

ACSDC NEWSLETTER

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A CELEBRATION OF AWAKENING AT ACSDC BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By Solomon Kobina Aremu



The African Canadian Social Development Council's (ACSDC) Black History Month celebration this year was more than a commemorative event—it was a powerful awakening. Participants were inspired to embrace the historic crossroads at which we stand, with renewed purpose and affirmation.

Held on February 2, 2026, at the Domenico DeLuca Community Centre in North York, Toronto, the event brought together a diverse mix of voices and perspectives. The venue was transformed into a vibrant hub of culture and dialogue, with a kaleidoscope of colors reflecting African and Caribbean heritage. Organizations such as Dabulacase Centre, Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI), Uzima Women's Relief International, and the Kenyan Women in Canada Association showcased African fabrics and artifacts, adding cultural depth and pride to the celebration.

ACSDC

AFRICAN CANADIAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



WHO WE ARE

The African-Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC) is a non-for-profit organization based in Toronto. ACSDC is the umbrella organization for all African-Canadian community agencies and African-Canadian cultural organizations that provide services to the African-Community in Ontario.

ACSDC was registered in 2002 with a current membership of one hundred and fifteen (115) organizations.

Please visit our website at www.ACSDC.ca for any further information.

OUR PROGRAMS:

- (A) Research
- (B) Advocacy
- (C) Education
- (D) Community Development
- (E) Relief Aid Services

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A CELEBRATION OF AWAKENING AT ACSDC BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Dr. H. E. Kalu Macaulay

Secretary-General of African Union Sixth Region Global (AU6RG)

The keynote address was delivered by H.E. Dr. Macaulay Kalu, Secretary-General of African Union Sixth Region Global (AU6RG), who called the gathering to action: "It is a call to action," he emphasized. Highlighting the legacy of African heroes, he noted they were not only sources of inspiration but "architects of consciousness," understanding that controlling a people's narrative shapes their future, while economic empowerment safeguards their dignity.

Several community leaders also spoke, including Rita Asare, Executive Director of the Black Action Defense Committee (BADC); Maxwell Zoumari of the Cultural Association of Togolese of Ontario; Viviane Sinan, Vice President of the Ivorian Community Association for Toronto; and Laetitia Uwineza, Housing Manager at Centre Francophone du Grand Toronto. Each offered reflections and demonstrated a shared commitment to progress and unity during the panel discussions.

The My Root Foundation Igbo Dance Group delivered a captivating cultural performance, energizing the audience and celebrating African heritage through movement and music. Awards recognized outstanding contributions: Chief Benjamin Chike Allison received the African Community Leadership Award, while the late Mr. David Sinah was honored posthumously for his lasting impact.



Greetings from the Premier's Office were delivered by Michelle Telfeyan, Executive Assistant to MPP Doug Ford, highlighting the significance of the occasion.

With the theme, "Building a Legacy: Honouring the Past, Shaping the Future," the event united community, culture, and commitment, inspiring collective action for a stronger future. The program was expertly guided by MC Anna Aidoo, whose presence added warmth and continuity to an already memorable celebration.



Celebrating Black Excellence And Advancing Community Safety:

Midaynta Community Services' Landmark Iftar & 'Mothers and Sons' Report Launch"



Midaynta Community Services hosted a landmark community gathering on February 27, 2026, bringing together 275 guests for an evening that combined its Annual Community Iftar, a celebration of 60 years of Black excellence in Canada, and the official release of its "Mothers and Sons" research report.

Held at the Woodbine Banquet and Convention Centre, the event drew a wide cross-section of attendees, including the Mayor of Toronto, multiple Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), Members of Parliament (MPs), community leaders, youth, families, and faith representatives. Their presence highlighted the significance of the gathering and a shared commitment to advancing community safety, equity, and collaboration. Throughout the evening, attendees engaged in both celebration and reflection. The program honoured the contributions and achievements of Black communities across Canada, while also creating space for critical conversations on community safety, policing, and violence.

A central highlight of the evening was the official release of the "Mothers and Sons: Policing, Community Safety, and Violence in Our Community" report. Grounded in the voices of 100 mothers and families directly impacted by violence and policing, the report offers a powerful and deeply personal account of the realities many communities continue to face. It captures themes of grief, resilience, fear, and hope, while shedding light on the complex relationships between families and institutions.

