and explore new opportunity frontiers

A trailblazer, becoming the first to achieve the IIBA Certified Business Analysis Professional (CBAP) designation from the IIBA in the province of Alberta. Ola is a life learner, who continuously improves herself professionally and intellectually.

A sought-after speaker and author, Ola has featured at several industry events such as BBC Vegas, PMI PMBA World and other industry speaking engagements. She is committed to helping businesses and individuals unlock distinctive value. In addition to being the managing partner at ValCon Inc., Ola sits on the

M O D E R A T O R



board of Java Hope Foundation as Foundation, a not for profit organisation dedicated to empowering lives and improving the socio economic outcomes, especially for the BIPOC community. She is passionate about helping people navigate career transitions and reinvention, career integration, and career transformation.

She is John Ware Fellow and a board member at John Ware Institute (JWI) , an organization dedicated to empowering excellence, elevating equity in Boardrooms & leadership positions. Ola was recently appointed to the Alberta Provincial Audit Committee.



Sameera Ali

Regional Councillor for Ward 4

Milton, Ontario

Councillor Sameera Ali is the Regional Councillor for Ward 4 in Milton. This is her 7th year serving Miltonians with compassion. She is a longtime community volunteer and a passionate advocate of issues related to youth, affordable housing, food poverty, diversity/inclusion and seniors. She sits on numerous town and regional boards and committees such as the FCM, Halton Police Board, Halton Housing Board, Milton community fund board, The Womens Centre of Halton, MyVoice Advisory Board, Halton Waste Management board and many more. She has a Masters degree in International Relations and Political Science and professionally, has over 15 years of experience working in the Marketing and Communications industry. Councillor Ali recently received an FCM award of excellence for her international work in Ghana with their local municipalities and has been selected to carry this work to Sri Lanka next year through FCM and Global Affairs Canada.

Regional Councillor for Ward 4 in Milton |
Volunteer | Advocate



Phylomène Zangio

Inaugural co-chair of the
New Brunswick Women's Council

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Phylomène has called Moncton home for over 30 years. A mother to Nash Zangio, she holds degrees in business administration and information technology. Her professional background is marked by leadership roles in healthcare management and non-governmental organizations, including as administrative manager at Vitalité Health Network and executive director of the Southeast Francophone Regional Learning Centre for Adults.

Phylomène is a passionate advocate for human rights, social justice, and the fight against systemic racism in New Brunswick. In 2023, she made history as the first person of African descent to be appointed chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission since the passing of the province's Human Rights Act. Her leadership has driven the Commission's efforts to combat discrimination, raise public awareness, and strengthen protections for marginalized communities.

Her advocacy also extends to gender equality. As the inaugural co-chair of the New Brunswick Women's Council, Phylomène spearheaded initiatives to promote gender parity and built inclusive organizational frameworks. Her leadership helped advance policy analysis through a lens that accounts for the diverse needs of all women.

On the international front, Phylomène is a distinguished representative of the Black community in New Brunswick, actively engaging in global forums such as the United Nations and UNESCO. She has participated in numerous international conferences addressing racism, discrimination, and the rights of minority communities, establishing herself as a dedicated leader for global inclusion and equity.

In 2023, under her leadership, New Brunswick formally recognized the International Decade for People of African Descent. Locally, she has led impactful initiatives, including the Inclusive Municipality Caravan, and organized notable



events like the Reflection Day on the International Decade.

Beyond her professional work, Phylomène serves on the New Brunswick Judicial Council and the advisory committee for curriculum reform with the Ministry of Education. She is also a committed mentor to youth of African descent, offering guidance and support through various mentoring programs to help them unlock their potential and broaden their horizons.

Phylomène Zangio's enduring contributions to human rights, social justice, and community building make her a key figure whose influence resonates both locally and internationally.



Nosa Ero-Brown

Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Ontario

Nosa Ero-Brown was appointed Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism in July 2024.

She was previously Associate Deputy Minister of TBS and the Chief Talent Office where she inspired a person-centered approach to developing talent, leadership, and an inclusive organizational culture. This included leading the delivery of an ambitious [People Plan to attract, develop, and retain the best talent in the Ontario Public Service.](#)

Nosa has over a decade of experience creating positive impact for the province of Ontario:

At Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate, she led a team of changemakers to develop the government's anti-racism initiatives that continue to identify, address, and prevent systemic racism in government policy, programs, and services.

At the Ministry of Transportation, she helped to drive an ambitious digital transformation agenda and oversee value creation and non-tax revenue totaling more than \$1.9B annually. Nosa built capacity to reform Ontario's Correctional Services, including modernizing supports and services for over 10,000 inmates and 6,000 employees. She also led the award-winning team that developed Ontario's Open Data policy and Portal.

Nosa is a Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach with a master's degree in political science from the University of Toronto and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Victoria. She is also a proud graduate of Lester B. Pearson United World College.

Nosa loves spending time with the combination of



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COUNCIL OF AFRICAN PROFESSIONALS

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Day 3 Thursday, November 21st, 4 PM EST

Importance of Technology in
Inclusion



COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS

Derrick Amo Anim

VP, Finance

Derrick Amo Anim is a seasoned Chartered Banker with in-depth expertise in Credit risk management, entrepreneurial and business portfolio development. He is currently an Entrepreneurship Relationship Manager at the Federation of African Canadian Economics (FACE)—with a central focus on providing business advisory and coaching services to develop and grow entrepreneurial initiatives in the community, assessing and managing lending risks and enhancing FACE's engagement with stakeholders.

Derrick's walk on the path of credit management and business development began after he graduated as the youngest Chartered Banker in Ghana in the year 2009, and he further pursued an MBA in Banking and Finance with Paris Graduate School of Management in France-Paris.

Upon being equipped with invaluable knowledge in banking and finance, Derrick began his career as a management trainee with International Commercial Banking Group where he rose through the ranks and participated majorly on the integration committee during the acquisition of the Bank's Ghana brand by First Bank Nigeria. He rose on in career to establish and head the Credit Origination and Monitoring department of Consolidated Bank Ghana until moving to Canada in July 2022 and joined FACE Coalition exactly a month after arrival.

Over the past year in FACE, he has been phenomenal in supporting black owned businesses in Canada by providing expert financing advice to support businesses to scale up in line with FACE's mission of creating sustainable generational wealth in the black community.

M O D E R A T O R



He has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to provide cutting-edge and custom-fit financing solutions for Black entrepreneurs in Canada with a high rate of success.

He has a high drive for community impact and has been a volunteer of the Council of Nigerian Professionals since July 2022.



Dinah Davis

Founder of [Code Like A Girl](#)

With over 20 years of experience in the technology industry, Dinah Davis has held key roles at prominent organizations such as BlackBerry, Trustwave, D2L, and the Communications Security Establishment Canada. Notably, she served as VP of R&D at Arctic Wolf, a role where she played a pivotal part in positioning the company as a leader in Security Operations as a Service and achieving unicorn status in November 2020.

Dinah's influence extends to her role as a Board Member for Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she actively contributes to shaping the future of cybersecurity.

Dinah actively mentors in several programs, including Women in Security and Privacy, Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst, and the Founder's Institute. In these roles, she provides coaching and guidance in team dynamics, effective communication, strategic planning, and organizational performance.

In 2016, Dinah founded [Code Like a Girl](#), a publication focused on changing societal perceptions of women in technology. Since then, it has grown to 46,000 followers and featured over 900 published writers. Through this initiative and her commitment to mentorship, Dinah continues to help shape the future of the tech industry.

Mentor, Coach, Founder of Code Like A Girl



Adolphina Wilson

Manufacturing AI Specialist and
Precision Machinist

Adolphina Wilson is an Advocate and Subcontractor; experienced in Horizontal and Vertical program development and implementation. She mentors and coaches persons through Technical + Vocational Education + Training to become high-value personnel in STEM. Officially approved as a Youth Accessibility Leader in 2021, 2022, and 2023 under the Enabling Accessibility Fund's (EAF) Youth Innovation Component; she is part of a growing community of young leaders who have inclusivity and accessibility at heart. Professionally, Adolphina is a Manufacturing AI Specialist and Precision Machinist with experience in Robotics, Automation, and Mechatronics who is skilled in Organizational Development, Project Management, Strategy and Operations and she currently offers services including Digital Financial Literacy, Grant Writing, Leadership Development, Industrial Design, Technical Writing, Management Consulting.



Kunle Aboaba

Director of Product Strategy

Kunle is a technology professional, and people leader with about 15 years experience in banking, financial technology (fintech), digital platforms, and technology consulting industries in both Nigeria and Canada. He has also held roles in community-based, and professional organizations. Kunle currently serves as a mentor for the not-for-profit Helping Other People Succeed (H.O.P.S). Outside of work and volunteering activities, Kunle spends time reading, watching documentaries, travelling and gardening. Kunle holds a bachelor's and master's degree from the Obafemi Awolowo University and the University of Regina respectively.



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COUNCIL OF AFRICAN PROFESSIONALS

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Thursday, November 21, 6 PM EST

Importance of Non-Governmental
& Charitable Organizations in
Inclusion



COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS

Immanuel Okoroafor

A skilled graphic designer and speaker

Immanuel, born in Lagos, Nigeria, and raised in Canada since the age of 6, holds a double major in Law and Political Science from Algoma University and an LLB from the University of Dundee in the UK, hoping to practice law. Alongside his academic background, Immanuel has been a lifelong volunteer, actively contributing to various NGOs. A skilled graphic designer and speaker, he blends creativity with advocacy in both legal and community initiatives

M O D E R A T O R



HRH Adejisola Atiba (Lady ABHA)

TEDx Speaker | Author | EDI Advocate |
Community-Leader | Motivational Speaker |
Lifestyle Coach

HRH Adejisola Atiba (Lady ABHA) was recently crowned Obaantapaa Nana Akosua Mpontuema 1 (Queen Mother) by Nana Atta Kakra IX of Gomoa Ojobi Traditional Area of Central Region Republic of Ghana and nominated by HRH King Nana Yaw Osam 1

A woman of many colors, community advocate, storyteller, lifelong learner, energetic, passionate, loyal and purposefully intentional.

A Community Manager with RBC and worked in Banking-Industry for 30+ years.

She was Manager, Financial Planning Associate, GTR, where she led a team of 53 Associates that supported 300 Financial Planners.

As a Branch Manager, she led her branch to senior manager level, was also a financial planner for 4 years, where she provided integrated planning advice to high-value clients. Adejisola moved into leadership because of her passion to build leaders.

An avid volunteer, and community geek. She volunteers with multiple organizations, and founded Council of Nigerian Professionals, African Caribbean Council of Halton, and Council of African Professionals. She was on the board of UWH&H and was the 2023/2024 President of Rotary Club of Milton.

She has multiple degrees, professional certificates and EMBA in Digital Transformation with DeGroote Business School.

Her first book was published in 2022, "Authenticity: How My Why Me Moments Shaped My Life".

A motivational speaker, EDI speaker, and lifetime coach.

She is married to Tunde Dimeji her loving and



supportive husband, and they are blessed with children.

Quote: "Banking is my profession, but community is my passion" ©

Website: Ladyabha.ca

Email: ladyabha.ca@gmail.com



Ovie Onagbeboma

Research Associate at the Diversity Institute
at Toronto Metropolitan University

Ovie, is an internationally recognized business leader, has garnered significant recognition for her outstanding contributions. In 2024, she was honoured among the "100 African Black Caribbean Accomplished Canadian Women, and Woman Changing The World, for Community Impact" acknowledging her exemplary achievements in various fields.

Ovie's professional journey as a Lean Six Sigma belt-certified nurse leader and Research Associate at the Diversity Institute at Toronto Metropolitan University showcases her dedication to excellence. Her role as an advisor to the Chief Nursing Officer of Canada reflects her influence in shaping policies and a toolkit on nursing retention. This collaboration with Health Canada in co-developing the National Nursing Retention ToolKit exemplifies her commitment to addressing critical challenges in the healthcare industry.

Identifying a gap in healthcare delivery, Ovie took proactive steps to create positive change. Under her leadership, the Canadian Black Nurses Alliance (CBNA) has evolved into a transformative national organization. The CBNA has significantly impacted Black nurses, nursing students, and critical allies, expanding its reach by establishing chapters in multiple provinces and institutions. Ovie's leadership has positioned the CBNA as a leading advocate, amplifying the voices of Black nurses globally.



Jody Harbour

A successful business owner and entrepreneur in the Fashion Industry

Jody Harbour introduces herself as an Urban Indigenous Woman. For over 25 years, Jody has been a successful business owner and entrepreneur in the Fashion Industry working with many of Canada's largest retailers. Jody's passion for her Indigenous Culture and knowing the history of her Ancestors, led her to found Grandmothers Voice, a national organization that provides healing, guidance, and education through Indigenous ways of knowing. Grandmothers Voice encourages people and companies to incorporate core Indigenous values into their workspace culture and modern lifestyle that will inspire hope and a more conscious way of living in harmony.



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COUNCIL OF AFRICAN PROFESSIONALS

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Friday November 22nd - 2 PM EST

Importance of Religion in
Inclusion



COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS

Tobi Oladimeji

Founder of Data Fellows

Tobi is a seasoned data professional dedicated to democratizing data-driven decision-making for small businesses. Since founding Data Fellows in 2022, Tobi has built a vibrant community connecting over 600 skilled African professionals with businesses worldwide, offering accessible analytics solutions that fuel growth and innovation.

In 2024, Data Fellows was accepted into the prestigious League of Innovators (LOI) accelerator program, and Tobi was also featured by AfriBlocks, reaching a massive audience of over 75,000 subscribers!

Founder of Data Fellows | Data professional

M O D E R A T O R



Folasade (Sade) Akhigbe

Pastor | Senior Network Engineer | Community leader

Born in Sydney, Australia, and growing up in Ibadan, Nigeria, Folasade (Sade) Akhigbe came to Canada in 1999 from Nigeria looking for a better life for herself and her family.

While in Canada, she has successfully done so, becoming the first black person to be hired in the IT Department of the company she works for.

Since then, she has gone on to become a Senior Network Engineer and has been recognized numerous times for her accomplishments, knowledge, skills and abilities during her tenure.

She has over 30 years of experience in the Information Technology sector and continues to make an impact within her field.

She is also a Pastor of Godways International Ministry based Mississauga, ON.

She is also involved in her alma matters contributing to giving back to the schools she previously attended.

Alongside her other endeavors, she assists in event planning and is also involved in running non for profit organizations such as The Black Diamond Awards etc.

Sade is also a wife and a mother of three grown children. She looks to continue to influence those around her and wants to encourage people to have a vision for their life so that they succeed.



Kartik Gupta

Director on the Board of ADR Institute of Ontario (ADRIO)

Kartik heads the ADR practice at Panāyā Consulting. He is an independent Arbitrator (MCIArb, Q.Arbitrator) and Mediator (IMI Qualified), and often acts as forensic, valuation (including damages & lost profits) and financial expert. His distinguished international career spans nearly two decades working across various jurisdictions in Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Kartik has knowledge of both, unadministered (including UNCITRAL) and administered arbitrations, and accepts appointments as a commercial (domestic & international) dispute, business dispute, shareholder dispute, M&A and JV dispute, broker-dealer dispute, procurement dispute, commercial lease dispute, construction dispute (not interim payments adjudication), franchise dispute, condo dispute, employment/ workplace dispute, and technology/ Web3 dispute Arbitrator and Mediator.

