



COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN PROFESSIONALS INC.

# POWER OF INCLUSION

**WHAT IS THE FUSS ABOUT!**

POWER OF INCLUSION AWARDS, 2021



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

**December 2-4, 2021**

As we cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever for us to nurture the cultural ties that underpin our democratic society. So too is it imperative that we find new ways to foster inclusion and create opportunities for all Canadians to thrive. Such efforts are how we continue to overcome this challenging time together and build back better.

I therefore take this opportunity to offer my warmest of greetings to everyone taking part in "The Power of Inclusion: What is the Fuss about?" conference hosted by the Council of Nigerian Professionals Inc. This is a special opportunity for community leaders and thought-leaders to join together for candid and crucial conversations about building a more just and sustainable future.

As Her Majesty The Queen's representative in Ontario, I am with you in spirit, extend my gratitude to the Council for all their important work, and give my best wishes to all participants for a memorable and productive conference.



**Elizabeth Dowdeswell**



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

### Du 2 au 4 décembre 2021

Alors que nous faisons face à la pandémie de COVID-19, il est plus important que jamais pour nous d'entretenir les liens culturels qui sous-tendent notre société démocratique. Il est également impératif que nous trouvions de nouvelles manières de favoriser l'inclusion et de créer des possibilités d'épanouissement pour tous les Canadiens. C'est grâce à de tels efforts que nous pourrions continuer à surmonter ensemble cette période difficile et à rebâtir en mieux.

Je profite donc de cette occasion pour saluer chaleureusement tous les participants au congrès intitulé « The Power of Inclusion: What Is the Fuss About? », organisé par le Council of Nigerian Professionals Inc. Cette activité offre aux dirigeants communautaires et aux leaders d'opinion une occasion spéciale de se réunir pour des conversations franches et cruciales sur la construction d'un avenir plus juste et durable.

En tant que représentante de Sa Majesté la Reine en Ontario, je suis avec vous en esprit, j'exprime ma gratitude au Council of Nigerian Professionals pour son important travail et je souhaite à tous les participants un congrès mémorable et productif.




**Elizabeth Dowdeswell**



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## MAYOR PATRICK BROWN

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December 2021

### Greetings Message from Mayor Patrick Brown

On behalf of the Members of Brampton City Council, I am pleased to extend greetings to the Council of Nigerian Professionals. I hope that your Power of Inclusion and Awards Night is a success. I appreciate your organization's commitment to supporting Nigerian professionals and people of African heritage towards sustainable growth, development and prosperity in Canada. It is important that we encourage residents to be more inclusive. We can learn so much from other cultures.

I fondly remember my visits to Nigeria. We recently celebrated the 61st Independence Day with a flag-raising event at City Hall. The Nigerian community in Brampton is thriving and it is one of the reasons we recently visited Lagos in an effort to strengthen our connections and business-to-business ties. We are looking forward to the exciting next steps of developing this important relationship between the City of Brampton and Nigeria, built by our greatest shared asset, our people.

It is great to see so many deserving people being recognized for their efforts in the community. Thank you for making a difference! I remain committed to building an inclusive and sustainable community where people want to live, work and raise families.

I want to thank all the sponsors of this 3-day conference. As a not-for-profit organization, the Council of Nigerian Professionals relies on the generous donations to provide programs such as this.

Once again, enjoy the conference. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown  
Mayor



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**Welcome Address -  
Be An Agent of Change!**

Welcome to our forum on Power of Inclusion. Your presence is an indication that you want to do something about the Power of Inclusion and its impact on society.

Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world" Education means different things to different people. Going to school, learning a trade, having a conversation, travelling the world, learning from others embellishes us to be better. By having the discussion on this topic, Power of Inclusion: What is the Fuss About! We are talking about educating ourselves, gaining better understanding and we then become better agents of change and empowered to support each other more effectively.

Based on our experiences, we know that things get done when people are committed to it. Change happens when individuals and or communities take the initiative and do positive things. We all have a lot on our daily schedule, and are all busy with life, but what are we doing beyond providing for our individual needs and families? What are we doing to make someone else smile, to impact someone else's life, support someone else, especially when we have the abilities, the capabilities, and or capacities to make a difference?

Barack Obama said, "Focusing your life solely on making a buck shows a certain poverty of ambition. It asks too little of yourself. Because it's only when you hitch your wagon to something larger than yourself that you realize your true potential"

Sometimes we must die of self to promote change for others.

Some of us may feel that our contribution will not amount to much. Based on some wise sayings we have all adopted over time like:

1. Drops of water make an ocean.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first steps.
3. Every thought, action, support counts.
4. It takes a village to raise a child.



*We all owe it to ourselves to consciously try to understand our intersectionality, as it creates awareness and supports better relationships*

Let us not wait for someone else to make the move, let us be the one to start effective change.

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world"

We must be agent of change to promote inclusion.

In areas of inclusion, it is our responsibility to be conscious of our behaviours and actions, monitor and master our thoughts, our biases especially when we see someone that does not look like us, have the same culture, religion, sexual orientation like us, or even not in the same social class as us. That makes us makes change agent.

We all owe it to ourselves to consciously try to understand our intersectionality, as it creates awareness and supports better relationships.

I would like to congratulate everyone who has and is taking part in this event.

All our outstanding and distinguished panellists, participants and attendees, community members, and all our award recipients involved in the Maiden edition of Power of Inclusion: What is the fuss about. Thank you for being a part of the dialogue, for doing something, for taking that tangible step towards a better and inclusive society.

For committing to make change happen, for committing to lead change, all of these you have

done by showing up for this event. For these and more, we are grateful.

Let us be open to change. We need to change our lens based on inclusion, not based on colour, not race, not sexuality, not gender, but by merit and equity to ensure everyone is given equal opportunities.

Let us have those conversations, no matter how difficult it is, let us speak up for inclusion, and for humanity.

As we focus on doing something, doing one thing, collectively, we will achieve better success, and a better society

I want to end my welcome address with this quote by Ann Northrop

"Don't tolerate me as being different, accept me as part of the spectrum of normalcy.

Thank you.



**President & Founder**

Email: [president@cnpngo.ca](mailto:president@cnpngo.ca)

Website: [www.cnpngo.ca](http://www.cnpngo.ca)

Est. 2018

**Ms. Adejisola Atiba**  
**(Lady ABHA)**

*CNP was started out of the lived experiences of people in our community, with the intent of supporting each other in our career, settling in, and flourishing in Canada.*



## **Our Story**

CNP was started out of the lived experiences of people in our community, with the intent of supporting each other in our career, settling in, and flourishing in Canada.

Most people came into the country with so much high hopes, great expectations and willingness to do what it takes to add value to Canada. The expectations quickly become a dream for a great number of people, as the culture shock and unforeseen obstacles takes over the initial euphoria. The process of coming into the country is different for everyone, but the overarching idea is to contribute to the country and be an active and positive

participant to it. In preparation to migrate to Canada, many people went through the vetting process of reviewing their skills, expertise, experiences, qualifications and more, but once in the country the dynamics changes. All the passion they came in with is suddenly doused either because of their lack and inability to even secure an interview, not to mention getting a job in their career.

Most are not aware of certain terminologies used, job search intricacies, nuances around the culture and workplace expectations. A lot of gaps that could impede their ability to be employed in a new country and a new culture seems more than most could bear, and so people go into survival mode.

*She reached out to some of her friends and colleagues, had a meeting in her home to talk about her dream for a better future and experience for our Nigerian community members...*



### **Survival job**

This is when you will witness a Lawyer or Surgeon driving UBER or working in a factory to survive. Once the survival mode is switched on, it becomes difficult to turn it off. It is now all about putting food on the table, and not about getting a foot in the door of their career anymore. Even if they eventually do have the opportunity to start that career journey, the hurdles they would have to go through, the additional qualifications, would not make financial sense because of the pay-cut they might experience. People are mostly under-employed and underpaid which leads to so many other negative feelings and experiences of physical, mental, and financial demotivation.

### **Our Founder**

Our leader and visionary, Adejisola Atiba, fondly called Lady ABHA, found too many people in the community experiencing all these emotional traumas in different variations, and she was determined to do something about it.

She reached out to some of her friends and colleagues, had a meeting in her home to talk about her dream for a better future and experience for our Nigerian community members, which includes, existing residents, newcomers, and our children. Everyone present agreed the time was ripe to make the initiative come to life, and so Council of Nigerian Professionals Inc. was registered as a not for profit on August 31, 2021. This initiative birthed the beginning of a new era in the Nigerian community.

*CNP exists to equip and support Nigerian professionals, and people of African heritage towards sustainable growth...*



**Vision:**

CNP exists to equip and support Nigerian professionals, and people of African heritage towards sustainable growth, development, and prosperity in Canada.

**Strategic Goals:**

*To support the holistic wellbeing of individuals, marriages, and families*

- Culture Shock Bridging
- Family intervention and Reconciliation for Divorce Prevention
- Understanding Parenting in Canada
- Understanding Mental Health and Physical Wellness
- Finance in Marriage
- Equity in Marriage

*To enhance the leadership, career, business, and professional development of members*

- 101 of Microsoft Office
- Understanding how to use social media for career enhancement
- Resume and cover letter writing workshop
- Interview readiness workshop
- Characteristics of an authentic Leader
- Leading successfully
- Emotional Intelligence
- Leadership Series

*To provide support to new Immigrants and international student*

- Mentoring and Career Coaching
- Understanding Banking in Canada
- Credit and Investment 101

*To provide trainings and information on socioeconomic, and professional empowerment*

- Understanding Canada's Multiculturalism
- Past University students mentoring
- Big Brother, Big Sister

***To provide trainings and information on socioeconomic, and professional empowerment***

- Finance and Estate Planning
- Retirement planning
- Understanding and creating generational wealth
- Credit Management / Optimization Skills
- Risk Management
- Understanding various forms of investment

***(RRSP, RESP, RDSP, TFSA, renting vs Buying a home) To provide programs that enhance children (Grade 2 to Grade 12) empowerment***

- STEM Programs for Grades 8 and 9
- French as a Second Language
- Coding Classes
- Music/ Art classes
- Sports/ Wellness
- Scholarships

***Understanding Canada's Multiculturalism and interfaith***

- Getting to know and understand each other
- YOUME (UMI) Series
- Learning and unlearning the facts and myths
- Story Telling

***To provide support, seminars, events, and mentorship to business owners***

- Fundamentals of business planning
- Bookkeeping
- Forms of business ownership in Canada and business registration
- Understanding Business accounting and taxes
- Business mentoring

***How we achieve this!***

- CNP Life & Living Series: Socioeconomic, professional, and business empowerment
- CNP Leadership Series: Encourage, motivate, build, and inspire existing and new leaders
- CNP Newcomer Series: Land and Thrive
- CNP Language Schools: French, Mandarin, Igbo, and Yoruba
- CNP Virtual Summer Camps
- CNP Coding Class
- CNP Mentoring Programs

**Impacts**

***CNP has been in the community building business for over three (3) years and below are some of our impacts in the community:***

- We have supported people to get jobs
- Matched over 200 mentees with mentors
- We have supported local businesses to be better and scale
- We have mentored our youths
- Our Language school and Coding school has impacted over 150 students

*Many youths and students have shared testimonials on how our summer programs supported their various courses.*

- We provided school supplies to over 250 students
- We provided raw food to over 500 families in the heat of Covid-19
- With our various series, we continue to empower our community
- We donated funds to charitable organizations
- We hired 12 community members and students
- Testimonials
- Many youths and students have shared testimonials on how our summer programs supported their various courses.
- We had professionals advise us of the impact
- CNP mentoring has had on their professional careers.
- CNP empowerment programs have been touted to help families settle into Canadian culture, system, and workplace.
- Members have advised us of how our events have supported their careers, home purchase and wealth accumulation.
- We have had many members advise of the benefits of educating them about credit, and retirement planning and more.
- Community members advised of the impact of volunteering and positive effects on them.