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Celebrating Black Excellence And Advancing Community Safety:



Mohamed Firin MPP — York South – Weston middle, Mahad Yusuf, ED Midaynta Community Services and mothers of the Mending the Crack in the Sky



Mahad Yusuf, Executive Director, Midaynta Community Services and Michelle Telfeyan Executive Assistant, Constituency Office of MPP Doug Ford



Mayor Olivia Chow with staff from Midaynta Community Services

Beyond storytelling, the report provides data-informed and community-driven recommendations aimed at strengthening trust, improving public safety outcomes, and creating more responsive systems. It calls for greater investment in prevention, culturally responsive supports, and meaningful engagement with families and youth. The findings emphasize that sustainable change must be rooted in listening to those most affected and working in true partnership with communities.

Organizers described the event as a reflection of the strength and resilience within the community, as well as a call to action for continued partnership and accountability. By bringing together diverse stakeholders in one space, the gathering reinforced the importance of collective leadership in building safer, more inclusive communities





Celebrating Women's Strength: An International Women's Day 2026 Gala

Uzima Women Relief Group International proudly hosted the International Women's Day 2026 Gala, an inspiring evening dedicated to celebrating the strength, leadership, and contributions of women within our communities. The event brought together community partners, supporters, and leaders in a shared commitment to empowerment, inclusion, and collective progress.

The gala served as a meaningful platform to recognize and honour women who are making a difference across various sectors, while also fostering connection and collaboration among attendees. Through powerful speeches, cultural expressions, and engaging conversations, the evening highlighted the importance of uplifting women and creating opportunities for growth and leadership.

We were deeply honoured by the presence and support of distinguished elected officials, including Hon. Shaun Chen, MP for Scarborough North, Hon. Jean Yip, MP for Scarborough Agincourt; Salma Zahid, MP for Scarborough Centre—Don Valley East, Hon. Jennifer McKelvie, MP for Ajax and Hon. Aris Babikian, MPP for Scarborough Agincourt. Their participation underscored the significance of community-driven initiatives and reinforced the importance of continued advocacy for women's empowerment.

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A highlight of the evening was the recognition of exceptional individuals whose contributions have created meaningful impact within the community. These awardees exemplify leadership, resilience, and dedication, serving as powerful role models and inspiring continued progress.

AWARDEES:

- Hannington Suchi
- Rev. Dr. Florence A. Juma
- Mitzie Hunter
- Esther Enyolu

The event also provided an opportunity for attendees to build new connections, strengthen partnerships, and engage in meaningful dialogue around the importance of supporting women in all aspects of life. The atmosphere throughout the evening reflected unity, appreciation, and a shared vision for a more inclusive and empowered future. Uzima Women Relief Group International remains committed to creating safe and supportive spaces





NCA Newsletter Feature

Interview with Margaret Nwosu, Outgoing President of NCA



MARGARET NWOSU

Immediate Past President of NCA

"I HAVE PAID MY DUES AND PAVED THE WAY FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW"

Margaret Nwosu is a registered Social Worker (RSW) with over 17 years of experience, currently working as a Program Manager at a leading Social Services Agency. She moved to Canada with her family more than 23 years ago. Margaret holds a BSC in Mass Communication from Lagos State University and a Diploma in Public Relations from the Nigerian Institute of Journalism.

In Canada, she earned a bachelor's degree in social work (BSW) from York University, a Diploma in Social Services Worker from Humber College, and is registered with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers (OCSWSSW). She also holds a Diploma in Immigration Consulting from Humber College.

Margaret served as Vice President and President of the Nigerian Canadian Association (NCA GTA), handing over to the newly elected executive on March 27th. She also runs a youth support initiative in Nigeria, providing education, trades, and empowerment programs—a project she started in memory of her late son, Nnamdi.

THIS INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED IN JANUARY 2026.

Q1: Welcome back from your recent trip to Nigeria. What are your thoughts on the state of the nation politically, socially, and economically?

Margaret Nwosu: "Nigeria is not as it is often portrayed abroad. Politically, it's almost moving towards a one-party system. Socially, despite life being challenging, Nigerians are incredibly resilient and still find ways to enjoy life. Economically, living in the diaspora gives you perspective—despite financial hardships, people manage to live vibrant social lives and enjoy their communities."