Kartik is an empaneled Arbitrator on the rosters of FINRA (USA), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO, EU), National Futures Association (NFA, USA), and Thailand Arbitration Centre (THAC, Thailand), and appears in the Directory of Members of ADRIC, ADRIO, CIArb, and the Rising Arbitrators Initiative (RAI). Kartik has also been appointed as the sole arbitrator by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice (Canada).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Kartik's ADR experience spans nearly two decades, during which he has advised legal counsels and CxOs in domestic and transnational matters relating to disputes advisory, fraud, forensic valuation including damages and lost profit/wages assessment, and international regulatory compliance. He has also worked and assisted (as expert) on numerous international commercial arbitration matters, the seats of some which include SIAC, HKIAC, ICC and the LCIA. His industry experience is diverse, cutting across industries and sectors.

Kartik is an Accountant (Fellow), an internationally



trained Lawyer, a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and a Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA). He is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments (CISI, UK).

Kartik mediates commercial, and complex & sensitive housing disputes, such as landlord-tenant, co-op, condo, and homeowners' association issues. He works with the Anoka County Housing Court and the 10th Judicial Housing Court as a mediator, and also volunteers his time (as Mediator) with the Mediation and Restorative Services (MARS, USA).

Kartik presently serves on the Board of ADR Institute of Ontario (ADRIO) as a Director and is a member of the Audit Committee for the City of Burlington.



Ashmeed Khan

Former Councillor, Town of Ajax |
Certified Life Coach | Advocate | Mentor

Ashmeed Khan, former Councillor, Town of Ajax, Ontario moved to Canada from Guyana in 2002 & for over 22 years he has lived in Ajax with his family. Born and raised in his hometown village of Providence on the East Bank of Demerara, he single-handedly built his 1st Print business at the age of 23.

Khantech had an excellent business run for 10 years in Guyana then Ashmeed brought his business acumen to become a Canadian business owner in 2006 when he opened his 1st Printing Franchise store.

Soon after he acquired 2 more existing stores in Oshawa and Kingston ON. Eventually the 3 stores were amalgamated into 1 large facility which he owns & operated in Pickering.

In December of 2022, after 17 successful years the business was sold.

An active member of the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade for over 17 years, he chaired its Diversity Committee & was an elected Director.

He is the recipient of both their Business Excellence and Business Person of the Year Awards!

Ashmeed resigned during the last few months of his 2nd term as a Director of the APBOT to run for political office which he won and served his 4 year term as councillor from 2018-2022

Ash has also served for four years as Ambassador of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce and was advisor on the Recreation and Culture Committee of Town of Ajax. Additionally Ashmeed has worked on the Ajax Community Fund Grants Task Force and was drafted amongst 10 top entrepreneurs and surgeons to successfully build "The Shoulder Centre" -Lakeridge Health

He worked closely with the YMCA and John Howard Society, hiring candidates, then mentoring and teaching them his trade skills in the print



industry to help prepare them for a better future. After his tenure of serving a 4 year term on council, his time is now committed as a Certified Life Coach of the Men too Matter organization which he founded and leads as the CEO.

Ashmeed's spare time is for his five children. His two daughters are 26 and 12 years old. His three sons are 25, 22 & 17.

Ashmeed advocates for a fit and healthy lifestyle & whenever time allows he assists in coaching at the Ajax Boxing Club.



Rabbi Stephen Wise

Executive of the Interfaith Council of Halton | chair of the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto | member of the Halton Police Service multi-faith taskforce | Speaker | Author

Rabbi Stephen Wise is the spiritual leader of Shaarei-Beth El Congregation of Oakville. He is excited to be part of a congregation as diverse, storied and unique as SBE; leading meaningful worship experiences for all, teaching thought provoking courses for adults and children, providing inspiring programming and being a catalyst for social activism.

Before joining SBE in 2007, Rabbi Wise spent two years as the assistant Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Boca Raton, FL. Rabbi Wise was ordained from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in May of 2005, has a BA from the University of Toronto and an MA from Brandeis University.

Rabbi Wise is on the executive of the Interfaith Council of Halton, chair of the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto, and a member of the Halton Police Service multi-faith taskforce. Rabbi Wise is an author and speaker on Israel and her role in Tikkun Olam, with his first book "Israel: Repairing the World".

Rabbi Wise and his wife Cheryl, the director of Education at SBE, have 3 children, Jacob, Talia and Alexa.



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COUNCIL OF AFRICAN PROFESSIONALS

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Friday, November 22nd - 6 PM EST

Importance of the Financial
Industry in Inclusion



COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS

Efuange Khumbah

Founder and moderator of Perspective Nation

Efuange Khumbah is an Environmental Engineer licensed to practise in Ontario. He is responsible for helping companies repair or prevent damage caused to the soil, groundwater and drinking water. He has managed environmental projects for the public and private sector across Canada. He has served as pre-purchase environmental due-diligence expert in sectors such as automotive, aerospace, oil and gas, and mining industries. He has consulted for several institutions including the City of Richmond hill, City of Mississauga, City of Oshawa and Town of New Market. He is the founder and moderator of Perspective Nation and a volunteer of CNP.

M O D E R A T O R



Aseel El-Baba

First renowned Financial Therapist and Mental Health Expert in Toronto.

Aseel El-Baba is the first renowned Financial Therapist and Mental Health Expert in Toronto.

Her journey started with over ten years of robust experience in the heart of Canada's financial industry on Bay Street. She specialized in financial planning and had a proven track record in managing portfolios with assets exceeding \$100 million.

Adept in the complexities of wealth management, Aseel identified the gap in the industry and pivoted to mental health having completed a comprehensive five-year psychotherapy program.

Whether in her private practice or on stage leading a keynote, Aseel approaches financial challenges through a comprehensive, trauma-informed lens that encompasses emotional, psychological, behavioral, and relational dimensions. Her work is driven by the conviction that financial health is inextricably linked to mental and emotional well-being.

As an active member of both the Financial Therapy Association and the Canadian Association of Psychodynamic Therapy, Aseel brings innovative strategies and insight making her a sought-after expert for individuals and organizations seeking to achieve holistic financial wellness. She works with large organizations such as Interac, RBC, Ministry of Labor and TMU just to name a few.



Since the economy is an extension of our value system, Aseel believes that in healing our relationship to money, we can change not only our lives but also the world at large.

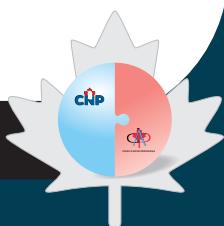
She is a creator, a speaker, an explorer, and most importantly a devoted loving mother.



Kingsley Madu

Founder and CEO of Expedier

Meet Kingsley Madu, Founder and CEO of Expedier – A global Digital Money App for under-represented communities. Kingsley is a digital nomad, speaker, and tech leader with over 15 years of experience as a Technology & Business Leader at Fortune 500 companies. Kingsley and his team at Expedier have won awards including Platform Calgary top 10 fintech in Canada, BMO Black Entrepreneur Award Finalist, and have been recognized by the Google Accelerator, Founders Institute and have been featured in CBC and CTV. Believing in the power of possibilities, he challenges conventional thinking and seeks innovative solutions. As a digital nomad, Kingsley works globally on his startups and empowers others through speaking engagements to reach their full potential.



Caroline Abolanle Osagie

Compliance Product Officer

Caroline Abolanle Osagie (Mrs)

Financial Industry Experience: 33 years (21 in Nigeria and 12 in Canada).

Current Job: Compliance Product Officer

Position: Vice President

With one of Canadian foreign banks.

Previous Work Experience: Internal Audit; Cash Operations; Trade Operations & Client Services.

Educational Qualifications: BSc, MBA, CPA.

Volunteer Activities: Youth Employment Services (YES); ACCES Employment; MICBA; RCCG.

Bola is happily married and blessed with four children.



Sylvia Coughlan

Regional Vice President at RBC

RVP Biography As a Regional Vice President at RBC, Sylvia leads a team of over 150 professionals who are dedicated to executing the regional strategy, ensuring operational excellence, and delivering exceptional customer experience. With over 20 years of experience in the banking industry, she has developed a strong expertise in business relationship management, banking, and credit analysis. Sylvia is passionate about collaborating with diverse and talented people, fostering a culture of innovation, and supporting RBC's mission of helping clients thrive and communities prosper. Outside of the office, she loves kickstarting her day with a high-energy workout session alongside her Crossfit crew, then hitting the pavement for a quick run alongside her 100-pound powerhouse of a chocolate lab, Tank!

See full biography and organizational structure on Workday. Connect with Sylvia on LinkedIn.

Market Summary The Mississauga market offers a vibrant landscape with diverse opportunities across various sectors. From its bustling business districts to its multicultural communities, Mississauga presents a rich tapestry of possibilities for professionals and entrepreneurs alike. With a strong economy driven by sectors such as finance, technology, manufacturing, and healthcare, the city provides a fertile ground for innovation and growth. Additionally, its



diverse population fosters an inclusive environment where different perspectives and talents can thrive, making Mississauga an exciting place to live, work, and invest in.



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POWER OF INCLUSION

AWARD

CATEGORIES

CATALYST

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

ENTREPRENEUR

HARRIET THORNHILL LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

VOLUNTEER

GUEST SPEAKER

HRH King Nana Yaw Osam 1

The esteemed Manwirehen of the
Enyan Denkyira Traditional Area

His Royal Highness King Nana Yaw Osam I is the esteemed Manwirehen of the Enyan Denkyira Traditional Area. With a deep commitment to humanitarian causes, he has served as a dedicated ambassador for the United Nations for many years, championing initiatives aimed at improving the lives of marginalized communities. His leadership extends beyond borders, as he is also a fervent advocate for peace and unity worldwide, fostering dialogue and understanding among diverse cultures. Through his tireless efforts, King Nana Yaw Osam I embodies the spirit of service and compassion, inspiring others to work towards a more harmonious global community.



GUEST SPEAKER

Aseel El-Baba

First renowned Financial Therapist and Mental Health Expert in Toronto.

Aseel El-Baba is the first renowned Financial Therapist and Mental Health Expert in Toronto.

Her journey started with over ten years of robust experience in the heart of Canada's financial industry on Bay Street. She specialized in financial planning and had a proven track record in managing portfolios with assets exceeding \$100 million.

Adept in the complexities of wealth management, Aseel identified the gap in the industry and pivoted to mental health having completed a comprehensive five-year psychotherapy program.

Whether in her private practice or on stage leading a keynote, Aseel approaches financial challenges through a comprehensive, trauma-informed lens that encompasses emotional, psychological, behavioral, and relational dimensions. Her work is driven by the conviction that financial health is inextricably linked to mental and emotional well-being.

As an active member of both the Financial Therapy Association and the Canadian Association of Psychodynamic Therapy, Aseel brings innovative strategies and insight making her a sought-after expert for individuals and organizations seeking to



achieve holistic financial wellness. She works with large organizations such as Interac, RBC, Ministry of Labor and TMU just to name a few.





TYPES AND RECIPIENTS

POI24 CATALYST AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine
- Rosemary Sadlier
- Jody Harbour
- Dr. Ebere Morgan
- Adewale Rabiu
- HRH Adejisola B H Atiba

POI24 ENTREPRENEUR AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Bola Adesope
- Deborah O. Adebayo
- Jo-Ann Udoh
- Titi Olatunji
- Stella Agomuo
- Olayinka Oladimeji
- Mosunmola Afolabi
- Cynthia Adesola
- Bose Fawehinmi
- Adebola Adenuga
- Lolo Ngozi Ugoh
- Olumide Olutayo

POI24 PRESIDENT AWARD RECIPIENT

- Ms. Esohe Adams

POI24 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Abbey Salami
- Dienye Meshiley
- Ibukun Orefuja
- Ivory Li
- Jean Assamo
- Regal Mangete
- Ayoade Adeyemi
- Sheila Akputa
- Rev. Eddie Jjumba
- Philomena Ehikioya
- Merci Itohan Osayi
- Lizzy Imuzeze
- Hector Addison
- Anthony Tubbs
- Akinade Odutan
- Ijeoma Ugochukwu
- Ihezuoh
- Councillor Joan John
- Derrick Amo Anim
- Otunba Olugbenga
- Fakoyejo

POI24 HARRIET THORNHILL LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Kingsey Madu
- Oluremi Adewale
- Ovie Onagbeboma
- Rochelle Ivri
- Rev. Irene Ashu
- Olaitin Onyebuoha
- Efuange Khumbah
- Citlalli Rios Vega
- Brenda Halloran
- Adijat Akinsape
- Abiola Idowu

POI24 YOUTH LEADERSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Anokye Kofi Boateng
- James Ehiagwina

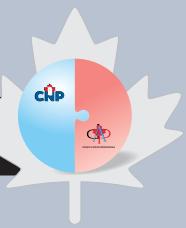
POI24 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Akinkunmi Akinyemi
- Miriam Kutesa
- Abi Adekitan
- Princess Dr. Kemi Ojo Okwuegbuna



A LOOK WITHIN

POI24
**Catalyst
Award**



Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E. is the first African-Canadian woman to be elected to the House of Commons. She was elected in the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore in 1993 and sat in Parliament until 2006. During this time, she served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Minister of State and Deputy Speaker.

In 2007, Dr. Jean Augustine was nominated by the Government of Ontario as Fairness Commissioner, a position created to advocate for Canadians with foreign credentials. Dr. Augustine retired from the position of Fairness Commissioner in March 2015.

Among Dr. Augustine's many achievements and honours includes leading the motion that allowed for the placement of the Famous Five statue on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and the motion that created Black History Month in Canada.

Dr. Augustine has received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from seven universities. She also has been recognised by having the following named in her honour:

- Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment (Etobicoke-Lakeshore)
- Jean Augustine Girls' Leadership Academy (TDSB)
- Jean Augustine Secondary School (Peel District School Board)
- Jean Augustine Park (Etobicoke-Lakeshore)



Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine

P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E.

The Jean Augustine Chair in Education (York University)

Jean Augustine Complex and Jean Augustine District Park (City of Vaughan)



Adewale Oladapo Rabiu

Walerabiu@yahoo.com

Education:

BSc Accounting - Ogun State University, Nigeria
1999

Masters In Managerial Psychology (MMP) - The University of Ibadan in 2006

MBA Finance - University of Leicester, UK, 2007

Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) 2017

Professional Career

Standard Trust Banks (now UBA)

MTN Nigeria in October 2002

Bank PHB Jan 2008

Guaranty Trust Bank April 2008 -Dec 2009 -
Market Risk Analyst.

Rogers Communications, Canada

Business and Entrepreneurship

A serial entrepreneur who has successfully founded three businesses in Canada since he arrived in 2016- Grey Matlock Bakery, and Spring in April Inc. and Rubic Consulting Inc.

Grey Matlock Bakery was incorporated in 2018 and started operation in March of the same year. Grey Matlock Bakery has experienced immense growth selling its products (Agege Bread and Butterfilled Sliced Bread) in over 300 African and Caribbean stores and over Chains of Loblaw Stores like No Frills, Real Canadian Superstores, Zehrs etc across Canada.



Adewale Oladapo Rabiu



Rosemary Sadlier OOnt (Order of Ontario) is a diversity, inclusion and equity consultant, a social justice advocate, researcher, writer, and international speaker on Black History, anti-racism, and women's issues.