### **Future Goals and Initiatives**

Our goal continues to be to provide the required support to Nigerians and people of African Heritage. We all know the maxim “He who seeks equity must do equity”, as we continue the conversation around inclusion, we must continue to be inclusive and so, irrespective of the background of all Canadians, if they need our support, we will give it, anytime and all the time. We will not turn anyone away.

We started as a Nigerian organization, but it has evolved to include volunteers from different parts of Africa, Caribbean, and Asia.

We continue to evolve and support everyone that wants to learn the “Art of having a Career”, not just a job. Through our various seminars, events, and webinars. CNP will continue to equip our community, provide opportunities to learn from past mistakes, and make the best of successes by standing on the shoulders of pacesetters in the community.

We plan to have an increased focus in supporting our children and youth, by co-creating programs and events with our youth volunteers, to better align to their needs.

Based on our experience in the community, we know that the federal and provincial governments are very supportive of our communities, but we know that there is room for community organizations to support all the government initiatives. We intend to do more with our children in the coming years. Some initiatives include:

- Coaching
- Homework support/ tutoring

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*Support small businesses  
in the community with  
structure and planning*

- Integration into the Canadian system
- Provide support for new immigrants and their children
- Extracurricular activities
- Mentorship
- Career mentors
- Time with Industry leaders and mentors  
2022 will see CNP continue with all our various programs and
- Expand the children and youth programs
- Support small businesses in the community with structure and planning
- Increase mentoring
- Increase partnering and collaboration with various organizations

### **Conclusion**

Are you looking for a like minded community?  
Networking to Build Professional and Impactful Relationships?  
Mentor Professional Immigrants, students, and youths?  
Build and Nurture a Positive Professional Image  
Avenue for Timely and Relevant Information to live, thrive and flourish?  
Showcase Role Models for the Youths and our Children, to Educate and Empower?  
Community Outreach and Volunteering Initiative?  
Showcase and advertise your business and scale?  
Join CNP as we continue this journey to Empower, Equip and Build our community, and Impact Canada Positively and Collectively.

# DAY ONE

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## **Power Of Inclusion: What is The Fuss About!**

Thursday, December 2nd, 2021

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**Topic:** Breaking Down Barriers

*In 2008, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora was launched at York University to help advance education, equity and inclusiveness.*

## Theme: Breaking Down Barriers!

Thursday, December 2nd 2021

### ■ Dr. Jean Augustine

#### **The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E.**

Jean Augustine made history as the first Black Woman elected to Canada's Parliament and served from 1993-2006.

Her tenure included distinguished service as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister; Minister of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women; Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

Her legislative successes include the historic Black History Month Motion; and the ground-breaking Famous Five Motion, which authorized the first and still the only statues on Parliament Hill depicting women - - other than Queen Elizabeth.

From 2007 to 2015, she served as Ontario's first-ever Fairness Commissioner.

In 2008, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora was launched at York University to help advance education, equity and inclusiveness. Also in her name are a Girls' Leadership Academy in Scarborough; a Centre for Young Women's Empowerment and a municipal park in Etobicoke; a Secondary School in Brampton, and a multi-purpose complex and district park in Vaughan.

A member of the Order of Canada, Order of Ontario and



Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Jean Augustine holds honorary doctorates from the universities of McGill, Toronto, York, Windsor, Guelph, Trent and Ryerson; is a senior fellow at Centennial and Massey College; and supports scholarships at George Brown, Centennial and Humber College.

MORE INFO: [www.jeanaugustine.ca](http://www.jeanaugustine.ca)

*In each role, Kris thrives at enabling her team to be their best and is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace.*

## **Theme: Breaking Down Barriers!**

**Thursday, December 2nd 2021**

### **■ Kris Depencier**

#### **Kris Depencier**

Regional President, Greater Toronto Region

As Regional President, Kris leads a team of 4,000 employees in providing financial advice and services to RBC's personal, small business and commercial clients in Greater Toronto.

Since joining RBC in 1993, Kris has worked in numerous sales leadership roles in both commercial and retail banking. She's also held a number of senior leadership and executive positions in both Canada and the US during her career, leading teams responsible for several businesses and client segments. In each role, Kris thrives at enabling her team to be their best and is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace.

Born and raised in London, Ontario, she's a graduate of Western University and completed her MBA at Schulich School of Business. Kris is passionate about



helping youth; she sits on the Board of the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada and is also a Board Member at the Toronto Region Board of Trade. She lives in Toronto with her family and likes to spend time at her cottage in Bruce County.

*He was a candidate in the 2015 federal election and maintains a passion for community empowerment, politics, and Human Rights.*

## **Theme: Breaking Down Barriers!**

**Thursday, December 2nd 2021**

### **■ Rev. Jeff Rock**

Rev. Jeff Rock is senior Pastor-Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto.

MCCT is one of the leading LGBTQ+ affirming churches in Toronto & the church that performed the first same sex marriage in Canada 14th Jan 2001 challenging the Canadian court systems to recognize same sex marriages that eventually was taken up by the Canadian Supreme Court & same sex marriage was legalized in Ont & BC in 2003, as other provinces followed & the Canada federal civil marriage act was enacted 20th July 2005, to legalize same sex marriage in Canada.

Rev. Rock received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Immunology at McGill University and a Master of Divinity at The United Theological College in Montreal. He is a Board Member of CANFAR (Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research) and a former Chair of the Board of CAANS (The Central Alberta AIDS Network Society). He was a candidate in the 2015 federal election and maintains a passion for community empowerment, politics, and Human Rights. Jeff was elected as the new Senior Pastor of MCC Toronto in 2017 and officially took on the role February 1, 2018.

#### **From Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto Website**

Rev. Jeff Rock received a Bachelor of Science in



Microbiology and Immunology at McGill University and a Master of Divinity at The United Theological College in Montreal. He is a Board Member of CANFAR (Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research) and a former Chair of the Board of CAANS (The Central Alberta AIDS Network Society). He was a candidate in the 2015 federal election and maintains a passion for community empowerment, politics, and Human Rights. Jeff was elected as the new Senior Pastor of MCC Toronto in 2017 and officially took on the role February 1, 2018.

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*He started his career at Torys law firm, becoming a partner in the Toronto and then NYC office.*

## **Theme: Breaking Down Barriers!**

**Thursday, December 2nd 2021**

### **■ Mr. Dan Donnelly**

Mr. Dan Donnelly is SVP Compliance, Canadian Banking & Global Wealth Management at Scotiabank.

Dan joined Scotiabank in 2014 as VP Compliance, International Wealth. In 2015, he accepted additional responsibility for ScotiaMcLeod and iTrade, becoming co-CCO of Scotia Capital Inc. In 2018, Dan left Compliance to join Scotia International Wealth, as VP Business Delivery.

He returned to Compliance in 2019, as SVP Compliance Canadian Banking and Global Wealth. Prior to joining Scotiabank, he was at CIBC as VP Legal, Wealth Management, Technology and Operations. He started his career at Torys law firm,



becoming a partner in the Toronto and then NYC office.

*Rebecca's efforts in community work was recognized by RBC as one of the 2020 Global Citizen Award winners.*

## **Theme: Breaking Down Barriers!**

**Thursday, December 2nd 2021**

### **■ Rebecca Pang**

Rebecca Pang is the Vice President, Commercial Financial Services at RBC where she leads a team of relationship managers with a focus on Asian markets in Toronto. They provide commercial banking services for example business loans, commercial mortgages, and cash management.

Previously, she was the Senior Director, US Strategic Business Development for RBC, where she led the development of strategic planning and investment initiatives for traditional and emerging U.S. banking sectors through Innovation and Mergers & Acquisition. Prior to this role, she had held various progressing roles at the other FIs including the head of retail channel analytics to drive and support recommendations on various retail channel strategic initiatives, as well as the roles of director of Strategy & Corporate Development and director in mergers and acquisitions.

Prior to coming to Canada 14 years ago, Pang has also worked in China Netcom as assistant to the CFO and Investor Relations Officer where she led the first ever outbound acquisition by a Chinese State-owned enterprise. She has also worked at McKinsey and Company in Hong Kong.

Pang received her BBA Accounting from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She later received an MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and earned her Chartered Financial Analyst and Chartered Business Valuators designations. Pang currently serves as



the board of Toronto Zoo, board of Yee Hong Foundation, Advisor for the Ted Rogers Leadership Centre and the Honorary Advisor for the Chinese Cultural Centre of Great Toronto. She was previously appointed as the Dean Council Member for Ryerson University Ted Rogers School of Management and board of director of the Multiple Sclerosis Society Toronto Chapter. Rebecca's efforts in community work was recognized by RBC as one of the 2020 Global Citizen Award winners.

*He helps organizations and governments  
unite young people for Nation Building  
and National Development.*

## **Theme: Breaking Down Barriers!**

**Thursday, December 2nd 2021**

### **■ Arthur Amadi**

Arthur is the Head of Vision and Global Youth Mobilizer at Youth In Diaspora. He helps organizations and governments unite young people for Nation Building and National Development.