Q2: What do you think is the way forward?

Margaret Nwosu: "Citizens need to speak up more often. Development is a collective effort; it's not solely the government's responsibility. Supporting innovation, initiatives, and governance that serves the people is essential. Resources should be channeled toward community development rather than enriching a few individuals."

Q3: What challenges is the NCA facing now as an organization?

Margaret Nwosu: "Like many associations, NCA faces challenges with unity, funding, and internal disagreements. Some individuals try to promote personal interests over collective goals. Despite this, NCA continues to grow, support our community, and maintain strong relations with our consulate and Canadian society."

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Q4: What are your main achievements as NCA President?

Margaret Nwosu: "Establishing order and strengthening NCA's position among other associations, supporting individuals to become agents of change, organizing informative workshops, social events, and recognition ceremonies, and fostering proper communication channels."

Q5: Are you running for office again?

Margaret Nwosu: "No, I am not running again. One must know when to leave. I have paid my dues and paved the way for others to continue my legacy."

Q6: Are immigrants to Canada making better progress now than 20 years ago?

Margaret Nwosu: "Definitely. More professionals are breaking barriers, opening businesses, and providing employment. Our community is more engaged, creating opportunities rather than waiting for them."

Q7: What factors hinder immigrant progress?

Margaret Nwosu: "Status is a major challenge. Once resolved, immigrants often thrive quickly and significantly contribute to society."

Q8: How does systemic racism affect Africans and Black people?

Margaret Nwosu: "Systemic racism has become subtler but still exists. Continuous growth, education, and gaining experience are essential to overcome these barriers."

Q9: How can systemic racism be reduced in Canada?

Margaret Nwosu: "Through personal development, education, experience, and active community involvement."

Q10: Can Canadian sentiments reach levels seen in the USA regarding immigrants?

Margaret Nwosu: "Not necessarily. Each country has its policies, and adherence to these is key for everyone."

Q11: Are government efforts sufficient to tackle systemic racism?

Margaret Nwosu: "Systemic racism is embedded within systems. While policy changes are needed, individuals must also find ways to navigate and succeed despite these challenges."

Q12: Black History Month Programs and Theme

Margaret Nwosu: "Black History Month coincides with NCA elections in February, so planning is intense. The theme will align with the national theme and is currently being finalized."

Q13: How is Nigeria handling kidnappings and religious violence?

Margaret Nwosu: "No, the government is not handling these issues effectively."

Q14: Do you support US military intervention against terrorists in Nigeria?

Margaret Nwosu: Yes, if the government fails to do what is right to protect its citizenry, then external government who are parties to the UN convention in the protection of people all over and in this case, America, then yes. This serves as a warning and a venue to prompt the Nigerian government into action

Q15: What is your view of ECOWAS and the AU's vision and performance?

Margaret Nwosu: It has now become so politicised that it's difficult from lay man's point to know and decipher both their vision and performance.

Madam, thank you very much for taking the time of your busy schedule to grant this interview.

Interviewed By Solomon Kobina Aremu



Youth participants engaged during the Legal Education session

Youth Legal Education & Mental Health Workshop

On Monday, April 20, 2026, the African Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC) hosted a Youth Legal Education & Mental Health Workshop at the Domenico DiLuca Community Recreation Centre in North York. The session brought together young people from the community for an engaging and informative evening focused on legal awareness.

The workshop featured guest speaker Kofi K. Achampong, a lawyer and community advocate specializing in Criminal Law and legal empowerment. He provided valuable insights on key topics such as knowing your rights, understanding interactions with police, and learning how to advocate for oneself. Participants also explored available community resources and supports to help them navigate challenges and access assistance when needed.

The session created an open and supportive environment where youth were encouraged to ask questions, share perspectives, and build confidence in understanding their rights and responsibilities. This equipped participants with practical knowledge and tools to make informed decisions and support their overall well-being. Light refreshments, including pizza, were provided, adding to the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

This initiative, supported by community partners and organizations, reflects ACSDC's ongoing commitment to empowering youth through education, awareness, and access to resources that foster resilience and informed community engagement.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Workshop & Get-Together



On Tuesday, April 21, 2026, the African-Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC) successfully hosted an engaging Alzheimer's & Dementia Workshop & Get-Together at the Rexdale Community Hub in Etobicoke. The session brought together seniors from the community for an afternoon of learning, connection, and support.