She is the past President, serving for 22 years as the unpaid leader of the Ontario Black History Society. She was the driving force of the secured commemoration of February as Black History Month at all levels of government; she secured August 1st as Emancipation Day municipally in 1995 and provincially in 2008 with a national declaration recently passed now making this a national commemoration in Canada. She saw to the creation of the national day for the Hon. Lincoln Alexander. She has given deputations to the UN Rapporteur on Race Relations, the Federal and Provincial Governments and provided consultative work for the Royal Ontario Museum, the CMHR, The Ward Heritage Interpretative Group, the Bi-National Study of the Underground Railroad and heritage conferences. Previously she served on the final selection committee of the national Mathieu Da Costa Challenge for Canadian Heritage and the Canada Post Stamp Advisory Committee. An educator, she has developed and contributed to African Canadian curriculum, national exhibits and publications. She was an appointed member of the College of Early Childhood Educators and currently serves on the Registrations Appeals Committee of the Ontario College of Teachers. An author, Sadlier has written 7 books on African Canadian history. A consultant, she has worked with government, corporations and social agencies to effect DEI awareness and projects, and, recently was appointed Equality Lead for the Americas and the



Rosemary Sadlier

Caribbean with the Royal Commonwealth Society. She serves on the Rogers Group of Funds. Sadlier is dedicated to social justice and using the frame of Black History, seeks to educate and empower others.



Jody introduces herself as an Urban Indigenous Woman. For over 25 years, Jody has been a successful business owner and entrepreneur in the Fashion Industry working with many of Canada's largest retailers. Jody's passion for her Indigenous Culture and knowing the history of her Ancestors, led her to found Grandmothers Voice, a national organization that provides healing, guidance, and education through Indigenous ways of knowing. Grandmothers Voice encourages people and companies to incorporate core Indigenous values into their workspace culture and modern lifestyle that will inspire hope and a more conscious way of living in harmony.



Jody Habour

Dr. Ebere Morgan is a dynamic and accomplished senior corporate executive, leadership strategist, healthcare visionary, educator, communicator, author, and strategic community leader. He advances thought leadership in multiple professional disciplines including leadership intelligence, organizational leadership, health systems strategies, international development, broad organization effectiveness solutions, and global community healthcare reform efforts in various industry sectors worldwide.

For over two decades, Dr. Morgan has also gained wide global exposure as a professional and academic in numerous industry sectors bringing exponential value to various professional and organizational contexts. He is highly skilled in driving high performance and unique strategic advantage through sound people and systems strategies and executing high-impact intelligent solutions aligned with missional objectives.

He provides oversight on various corporate boards and advisory councils at both local and global levels, where he lends his critical skills, experience, and insight in systems governance and leadership. Dr. Morgan deploys unassailable competence, expertise, and eclectic knowledge to generate effective and sustainable transformative change for people, organizations, and communities across continental divides. He is focused on advancing strategic human capital functions with best-in-class leadership intelligence tools, methodologies, and capabilities to innovate, operationalize, and systematize effective change.

Dr. Morgan is passionate about his core mandate on people advancement and bringing about strong dynamism among teams, organizations, and communities at large. He holds multiple advanced degrees including a doctorate in Organizational Leadership & Strategic Change. He also serves as a professor and research scholar in



Dr. Ebere Morgan

multiple institutions of higher learning and various professional bodies. He is the founding President and Chief Executive Officer of Deztiny, Inc., a leadership consulting organization with operations in Canada and the United States. He makes his home in Dallas, Texas with his virtuous wife, Hazel, and blessed with three wonderful kids.



ABOUT

Adejisola Atiba

(Lady ABHA)

TEDx Speaker | Author | EDI Advocate | Community-Leader | Motivational Speaker | Lifestyle Coach

HRH Adejisola Atiba (Lady ABHA) was recently crowned Obaantapaa Nana Akosua Mpontuemaa 1 (Queen Mother) by Nana Atta Kakra IX of Gomoa Ojobi Traditional Area of Central Region Republic of Ghana and nominated by HRH King Nana Yaw Osam 1

A woman of many colors, community advocate, storyteller, lifelong learner, energetic, passionate, loyal and purposefully intentional.

A Community Manager with RBC and worked in Banking-Industry for 30+ years.

She was Manager, Financial Planning Associate, GTR, where she led a team of 53 Associates that supported 300 Financial Planners.

As a Branch Manager, she led her branch to senior manager level, was also a financial planner for 4 years, where she provided integrated planning advice to high-value clients.

Adejisola moved into leadership because of her passion to build leaders.

An avid volunteer, and community geek. She volunteers with multiple organizations, and founded Council of Nigerian Professionals, African Caribbean Council of Halton, and Council of African Professionals. She was on the board of UWH&H and was the 2023/2024 President of Rotary Club of Milton.

She has multiple degrees, professional



HRH Adejisola Atiba (Lady ABHA)

certificates and EMBA in Digital Transformation with DeGroote Business School.

Her first book was published in 2022, "Authenticity: How My Why Me Moments Shaped My Life".

A motivational speaker, EDI speaker, and lifetime coach.

She is married to Tunde Dimeji her loving and supportive husband, and they are blessed with children.

Quote: "Banking is my profession, but community is my passion" ©

Website: Ladyabha.ca

Email: ladyabha.ca@gmail.com

Adejisola Atiba (Lady ABHA)
President and Founder, CNP Inc.

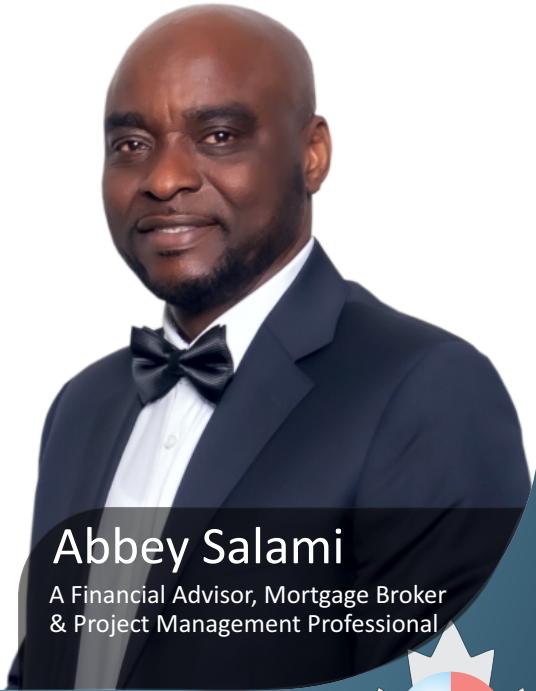


POI24
**Community
Leadership
Awards**

Abbey Salami is a focus individual that has a great passion for continuous success. A Financial Advisor, Mortgage Broker and Project Management Professional with background in accounting, economics and commercial management.

His pragmatic approach was and is always a success: Offering more than 26 years experience of financial management and human capital management experience within the financial services industries. Result oriented and goal driven individual with proven ability of pioneering and implementing change-management. Proactive and astute in problem identifying and solving in complex environments. A community builder per excellence.

Thank you for your support.



Abbey Salami

A Financial Advisor, Mortgage Broker
& Project Management Professional





BraceUP And Rise Foundation was initiated and founded by IJEOMA UGOCHUKWU in 2022 after surviving as a single mom/parent with 3 adorable and blessed children.

The family migrated into Canada 2019 while escaping from the chaos, trauma, depression, financial crisis and worse off Domestic violence from her ex-husband.

Struggling to integrate into a new environment, new country with different ideas and lifestyles with minors. At that point in time, her youngest child was 3.5 years old.....

Vision:

Empowering single parents to thrive, breaking the cycle of mental health struggles, and building sustainable lifestyles, supportive community that fosters resilience and well-being

Mission:

Our mission is to provide accessible resources, support and advocacy for single parents managing mental health

and stress as well helping them to navigate their journey towards healing, growth and self sufficiency.

Our Value Proposition:

Our aim and purpose in the organization is to offer a safe, inclusive space for single parents to,

1. Access expert guidance, resources and tools for mental health and stress management
2. Navigate systemic barriers and advocate for their family needs.
3. Ensure they find as well find Hope, Support and a Sense of community.
4. Connect with others who understand their challenges and encourages them.
5. Build confidence and self esteem
6. Develop coping strategies and resilience skills.

Finally, BraceUP and Rise Foundation Corporation is engraved with diversity, inclusion and Multicultural representation.

The Township of Southgate Councilor Joan John is a social development consultant with 13 years of development experience. She is Founder of two not-for-profit community service organizations headquartered in Dundalk-JunCtian Community Initiatives and JunCtian Network Inc. headquartered in Brampton.

Joan is a graduate of York University's Refugee Studies / Political Science Program and Queen's University's Restorative Justice Program. She has also received an Adjudication and Regulation diploma from The Society of Adjudicators and Regulators (SOAR) and a diploma in Addiction Studies from Centennial College.

In 2022 Joan was elected as a Councilor for the Township of Southgate – the First Black woman to be elected to public office anywhere in Bruce and Grey and Owen Sound riding creating history. A proud Canadian enriched by her Jamaican and African heritage, Joan has been instrumental foundation in delegating The Township of Southgate to proclaim and celebrate Black History Month every February since 2020. First time ever the Township celebrated Black History in any arena.

Joan facilitates a Diversity and Inclusion workshop and seminars to students, Principals, Vice Principals and staff at all Blue Water District School Board and Grey County's schools, she participates in Pan African flag-raising ceremonies at these schools, during Black History Month each year. As the mother of two and as a firm believer in the transformative power of education, Joan also provides financial and organizational support to several rural schools in Jamaica.

Through JunCtian Community Initiatives (JCI), Joan has created International Men's Day and International

Women's Day award ceremonies in Southgate that honor grassroots women and men in the community. She also facilitates JCI's annual Canada Day celebrations in Southgate that provide free multicultural entertainment and cuisine, with a Caribbean flair, to over 200 lunch guests each year.

50

JCI also offers a wide range of programs including Ladies with Purpose, Boys to Men, Mending, Dancercise, Zumba and the Page Turners Book Club – programs that share Joan's commitment to understanding the big picture while generating attainable results. To achieve these results, Joan has helped JCI to build partnerships with other community organizations such as the Southgate Ruth Hargrave Memorial Public Library, The Grey Highlands Public Library, The South East Grey Community Health Centre, The Grey Roots Museum, The Grey Bruce and Simcoe Emancipation Festival and the Grey Bruce Local Immigration Partnership. Working with these partners, JCI also helps people who have been in the justice system to complete their education, get jobs, find stable housing and navigate their futures.

Joan is Chair of the Southgate Ruth Hargrave Memorial Public Library Board and she serves on the Grey Highlands Peace Committee, the Board of the Grey County Black Heritage Society, the Southgate Community Fund Committee, the Attainable and Affordable Housing Committee and the Vehicle for Hire Advisory Committee (serving as its Vice Chair). Joan also serves as the appointed BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) representative on the Bluewater District School Board. She also sits on the board of the Emancipation Festival – the ties that Bind's" and The Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery Committee restoring the burial place of our Black descendants.





**Dr.
Ayoade Adeyemi**

Business strategist & management
consultant

Dr. Ayoade Adeyemi (also known as Ay Morgan) is a business strategist and management consultant with over two decades of experience in Human Resources, Enterprise Development, Marketing, and Project Management. He's a recipient of numerous awards, to mention a few, the Global Mentor Award 2022, and the Rotary International Distinguished Regional Service Award. He lectures at a college in Toronto, Canada. He belongs to the membership of many professional associations in Canada. He's a Rotarian and an environmental sustainability advocate.

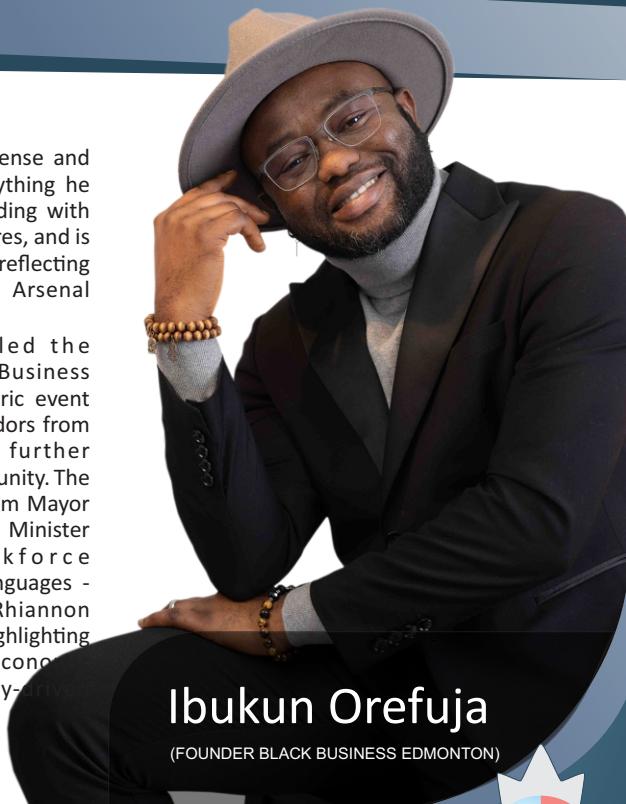
Ibukun Orefuja (IBK) is a forward-thinking IT Systems Analyst with dual degrees in Computer Information Systems from Babcock University, Nigeria, and Digital Media and IT from Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, Edmonton. His passion for leveraging technology to create impactful solutions led to the founding of Honey Technologies, a company dedicated to bridging the gap between technology and business solutions.

IBK's most notable achievement is the creation of Black Business Edmonton, a digital hub that actively promotes Black-owned businesses, SMEs, start-ups, services, and events within the Edmonton area. His dedication to community empowerment and economic growth is reflected in the hub's mission to uplift Black entrepreneurs and connect them to valuable opportunities.

Outside his professional life, IBK is

known for his keen fashion sense and meticulous approach to everything he undertakes. He enjoys unwinding with video games, doing house chores, and is a proud #DieHardArsenal fan, reflecting his long-standing loyalty to Arsenal Football Club.

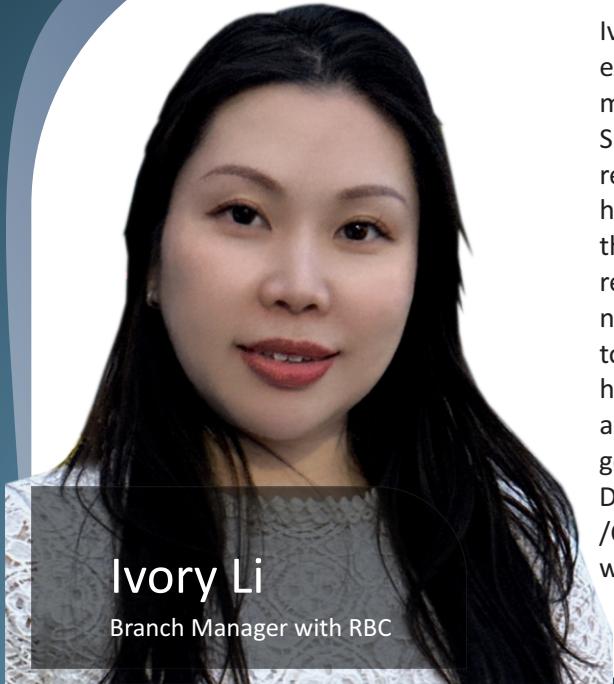
On August 2024, IBK led the organization of the Black Business Edmonton Trade Fair, a historic event that brought together 90 vendors from diverse business sectors, further solidifying his role in the community. The event received recognition from Mayor of Edmonton - Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages - Randy Boissonnault, MLA Rhiannon Hoyle, and MLA Tany Yao, highlighting IBK's impact in fostering economic growth through community-driven events.