The purpose of Youth In Diaspora is to empower, mobilize and unite young people of African descent to obtain the necessary resources to be represented in various sectors as leaders and to solve the world's most complex challenges, locally and globally.

He is also the recent Director for Youth Engagement at Canadian Association of Urban Financial Professionals (CAUFP) an organization providing a link between corporations and African Descent professionals in the Canadian economy. He's a recent Black Diplomats Academy Fellow and he currently serves as a youth advisor at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.



He believes that the African Diaspora has a role in solving problems for their communities locally, the continent of Africa and the Caribbean. He is certain that a committed group of young people can and will change this world.

# DAY TWO

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## **Power Of Inclusion: What is The Fuss About!**

Friday, December 3rd, 2021

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**Topic:** Envisioning a Brighter Future

*Dr. Fae Samuels presents safe schools initiatives and provides conflict resolution training to students, staff, Administrators, parents and school councils locally and internationally.*

## Theme: Envisioning a Brighter Future!

Friday, December 3rd 2021

### ■ Dr. Fae Samuels

Dr. Samuels is a retired Principal of Dufferin-Peel District School Board. She was an educator with Dufferin-Peel for thirty-two years. For seventeen of those years she was an administrator, seven years as Principal of St. Augustine Secondary School in Brampton, Ontario. It was under her leadership that The Fraser Report on education rated St. Augustine Secondary School as the most improved Catholic Secondary School in Brampton. She worked in both the elementary and secondary panels in Dufferin-Peel. Fae was also a part-time instructor in the Faculty of Peace and Conflict Studies at Conrad Grebel, University of Waterloo where she taught Conflict Resolution in Schools. She holds a Doctorate degree in Education (Conflict Resolution, OISE/UT), Master of Science (C.W. Post, Long Island University, N.Y.), the Supervisory Officers qualification (OISE/UT) and a Diploma in Special Education (York University).

Dr. Fae Samuels presents safe schools initiatives and provides conflict resolution training to students, staff, Administrators, parents and school councils locally and internationally. Her best known programs are the implementation of Peer Mediation programs in Schools (secondary and elementary), Peer Mediation and the Justice System, How to make Peace with your Teenagers, and How to Reculture a School. She also teaches the participants how to mediate conflicts in the school community, in the classroom, in the workplace and at home. As a mediator, Dr. Samuels has trained educators, students, lawyers, social workers, child and youth workers and others in Conflict Resolution and Mediation. She has trained participants in South Africa, Columbia (sponsored by the United Nations), the Caribbean, United States and Canada. She has extensive workshop experiences and has presented more than seventy training workshops locally and internationally. As a principal, Dr. Samuels met and exceeded the challenges that came with the leadership position. She has received numerous awards not only for her educational and professional



achievements but for her community involvement. Most notably she was a recipient of the 2010 Women Achievers Award; 2009 the Community Award "in recognition of leadership and outstanding service to the community;" in 2007 the Brampton/Caledon Women of Achievement Award in the area of Education, Training and Development category; the Honours as a Premiere Member for Outstanding Career Achievements 2008-2009 from Emerald Who's Who for Executives and Professionals (US); The City of Mississauga Certificate of Recognition for her "dedication to youth issues" from Mayor Hazel McCallion in 1999; the Black History Makers Award in 2003 from Peel United Cultural Partners in recognition for her "personal achievements, talents, leadership and on-going service to the community" and from the Sisserou Cultural Club Youth Quake she received two recognitions (2006 and 2004) for her "unselfish contribution of time, talent and outstanding leadership."

Dr. Samuels is a published author. Her book is entitled, "How to Implement a Peer Mediation Program: Step by Step Instructions."

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*Angela is the Arts and Culture service owner and leads the City's Public Art Program, Burlington Arts and Culture Fund and other cultural initiatives.*

## **Theme: Envisioning a Brighter Future!**

**Friday, December 3rd 2021**

### **■ Angela Paparizo**

Angela Paparizo is the Manager of Arts and Culture with the City of Burlington. She brings over 16 years of experience in Public Administrations and 4 years of experience in the Private Sector. Angela has a Master's Degree in History, Bachelor Degree in Journalism, Certificate in Cultural Planning and a Completion of Executive Municipal Leadership Program. Angela is the Arts and Culture service owner and leads the City's Public Art Program, Burlington Arts and Culture Fund and other cultural initiatives. She works closely with Burlington Art Gallery, Performing Arts Centre, Museums of Burlington, Tourism Burlington and Libraries in developing art and culture for the City. She has recently successfully led the development and implementation of the Community Support Fund, a funding program created during Covid times with the intention to lift and inspire the community spirit, celebrate diversity and create a sense of belonging.

Angela is a member of Board of Directors of Hamilton Halton Brant Regional Tourism Association ( RTO3) and contributes on a regional



level to enhance and develop the service in the area. As Co-chair of the Halton Newcomer Steering Committee, Angela's work is dedicated towards coordinating and collaborating with various member agencies and local services to improve the lives of newcomers and help them with successful integration.

*My objective is to deliver the ultimate in training experience to ensure sustainable changes and maximum living.*

## **Theme: Envisioning a Brighter Future!**

**Friday, December 3rd 2021**

### **■ Alex Ihama**

Executives and entrepreneurs consult with me when they wish to align their processes, policies, procedures and the passion of their people with the vision of their organizations. They consult with me when they wish to initiate paradigm shifts, instigate business transformation, ensure business continuity and implement an effective succession plan. They consult with me when they wish to explore new opportunities and break new grounds, when they wish to develop strategic plans, achieve stringent goals and objectives and orchestrate leadership culture in their corporation, church, college, community or government. Whether you are a CEO, politician, pastor, professor, parent or some kind of professional, my speaking engagements, training sessions, coaching programs and consulting services are designed to think deeply, act passionately and grow steadily. My objective is to deliver the ultimate in training experience to ensure sustainable changes and maximum living.

The innovative coaching framework which I pioneered is based on decades of deep psychological, physiological, spiritual and philosophical researches, and transcends religious, cultural, racial and socio-economic backgrounds. I have used this framework to successfully turn organizations around and helped thousands of people around the world to discover their purpose in life, overcome their challenges, achieve their goals, attain entrepreneurial success and build their legacies. You can learn more about me, my messages and



philosophies in my books, *Welcome to Greatness*, and *The Mystique of Leadership*, or kindly visit the following websites:

[www.alexihama.com](http://www.alexihama.com)  
[www.facebook.com/coachalexihama](https://www.facebook.com/coachalexihama)  
[www.schoolofgreatnessinc.com](http://www.schoolofgreatnessinc.com)  
[www.canadiancongressondiversity.ca](http://www.canadiancongressondiversity.ca)  
[www.schoolofgreatness.ca](http://www.schoolofgreatness.ca)  
[www.twitter.com/Alex\\_Ihama](https://www.twitter.com/Alex_Ihama)

My email address is [alex@alexihama.com](mailto:alex@alexihama.com) and phone number is +1-416-902-6672, and I look forward to working with you and your organization to achieve even greater heights.

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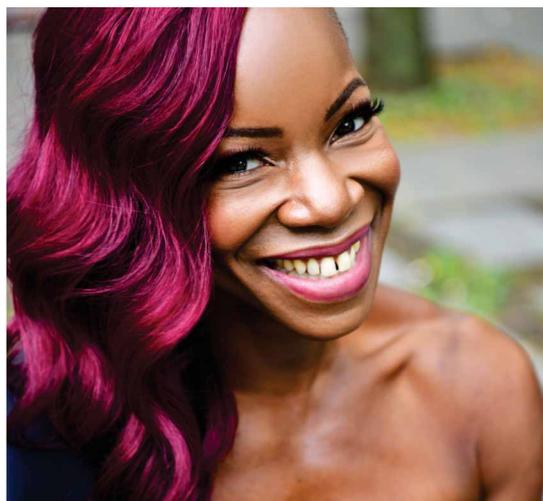
*Nkechi Nwafor-Robinson is an award-winning Technology Executive, with over 20-years of experience.*

## **Theme: Envisioning a Brighter Future!**

**Friday, December 3rd 2021**

### **■ Nkechi Nwafor-Robinson**

Nkechi Nwafor-Robinson is an award-winning Technology Executive, with over 20-years of experience. She is an AVP in Technology Solutions, currently serving in the role of Solution Train Engineer at TD Bank Group, supporting Data-as-a Service Enterprise Product Family and responsible for overall orchestration of large solution level events – but that is not all. She is Founder and CEO of Empowered in My Skin Inc., author, professional bodybuilder, host of Empowered in My Skin podcast, and an inspirational speaker, with speeches that have been viewed over 7M times worldwide. Most recently she was awarded, 2020 WXN Most Powerful Woman Canada – Top 100.



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*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.*

## **Theme: Envisioning a Brighter Future!**

**Friday, December 3rd 2021**

### **■ Jody Harbour**

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.



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*She used to manage the Oshawa Riding Instagram account of Future Majority, and is now a member of her school's Diversity Club.*

## **Theme: Envisioning a Brighter Future!**

**Friday, December 3rd 2021**

### **■ Calah Iyase**

Calah Iyase is a Media Volunteer and former Business Development Officer for Council of Nigerian Professionals. A winner of the Black History Month Essay contest, as well as one of the winners of the 2021 TD BEX Youth Hackathon. She is an activist for the black community and believes in equity. She used to manage the Oshawa Riding Instagram account of Future Majority, and is now a member of her school's Diversity Club. Art and dance are her hobbies while maintaining her consistent honor roll placement in high school. Currently, she is the Minister of Incoming Students at her Student Council, and anticipates the journey of becoming



an outstanding Medical Doctor who takes responsibility of children, which is inspired by caring for her two younger brothers.

# DAY THREE

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## **Power Of Inclusion: What is The Fuss About!**

Saturday, December 4th, 2021

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**Topic:** Inclusive Leadership

*Harriet began her career with RBC in Montreal and has held progressively senior management and executive roles.*

## Theme: Inclusive Leadership!

Saturday, December 4th 2021

### ■ Harriet Thornhill

Vice President, RBC Contact Centres

Harriet has 40 years' experience in financial services. Her experience spans across the Personal and Commercial Banking Platform, client experience strategy, marketing, Learning & Development, and large people leadership through transformational changes, which includes domestic and international experience.