The workshop was facilitated by experienced staff from the Alzheimer Society of Toronto — Carolyn, Laura, and Jamila — who delivered insightful and easy-to-understand information on Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Their warm and interactive approach created a safe space for participants to ask questions, share personal experiences, and learn from one another.



During the session, seniors gained practical knowledge about recognizing early signs of dementia, supporting loved ones, and accessing available community resources. The workshop also emphasized the importance of caregiving strategies and maintaining overall well-being.

Participants expressed strong appreciation for the session, highlighting the value of the information shared and the opportunity to connect with peers facing similar experiences. The high level of engagement throughout the workshop reflected the importance of creating spaces where seniors feel informed, supported, and empowered.



The event concluded with a shared lunch, allowing attendees to continue conversations and build meaningful connections within the community. ACSDC remains committed to providing impactful programs that promote awareness, education, and well-being among seniors, and we look forward to hosting more sessions like this in the future.

Seniors alongside staff from the Alzheimer Society of Toronto during the workshop session.

CONFRONTING ANTI-BLACK RACISM CONFERENCE 2025



"The Criminal Justice System, Policing and the Black Youth"

**HELD AT YORK UNIVERSITY BY THE AFRICAN
CANADIAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
(ACSDC)**

"White privilege may suggest that being white automatically leads to wealth, success or the avoidance of hardship. This is not true. However, being white offers advantages that may or may not seem obvious. Not being under the systemic gaze of the justice system is one of these privileges."

BY: SOLOMON KOBINA AREMU



Our speakers and moderators (from left to right): Mr. Cristian Ortiz, Ms. Timiro Aganeh (Moderator), Dr. Jamila Aman (Moderator), Professor Kanika S. Wortley (Keynote Speaker), Ms. Candice Marie Holt, Mr. Marc (Kwabena) Rainford, and Barrister Shedrack Agbakwa.

Do we all experience fair policing? Why are black youth experience with police different from that of white youth? These are some of the deep insights and poignant questions raised and asked by Dr. Kanika Samuels-Wortley, Keynote Speaker at the Confronting Anti Black Racism Conference organized by the African Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC) at the York University on October 4th, 2025.

Dr. Samuels-Wortley is an Associate Professor and Canadian Research Chair in Systemic Racism, Technology, and Criminal Justice in the Department of Criminology and Justice at Ontario Tech University. She along with seasoned experts in various fields of policing, law, Black youth advocacy, education and more, converged to dissect and analyze critical race theories especially affecting Black youth and the justice system.

The day long event sought to broaden our understanding of the whys and how's of Systemic Racism in the Canadian society.



Our speakers during the panel discussion



A few of our attendees enjoying the conference.

According to the widely published and traveled Professor, her research findings concluded that "Black youth feel they are treated differently from their group of friends from other racial backgrounds. While white youth in my sample feel safe, respected and cared for by the same police."

According to the erudite Professor, racially biased policing diminishes confidence and undermines police legitimacy. She concluded that it reduces the willingness to report crime and victimization, thus impacting public and individual safety and contributes directly to the disproportionate overall representation of Black, indigenous and other racialized people in the justice system.

In his welcome address, the President of the ACSDC Mr. Kabu Asante decried the overwhelming disproportionate contact Black youth continue to have with the justice system. "Over policing, systemic bias and a lack of culturally appropriate support have created barriers to safety, opportunity and justice for many of our young people," he lamented. "This conference is more than a discussion. It is a call to action. It is a space where lived experience meets policy, where accountability meets collaboration, and where healing begins through dialogue." As we reflect, learn and challenge each other over the course of this conference, let us keep our focus clear; to uplift, protect and empower black youth and to build a justice system that serves them, and not one that stands in their way." Mr. Asante charged.