Ibukun Orefuja

(FOUNDER BLACK BUSINESS EDMONTON)



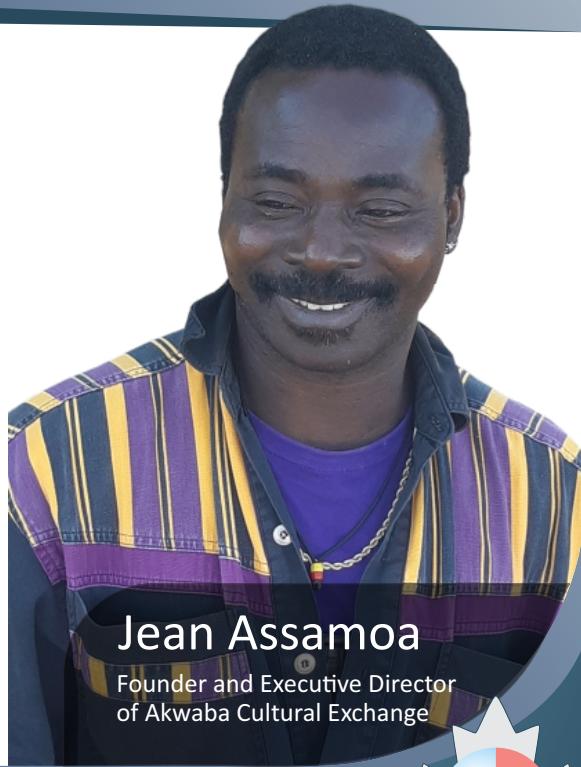


Ivory Li

Branch Manager with RBC

Ivory Li is a Branch Manager with RBC who has over 13 years of experience in the financial industry. As a leader at work, she mentors and guides her team members to reach their potential. She encourages everyone at work to be a leader, to be responsible for their own success. In her spare time Ivory loves helping others and giving back to the community. She believes in the saying “we rise by lifting others”. As a newcomer herself she realized the hardship of a changing environment. She becomes a newcomer advocate, and partners with different organizations to help newcomers settle in Canada. Helping youth is also one of her passions, she is actively involved with JA achievement and is a future launch champion with RBC, to help the younger generation to prepare them to join the workforce. She is the Diversity and Inclusion Ambassador of her market at work. CNP /CAP holds a very special place in her heart because it's such a wonderful charitable organization dedicated to help people.

Jean Assamoah, Canadian, but originally from Côte d'Ivoire of West Africa, is the Founder and Executive Director of Akwaba Cultural Exchange and Milton African and Multicultural Festival. He is a Professional Dancer, Musician, Choreographer, Fashion Promoter, Instructor, Public Speaker and Cultural Educator. Jean Assamoah has been teaching, presenting, and performing for over 25 years in Africa, Europe, USA, and Canada with a variety of based cultural Centers, Public and High Schools, Colleges, Universities, Community Organizations, Public Libraries and festivals, and since July 2008 in Milton, Ontario. He has won two different Awards in New York City (2003 & 2005) and several Certificates of Recognition/ Appreciation, as well as an Award of Excellence from the Mississauga Multicultural Festival in 2013, a medal in 2015 in Mississauga for cultural exchange programs, a Trophy of best traditional music at Festival of Fusion in Toronto, and honoured the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pin by MP Federal Adam Van Koeverden. He also won the Kilimandjaro Music Award in 2019 in Toronto. He has dedicated himself to the promotion of cultural literacy by sharing his ancestral legacy worldwide



Jean Assamoah

Founder and Executive Director
of Akwaba Cultural Exchange





Lizzy Imuzeze

Visionary Leader & Community Champion

Lizzy Imuzeze is a renowned visionary leader and community champion, serving as CEO of The Light Community Recreation and volunteer leader with Women of Dignity International (WODI). Her transformative work empowers individuals, families and communities through recreation, education and support services.

With a passion for inclusive community building, Lizzy pioneered initiatives like Sing-spiration in Seniors Homes, Religious Organizations and community inclusion programs Music Entertainment, Voice Training, Musical Instruments Training, Youth Connect programs, Song-writing workshops, Talent Discovery platforms, Community Development initiatives. Through WODI, she supports women, youths and newcomer families via food banks, mentorship and empowerment programs.

Lizzy's exceptional leadership, kindness and compassion have earned recognition from local community groups, including WODI's Award of Excellence, Toronto Police Black History Award and Canadian Gospel Artist Award. Her dedication to community service, leadership development and cultural sensitivity inspires countless individuals.

Key Achievements

- Community Building: Developed inclusive community programs, fostering social cohesion and support.
- Empowerment: Empowered vulnerable groups through food banks, mentorship and empowerment programs.
- Leadership: Enhanced leadership skills through training, inspiring others.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Fostered inclusive environments, respecting diverse cultures.
- Volunteerism: Dedicated countless hours to community service.
- Mentorship: Inspired a new generation of volunteers, encouraging positive change.

Personal Qualities

- Empathy - Kindness - Compassion
- Smile: Warm, genuine and uplifting presence.
- Consistency - Reliability

Lizzy's remarkable dedication, leadership and compassion solidify her position as a visionary leader and exceptional community champion, making her an outstanding personality.

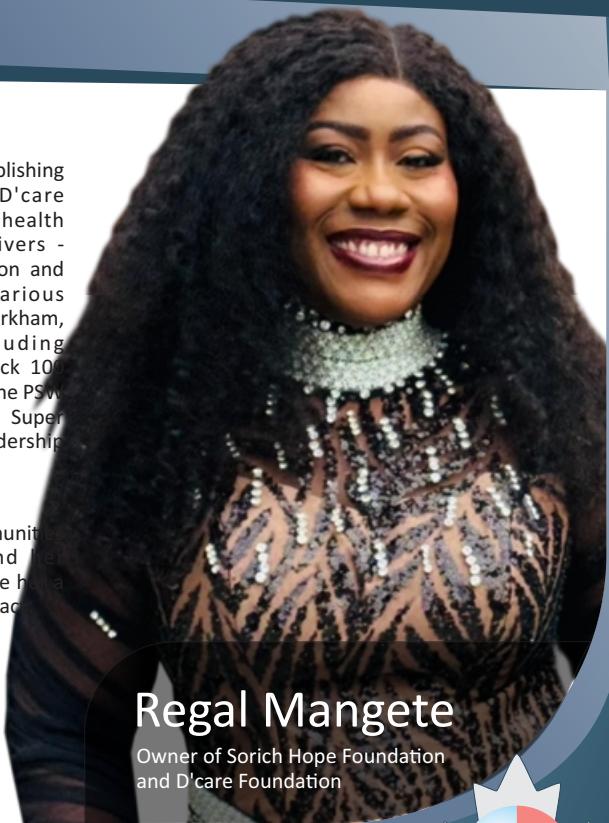
Regal Manete is a visionary leader and passionate advocate for caregivers. Originally from Nigeria and now based in Canada, she holds a Bachelor's in Computer Science and an MBA from the University of Lefke, Cyprus.

Regal is currently pursuing a nursing career, further enhancing her commitment to caregiving. In 2016, she founded the Sorich Hope Foundation in Nigeria to support caregivers and vulnerable communities, which sparked her passion for empowering caregivers.

This led to the establishment of the D'care Foundation in Canada, where she provides mental health initiatives, personal development programs, and advocacy for caregivers from diverse backgrounds. Regal's technical expertise and strategic thinking facilitate effective solutions for those she serves.

Her achievements include: - Establishing Sorich Hope Foundation and D'care Foundation - Providing mental health support to hundreds of caregivers - Advocating for caregiver recognition and support Regal has received various recognitions from cities like Ajax, Markham, Toronto, and Pickering, including nominations for Canada's Top Black 100 Women to Watch Out For in 2024, the PWN Advocate of the Year Award, the Super Heroine Award 2024, and a Leadership Award from the Lions Club.

Her mission is to strengthen communities by empowering caregivers, and her dedication and expertise have made her a respected leader in caregiving advocacy.





Philomena Ehikioya

A delegate in the Annual Representative Assembly

Philomena Ehikioya has dedicated her life to education and community building, balancing her roles as a mother, grandmother, and educator with exceptional grace and resilience.

With an extensive career in both public and private schools, Philomena has taught across all levels of education—from elementary to post-secondary institutions. As a mentor, she has been instrumental in helping both men and women navigate the complexities of education and leadership, fostering a new generation of educators equipped to face modern challenges.

A former committee member of the Women in Leadership (WIL), she played an active role in discussions focused on empowering women for senior leadership positions, dismantling gender biases and breaking down barriers that hinder women's progress in leadership roles.

In her capacity as a representative for her school district, Philomena has served for many years as a delegate in the Annual Representative Assembly (ARA) for Alberta teachers, where she has collaborated with

other leaders to vote on policies that affect the Alberta educational system, approve budgets, and establish membership fees that shape the educational landscape in Alberta. Additionally, she serves as a voice for her school at district-level meetings, bringing local school issues to the forefront during discussions at the Council of School Representatives -CSR meetings.

Her commitment to her community extends far beyond the classroom. A true community builder, she has volunteered in prisons, offering hope and encouragement to those incapacitated. She has used her experience to support fellow newcomers, helping them navigate challenges and build successful lives. Her home has always been open to the less privileged, and she regularly sponsors orphans, embodying her deep Christian faith in all that she does.

Philomena's dedication to leadership, education, and community has made her a beacon of strength and compassion.

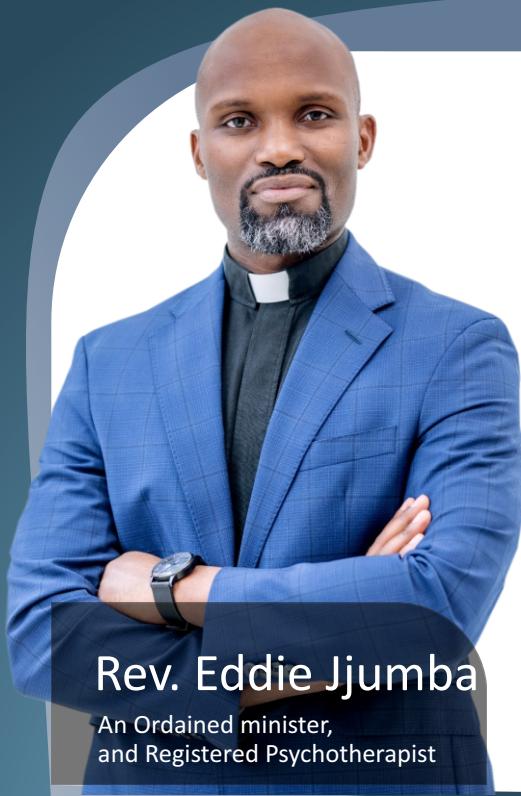
Hector Addison is an esteemed educator, community engagement strategist, and mental health advocate, a dynamic leader dedicated to enriching Canada's black community with a proven track record in community development. As the co-founder and Chief Servant of the African Canadian Association of Ottawa, he has been instrumental in nurturing a strong community of over 90,000 through 53 member organizations. His expertise in community engagement and development is paralleled by his financial acumen as a certified financial advisor, Project Management Professional, and Scrum Master with several cloud IT credentials. Hector is also an author of the forthcoming book "PLAN B," set to enrich readers with his knowledge and experience. His dedication to fostering equitable communities is evident in his volunteer work and relentless pursuit of systemic reform. Hector is the CEO of Hefid Solutions, a consulting company he formed with his wife, Fidelia with whom they are blessed with three wonderful children; Michelle, Miguel, and Mikayla.



Hector Addison

The co-founder and Chief Servant of the African Canadian Association of Ottawa





Rev. Eddie Jjumba

An Ordained minister,
and Registered Psychotherapist

Eddie identifies as a Ugandan-Canadian, Christian, husband of 1 wife, and father of 3 children. He is a Servant Leader at heart, an Ordained minister, and Registered Psychotherapist. He has over 20 solid years of passionately doing managerial and frontline work in the Social Work/Mental Health field, Child Welfare, Clergy work and Social Justice. He has worked with excluded families and individuals with special needs in Canada and Uganda.

He is the Senior Pastor of Milliken Wesleyan Methodist Church in Markham, a part time Psychotherapist/Executive Director at NewWays Center For Wellbeing, the President of Dominion House of Hope shelter, and member of the African Canadian Collective (ACC) – a coalition of over 20 organizations coordinating efforts to accord refugees/asylum seekers a dignified settlement process and Wrap-Around resettlement services for the homeless.

He is passionate about finding the best in every human person and process. He dares daily to learn, unlearn, relearn, to do and be better professionally and personally.

His clinical and leadership practice is shaped

by his core belief/philosophy that all human beings bear God-given intrinsic value and are equal in value, dignity and worth, regardless of their limitations, creed, location, or cultural identity. As an integration therapist and clergy, he is committed to a holistic approach, integrating Spirituality, Family Systems, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Solution-Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) and other modalities to attend to people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs (Body Mind and Soul).

Contact: eddie.jjumba@millikenchurch.org,
or jedluk2@gmail.com Direct Line:
+14168371790

MERCY ITOHAN OSAYI, the President and Founder of Women of Dignity International (WODI), a nonprofit organization registered in Canada. WODI is passionate about EMPOWERING women, seniors, youth, and families. Mercy is a mother and career personality with a mission for developing women and building better personalities.

She has a wide study in Mass Communication from Nigeria, having her diploma at the Auchi Polytechnic, a Bachelors at the Delta State University, and Masters degree from the University of Lagos.

Her work experience stands out in public relations, customer protection, and counseling. She has a Public Relations experience at The Quadrant Public Relations as a trainee executive. Worked at LAPO Microfinance Bank as Client Protection and Support Manager, Bank of Montreal, Canada (BMO) Customer Service Representative and Volunteer works with Culture Link community services Salvation Army and New Circles community services all in Montreal and Toronto, Canada. Holds the Canadian Retail and Customer Service certification, Canadian Workplace Essentials, Customer Service Excellence Certificate, and START Customer Care Program Certificate, diploma in Community Service Worker, Human Resources Management and her recently added a diploma as Immigration

Assistant to ensure Newcomers integration is smooth and efficient.

A step of growth for Women of Dignity International (WODI) was a partnership with the Waterloo Region Community Foundation and City of Kitchener. WODI, seeing the similarities in our community ideas and initiatives, went into a collaboration with both organizations to achieve our positive mission. This was a turning point in our service commitment to GIVE BACK to our community and society.

WODI appreciate City of Kitchener and Waterloo Region Community Foundation for the support that has enabled WODI address Afro Hair are for a more beautiful looks for children and adults. This has trained and exposed WODI women and youths to Afro Hair care knowledge and opportunities that can help maintain a unique entrepreneurship system. These free training sessions have helped many to realize who they are and what active life in Afro Hair business they can be involved in at the larger stage in our community.

WODI look forward to more of such opportunities for our clients and members.

Mercy is married to Prince Onaiwu Monday Osayi and blessed with lovely children: Idiakhosa, Eloghosa, Osarefe, and Osarueze.



Mercy Itohan Osayi

The President and Founder of Women of Dignity International





Sheila Akputa

The founder of PESBODS

Sheila Akputa is a Business analyst and the founder of PESBODS (Peachman's smile boosters organization for children living with disabilities, autism and sickle cell) an organization that advocates and cares for children living with disabilities and their caregivers. She has a great knowledge with community level engagement, and is passionate for supporting the dreams of this wonderful children and their families. In recognition that so many families require help and assistance with their challenged children, Sheila is motivated and encouraged to give a helping hand and also foster knowledge by building the confidence of these children to aspire to win and see their great abilities in their disability. She has won several awards in less than 3 years of founding PESBODS and most recently she was recognized for her contribution in the growth of Scarborough by a group of MPP'S. She was also 1 of the Top Canadian black women to look out for in 2023 in Canada for her resilience. A clear picture of what she believes in was displayed at their 1st gala last year themed Smart Smiles Matters.