In her current role as Vice President, she leads RBC's Advice Centres, a multi-business, multi-geographical distribution channel for the bank; overseeing 6 Centres across Canada with over 4,000 employees, Telephone Banking, Direct Investing, and Digital Client Services. Providing advice and service to Personal & Business clients across Canada and the U.S.

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She is the recipient of several recognitions, including:

- 2020 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women
- 2020 EFCC (Educational Foundation for Children's Care Canada) Martin Luther King Award
- 2017 BBPA (Black Business and Professional Association) Harry Jerome Youth Advancement Award
- 2017 RBC Global Citizen Executive Award Recipient
- 2011 BBPA Women of Honor Award
- 2009 Vancouver Winter Olympic torch bearer in Charlottetown PEI

Harriet holds an Executive MBA from the University of Athabasca and is currently enrolled in the ICD-Rotman Directors Education Program (DEP).

*Maria has over 25 years of Sales and Sale Leadership experience and is presently the Regional Vice President for Financial Planning.*

## **Theme: Inclusive Leadership!**

**Saturday, December 4th 2021**

### **■ Maria Bosnjak**

RVP Financial Planning

"Maria has over 25 years of Sales and Sale Leadership experience and is presently the Regional Vice President for Financial Planning. Maria leads a team of approximately 300 employees who provide financial planning to over 86000 clients in the Greater Toronto Region. She has held several positions in GTR, most recently the Vice President for Retail Banking, Regional Vice President, Mortgage Specialists and Regional Vice President for Retail Banking in the Markham Region. Maria has also held roles in National Office, including RBC Direct Investing, Sales Strategy, Sales Effectiveness in Contact Centres along with various roles in retail banking. Maria has been involved in the community as a past member of the Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation Board and held the position of Vice-Chair. Maria was the co-chair of the JDRF Ride of York Region for several years and was also a



member of the Mackenzie Vaughan Hospital Breast Health Centre Fund Raising Committee. Maria enjoys travel and spending time with her family.

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*He has a passion for travel which has helped him experience the beauty of the world and its many cultures but also how similar we all are in our needs & wants.*

## **Theme: Inclusive Leadership!**

**Saturday, December 4th 2021**

### **■ Ben James**

#### **Ben James**

Manager Financial Planning-RBC Royal Bank

An immigrant from Colombo, Sri Lanka, He has lived in this amazing country called Canada, for over 34 years. He is a leader in diversity & Inclusion, and proudly calls Canada home now.

He has been with RBC Royal Bank for over 33 years, 23 of those years in management. A proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, and he also help lead the Diversity & Inclusion conversation within RBC Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Financial Planning as the designated D&I champion.

He has a passion for travel which has helped him experience the beauty of the world and its many cultures but also how similar we all are in our needs & wants.



*According to researchers, intrapreneurship is the act of behaving like an entrepreneur while working within an organization.*

## **Theme: Inclusive Leadership!**

**Saturday, December 4th 2021**

### **■ Naki Osutei**

According to researchers, intrapreneurship is the act of behaving like an entrepreneur while working within an organization.

Three impact objectives have been at the centre of my professional, volunteer and academic experiences: 1) supporting the development of leaders, particularly racialized leaders 2) dismantling and re-defining prevalent views of who is perceived as a leader and 3) connecting institutions and individuals to facilitate positive change and opportunity.

As VP, Strategy for the Greater Toronto CivicAction Alliance I co-founded the DiverseCity Fellows "Civic MBA" and convened leaders to address challenges facing the Toronto Region's social and economic future.

From there I had the honour of developing the corporate diversity, inclusion, accessibility and social legacy programs for TORONTO 2015 Pan Am and Parapan Am Games as Director, Social Legacy. While at TORONTO2015, I also worked as Director, Human Resources responsible for the recruitment and employee relations for 5 business units.

Following TORONTO2015 I pivoted into the financial services sector beginning with a critical experience as Director, Executive Talent Management at CIBC. I had the privilege of working with a phenomenal team to support the development of executives and 'near-executives' while also working to diversify the executive pipeline.

Today I work as Associate Vice President, Social Impact Canada in TD's Global Corporate Citizenship team where I



work with an amazing colleagues to leverage the strength of our corporate philanthropy, colleague engagement and business to help build a more equitable tomorrow.

I've also taken on volunteer roles including: Member, Board of Governors, University of Guelph (incoming); former Vice-President of the Board of Directors for West Neighbourhood House; former Seneca College's Board of Governors; Alumnus, BMW Foundation's Responsible Leaders Forum; Former Co-Director, Coaching and Curation, TEDxToronto. I am often invited to share both academic and professional insights through keynote addresses and panels, most notably on State Visits with Her Excellency, Michaëlle Jean, the 27th Governor General of Canada.

*Chinyere is a board member, advisory council participant and a passionate volunteer for several community organizations including the War Amputations of Canada Child Amputee Program,*

## **Theme: Inclusive Leadership!**

**Saturday, December 4th 2021**

### **■ Chinyere Eni-McLean**

Within Royal Bank of Canada, Chinyere has led individual contributor, leader, and specialist teams to deliver premium business results. Currently, Chinyere leads a team of commercial banking Supply Chain industry specialists in the Toronto East region who are focused on bringing the best of RBC to businesses, business owners, and their employees. Her team stewards these client relationships by demonstrating in words and in actions the positive impact the RBC team can have on client experience. She is accountable for building and executing a market strategy and action plan to capture market share and take ownership of Centre results in client experience, business performance, portfolio quality, employee engagement, and digital enablement. As an active community leader, Chinyere is a board member, advisory council participant and a passionate volunteer for several community organizations including the War Amputations of Canada Child Amputee Program, The Amputee Coalition of Canada, and the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation. She is an active speaker on topics related to her community engagement including the largest fundraising event in Canada, the Ride to Conquer Cancer as well as the Continuing Studies program at the University of Toronto. She has been recognized by the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation for her impact across thousands of riders in the Ride to Conquer cancer by demonstrating what's possible as a physically challenged rider. She currently chairs the Community Investment Committee of the largest granting foundation in the country, the Ontario Trillium Foundation. In June 2021, Chinyere will join the Wilfrid Laurier University Board of Governors. Chinyere holds a Masters of Business Administration (M.B.A.) from Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Arts from the University of British Columbia, and a Personal Financial Planning (P.F.P.)



designation. A lifelong active volunteer, in 2013, Chinyere received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award for service to Canada. In 2020, she was recognized as an RBC Global Citizen Award winner which acknowledges top-performing employees who have displayed an incredible commitment to giving time and expertise to communities by volunteering and leading charitable initiatives.

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*An entrepreneur with a passion for creativity.  
He has worked in various capacities with  
various organizations as a student,*

## **Theme: Inclusive Leadership!**

**Saturday, December 4th 2021**

### **■ Immanuel Okoroafor**

Immanuel Okoroafor is an Honors graduate with a double major in Law & Justice and Political Science. He is in the process of writing his LSAT to enable him attend Law school.

An entrepreneur with a passion for creativity. He has worked in various capacities with various organizations as a student, all which continues to add to his skills tools. He was a business development manager with CNP. He is a lifetime volunteer with various NGOs because he understands the impact of giving back, a family tradition.



**Power Of Inclusion**  
**AWARD**  
**CATEGORIES**

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**Leadership**  
**Champions**  
**Community**

## **Power of Inclusion and Awards Types and Recipients**

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### **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award**

1. Hon Jean Augustine
2. Mr. Baba Williams
3. Ms. Harriet Thornhill
4. Ms. Kris Depencier
5. Ms. Chinyere Eni-Mclean
6. Ms. Rebecca Pang
7. Mrs. Nkechi Nwafor-Robinson
8. Dr. Fae Samuels
9. Ms. Ejibola Adetokunbo-Taiwo
10. Rev Jeff Rock
11. Mr. Alex Ihama
12. Mr. Arthur C. Amadi
13. Ms. Padmini Padiachy

### **Power of inclusion Community Award**

17. Mr. Uche Okugo
18. Mr. Dapo Bankole
19. Mr. John Nana Yaw Okyere
20. Mr. Christopher Thompson
21. King Sunday Adeniyi
22. Mr. Charles Osuji
23. Mr. Ovie Ukeko
24. Mr. John Adeyefa
25. Dr. Lamine Diallo
26. Mr. Osita Nwajufor
27. Pastor Blessing Ajayi

### **Power of Inclusion Champion Award**

14. Mr. David Odigie
15. Dr. Oye Abioye
16. Dr. Johnson Iyilade

# AWARD RECIPIENTS

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## POWER OF INCLUSION LEADERSHIP AWARD

*"A leader takes people where they want to go.  
A great leader takes people where they don't  
necessarily want to go, but ought to be"*

**- Rosalynn Carter.**

*In 2008, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora was launched at York University to help advance education, equity and inclusiveness.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Dr. Jean Augustine**

#### **The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E.**

Jean Augustine made history as the first Black Woman elected to Canada's Parliament and served from 1993-2006.

Her tenure included distinguished service as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister; Minister of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women; Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

Her legislative successes include the historic Black History Month Motion; and the ground-breaking Famous Five Motion, which authorized the first and still the only statues on Parliament Hill depicting women - - other than Queen Elizabeth.

From 2007 to 2015, she served as Ontario's first-ever Fairness Commissioner.

In 2008, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora was launched at York University to help advance education, equity and inclusiveness. Also in her name are a Girls' Leadership Academy in Scarborough; a Centre for Young Women's Empowerment and a municipal park in Etobicoke; a Secondary School in Brampton, and a multi-purpose complex and district park in Vaughan.

A member of the Order of Canada, Order of Ontario and



Commander of the Order of the British Empire, Jean Augustine holds honorary doctorates from the universities of McGill, Toronto, York, Windsor, Guelph, Trent and Ryerson; is a senior fellow at Centennial and Massey College; and supports scholarships at George Brown, Centennial and Humber College.