Letter of Greetings presented by Ms. Michelle Telfeyan from the Constituency Office of MPP Doug Ford



Youth attendees participating in discussions inside one of the breakout rooms



One of our vendors, the INJAZ Sudanese Youth Association



Cultural dance performance by the Indanga Dance Group from the Connect Burundi Cultural Center

PC Martin Douglas, a member of the Toronto Police Service Integrated Gang Prevention Task Force Unit took the audience through real life experiences of black youth who have been left holding the wrong end of the criminal justice system stick. He identified several risk factors like family, school, peer groups, individual and community. He admonished youth to remain calm, think through situations and avoid rash choices which consequences creates ripple effects for life or even across generations. For instance, having a criminal record as a teenager can impact your employment eligibility for decades.

Timor Aganeh, Youth Justice Coordinator at Midaynta Community Services, major organization partner of ACSDC introduced the panelist. The panel discussion featured Chaplain Habeeb Alli, (Restorative Justice Advocate) He spoke of the eroding concept of traditional respect for parents and the elderly and weakening bonds within family, community and society at large as one of the contributing factors that leads the youth, particularly those whose parents recently migrated to Canada. For some of the youth, it may be that they perceive their parents culturally beliefs carried over from their original countries don't align with the Canadian environment they grow in. This may lead to some identity conflict and influence how they react in a hostile or uncomfortable racially tinged situation.

Candice Marie Holt, (Founder and CEO of Clockwork Coaching and Consulting for Teachers Inc., summarizes the key approaches to fight systemic racism as; Self regulation, Conflict resolution, Critical thinking and Advocacy.

Shedrack C. Agbakwa, (Managing Partner of Agbakwas LLR Law firm) dropped a thought-provoking insight while sharing his own experience. Even being a successful professional like a seasoned lawyer is no guarantee against systemic racism if you are Black. One could feel the shock from the entire audience when Lawyer Agbakwa said this, "Even as a Black lawyer walking into the courtroom to defend a client, I constantly face direct and subtle discrimination." This clearly shows how deep and ubiquitous systemic racism is in the country.



PC Curtis Celestine (left) and his colleague from the Toronto Police Service chatting with attendees and speaker



A look at some of the food served during the conference



Attendees participating in an interactive exercise activity during one of the breakout sessions.

Christian Ortiz (Youth Advocate) Who described himself as having gone through the justice system identified the spectacle of absentee parents as one of the key factors contributing to delinquent youth behavior. According to him, a lot of these parents get overwhelmed by the struggle to raise families and get by working two or three jobs and are not usually at home to monitor their kid's behavior and those they associate with.

Marc Rainford, (former Police officer and now Director of Community Safety at the Youth Association for Academics, Athletics and Character Education serving the Jane and Finch community). He described over policing and under policing of certain communities like a canker that the authorities must strive to expunge by striking a fair balance. Over policing whiles claiming to be looking for suspects makes the people in that area defensive and suspicious of police.

At the same time, under policing when people in those poor and disadvantaged communities are the victims sends the message that the police don't care about them and so they look for their own ways to "sort things out" leading to more crime and more profiling and more arrests and jail time for the Black youth. This perpetuates a viscous cycle of the systemic racism.

Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, speaking through his representative at the event, Michelle Telfeyan, Executive Assistant for MPP Doug Ford, Etobicoke North, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, thanked the leadership of the ACSDC for it's consistent efforts in the fight against systemic racism over the years and promised that the "government of Ontario will continue to support Black youth and professionals through our Black Youth Action Plan"

Member of Parliament for Humber River-Black Creek, Hon. Judy Sgro sent this message:" This important conference continues to inspire Black Youth in Canada to build resilience, foster leadership and open pathways to long-term success. It shines a light to the systemic challenges that persist within our criminal justice system and their profound impact on Black Youth. "

On her part, Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow promised that the city "is working with Black leaders, Black led organizations and businesses as part of the renewed 10-year Toronto Action Plan to confront anti Black racism to delivering better outcomes to Black Torontonians"

RACISM IS LEARNT

Systemic racism is general application by the dominant group/groups.

HOW TO IDENTIFY RACISM

Reverse apply The Golden Rule: "Do unto others what you expect others to do to you."

Is what is being done to you what you would have do to others? If the answer is no, it could be discrimination or racism. In any setting you find yourself, where you feel the person or people are not treating you the way you would treat them, is a good indicator. If the situation is not too hostile or dangerous don't back down. Quickly voice your disapproval firmly to the perpetrators.