One word that stands out for Sheila is that we need to " SAVE A CHILD AND PUT A SMILE"

Tamunodienye (Dienye) Meshileya is a certified Human Resources Leader with almost 20 years' experience across industries such as Oil and Gas, Engineering, Manufacturing, Technology, Mining, and Non-profit sectors. Throughout her career, she has been instrumental in fostering positive employee relations, enhancing talent management practices, and driving initiatives that strengthen workplace culture and performance. She has a holistic approach to HR that balances operational excellence with employee well-being and is known for her adaptive and strong business acumen, which is instrumental in her building partnerships across business units, solving complex HR challenges and delivering results that align with broader business goals.

As a proud Nigerian, who immigrated to Canada in 2016, Dienye is deeply committed to both professional excellence and community service. As an active community volunteer, she has been

recognized for her ongoing support and empowering of children, youth, women and families, earning multiple commendations from Members of Parliament and receiving the Ontario Volunteer Service Award for her contributions. Whether through organizing community outreach programs or supporting initiatives aimed at diversity, equity, and inclusion, Dienye has continuously demonstrated a passion for making a difference and fostering positive change in the community.

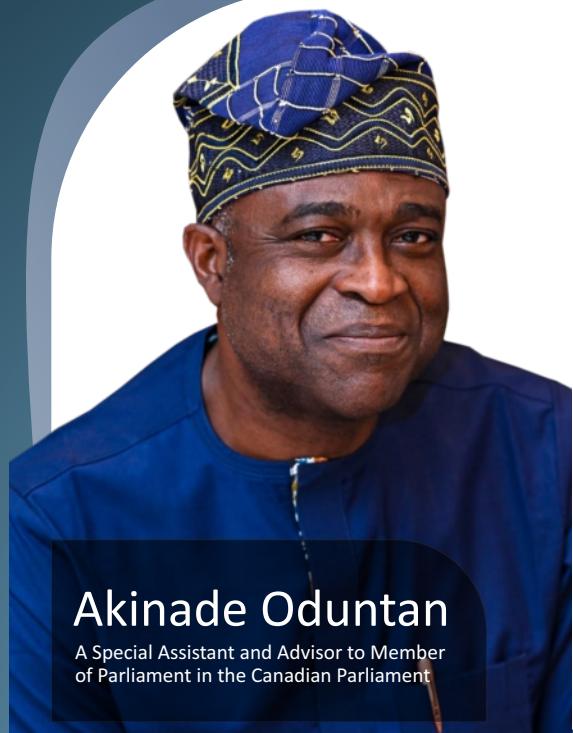
Beyond her professional and community work, Dienye is known for her infectious sense of joy and her love for capturing life's moments – often found laughing out loud and taking pictures to preserve memories. This unique blend of passion and professionalism has made her a standout leader both in the workplace and in the community.



**Tamunodienye
(Dienye) Meshileya**

A certified Human Resources Leader





Akinade Oduntan

A Special Assistant and Advisor to Member of Parliament in the Canadian Parliament

Akinade Oduntan, popularly known as Akin. He is a renowned Community Leader, an Entrepreneur, Politician, Mentor, Motivator, Facilitator and expert in Health and Safety management practices. He graduated with a degree in Pharmacology/Physiology from one of the foremost universities in Nigeria, University of Lagos and later completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Pharmaceutical Technology in Canada.

With over 30 years of leadership experience and management practices, he has been engaged in various areas of both private and government sectors.

Akin serves as a Special Assistant and Advisor to Member of Parliament in the Canadian Parliament. He is well knowledgeable in government and parastatal policies, regulations and sound

in decision making, proactive initiatives.

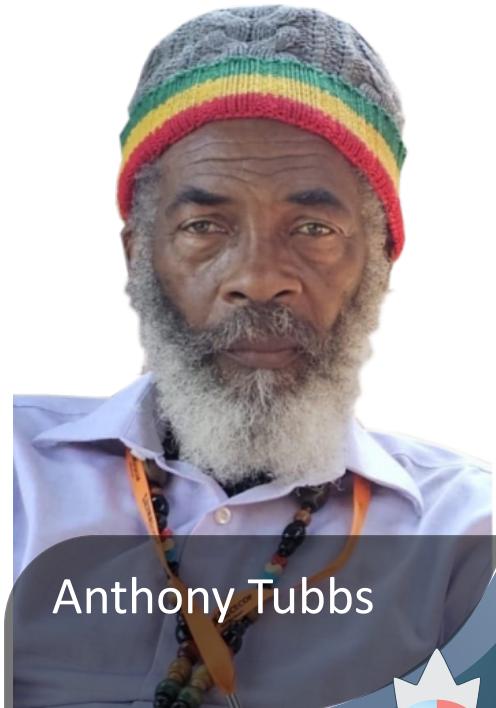
Akin is:

1. Mayor's Brampton Business Ambassador
2. Peel Police Chief Advisory Council
3. Board member, Roots Community Services.
4. Brampton Rotary
5. Awards winning recipient
6. Board member of St. Martha's College, Canada
7. Advisory Committee member, Brampton Transit

He is a co-organizer and convener of a prominent and amazing event called, Crossroads of Culture which featured Flavours of Nigeria. He personally and strategically invited the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, who graced the event with his presence.

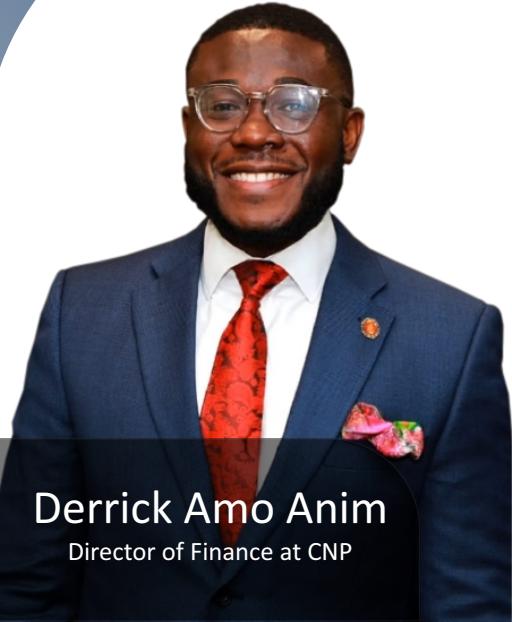
Name: Anthyony Tubbs
Email: atubb@local183.ca
Cell: 647.206.7061
Office: 416.241.1183
Fax: 416.241.9845

1263 Wilson Ave., Suite 200
Toronto ON M3M 363



Anthony Tubbs





Derrick Amo Anim

Director of Finance at CNP

Derrick Amo Anim is a highly accomplished professional with about a decade and half of experience in credit risk management, project management, and policy development & execution. He holds the distinction of being the youngest to charter and graduate as a chartered banker at the age of 22 in Ghana. Derrick has been working for the Federation of African Canadian Economics Coalition since 2022 as an Entrepreneurship Relationship Manager and has been driving the agenda of supporting Black businesses in Canada to access funding and scale up under the Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund with the main objective of creating sustainable generational wealth in the Black community of Canada. He has also been a volunteer to Council of Nigerian

Professionals/Council of African Professionals since July 2022 and now the Director of Finance for the council. He is also a volunteer to the Barrhaven west city administration, supporting several community development agenda. He is Financial Planner and Business development specialist who provides community-based literacy sessions to the African community in Ottawa to drive economic development in the Black community. He excels in communication, public speaking and people management, skills that have contributed to his success in various roles, including credit adjudication, business administration, portfolio management, community engagement and entrepreneurship development.

Olugbenga is a passionate community volunteer, a Chartered Banker, Economist, Corporate Finance, and Planning Professional with 20 years of experience across reputable Global financial institutions with impactful footprints and contributions here in Saskatoon.

He holds Bachelor's and M.sc degrees in Economics. Coupled with certifications on investment, financial planning, climate risk and ESG-Environmental, social and Governance from CSI-Canadian securities Institute, IFIC- Investment Funds Institute of Canada and CFI- Corporate finance Institute. He supports and loves to give back to the community.

He has a strong focus on placing the needs of people first and more

importantly understanding and addressing the issues that are most important to a thriving community. The drive for service has inspired him to voluntarily serve in many leadership positions including being a board member of a community association under the City of Saskatoon, board member at CAP+CNP as V.P. Western Canada, and has served as a football team manager in Saskatoon.



Otunba Olugbenga Fakoyejo

Board member at CAP+CNP as V.P. Western Canada



A LOOK WITHIN

POI24
Entrepreneur
Awards

75

POWER OF INCLUSION





Bola Adesope

The Founder and Practice Lead at SixDots.io

Bola Adesope, A Catalyst for Change, on a mission to change the world

Bola is a passionate advocate for transforming the world, dedicated to empowering professionals and enhancing community value. As the Founder and Practice Lead at SixDots.io, he aims to empower and transform 1 million professionals by 2030 through comprehensive competency and human capital development.

In addition to his leadership at SixDots.io, Bola serves as the Managing Partner at Stacey & Lloyd Consulting, a business transformation consulting and advisory firm. He also co-founded Helping Other People Succeed (H.O.P.S), a social enterprise that has provided empowerment and career transformation to over 5,000 professional immigrants through a platform providing pro bono mentoring and coaching to over across multiple countries. His commitment to community building and social impact is a testament to his belief in the power of collaboration and support.

Renowned as a visionary consultant and transformation specialist, Bola has over a

decade of consulting experience with leading firms such as Accenture and Deloitte. He has successfully guided organizations in diverse sectors—including telecommunications, insurance, banking, and technology—through complex business challenges, significantly enhancing their client and stakeholder value.

His expertise spans business analysis, product management, strategy, change management, and business agility.

A sought-after trainer and keynote speaker, Bola has trained over 10,000 professionals and inspired audiences on five continents with his dynamic presentations. His accolades include being named a Top Business Analyst to Watch by IIBA in 2022, RBC Top 75 Canadian immigrant Finalist, Agile Emerging Speaker Winner in 2019, Global Leadership Award and many more.

Through his work, Bola not only drives organizational transformation but also fosters a culture of growth and empowerment, making a lasting impact in the communities he serves

Bose Fawehinmi is a Marriage Coach, Licensed Psychotherapist, and Immigration Consultant dedicated to empowering individuals and couples to reach their full potential. With a background as a former Engineer turned Serial Entrepreneur, Bose brings a diverse perspective and a passion for personal growth to her work. Her approach is empathetic and solution-focused, and her expertise includes Infidelity Recovery, Relationship Counseling, Emotional Healing, and Practical Life Skills. Bose enjoys a happy and fulfilling marriage and is committed to helping others achieve personal and relational growth. Her mission is to inspire and guide individuals and couples to unlock their potential and cultivate harmony and happiness.



Bose Fawehinmi

Marriage Coach, Licensed Psychotherapist, and Immigration Consultant





Cynthia Adesola

The founder of Pietyscrubs

Cynthia Adesola is an accomplished Registered Nurse based in Ontario with over 16 years of diverse clinical experience spanning medical-surgical care, cardiology, home care, and nurse care coordination. Her extensive background in healthcare demonstrates a deep commitment to patient care and professional excellence. Throughout her career, Cynthia has honed her skills in a variety of settings, from acute hospital environments to community-based services, making her a versatile and compassionate healthcare provider.

In addition to her clinical expertise, Cynthia is a dynamic leader and entrepreneur. She is the founder of Pietyscrubs, a business that specializes in providing high-quality nursing scrubs and uniforms. Her entrepreneurial spirit reflects her

keen understanding of the healthcare industry's needs and her dedication to supporting her colleagues with the tools they need to excel.

Cynthia's passion for mentorship and community service is evident in her active involvement with the Council of Nigerian Professionals (CNP), where she plays a pivotal role in nurturing young professionals. She also leads a group of 30 youth and young adults within her faith community, guiding and empowering the next generation. Cynthia Adesola's blend of clinical expertise, leadership, entrepreneurship, and mentorship makes her an inspiring figure in both the healthcare field and her community.

By day, Deborah thrives as an Operations Lead. With a natural gift for problem-solving and an eye for efficiency, she balances the many moving parts of a bustling organization, ensuring everything runs smoothly.

But when the sun sets, a whole new adventure begins. As the founder of Crafts and Impressions, Deborah swaps spreadsheets for creativity and passion, running her own business with the same precision and determination. Her brand focuses on creating beautiful, customized gifts and stationery that leaves a lasting impression—adding a personal touch to life's most special moments.

For Deborah, every day is a new opportunity to grow and learn, whether it's optimizing workflows at the office or designing fresh ideas for *Crafts and Impressions*. She lives by the mantra: "You don't have to choose between your 9-to-5 and your dreams—you can have both!"

Her journey is a testament to what's possible with dedication, vision, and a little bit of hustle. Juggling two worlds can be challenging, but with enthusiasm and grit, Deborah proves that you can lead by day, dream by night, and succeed on your own terms.



Deborah Adebayo

Founder of Crafts and Impressions





Jo-Ann Young Udoth

A dynamic and accomplished Project Manager

Jo-Ann Young Udoth is the founder and creative director of Rubicorn Event Management. She is a dynamic and accomplished Project Manager (PMP) with a flair for creating unforgettable events. She holds a degree in Policy & Strategic Studies from Covenant University and a Masters in Business Administration from Caleb University. Jo-Ann brings a unique blend of organizational prowess and creative finesse to every project she undertakes.

Her ability to analyze intricate details while keeping an eye on the bigger picture has made her an indispensable asset to any team. She thrives in high-pressure environments and is known for her exceptional problem-solving abilities.

Her creative spirit, coupled with her meticulous planning and execution, has translated into a portfolio of successful events ranging from corporate conferences, product launches to weddings and social gatherings. She believes that each event is a unique opportunity to craft memorable experiences and works tirelessly to ensure every detail exceeds expectations.

Key Skills and Competencies include

- Project Management
- Event Planning and Execution
- Budget Management
- Vendor Coordination
- Risk Assessment and Mitigation
- Stakeholder Communication
- Creative Design and Decor

- Time Management
- Problem Solving

Professional Achievements

Throughout her career, Jo-Ann has consistently demonstrated her ability to deliver exceptional results. Her projects have not only met deadlines and budgets but have often exceeded client and stakeholder expectations. She is known for her adaptability and agility, which allow her to navigate unexpected challenges seamlessly.

Personal Approach

Jo-Ann approaches each project with dedication, enthusiasm, and a commitment to excellence. She believes in open and clear communication, working collaboratively with clients and team members to bring their visions to life. Her attention to detail and passion for her work shine through in every project she undertakes.

Beyond Work

When she's not managing projects or crafting dream events, Jo-Ann enjoys exploring her creative side through art and design. She also values giving back to the community and actively volunteers her time and expertise to support charitable initiatives.

Jo-Ann Young Udoth is a true professional who blends her project management expertise with her love for event planning, consistently delivering outstanding results and leaving a lasting impression on clients and collaborators alike.

A multi-talented professional specializing in technology, web strategy, and marketing, she offers tailored support to small businesses across Canada. With expertise in content strategy and a passion for empowering entrepreneurs, she helps brands grow and succeed. Also a Volunteer for CNP/CAP, she is committed to fostering inclusive community development.



Stella Agomuo
Web strategist





Titilope Olatunji

A Partner at Orji & Olatunji & Co.

Titilope Olatunji is a highly accomplished attorney with a strong track record in Real Estate law. With over 10 years of experience, Titi has successfully represented clients in complex legal matters, including contract disputes, Wills & Estate Administration cases, and Family law issues.