MORE INFO: [www.jeanaugustine.ca](http://www.jeanaugustine.ca)

*He was recognized as a music prodigy at a very tender age and started training as an organist and classical pianist*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Babarinde Williams**

Musician and Multi-Instrumentalist Babarinde Williams (fondly known as “Baba”) is an award-winning motivational speaker, singer, recording artist, producer, ethnomusicologist, music educator, music director and writer who has been featured on Tedtalks and other professional and academic forums. He is the founder and CEO of Drums et al, an Ontario based Creative Arts company whose mission is to use the art of music, dance, and drumming as a vehicle for character development, leadership, and mental well-being. He was born in the coastal city of Ebute-Metta (translated: three shores) one of the satellite cities that make up the mega city of Lagos, Africa’s equivalent of New York City. He was recognized as a music prodigy at a very tender age and started training as an organist and classical pianist. He later went on to study the horns and other harmonic and percussion instruments. He graduated from the prestigious University of Lagos, Nigeria with a degree in English and later attended George brown college in 2001 where he bagged an education diploma in Communications and adult education.

Baba has drummed with wide-eyed toddlers in daycare centers and with seniors in nursing homes, with bereaved children and traumatized youths in summer camps, and with elated celebrants at wedding parties. Babarinde has not only led large drumming events at various institutions but also led multi-generational family groups in back yards and living rooms. Years of after-



school drumming programs in the Dufferin-Eglington areas and numerous assemblies and workshop events in schools, churches, libraries, and other institutions contribute to Babarinde’s experience as a facilitator. He originated and led the Greater Toronto Drum Circle in East York and Durham Community Drum Circle based in the city of Ajax. His most unforgettable experience was playing for Nelson Mandela in 1990 when he paid a visit to the University of Lagos. Baba has also featured at different concerts and productions and has been involved in theatre, chorales, and studio recordings across three continents of the world.  
[www.drumsetal.com](http://www.drumsetal.com).

*Harriet began her career with RBC in Montreal and has held progressively senior management and executive roles.*

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### ■ Harriet Thornhill

Vice President, RBC Contact Centres

Harriet has 40 years' experience in financial services. Her experience spans across the Personal and Commercial Banking Platform, client experience strategy, marketing, Learning & Development, and large people leadership through transformational changes, which includes domestic and international experience.

In her current role as Vice President, she leads RBC's Advice Centres, a multi-business, multi-geographical distribution channel for the bank; overseeing 6 Centres across Canada with over 4,000 employees, Telephone Banking, Direct Investing, and Digital Client Services. Providing advice and service to Personal & Business clients across Canada and the U.S.

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She is the recipient of several recognitions, including:

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- 2017 RBC Global Citizen Executive Award Recipient
- 2011 BBPA Women of Honor Award
- 2009 Vancouver Winter Olympic torch bearer in Charlottetown PEI

Harriet holds an Executive MBA from the University of Athabasca and is currently enrolled in the ICD-Rotman Directors Education Program (DEP)

*In each role, Kris thrives at enabling her team to be their best and is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Kris Depencier**

#### **Kris Depencier**

Regional President, Greater Toronto Region

As Regional President, Kris leads a team of 4,000 employees in providing financial advice and services to RBC's personal, small business and commercial clients in Greater Toronto.

Since joining RBC in 1993, Kris has worked in numerous sales leadership roles in both commercial and retail banking. She's also held a number of senior leadership and executive positions in both Canada and the US during her career, leading teams responsible for several businesses and client segments. In each role, Kris thrives at enabling her team to be their best and is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace.

Born and raised in London, Ontario, she's a graduate of Western University and completed her MBA at Schulich School of Business. Kris is passionate about helping youth; she sits on the Board of the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada and is also a Board



Member at the Toronto Region Board of Trade. She lives in Toronto with her family and likes to spend time at her cottage in Bruce County.

*Chinyere is a board member, advisory council participant and a passionate volunteer for several community organizations including the War Amputations of Canada Child Amputee Program,*

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designation. A lifelong active volunteer, in 2013, Chinyere received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award for service to Canada. In 2020, she was recognized as an RBC Global Citizen Award winner which acknowledges top-performing employees who have displayed an incredible commitment to giving time and expertise to communities by volunteering and leading charitable initiatives.

*Rebecca's efforts in community work was recognized by RBC as one of the 2020 Global Citizen Award winners.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Rebecca Pang**

Rebecca Pang is the Vice President, Commercial Financial Services at RBC where she leads a team of relationship managers with a focus on Asian markets in Toronto. They provide commercial banking services for example business loans, commercial mortgages, and cash management.

Previously, she was the Senior Director, US Strategic Business Development for RBC, where she led the development of strategic planning and investment initiatives for traditional and emerging U.S. banking sectors through Innovation and Mergers & Acquisition. Prior to this role, she had held various progressing roles at the other FIs including the head of retail channel analytics to drive and support recommendations on various retail channel strategic initiatives, as well as the roles of director of Strategy & Corporate Development and director in mergers and acquisitions.

Prior to coming to Canada 14 years ago, Pang has also worked in China Netcom as assistant to the CFO and Investor Relations Officer where she led the first ever outbound acquisition by a Chinese State-owned enterprise. She has also worked at McKinsey and Company in Hong Kong.

Pang received her BBA Accounting from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She later received an MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and earned her Chartered Financial Analyst and Chartered Business Valuators designations. Pang currently serves as



the board of Toronto Zoo, board of Yee Hong Foundation, Advisor for the Ted Rogers Leadership Centre and the Honorary Advisor for the Chinese Cultural Centre of Great Toronto. She was previously appointed as the Dean Council Member for Ryerson University Ted Rogers School of Management and board of director of the Multiple Sclerosis Society Toronto Chapter. Rebecca's efforts in community work was recognized by RBC as one of the 2020 Global Citizen Award winners.

*Nkechi Nwafor-Robinson is an award-winning Technology Executive, with over 20-years of experience.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

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*Dr. Fae Samuels presents safe schools initiatives and provides conflict resolution training to students, staff, Administrators, parents and school councils locally and internationally.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Dr. Fae Samuels**

Dr. Samuels is a retired Principal of Dufferin-Peel District School Board. She was an educator with Dufferin-Peel for thirty-two years. For seventeen of those years she was an administrator, seven years as Principal of St. Augustine Secondary School in Brampton, Ontario. It was under her leadership that The Fraser Report on education rated St. Augustine Secondary School as the most improved Catholic Secondary School in Brampton. She worked in both the elementary and secondary panels in Dufferin-Peel. Fae was also a part-time instructor in the Faculty of Peace and Conflict Studies at Conrad Grebel, University of Waterloo where she taught Conflict Resolution in Schools. She holds a Doctorate degree in Education (Conflict Resolution, OISE/UT), Master of Science (C.W. Post, Long Island University, N.Y.), the Supervisory Officers qualification (OISE/UT) and a Diploma in Special Education (York University).

Dr. Fae Samuels presents safe schools initiatives and provides conflict resolution training to students, staff, Administrators, parents and school councils locally and internationally. Her best known programs are the implementation of Peer Mediation programs in Schools (secondary and elementary), Peer Mediation and the Justice System, How to make Peace with your Teenagers, and How to Reculture a School. She also teaches the participants how to mediate conflicts in the school community, in the classroom, in the workplace and at home. As a mediator, Dr. Samuels has trained educators, students, lawyers, social workers, child and youth workers and others in Conflict Resolution and Mediation. She has trained participants in South Africa, Columbia (sponsored by the United Nations), the Caribbean, United States and Canada. She has extensive workshop experiences and has presented more than seventy training workshops locally and internationally. As a principal, Dr. Samuels met and exceeded the challenges that came with the leadership position. She has received numerous awards not only for her educational and professional



achievements but for her community involvement. Most notably she was a recipient of the 2010 Women Achievers Award; 2009 the Community Award "in recognition of leadership and outstanding service to the community;" in 2007 the Brampton/Caledon Women of Achievement Award in the area of Education, Training and Development category; the Honours as a Premiere Member for Outstanding Career Achievements 2008-2009 from Emerald Who's Who for Executives and Professionals (US); The City of Mississauga Certificate of Recognition for her "dedication to youth issues" from Mayor Hazel McCallion in 1999; the Black History Makers Award in 2003 from Peel United Cultural Partners in recognition for her "personal achievements, talents, leadership and on-going service to the community" and from the Sisserou Cultural Club Youth Quake she received two recognitions (2006 and 2004) for her "unselfish contribution of time, talent and outstanding leadership."

Dr. Samuels is a published author. Her book is entitled, "How to Implement a Peer Mediation Program: Step by Step Instructions."

*A proud black entrepreneur,  
an entrepreneurship Consultant, a business coach,  
and a women entrepreneur advocate*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Ejibola Adetokunbo-Taiwo**

Ejibola is a proud black entrepreneur, an entrepreneurship Consultant, a business coach, and a women entrepreneur advocate. A former business banker of over 10 years, Ejibola has an ambitious drive to grow more women leaders and drive change by empowering women through entrepreneurship. She is the CEO of Simply Ejibola Inc. and the Founder/Principal Consultant at de Sedulous Women Leaders. Today, Ejibola continues to support women's equality in business and women's economic advancement through her consulting company and several fancy entrepreneurship initiatives she is well known for; Ejibola is the Creator of the femlmmiGRANTS, the Initiator of the iINTEGRATE NEXT program for Newcomers in Canada, the strategist for the iLaunchHER product aimed at connecting women-owned with retail stores in Canada, and the Co-Organizer of the Rise Up Pitch Competition. Ejibola's speaks so passionately about being on a mission where "#NoWomanShouldBeLeftBehind", a slogan behind the SDG Goal #5 Gender Equality network de Sedulous Women Leaders is built on. de Sedulous Women Leaders is a safe space where immigrant women (black women, women of colour, BIPOC whichever way you self identify) are empowered to embrace their business journey through their unique business model; develop, explore and challenge their mindset for barrier-breaking success, and find meaningful business resources to help grow, scale and expand their business venture. Ejibola has received several awards amongst which are Woman of Influence Award by the



City of Grande Prairie; Rural Women Mentorship Award by the Universal Women Network; Entrepreneurship Mentorship Award by the Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce; Top 75 Canadian Immigrants in Canada by Canadian Immigrant Magazine amongst others. Ejibola currently sits on the board of the Economic development and Strategic Planning at the City of Grande Prairie. Read more about her work at [www.sedulouswomenleaders.net](http://www.sedulouswomenleaders.net)

*He was a candidate in the 2015 federal election and maintains a passion for community empowerment, politics, and Human Rights.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Rev. Jeff Rock**

Rev. Jeff Rock is senior Pastor-Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto.

MCCT is one of the leading LGBTQ+ affirming churches in Toronto & the church that performed the first same sex marriage in Canada 14th Jan 2001 challenging the Canadian court systems to recognize same sex marriages that eventually was taken up by the Canadian Supreme Court & same sex marriage was legalized in Ont & BC in 2003, as other provinces followed & the Canada federal civil marriage act was enacted 20th July 2005, to legalize same sex marriage in Canada.