During her legal career, Titi has had the privilege of working at esteemed organizations such as Olurotimi Williams & Co, she further honed her skills as a Partner at Orji & Olatunji & Co. Currently, she is proud to be associated with Platinum Law Firm, where she currently works as a Partner and continues to provide exceptional legal representation and advocate for the rights of my clients.

Titi has a diverse and comprehensive legal educational history that has equipped her with a strong foundation in the legal field. As a Member of the Law Society of Ontario, Canada, she is recognized as a qualified legal professional in the province. In addition, she holds a Master of Law (LLM) degree from the prestigious University of Lagos in Nigeria.

Prior to that, she earned a Barrister-at-Law (B.L.) degree from the Nigerian Law School in Abuja, and her legal journey began with a Bachelor of Law (LL.B) degree from the University of Ilorin in Nigeria.

Titi is a member of several prominent legal associations, these include the Ontario Bar Association, which enables me to connect with legal professionals in Ontario, stay updated on legal developments, and contribute to the enhancement of the province's legal system. Furthermore, she is honored to be a part of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, an esteemed organization that champions diversity and inclusion within the legal community.

Outside of her legal practice, Titi is an avid reader with a diverse taste in literature. She is also a passionate singer and finds solace and joy in music. Titi has a deep love for travel and immersing herself in different cultures. She believes that experiencing new places and meeting diverse individuals broadens her perspective and enhances her ability to connect with clients from all walks of life.

Olayinka Oladimeji is a seasoned data scientist, AI practitioner and a creative arts enthusiast. He has led numerous data science and analytics projects across a wide range of industries, including oil and gas, consulting, retail and finance. Yinka's career includes impactful roles at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Canadian Tire Corporation, Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence and most recently, the Royal bank of Canada. In addition to Yinka's corporate profile, he is also a passionate photographer, he co-founded Kizopixel with his wife, Ibironke and has been supporting the Council of Nigerian professionals for about 5 years

With a deep expertise data science and advanced analytics, Yinka has

consistently delivered innovative solutions that drive business performance and growth, his work involves developing models and leveraging cutting edge technologies to solve complex problems. As a committed advocate for diversity and inclusion in tech, Yinka is passionate about mentoring aspiring AI professional and creating supportive environments. Yinka holds a Master of Management Analytics from Smith School of Business, Queens University and an MBA from Obafemi Awolowo University.



Olayinka Oladimeji

Data scientist





Mosunmola Afolabi

Founder of Mom's Sorrel

Mosunmola Afolabi has worked for the past six years as a Financial Planner Associate with the Royal Bank of Canada. She is the founder of Mom's Sorrel, a healthy drink brand. Mosunmola earned her BSc and MBA degrees from the Lagos state university and University of Lagos and employs her educational accolades along with her extensive working experience in the finance field to dispense specialized financial advice to her clients.

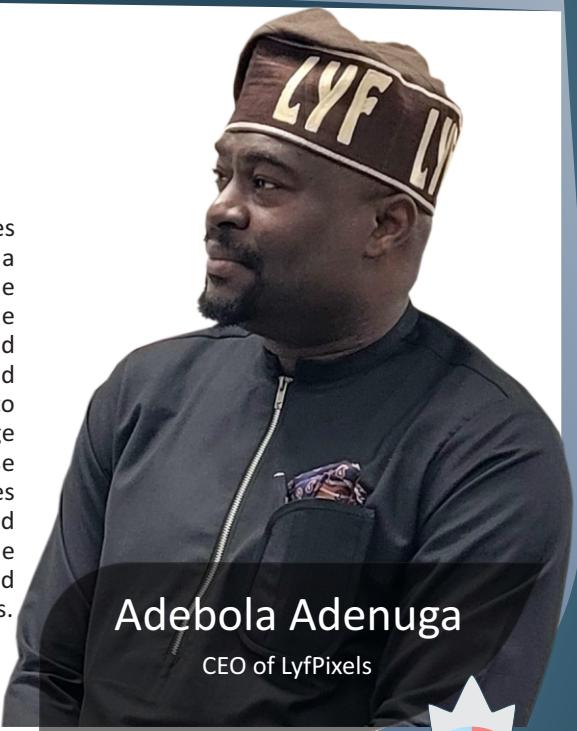
Planning And Strategy General Partnership Mosunmola's focus encourages her to be actively involved in client engagements and interact with clients to ascertain their needs. She uses her strong problem-solving abilities to break such barriers in the first place.

Trust is crucial in this business and

allows her to build authentic engagement with clients and appreciate their leadership aspirations. Mosunmola has been with CNP volunteering from the start and is passionate about serving the community. In essence, Mosunmola possesses a unique combination of business sense and humanitarian outlook. This is what sets her apart as a leader in the industry.

Dimples is the creative force behind LyfPixels, a wedding and Events photography and videography business known for capturing the essence of life's most precious moments. With a deep passion for storytelling and an eye for detail, Lyfpixels has earned a reputation for producing stunning, timeless images that resonate with clients. As a skilled manager, Dimples oversees a team, mentoring and evaluating their potential to ensure high standards and creativity. His thoughtful approach ensures that each moment are made timeless to reflect the essence of the story, providing both beauty and meaning.

In addition to photography, Dimples is a Human Resources Leader and a Business Transformation expert. He serves as a Board Chair for a couple of organizations. His leadership and strategic thinking extend beyond creative endeavors, contributing to organizational growth and change across industries. With a diverse professional background, Dimples brings a unique blend of artistry and business acumen to everything he does, making him a versatile and influential leader in multiple sectors.



Adebola Adenuga

CEO of LyfPixels





Lolo Ngozi Ugoh

Founder of Women In Business & Public Service

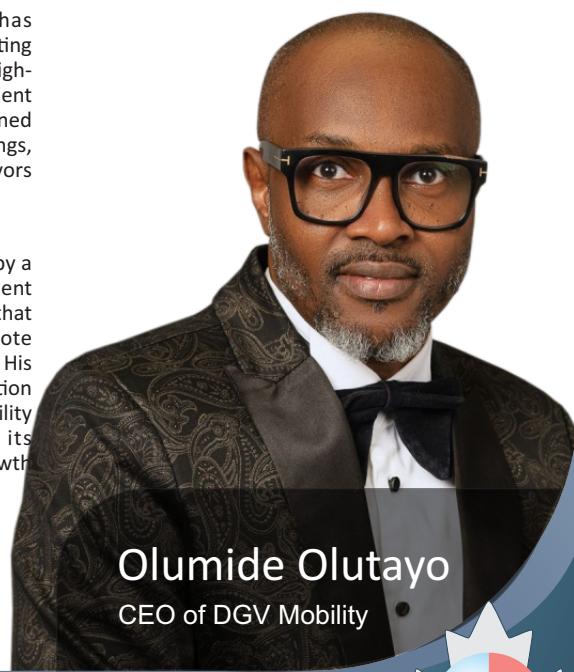
Publisher, Nigerian Canadian
Newspaper Canada
Founder: Welcome Home African
Community Services
- Women In Business
and Public Service

Olumide Olutayo is a visionary entrepreneur and the driving force behind DGV Mobility, a dynamic business conglomerate that includes a logistics and warehousing company, a construction firm, DGV Prints, and Suya Daddy. With a diverse background in business management and operations, Olumide has successfully integrated multiple industries under the DGV Mobility umbrella, positioning the company for sustainable growth.

As CEO, Olumide has implemented innovative strategies that enhance operational efficiency and customer satisfaction across all sectors. The logistics and warehousing division has become known for its reliable service and advanced technology, optimizing supply chain solutions. In construction, Olumide's focus on quality and safety has led to the successful completion of numerous projects, establishing a strong reputation in the market.

DGV Prints, under his guidance, has evolved into a leading provider of printing solutions, committed to delivering high-quality products that meet diverse client needs. Meanwhile, Suya Daddy has gained popularity for its authentic suya offerings, successfully blending traditional flavors with modern marketing techniques.

Olumide's leadership is characterized by a commitment to community engagement and sustainability, driving initiatives that support local economies and promote environmentally responsible practices. His forward-thinking approach and dedication to excellence ensure that DGV Mobility remains a key player in each of its industries, poised for continued growth and innovation.



Olumide Olutayo
CEO of DGV Mobility



POI24

Harriet Thornhill Leadership Award

"Judge Rochelle Ivri is 1 of 8 Citizenship Judges in Canada and is currently assigned to the Greater Ontario Area which includes Hamilton, Niagara, Kitchener, Windsor and London. In the 6 years that she has been a Citizenship Judge, she has sworn in over 150,000 new Canadian citizens in nearly 2000 ceremonies. After 9 years as a professor in the Paralegal Program at Mohawk College, she recently transitioned to administration in her role as the inaugural Manager, Equity Diversity and Inclusion with responsibilities over Mohawk's 5+ campuses. Additionally, Judge Ivri is an adjunct professor at Queen's Law School and the co-author of the textbook *Tribunal Practice and Procedure* (Emond Publishing). Rochelle has a degree in Criminology from the University of Windsor, and a post-graduate certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution from York University.

Rochelle served as a board member on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library Board for 8 years and was a publicly appointed member of the Council of the College of Midwives of Ontario, where she also served for 8 years, 2 of which involved being on the Executive Committee. Additionally, Rochelle was a member of the Discipline, Appeal, and Review Committee of the Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (now the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants).

Judge Ivri is deeply committed to community engagement and involvement, serving on various boards and committees in the past and present, while continuing to lend her knowledge and expertise to advance the needs of the community. She was awarded a Woman Who Rocks Award for Hamilton in 2019 and, in 2020 she was awarded the Leading Women, Leading Girls, Building Community Award for her work in Kitchener Centre. In 2021, Judge Ivri received the Lincoln Alexander Award from the Law Society of Ontario making her the first and only paralegal to receive this recognition in the awards' nearly 20-year history. In 2022, Judge Ivri was named one of 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women, she was given the Rev. John C. Holland Award of Merit by the Hamilton Black History Council, and was also recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Black Women to Watch by CIBWE. Last November, Judge Ivri was the recipient of the Community Impact Award from the Women in Niagara Council of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce. Most recently was named one of the 100 Most Influential Black Canadians for 2023-2024 and was the recipient of the Black Diamond Award for 2024.

She is passionate about human rights and the Charter, and encourages active citizenship and civic engagement to make communities thrive. She and her husband, Eldean, have 4 children."



Judge Rochelle Ivri
Citizenship Judges in Canada





Rev. Irene Ashu

Founder and CEO of the Canadian and African Women Aid Program

Rev. Irene Ashu, Ph.D., is an extraordinary and multifaceted individual whose life reflects a deep commitment to philanthropy, community service, and the empowerment of vulnerable women and youth. As the Founder and CEO of the Canadian and African Women Aid Program (CAWAP), she has established herself as a dynamic force for positive change. Through CAWAP, Rev. Ashu focuses on empowering women, particularly those in vulnerable situations, both in Canadian and African communities, helping them discover and develop their abilities.

In her role as a pastor, Rev. Ashu is a passionate spiritual leader, ministering with a heart for the underserved. She also demonstrates a wide range of skills as a project manager and grant writer, working with various grassroots organizations that promote development and growth in the communities they serve. Her passion for vulnerable women and youths drives her to create opportunities that uplift and empower those often overlooked or marginalized.

Her charitable efforts extend beyond borders, particularly to Cameroon and other parts of Africa, where she is involved in significant philanthropic work. Rev. Ashu's entrepreneurial spirit is also evident, as she is the founder of Trinity International Consulting Services, Heavenly Breeze Cosmetics, and Gospel Lane Media Inc., each of which reflects her ability to balance ministry with

business. Gospel Lane Media serves as a platform dedicated to sharing positive, informative content, which underscores her commitment to spreading messages that inspire and educate.

Rev. Ashu is also a talented songwriter and Christian Gospel artist, contributing to the world of music with songs that reflect her faith and calling. Beyond her artistic pursuits, she leverages her experiences as a life coach and mentor, helping others navigate their journeys with wisdom and compassion. Her extensive travels have further enriched her capacity to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and offer meaningful support.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Rev. Ashu holds a Ph.D. in Christian Counseling, a testament to her depth of knowledge and understanding of human relationships, healing, and spiritual guidance.

Her leadership abilities are recognized by many, and she is described as infectious and dynamic as she leads multiple organizations simultaneously.

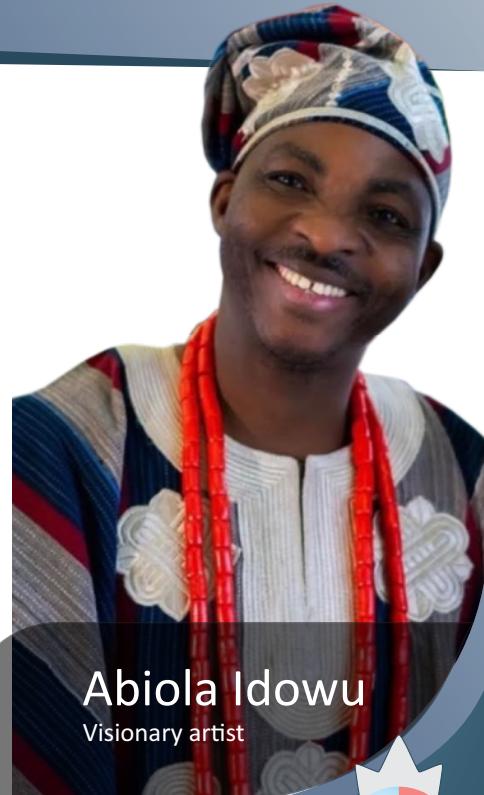
Despite her many roles, Rev. Ashu balances her life with love and devotion as a mother of four boys. Her leadership, philanthropy, and entrepreneurial ventures have made her a well-rounded individual dedicated to positively impacting the lives of others through religion, mentorship, community service, and business.

Abiola Idowu is an award-winning visionary artist whose journey spans continents, seamlessly merging art with heritage. With formal art training from the University of Lagos and Ahmadu Bello University, Abiola's creative brilliance has flourished, culminating in a series of international awards in painting and sculpture over three decades.

He possesses distinct expertise and a remarkable ability to transform imaginative visions into tangible realities. His mastery shines especially in creating high-caliber, permanent outdoor art installations. With his innate talent, well-developed abilities, and unmatched resourcefulness, he excels in bringing diverse creative concepts to life as tangible, 3D art installations that truly stand out. Whether creating a majestic bronze sculpture or a meticulously detailed mixed-media artwork, Abiola's exceptional craftsmanship is evident in every piece.

Within his collection of paintings, Abiola seamlessly blends his Yoruba heritage with a global outlook. He delves into themes of identity, connection, and self-understanding. His figurative works transition into expansive and captivating landscapes of color and texture, inspiring self-reflection and growth.

Abiola's journey is adorned with prestigious awards that highlight his influence and impact as an artist. Abiola Idowu has become a symbol of trust, innovation, and love and cultural harmony. AbiolaIdowuArt www.abiolaIdowu.com



Abiola Idowu
Visionary artist





Brenda Halloran

Chair of the Board of
Startup Canada

Brenda Halloran is known as a global leader with a local conscience. Often referred to as the people's Mayor, Halloran successfully held the top job as the Mayor of the City of Waterloo, Canada from 2006-2014. Responsible for leading the City through one of the most dynamic and innovative periods in its history, Halloran was focused on economic development, international partnerships and smart city growth. She is a strong advocate for seniors, women and children, homeless citizens, victims of human trafficking and new Canadians.

Today, Halloran is the Past District Governor of Rotary, Chair of the Board of Startup Canada, Vice Chair of the Board of the Accelerator Centre, and has her own consulting business. Brenda is highly engaged

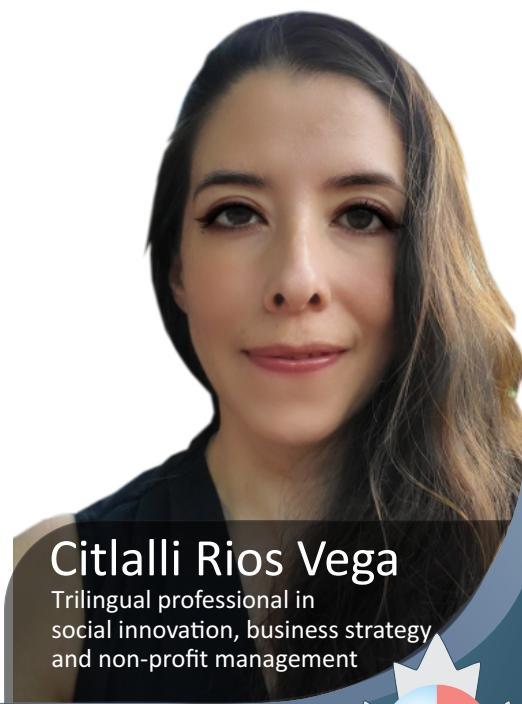
in the community and is a member of the Rotary Club of Waterloo, a past Board Member of Women's Crisis Services and the Sexual Assault Support Centre. She is deeply embedded in her community. She believes in coaching and mentoring others and helping them achieve their highest potential. Brenda continues to be involved in the local technology sector and works with new start-up companies as well as supporting numerous community boards and organizations. Her greatest joy is seeing others succeed and how she can help support them in any way she can

Citlalli is a proud Mexican-Canadian, trilingual professional in social innovation, business strategy and non-profit management. With over twelve years of experience in Sales, Marketing and Account Management. She is passionate about diversity, equity, women empowerment, and sustainability. In her current role, Citlalli promotes digital transformation for businesses through innovation and technology implementation. In addition, she loves networking, mentoring, and supporting the Latino community in Canada. As Hispanotech's Vice-President, she is responsible for securing and maintaining new partnerships and sponsorships and monitoring and overseeing all programs and service offerings. She

also volunteers for a few other associations, such as Enlace Community Link, where she supports temporary agricultural workers in Canada, ensuring their rights are respected and their working conditions are optimal.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/citlalli>

Hispanotech's Vice-President | Over 12 Years of Experience In Sales, Marketing & Account Management



Citlalli Rios Vega

Trilingual professional in
social innovation, business strategy,
and non-profit management





Oluremi Adewale

Founder, President, and
Chief Executive Officer of WFC

Dr. Adewale is renowned for her experience and expertise in the field of health. With an illustrious career spanning over two decades as a Canadian-trained registered nurse, Dr. Adewale has profoundly impacted mental and physical health, leaving an indelible mark locally and internationally.

As a leader, and a community advocate with an intersectional approach, Dr. Adewale's fundamental beliefs are rooted in helping people, especially women and girls, reach their potential. Dr. Adewale's diverse skill set has allowed her to support newcomers to Canada, both less privileged, and professionals. She has spent her time mentoring and coaching youth and women in various areas including health promotion, youth civic engagement, personal development, and economic development. She is committed to breaking down systemic barriers and building up girls, women, families, and communities.

Dr. Adewale is driven by her passion and dedication to inspire and empower people and to improve the lives and well-being of communities.

Dr. Oluremi Adewale saw the gap of capacity building for women and young girls as an opportunity to give back to her community. In 2018, this passion gave birth to the registration of a Canadian charitable organization called Women Focus Canada, Inc. (WFC). Dr. Adewale is the driving force steering the helm at WFC as the

Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer. She is a seasoned leader uniquely poised to propel WFC's mission and organizational transformation.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Adewale collaborated with a multidisciplinary team to run twelve-week webinars on Covid-19 Information & Prevention reached over 1000 people.

Similarly, Dr. Adewale has identified a blind spot in intimate partner violence education and awareness for women and girls living in shelter settings. This is why Dr. Adewale led a project to address domestic violence issues aggravated by the pandemic and its effects.

"At WFC, we believe that without community cohesion and solidarity we will not be able to ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to this point we bring all women together, irrespective of their various intersecting identities," Adewale said. Together we can improve opportunities and outcomes. Visit our website for more information and how to support www.womenfocuscana.org

Dr. Adewale is motivated to promote the interests of women, ensuring representation and equal participation of women and men. She is devoted to encouraging women's active participation at all levels on all national boards, government institutions, and committees.

Efuange Khumbah is an accomplished Environmental Engineer with 15 years of experience. He's a licensed professional in Ontario, Canada, managing environmental projects for the public and private sectors. His expertise includes pre-purchase due diligence and advising industries like property development, automotive, aerospace, oil and gas, and mining.

Mr. Khumbah, a proud father of three, has consulted for municipalities including Richmond Hill, Mississauga, Oshawa, and New Market. He provides technical support in business development, contaminated site assessments, and compliance monitoring.

Additionally, Mr. Khumbah is a renowned keynote speaker, inspiring individuals to pursue their goals. He has spoken at events like the opening of Black History Month by the City of Toronto Police Services.

In summary, Efuange Khumbah is a dedicated Environmental Engineer, community leader, advisor, and inspiring speaker, committed to research and community development.



Efuange Khumbah

An accomplished Environmental Engineer





Kingsley Madu

A Google backed, multi award winning serial entrepreneur

Kingsley is a Google backed, multi award winning serial entrepreneur that has built Canada's first all-in-one money app that enables users with bank accounts, cards, payments, remittance and credit building for individuals and their businesses.

Kingsley is also championing the first BIPOC focused Digital Bank in Canada and has been featured in several media outlets like the CBC. As a global leader and speaker,

Kingsley captivates audiences with his powerful inspirational speeches tagged the "Unstoppable Series". Kingsley has over 15,000 followers across his professional network and impacts thousands more everyday.

Name can be written as Kingsley Madu.

Olaitan Onyebuoha is a distinguished keynote speaker, multi-award-winning professional, and entrepreneur. As the founder of 7th Laurel Immigration Consulting, she specializes in international education research, recruiting, and immigration consulting and support services. With an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Technology Management, she is a member of the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants. Recently, she completed a postgraduate program in Hospitality and Tourism Management, showcasing her commitment to continuous learning and professional development.

With over 15 years of diverse experience spanning entrepreneurship, contract management, client services, marketing, banking, HR, and market research, Olaitan brings a wealth of expertise to every endeavor.

She has worked in various multinational companies like ExxonMobil Nigeria, TD Insurance and IBM Canada. She started her first business, Ocrej Consulting upon graduation as international student in Canada, and this platform helped over two hundred person discover, plan arrival and settle in Canada, majority now Canadians and other economically established in NB. She is a social-impact entrepreneur who seeks ways to make services available to immigrants. She introduced her first service innovation, a mobile

app to help ease the challenges and complexities of immigration application, the app is on iOS and will be launching by summer 2025 with some interesting community features that supports the journey of immigrants without breaking a bank.

Her innovation-driven approach and excellent problem-solving skills are a testament to her dedication to delivering results that benefit both teams and organizations, instilling confidence in her abilities.

Olaitan's community involvement extends beyond her professional pursuits. As the President and Visionary Founder of the Black Business and Professional Network, where she co-founded the organization with ten other visionaries and has volunteered over 3000 hours to the organization. She has helped nonprofits, where she served raised in leadership capacities over \$150K cad in grants and donations.

Her impact is also felt within various community project from the African to multicultural, newcomer community. For instance, she served with PRUDE Inc.'s All Women's Project, where she has been a committee member, contributing significantly to initiatives to eliminate systemic barriers hindering socio-economic progress, particularly for women.



Olaitan Onyebuoha

Founder of 7th Laurel
Immigration Consulting





Adijat Akinsipe

An advisor to the Chief Nursing Officer of Canada

Adijat is a technologist turned tech talent strategist with a deep passion for diversity, inclusion, and equity. She leads initiatives to improve technology hiring, branding, optimization, and candidate sourcing strategies. Adijat partners with senior leaders as a strategic advisor across all technology business lines in all aspects of technology talent. She curates and execute the go to market strategy for technology talent through multiple innovative sources. Her every day mantra is to deliver a world-class candidate experience that supports short- and long-term talent plans.

In her past life Adijat held progressive roles in the technology infrastructure space. Over the years in the tech space her areas of expertise were Implementation, training, and empowering teams to create seamless and effective delivery. An innate ability in facilitating consensus among teams, then being the conduit between business, and technology teams created a niche space for her to grow her skills over time. This experience helped her transition into technology recruitment.

Adijat is excited to grow her ability to influence positive change and provide

leadership in circuitous situations. With a proven ability to influence positive change and provide leadership in circuitous situations she is looking forward to growing her leadership skills. Creating impact in the areas of underrepresented groups in the technology space continues to be her passion. This stems from working in tech in the early 90's and often being the only woman or minority on large teams. She is also looking forward to growing her story telling skills to help grow and nurture women in the tech space.

In her spare time, Adijat works toward providing access to career changing information for early career minorities. She also shares the joy of travel with women who want to travel but are worried about solo traveling by curating group trips. Adijat is a conversation starter, speaker, and facilitator on everything around technology, talent, diversity, and travel. One of her favourite things to do is travel. She travels (a lot!) to discover new foods, landscapes, and cultures as this keeps her energized, grounded, and balanced. Adijat is a mom of two and aunt to a dozen more who enjoys cooking traditional Nigerian meals with the next generation.

Ovie, is an internationally recognized business leader, has garnered significant recognition for her outstanding contributions. In 2024, she was honoured among the "100 African Black Caribbean Accomplished Canadian Women, and Woman Changing The World, for Community Impact" acknowledging her exemplary achievements in various fields.

Ovie's professional journey as a Lean Six Sigma belt-certified nurse leader and Research Associate at the Diversity Institute at Toronto Metropolitan University showcases her dedication to excellence. Her role as an advisor to the Chief Nursing Officer of Canada reflects her influence in shaping policies and a toolkit on nursing retention. This collaboration with Health Canada in

co-developing the National Nursing Retention ToolKit exemplifies her commitment to addressing critical challenges in the healthcare industry.

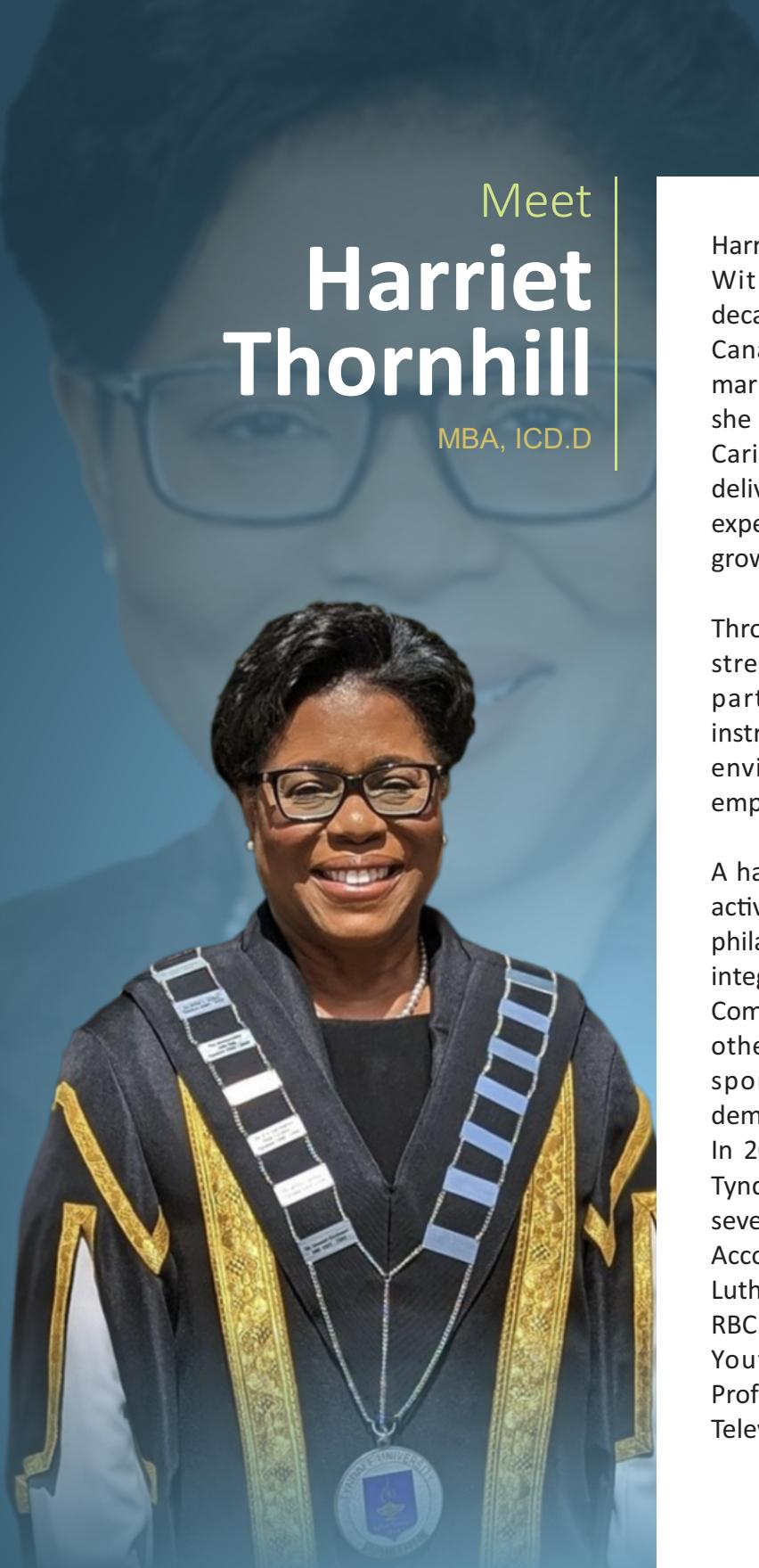
Identifying a gap in healthcare delivery, Ovie took proactive steps to create positive change. Under her leadership, the Canadian Black Nurses Alliance (CBNA) has evolved into a transformative national organization. The CBNA has significantly impacted Black nurses, nursing students, and critical allies, expanding its reach by establishing chapters in multiple provinces and institutions. Ovie's leadership has positioned the CBNA as a leading advocate, amplifying the voices of Black nurses globally.



Ovie Onagbeboma

An advisor to the Chief Nursing Officer of Canada





Meet
**Harriet
Thornhill**

MBA, ICD.D

Harriet Thornhill is a respectable business and leader. With a distinguished career spanning several decades, she held progressively senior roles at RBC, Canada's largest financial services institution by market capitalization. Prior to her retirement in 2022, she assumed key leadership roles in Canada and the Caribbean, where her leadership was pivotal in delivering differentiated digital and face to face client experience, employee engagement, and business growth.

Throughout her career, Harriet was known for her strength in building relationships with external partners and internally across RBC. She was instrumental in fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment where employees felt valued and empowered to achieve their full potential.

A hallmark of Harriet's history is her consistent and active leadership across community initiatives and philanthropic efforts, where she is recognised for her integrity, compassion and leadership by example. Committed to making a difference in the lives of others, Harriet continues to serve as a mentor, sponsor, and model for excellence across all demographics.

In 2023, Harriet assumed the role of Chancellor at Tyndale University. Harriet is the humble recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Top 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women and the Martin Luther King Award for community impact in 2020, the RBC Global citizen award and the BBPA Harry Jerome Youth Advancement Award in 2017, and the Professional Achievement Award from the Afroglobal Television Excellence Awards in 2016.