Rev. Rock received a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology and Immunology at McGill University and a Master of Divinity at The United Theological College in Montreal. He is a Board Member of CANFAR (Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research) and a former Chair of the Board of CAANS (The Central Alberta AIDS Network Society). He was a candidate in the 2015 federal election and maintains a passion for community empowerment, politics, and Human Rights. Jeff was elected as the new Senior Pastor of MCC Toronto in 2017 and officially took on the role February 1, 2018.

#### **From Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto Website**

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*The innovative coaching framework which I pioneered is based on decades of deep psychological, physiological, spiritual and philosophical researches*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Alex Ihama**

Executives and entrepreneurs consult with me when they wish to align their processes, policies, procedures and the passion of their people with the vision of their organizations. They consult with me when they wish to initiate paradigm shifts, instigate business transformation, ensure business continuity and implement an effective succession plan. They consult with me when they wish to explore new opportunities and break new grounds, when they wish to develop strategic plans, achieve stringent goals and objectives and orchestrate leadership culture in their corporation, church, college, community or government. Whether you are a CEO, politician, pastor, professor, parent or some kind of professional, my speaking engagements, training sessions, coaching programs and consulting services are designed to think deeply, act passionately and grow steadily. My objective is to deliver the ultimate in training experience to ensure sustainable changes and maximum living.

The innovative coaching framework which I pioneered is based on decades of deep psychological, physiological, spiritual and philosophical researches, and transcends religious, cultural, racial and socio-economic backgrounds. I have used this framework to successfully turn organizations around and helped thousands of people around the world to discover their purpose in life, overcome their challenges, achieve their goals, attain entrepreneurial success and build their legacies. You can learn more about me, my messages and



philosophies in my books, Welcome to Greatness, and The Mystique of Leadership, or kindly visit the following websites:

[www.alexihama.com](http://www.alexihama.com)  
[www.facebook.com/coachalexihama](https://www.facebook.com/coachalexihama)  
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[www.schoolofgreatness.ca](http://www.schoolofgreatness.ca)  
[www.twitter.com/Alex\\_Ihama](https://www.twitter.com/Alex_Ihama)

My email address is alex@alexihama.com and phone number is +1-416-902-6672, and I look forward to working with you and your organization to achieve even greater heights.

*He helps organizations and governments unite young people for Nation Building and National Development.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Arthur Amadi**

Arthur is the Head of Vision and Global Youth Mobilizer at Youth In Diaspora. He helps organizations and governments unite young people for Nation Building and National Development.

The purpose of Youth In Diaspora is to empower, mobilize and unite young people of African descent to obtain the necessary resources to be represented in various sectors as leaders and to solve the world's most complex challenges, locally and globally.

He is also the recent Director for Youth Engagement at Canadian Association of Urban Financial Professionals (CAUFP) an organization providing a link between corporations and African Descent professionals in the Canadian economy. He's a recent Black Diplomats Academy Fellow and he currently serves as a youth advisor at the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.



He believes that the African Diaspora has a role in solving problems for their communities locally, the continent of Africa and the Caribbean. He is certain that a committed group of young people can and will change this world.

*A passionate, authentic school leader who inspires her team by modelling the ideals of inclusion, equity and excellence.*

## **Power of Inclusion Leadership Award Recipient**

### **■ Padmini Padiachy**

As a young South African scholar, Padmini Padiachy realized the power of education. Apartheid in South Africa was an oppressive reality at every level of existence. Padmini turned to education and never diverted from that pathway. Her childhood experiences developed her resilience, perseverance and passion to challenge injustice, inequity and discrimination. With a career spanning over forty years in education, Padmini, now an administrator and school leader with the York Region District School Board, works passionately to create inclusive, anti-oppressive climates promoting Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights.

Padmini Padiachy has a Master's Degree in Education from Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, Australia. Among her Educational Leadership Certificates are The Executive Leadership Certificate from Schulich School of Business – York University, and Schooling for Critical Consciousness of Racism and Racial Injustice – Harvard Graduate School of Education, Harvard University. In addition, Padmini has a Principal's Development Course Certification through the Ontario Principal's Council, and Certification in a variety of Additional Qualification Courses through the Ontario College of Teachers.

As an educational leader, Padmini has worked as President of the Asian Educators' Network of Ontario, and Educational Partner of the Markham Race Relations Committee- "Many Faces of Markham" event, as well as International Human Rights Day in Markham. Padmini received the Leadership in Human Rights Education Award from Youth for Human Rights and Applause Award for



Leadership in Human Rights Education from York Region District School Board. Padmini was a guest speaker at the United Nations – Youth for Human Rights Summit where she presented her educational leadership work on Human Rights, Equity, and Inclusion & Critical Consciousness.

Padmini is a passionate, authentic school leader who inspires her team by modelling the ideals of inclusion, equity and excellence. Her vision for School Leadership in Education is that which promotes Universal Human Rights by fostering Inclusion and Equity for all. She frames educational pedagogy through a lens of Anti-Oppression, imperative for Culturally Responsive Practice and the Affirming of diverse social identities. She promotes and believes in the presence of Racialized and Indigenous Identities within the context of teaching, learning, curriculum, resources, and community partnerships.

# AWARD RECIPIENTS

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## POWER OF INCLUSION CHAMPION AWARD

*"Champions aren't made in the gym.  
Champions are made from something they  
have deep down.  
A desire, a dream, a vision"*

**- Muhammad Ali.**

*He is an astute academician and a business expert with cognitive professional experience in the areas of corporate management efficiency and performance management.*

## **Power of Inclusion Champion Award Recipient**

### **■ Dr. Oye Abioye**

Dr. Oye Abioye is a seasoned educator with over 16 years of experience as an educator in 14 different post-secondary institutions in 5 Provinces across Canada and have taught a good blend of business courses. He is an astute academician and a business expert with cognitive professional experience in the areas of corporate management efficiency and performance management. Dr. Abioye is well vast and highly experienced in performance management techniques, management planning and control of business operations as well as efficiency key performance indicators in service-oriented businesses. He is a researcher with special interest in railway system key performance indicators and transport modal services. He is a business professional, mentor and a coach, thesis supervisor, and an examiner. Dr. Abioye is a management consultant with focus of professional practice in corporate governance, behavioral finance, personal finance, development infrastructure finance, and corporate finance in



public service. He is a regular CNP volunteer, sponsor, mentor, and advisory in areas of corporate governance, community development initiatives, project initiation ideas, webinar coordinator and as well as a presenter.

*He is very engaged in the Communities working with Immigrants to support their smooth transition into a new Country.*

## **Power of Inclusion Champion Award Recipient**

### ■ **David Odigie**

David is Director, Program Management at RBC Royal Bank. He is an authentic leader and lifelong learner with over 20 years progressive experience with proven abilities to deliver transformational Initiatives. He thrives in developing excellent relationships with partners ensuring that solutions developed meet requirements. He is a dependable ally with exceptional stakeholders' engagement skills that creates order out of chaos.

David would describe himself as an enterprise athlete helping build capabilities across different areas. He is very engaged in the Communities working with Immigrants to support their smooth transition into a new Country. He sits on the IT Connections Board of Access Employment, volunteers with TRIEC, and other agencies helping to build stronger communities. He has won many awards including recipient of RBC/Free the Children first Global Citizens Award, recognized and awarded amongst 20 recipients across Royal Bank of Canada as global Ambassador and the Black Canadian Award by Diversity Advancement Network.

He holds a D.CLM, MBA and multiple certifications including PMP, PgMP, PfMP, CBAP, CRISC, CGEIT,



P3O, MOV and many more. David loves teaching, mentoring and coaching. He is a PMI Authorized trainer and CB-PMO Global Master Trainer with robust experience in development and delivery of training in business analysis, project/program management, Agile, Change Management and Leadership.

*He is passionate about providing innovative AI, data and analytics solutions and services that add value to individuals, businesses, and society.*

## **Power of Inclusion Champion Award Recipient**

---

### **■ Dr Johnson Iyilade**

Dr. Iyilade has two decades of experience as an IT Professional. He holds BSc, MSc and Doctorate degrees in Computer Science. His specializations and areas of expertise include AI, Data Science, Big Data and Analytics. He is the Founder & CEO of Glomacs IT Solutions and Services Inc, Canada.

He is passionate about providing innovative AI, data and analytics solutions and services that add value to individuals, businesses, and society. He has served as keynote speaker, adviser, contributor, mentor, and technical consultant to government, organizations and leading businesses in Africa and North America in the areas of AI, Data Science and Big Data Analytics. He also conducts technical training classes designed to empower minorities and help them step into the world of emerging technologies such as AI, Data Science and Analytics. He has trained over 50 black professionals within the last one year who are aspiring to build their career in AI, Data Science



and Data Analytics. Beyond the AI and Analytics world, Dr Iyilade is also a life and leadership coach and trainer.

# AWARD RECIPIENTS

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POWER OF INCLUSION  
COMMUNITY AWARD

*"There is no power for change greater than a  
community discovering what it cares about"*

**- Margaret J. Wheatley.**

*In June 2019, he led members of NNC to the Brampton City Council Chambers to receive a Proclamation, recognizing June 12 as Nigeria's Democracy Day, making Brampton the first City in the world to so recognize that day.*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ Uche George Okugo**

Uche Okugo is a Brampton based community leader focused on disrupting the status quo and changing the narrative of the Nigerian community in Canada. He is the Founder of Real Estate 101, a training/information sharing platform helping to equip new immigrants with the tools for a well informed Real Estate investment.

He is the President and Founding Member of Network of Nigerians in Canada, NNC, a non-profit organization dedicated to championing diversity and inclusion for the Nigerian community in Canada by spearheading influential and vibrant settlement, integration, and education programs, while promoting the richness of Nigerian culture and creating professional, volunteer and pro-bono opportunities for members.

He is also a member of the Brampton Mayor's Black Advisory Council, past President of the City of Brampton Toastmasters Club and President-elect of the Rotary Club of Brampton, through which he has contributed countless volunteer hours mentoring High School students in the GTA and administering the polio vaccine in Nigeria and around West Africa.

Uche holds a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, a Masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Benin and a Certificate in Facilities Management from the University of Toronto.