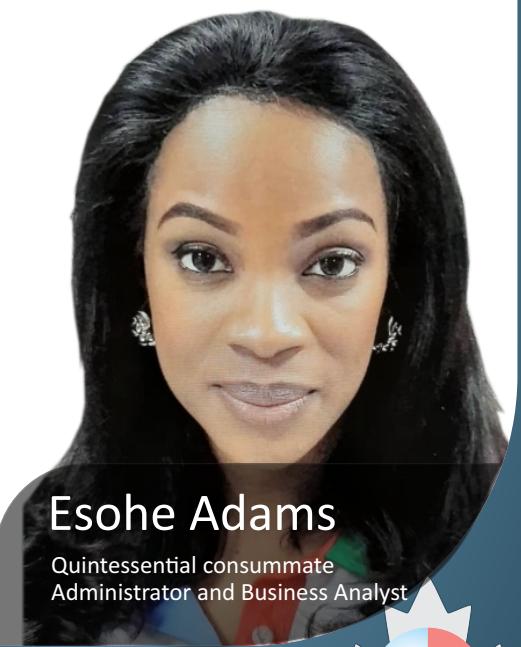
POI24

President's Award

Ms. Esohe Adams is the quintessential consummate Administrator and Business Analyst with a proven record in qualitative experience in both the private and public sector.

Ms. Adams has served as the Head of Administration in a major political party in Nigeria and has transferable expertise in supporting Canadian based not-for-profit organizations to ensure their success in Community projects.

Ms. Adams has served as a Sales Supervisor with major Telecommunication Company in Canada. As a Business Analyst, she has worked in various capacities to develop Infographic decks for Strategy and Sustainment Planning. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the prestigious University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA and Humber College, Canada.



Esohe Adams

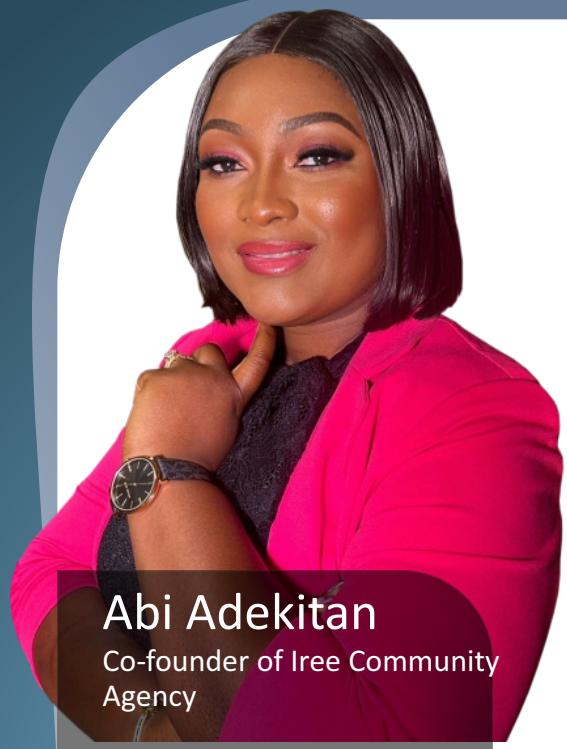
Quintessential consummate
Administrator and Business Analyst



A LOOK WITHIN

POI24
**Volunteer
Awards**





Abi Adekitan

Co-founder of Iree Community Agency

Abi Adekitan is a seasoned HR professional with over 16 years of experience. Abi and her husband co-founded Iree Community Agency, providing temporary job placements across various sectors, and leads Abi Star Consult, offering training and coaching programs to empower individuals and organizations. Abi also founded the nonprofit Iree Pathway Corp., focused on helping youth and women develop life and leadership skills.

supporting underprivileged groups, serving on the board of Nigerian Community Halton Region (NCH), volunteering in her church, and contributing to food banks and schools. Abi is a dedicated wife and mother, with future plans to establish a nonprofit educational center focused on life skills and leadership development.

She is passionate about

Dr. Oluwakemi Okwuegbuna (Dr. Kemi) has been a medical doctor of over 15 years, and a hematological pathologist for about 8 years. She currently is the Clinical Science Director in one of the largest clinic chains in Canada. Dr. Kemi is not just a dedicated healthcare professional but also a compassionate soul committed to making a positive impact, going above and beyond the call of duty, and tirelessly serving through voluntary work. She is actively involved in community-focused programs and her dedication to community well-being is reflected in various charitable initiatives from organizing health awareness campaigns to art awareness in the African mind.

She intends to continue by advocating for public health, social justice, community connection and togetherness. She's a board member of the African Caribbean Council of Halton (ACCH) and Association of Nigerian Committee in Milton (ANCiM) and volunteers in church. As a mother of 3, she believes in selflessness, service, support, and togetherness. She loves traveling, reading, and entertaining.



Dr. Oluwakemi Okwuegbuna

Clinical Science Director in one of the largest clinic chains in Canada





Akinkunmi Akinyemi
Professional in Information Technology and Cybersecurity

Akinkunmi is a seasoned professional in Information Technology and Cybersecurity. His work has been distinguished by his steadfast dedication to protecting digital environments, putting in place strong security measures, and teaching others about cybersecurity best practices. He holds several industry-recognised certifications, including GMLE (SANS GIAC Machine Learning Engineer), where he can actively apply Machine Learning/AI to solving real-world cybersecurity problems.

In 2019, Akin migrated to Canada with his family, demonstrating his resilience by quickly adapting to a new environment and culture. This experience not only strengthened his ability to navigate challenges but

also deepened his passion and commitment to community service and giving back.

Akin actively volunteers with several organizations, including the African Caribbean Council of Halton, where he serves as the Director of Technology, Digital Marketing and Community Engagement.

Akin is regarded as a respected person because of his dedication to quality, involvement in the community, and proactive outlook on life. He also enjoys spending quality time with his wife and their two kids.

Miriam Kutesa's personal and lived experience ignited her passion and led her to the path of Social Services work.

In this space she has worked with vulnerable populations including abused women and children, as well as homeless single women.

Her most recent experience has been managing the Dominion Church Temporary Refugee Shelter between July 2023 and December 2023 in collaboration with different organizations to address the African asylum seekers crisis in

the GTA which saw many African immigrants sleeping on the city streets.

Under the umbrella of the African Canadian Coalition, she continues to advocate for better immigration policies and wraparound services for African immigrants.

She believes that she may not be able to change the world, but her greatest fulfillment is derived from impacting one life at a time.



Miriam Kutesa



A LOOK WITHIN

POI24
**Youth
Leadership
Award**





James Ehiagwina

James Ehiagwina is a dynamic third-year nursing student at York University, deeply committed to creating inclusive and supportive spaces within the healthcare field. As the two-term president of the Canadian Black Nurses Alliance (CBNA) York University chapter, he leads initiatives that promote diversity and amplify the voices of underrepresented groups in nursing. His leadership extends to serving as the cohort representative for the Nursing Students Association (NSAY), where he actively champions the academic and professional interests of his peers. In his role as a Student Success peer mentor lead for the Black Excellence at York University (BE YU) team, James supports students in navigating their academic journeys, fostering both personal and professional growth. His influence also reaches the University governance level, where he serves as a student senator representing the

Faculty of Health in York University's Senate, advocating for student welfare and health policy improvements.

Beyond the university, James is a mental health advocate. As a member of the National Youth Council for Kids Help Phone, he helps raise awareness of youth mental health challenges, working to expand access to critical support services. James balances his academic and leadership commitments with a love for outdoor activities like frisbee and his passion for movies. Focused on his goal of becoming a paediatric oncology nurse practitioner, he aims to combine his clinical expertise with a deep sense of empathy, striving to make meaningful impacts on the lives of children and families navigating serious health challenges.

Kofi is enrolled in his first year of the Commerce program at McMaster University. His entrepreneurial spirit was sparked by establishing Kofi's Lawn Care, a venture that was a financial success, served his community's elderly, and taught him the value of fiscal responsibility and sustainable business practices. He was recognized for his business acumen with the Milton Youth Entrepreneur of the Year award, his business also received funding from the Ontario Summer Company Program in 2022.

He maintained a high academic average throughout his time at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Secondary School, graduating as an Ontario Scholar. Outside of his business and studies, Kofi's passion for football has been integral. As his school's team captain, he learned the power of teamwork and leadership, earning recognition as the "Milton Youth Athlete of the Year." Now, Kofi continues his

football journey, playing on the McMaster Marauders football team.

Kofi aspires to work in finance, this past summer he completed his internship at KPMG with their Financial Risk Management team in Downtown Toronto. He has accumulated 570 volunteer hours through participation in school events and caretaking for his church. Furthermore, he established the Senior Landscaping Program within Kofi's Lawn Care, engaging fellow high school students to provide seniors in the Halton Region with discounted/free services. Since its inception in 2022, the program has contributed over 350 hours to students across the Region of Halton.



Anokye Kofi Boateng



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Performing ARTISTES



Babarinde Williams

Baba is an award-winning motivational speaker, singer, percussionist, recording artist, trumpet and saxophone player, ethnomusicologist, music director, writer and Griot (African historian and story teller) who has been featured on Ted Talk and other academic forums. He was born in Nigeria, West Africa and had been playing drums as soon as he could walk. His most unforgettable experience was playing for Nelson Mandela when he paid a visit to the University of Lagos, Nigeria.



Chelsea Star

Chelsea Star is a captivating performer renowned for her seamless fusion of dance and singing. This competitive dancer has won multiple awards from traveling around the country in her dance competitions, doing styles of dance including ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, acro, musical theater, ballroom, modern, contemporary, hip hop and is now a dance teacher. She currently holds the title of Miss PIDC Philippines 2024 and is enjoying her reign by participating in fashion shows, performances and community events



Luckystickz

Luckystickz is a Canadian singer-songwriter, drummer and steelpan virtuoso who weaves a unique tapestry of sound, blending Soca, Dancehall, R&B, and Gospel into an Afro R&B/Pop fusion. Born of Jamaican and Trinidadian roots, his music echoes his rich cultural heritage.

His debut EP, "Every Day Battle," catapulted him onto the international stage and earned him a spotlight as Vibe 105's "Canadian Come Up Artist." This rhythmic powerhouse, who has shared creative space with legends like Harry Belafonte, Brian McKnight, and Chilli (of TLC), continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

A proud Berklee College of Music alumnus, Luckystickz is now stirring the music scene with his latest EP, "Housewarming Party," showcasing his signature blend of soulful vocals and melodious steelpan rhythms.



Yambeque Group

Yambeque Group is a dynamic and passionate ensemble specializing in the vibrant rhythms of Salsa and traditional Colombian folklore. Based on a foundation of rich Latin American musical heritage, we bring an authentic and high-energy experience to every performance, captivating audiences with our blend of live music, dance, and culture.

In addition to our live shows, Grupo Yambeque offers interactive party animation and dance workshops that invite participants to immerse themselves in the joy and energy of Latin music. Whether it's guiding people through the basic steps of Salsa or introducing them to the unique rhythms of Colombia's folklore, our workshops are tailored to all ages and experience levels, ensuring everyone can join in the celebration.

Perfect for festivals, corporate events, and cultural celebrations, Grupo Yambeque's mission is to spread the joy of Latin music and dance, sharing the beauty of our culture with audiences everywhere.

Oakville Oriental Arts Club (OOAC) is a non-profit entity, established in 2018, and composed of volunteers who are passionate to share, learn and promote Chinese cultural arts, through Chinese folk dance and Tai Chi practices to enrich the community multiculturalism. Our core principles include equality, cooperation, respect, and tolerance.

Oakville Oriental Arts Club (OOAC)



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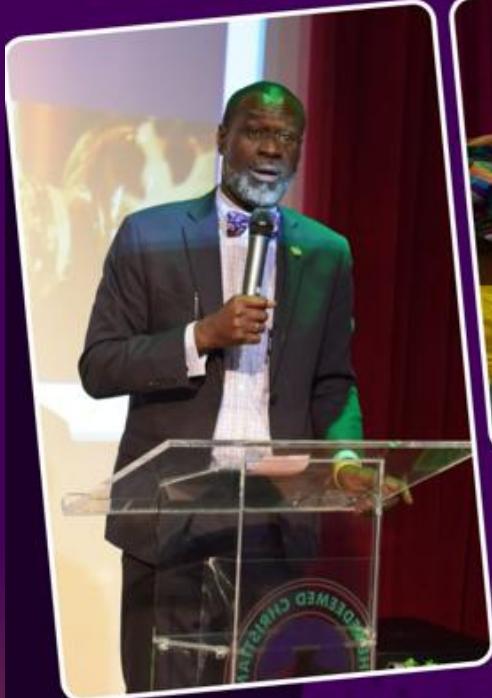


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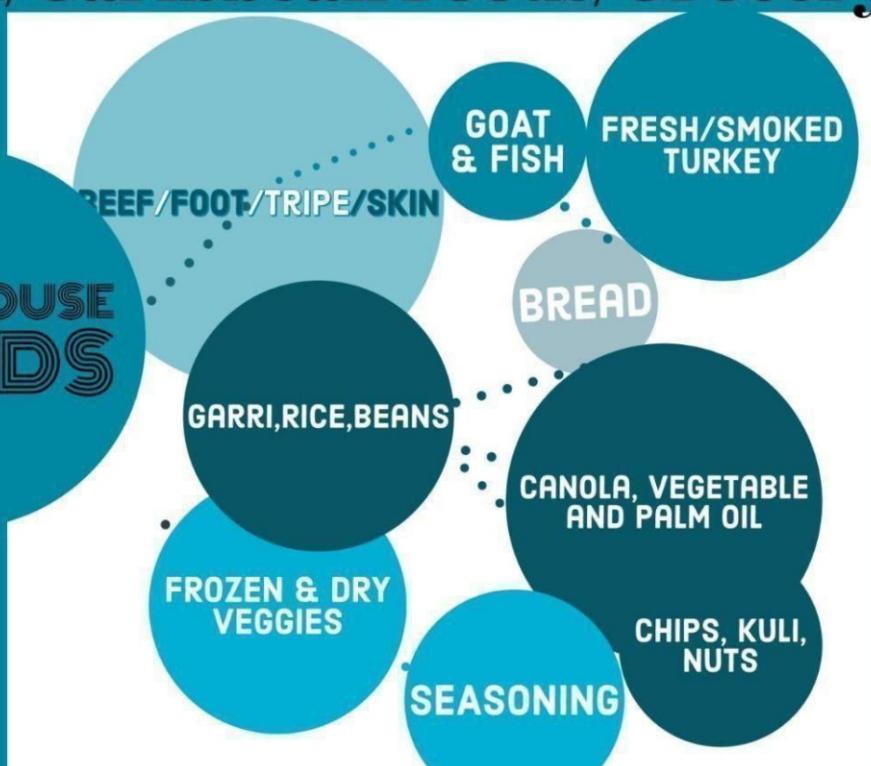
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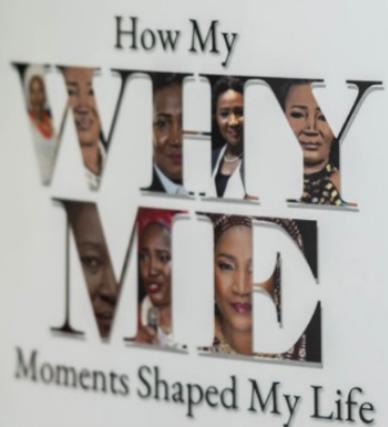
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