His professional career commenced in 2004, and has spanned the construction, telecommunications, Real Estate and Facilities Management industries. He's a Facilities Management Professional, FMP, and currently works with the City of Brampton as a Facilities Manager.

When he's not working or actively participating with various organizations, he spends time travelling with his family. He is married with a son and serves the Anglican Diocese of The Trinity, North America, as an Evangelist.

*A first-generation Canadian, a social innovator,  
strategic influencer, immigrant advocate,  
community builder and entrepreneur.*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ Oladapo Bankole**

Oladapo Bankole, fondly known as “Dapo” is a first-generation Canadian, a social innovator, strategic influencer, immigrant advocate, community builder and entrepreneur.

He is the founder of Mopheth Systems Corporation, the parent company of the StoryTellers and The Immigrant Life Canadian brands, the two strategic channels through which he serves first-generation Canadians, immigrant-owned businesses, and immigrant-serving organizations. Dapo is a respected senior technology leader whose experience spans over 22-years of an intense professional and character moulding journey. At the core, Dapo is a service-oriented and strategic individual whose love for people and technology led him to build a business that delivers true value to small businesses and charities in Canada, Nigeria, UK, US, The Netherlands, and the UAE. His organization, Mopheth Systems, offers digital marketing services and lead generation, business process automation, custom software development and implementation. Founded in 2015, Mopheth Systems employs both full-time and contract staff.

Dapo served on the boards of the Project Management Institute (PMI) Nigeria as Vice-President Administration and Communication, and Heritage Christian Academy (HCA) Calgary as Technology Chair. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Leadership from Royal Roads University, Victoria and is a certified Coach, Speaker, and Trainer with the John Maxwell team in the USA. In November 2018, Royal Roads University honored him with the University's Founders' Award in recognition of having exemplified the qualities of leadership, sustainability, and personal development. In



addition, for being the most influential in demonstrating personal mastery as well as supporting the work of other students through collaborative leadership.

He is a participant Ambassador for Momentum Calgary, a not-for-profit organization that develops and executes economic programs aimed at reducing citizen poverty in the Calgary area of Alberta. Dapo also currently sits on the Board of Directors of Windmill Microlending, a national charity that offers Canada's largest and most successful microloan program that helps skilled immigrants and refugees continue their careers anywhere in Canada after arrival from their home countries.

Dapo lives in Calgary with his award-winning wife, Buki and three boys.

*A humanitarian ambassador with many years experience attending United Nation and other conferences across the continent*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ Pastor John Nana Yaw Okyere**

PASTOR JOHN NANA YAW OKYERE, is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Minister of the Gospel with many years' experience at the field of Humanitarian project and programs across the world.

He is the President and Chief Executive Officer of ALLIANCE CREATIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT a Non-Partial, Non-Political and Non-Profit Organization with a Headquarters in Canada. His organization became a member of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC since - 2013), United Nations Major Group Member of World Sustainable Development (UNWSD), United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI), United Nations Information Center (UNIC) and Global Youth Biodiversity Network Worldwide.

Pastor Okyere is also the Chief Executive Officer of United Canadians Emergency Response Organization in Canada an organization that supported some communities through the pandemic in Canada. He is the Vice President of New Life Kingdom Ministries Bible College located in Brampton, Ontario Canada. It's a bible college that trains Canadian to become chaplains and Pastors in Ontario. he is also the vice President of Neutrony Academy Institute in Mississauga.

Pastor Okyere is the General Oversea and founder of Global Prayer and Anointing Ministries located in Etobicoke, Ontario Canada. he is a humanitarian



ambassador with many years experience attending United Nation and other conferences across the continent. He was born in West Africa at the Greater Accra City of Ghana. And later migrated to Canada.

*A Community Investment Manager with  
United Way Greater Toronto  
and one of the Co-Leads for the  
Black Youth Success Initiative (BYSSI)*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ Christopher Thompson**

Christopher Thompson is a passionate leader who has a desire to empower others and give back to the community. He currently serves as the Executive Director of The Federation of Black Canadians, a national non-profit organization that advances the social, economic, political and cultural interests of Canadians of African descent. Chris is also the Community Investment and Black Community Advisory Council Lead for the United of Greater Toronto supporting the development and connectivity of Black led groups across the GTA. Furthermore, in 2016 Chris also founded a local charity in the Peel Region that focuses on life skills development for youth and young adults called Skills for Life. Chris has over 10 years of experience in community engagement and grassroots organization capacity building. Furthermore, he has developed grassroots organizations from having no funding and no staff, to groups attaining \$100k-1 million in annual budgets, while managing over 20 staff collectively across several organizations

Christopher Thompson is a Community Investment Manager with United Way Greater Toronto and one of the Co-Leads for the Black Youth Success Initiative (BYSSI). Chris has over 10 years of experience in community engagement and grass root organization capacity building. Chris has been a part of the BYSSI initiative since inception in 2016 as a community collaborative seeking out a way to support Black youth in the Peel Community. Chris has participated in the growth of the project from its theory of change phase to its physically supporting 50 youth in its early years, to its present status of supporting over 200 youth at over 12 schools across Peel.

Christopher Thompson is a passionate leader who has a desire to empower others and give back to the community. He



currently serves as the Interim Executive Director of The Federation of Black Canadians, a national non-profit organization that advances the social, economic, political and cultural interests of Canadians of African descent. He also is the Community Investment and Black Community Advisory Council Lead for the United of Greater Toronto. In addition, Chris has held many leadership roles such as President of the UTM Alumni Association, representing over 50,000 thousand UTM alums, and as a student Chris was the President of the University of Toronto Mississauga Student Union representing over 13,000 students. Currently, Chris is also the founder of Skills for Life, which is a local charity that teaches youth life skills from an early age in the GTA.

*He has attracted over \$200 millions  
Investment dollars to Nigeria*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

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### **■ King Wale AdeSanya**

An Investment and Insurance Executive in Canada for over 30 plus year.

Although he has lived in Canada for more than 40 year, Nigeria is topmost on his mind.

As such, he has attracted over \$200 millions Investment dollars to Nigeria. He feels blessed and proud to be a Nigerian. He is also the President of ADE FINANCIAL GROUP, An Investment and Insurance Brokerage. As a Philanthropic venture, he is the CEO of Hearts2Africa.org raising funds for the underprivileged to obtain hearts surgery, a life and death situation



*Trust that the professionals  
you hire will bring to the table the same  
skills they brought in their  
previous professional lives*

## Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient

### ■ Charles Osuji

Charles Osuji is the Managing Partner and CEO of Osuji & Smith Lawyers, a fast-growing Alberta law firm. He is one of the leading young lawyers in Canada. By age 30 Charles, an internationally trained lawyer from Nigeria, had purchased a 37-year old Calgary-based legal practice where he had articulated as a student barely 2 years earlier. This was a potentially risky move for such a young lawyer, but Charles was confident enough in his own ability to secure, foster and maintain a steady client base and develop and sustain a growing staff. Osuji & Smith is now a thriving and fast rising small-sized law firm, ensuring that clients benefit from both multi-generational and multi-cultural perspectives:

<https://osujismith.ca/> - Of significant note is that Osuji & Smith's clients represent a cross-section of Alberta businesses and individuals. Charles has ensured that professionals with education, training and experience outside Canada can thrive in his firm by bringing their tremendous talents and skills to solve legal issues in the Calgary community. This willingness to provide different perspectives with potential career path platforms has helped set his firm apart from most others in the Calgary market. The media interviews, testimonials and profiles noted in this link speak volumes of the impact Osuji & Smith Lawyers has had on the community-<https://osujismith.ca/media>

Charles is also a volunteer extraordinaire in his church (piano); his legal community (pro bono work such as with E-Fry, legal clinics); becoming a Mentor with CRIEC and mentoring other internationally trained lawyers and participating in workshops/ panel conversations with other newcomer professionals; being a role model in the Nigerian professional community by selflessly assisting others find their own way; serving on the CRIEC Board of Directors and as Secretary. He is a community-builder – the highest obligation for a lawyer beyond serving his clients. Throughout all of this, Charles remains humble, genuine and kind. His has a unique combination of high intellect, tireless work ethic,



true humility and business acumen. Charles understands his role as a model citizen for young newcomer professionals and, in fact, all young professionals. His hard work and contributions to his community has earned him several local and national recognitions such as:

1. Recipient, Lexpert Rising Star: Leading Lawyers under 40, Canada
2. Recipient, Best Lawyers: Ones To Watch in Corporate & Commercial Litigation (Canada)
3. Recipient, 2021 Avenue Calgary Top 40 Under 40
4. Recipient, 2022 Lawyer to Watch, by the Canadian Legal Lexpert® Directory
5. Black Excellence Award by Calgary Black Chambers
6. Nominated 2021 Les Prix Canie Awards' Black Entrepreneur Award
7. Nominated 2021 Torch Awards by Better Business Bureau (BBB)
8. Winner of the 2020 Canada's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers (Young Influencer) by the Canadian Lawyer Magazine

*His driving goal is to expand the footprint of successful immigrants, championing inclusion, diversity and equity in society*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ Ovie Ukeko**

Ovie Ukeko is an experienced Banking and Financial Services professional with 19+ years of experience in Anti Money Laundering/Anti-Terrorist Financing, Fraud Investigations, Internal Audit, Internal Control and Bank Inspection. Having worked across 4 of Nigeria's biggest banks, he moved to Canada in 2015 and is now with CIBC as a Manager, High Risk Clients and Enhanced Due Diligence where he manages and directs the investigative activities of High Risk Investigators. He is also responsible for management and regulatory reporting pertaining to his department's statistics and helping to refine compliance efforts to regulatory standards. He is very passionate about community volunteering and mentoring, lending his skills, network and experience to help internationally experienced professionals find their footing in the Canadian work space. His driving goal is to expand the footprint of successful immigrants, championing inclusion, diversity and equity in society. He is an Accounting graduate with several banking/finance certifications as well as a certified Project Manager and is happily married with children.



*He served as the Past President of the Nigerian Canadian Association Ottawa. He also served as the Past Provost of NIDO Ottawa Nigerian in Diaspora.*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ John Adeyefa**

Mr. John Adeyefa is passionate about uniting and bringing people of African Descent together. He is very active in community organizations, development, and activities. He dedicated more than ten years to promoting active community engagement, volunteerism, multiculturalism, anti-discrimination awareness.

He is a founding member and pioneer President of the African Canadian Association of Ottawa, an umbrella organization representing all 53 African Countries and Ethnic Community Associations in the Ottawa National Capital Region

He served as the Past President of the Nigerian Canadian Association Ottawa.

He also served as the Past Provost of NIDO Ottawa Nigerian in Diaspora.

The Past Assistant Secretary of Nigerian Isokan Yoruba Community Association Ottawa among many Associations and Organisations he volunteered and served.

Besides his community accomplishments, he is also a Cloud and Cyber Security consultant by profession.

He is the CEO of Cloud Telecom Corporation, delivering Cloud-based and Cyber Security services and solutions to many Government of Canada Departments.

John Adeyefa migrated to Ottawa, Canada in 1978 on Scholarship; He attended Algonquin College, Ottawa, Red River College, Winnipeg and University of the State of New York, Excelsior College, Albany, New York. He graduated with a Civil, Building & Structural Engineering Diploma and Bachelor of Science Degree.

He is a Fellow Member of the Telecommunication Executive Management Institute of Canada.



He trained and qualified in the USA as a Fiberoptic System Engineer in 1999. He started working, building, and managing several Fiberoptic Telecommunication Network Projects worldwide in major Cities and Countries on five continents in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America with companies such as British Telecom, France Telecom, Telefonica, Japanese Networks, KDDI, and Nortel.

He is also the Sterling Bank Nigeria. Diaspora Relationship Manager in Canada.

A long-time resident of Ottawa National Capital Region since 1978. He resides here with his family.

He is personate about all issues that are pertinent to Africa or Africa-Descent Canadians.

*He speaks many languages namely;  
French, English, Spanish, 3 Senegalese languages,  
a little bit of mandarin.*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

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### **■ Dr. Lamine Diallo**

Originally from Senegal. Completed his bachelor, Master degree and got a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. Worked as assistant professor at the engineering school, University of Montreal and then moved to Toronto to work as a certification engineer at the Canadian Certification agency for over 20 years. He transitioned in the financial services sector. Took the courses, passed the exam and is a licensed financial advisor.

An avid volunteer, he was one of the first directors of CHOQ FM, a Francophone virtual radio to promote the various causes in the Francophone community. He also volunteers with African Caribbean Council of Halton and Council of Nigerian Professionals. He teaches French free of charge to the community. He is proudly an African Canadian born in Senegal.

He speaks many languages namely, French, English, Spanish, 3 Senegalese languages, a little bit of mandarin.



*Passionate about seeing immigrants of colour accelerate, grow, advance their career and earn the salaries they deserve*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ Osita Nwajiufor**

Osita Nwajiufor is an experienced Technology Delivery Executive and Strategic leader with more than 18 years in the I.T space. He has held a variety of progressive roles within various sectors including Banking, Technology Services, Management Consulting, Mining and Oil & Gas.

He is an ERP Enterprise Architect with a demonstrated history of working with clients to realize maximum returns from Technology Investments. He has worked in several projects across multiple geographies in ERP Consulting/Implementation, Project Management, Business Analysis, Change Management, Business and Digital Transformation, SAP S4/HANA and Microsoft Dynamics.

Osita is passionate about seeing immigrants of colour accelerate, grow, advance their career and earn the salaries they deserve. He has spearheaded the fight against unemployment and underemployment of BIPOC professionals through these thriving organizations which he founded - Nigerian IT Professionals in Canada (NIPCA), BlackTECH Hub and Expertedge Group.

Osita holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science with an MBA specializing in General Management and lots of Tech certifications which include; SAP Certified Technology Professional, Oracle Certified Professional, Project Management Professional



(PMP), Certified Scrum Master (CSM), Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS), Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), Six Sigma Certified Green Belt (CSSGB) and IBM DB2 Technical Professional. He is an alumnus of the University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management, Schulich School of Business and Harvard Business School.

*She collaborates with other local organizations to organize food and cloth campaigns which are donated to local charity organizations*

## **Power of Inclusion Community Award Recipient**

### **■ Rev. Blessing Ajayi**

Rev. Blessing Ajayi is the Founder and Chief Executive Director of Glorious Women of Wonders Worldwide, a registered charity organization in Canada and Africa.

She is a philanthropist, advocate, and humanitarian ambassador, who has consistently served and supported the vulnerable population on a national and international level, for more than 10 years. Her goal is to help lives blossom, feed the vulnerable in nations and win souls for kingdom of God.

She hosts various community programs including Senior Smile Care, Blessed Mission Foundation, Youth Empowerment for Greatness, Women's Voices Talk Show, Family Enrichment, and Volunteer Networking Workshops.

She collaborates with other local organizations to organize food and cloth campaigns which are donated to local charity organizations like Knight Table, Salvation Army, Regeneration Services and Louise Outreach Centre.

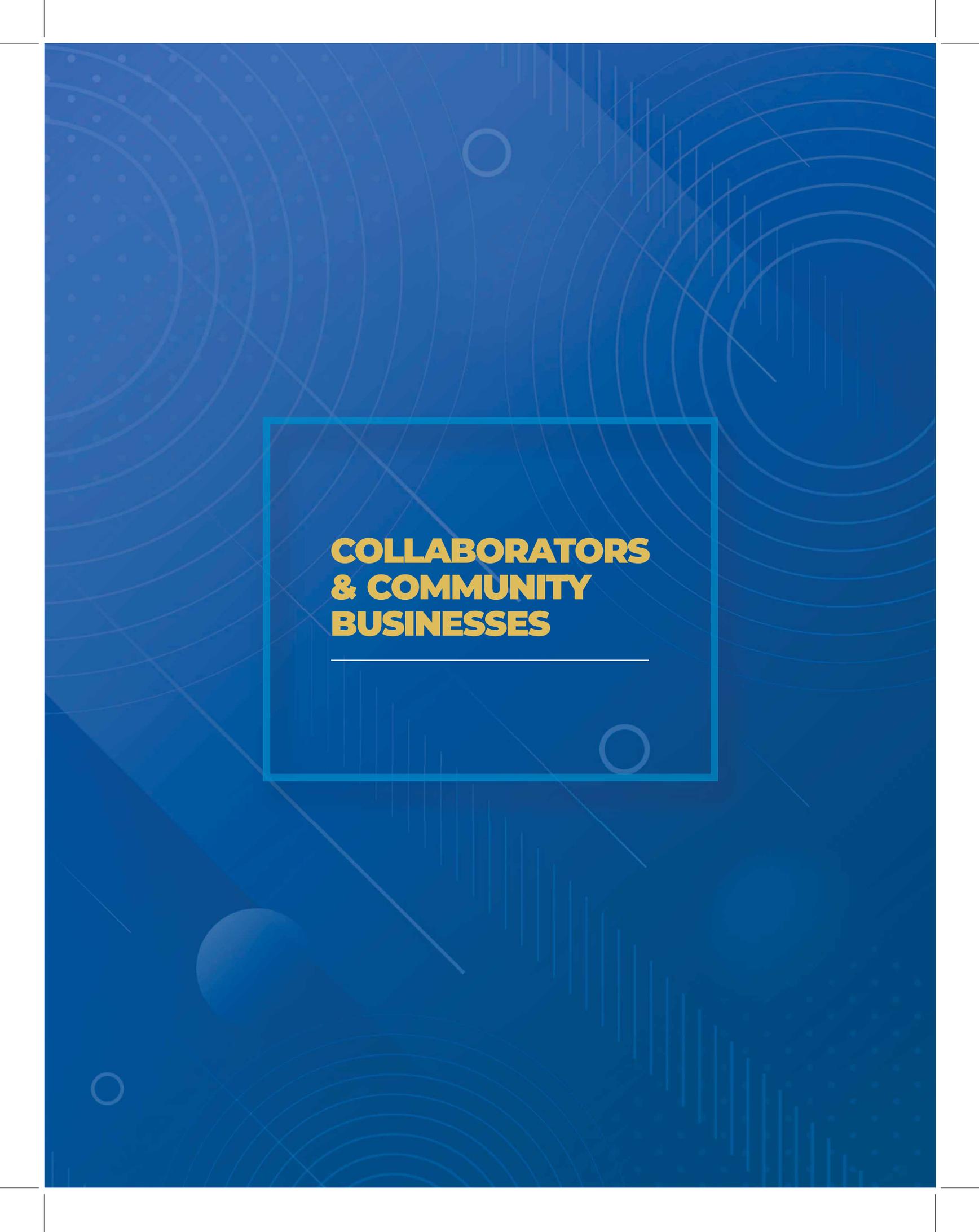
Rev. Blessing is an active Canadian citizen and a Brampton resident who participates in various community empowerment activities including serving as Campaign volunteer; member, Mayor Patrick Brown Black African and Caribbean Advisory Council; Founding member, Immigrant Women in Business Toronto; Tea Party Forum for Pastors Wives and Women Ministers,



Director for Missions at School of greatness and actor on the Invisible Women's Documentary.

Rev. Blessing is an exceptional leader, a virtuous woman, a coach, counselor, mentor, missionary and evangelist, who has traveled around the globe to conduct evangelistic revival meetings. Her compassion and act of goodwill for humanitarian purpose have changed many lives.

She is a mother of four and has been married to Mr. Abayomi Ajayi for over 22 years

The background is a solid blue color with a complex pattern of light blue geometric shapes. These include concentric circles, straight lines, and small dots, creating a technical or architectural feel. A prominent feature is a large, light blue square frame centered on the page. Inside this frame, the text 'COLLABORATORS & COMMUNITY BUSINESSES' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Below the text, there is a thin white horizontal line. The overall composition is clean and modern.

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EX 3



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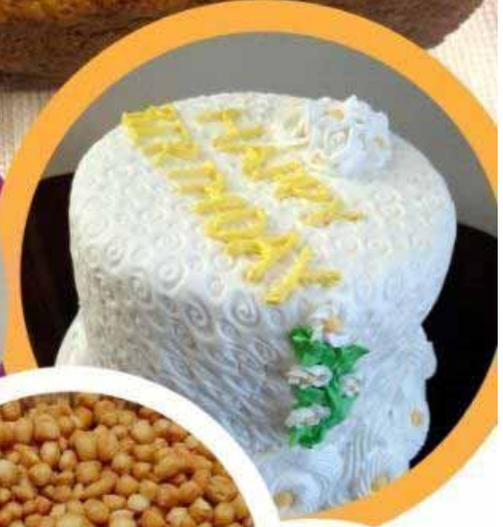


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Pounded Yam		Catfish	Chichin
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