Tell someone. A family member, a co worker or your supervisor if you are at work or if you are in school report to a teacher or the authorities immediately. Remember also that racist are like bullies. They like targeting those they perceive as weak and vulnerable. Always project a sense of strength and confidence wherever you are. However, back-off if the situation is getting physical and dangerous.

The highly successful event was MC'd by the charming , versatile and highly accomplished Dr. Jamila Aman, CEO and President of Premier Canadian Business Solutions Inc. Her opening remarks at the beginning of the conference was a profound rallying call. "We are here to acknowledge the harm racism has caused and work together towards healing and change. Let's be open, respectful and sympathetic. Let's confront racism today and imagine a different future where everyone is thriving regardless of their background or race.

Let's make this vision a reality!" ■■■



The EmpowerHER Women's Event 2025

THEMED: Pathways to Economic and Financial Independence



Viviane Sinan (middle), honored with the Community Impact Award, pictured with members of the Association of the Ivorian Community of the Toronto Region at the EmpowerHER Women's Conference on April 19, 2025.

On Saturday April 29 2025 at Milvan Drive North York ON, Acscdc hosted it's second annual EmpowerHER Women's Event, which had the theme Pathways to Economic and Financial Independence. The event brought together community leaders, professionals, and changemakers to inspire and equip Black women with the tools to help them thrive financially.

The day began with a warm welcome address followed by an opening remark, setting the tone for a day of empowerment, learning, and connection. Premier Doug Ford's message of support, delivered on his behalf, acknowledged the Council's steadfast efforts in confronting anti-Black racism and enhancing the lives of African immigrants.

One of the highlights was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Jamila Aman, CEO and president of Capacity Wise Consulting Corp., where she assists NGOs and enterprises with capacity building. Dr. Aman spoke on "Leveraging and the Power of Investing Other People's Money." She emphasized the importance of leveraging money, time, skills, and energy.

Dr. Aman encouraged attendees to maintain a strong credit score, support Black-owned businesses, and stay organized with planners for daily, weekly, and long-term goals. Dr. Aman reminded the audience that failure can be a stepping stone and urged women to stand firm in life's challenges.

Following the keynote address, a panel discussion tackled "Challenges and Solutions in Achieving Financial Independence for Women." The panel featured Mrs. Pasima Sule, founder and Executive Director of the Black Women Business Network; Faith Bayapo, Regional Manager for Black Community Business Development at TD Bank Group; and Fatma Nadhir, founder of Biashara African Business Club.

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The EmpowerHER Women's Conference 2025

The panellists shared practical insights and personal experiences, emphasizing that financial independence begins with economic literacy. They said Black women should not shy away from applying for loans if they are eligible, because access to capital is often the bridge to growing a sustainable business..

During the Question-and-Answer session, participants engaged with the panellists, sharing stories and seeking advice, creating a vibrant exchange of knowledge and support. The afternoon featured a lunch and networking break followed by a self-care exercise encouraging women to affirm their worth, goals, and power to promote wellness and self-love.

The event concluded with a recognition ceremony celebrating community changemakers. The Community Impact Award recognized Viviane Sinan, a community leader, personal development coach, and founder of *Connecter au Succes* to empower Francophone Afro-descendant communities in Canada, and Amina Noor, a seasoned social worker with experience in the non-profit sector. The Justice and Equity Champion Award went to Eyitayo Dada, a lawyer, marriage coach and entrepreneur. ■■■



Pasima Sule ED and Founder of The Black Women Business Network with attendees at EmpowerHer Women's Conference 2025



Pictured from left: ACSDC Board Secretary Mrs. Ranti Adebajo, Michelle Telfeyan (Executive Assistant to MPP Doug Ford), Amina Noor, honored with the Community Impact Award, Kabu Asante, ACSDC President, Viviane Sinan, also a Community Impact Award recipient, Eyitayo Dada, recipient of the Justice and Equity Champion Award, and Kemi Amusan.



Second from left: Community Impact Award recipient Amina Noor, with Timoro Aganeh, Lady Kemi Amusan, and Vivian Mante (ACSDC).



Pictured from left to right: Mr. Faith Bijiapo (TD Bank Keynote Speaker Dr. Jamila Aman, Ms. Pasima Sule, Ms. Fatima Nadhir, and our President, Mr. Kabu Asante.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Kabu Asante, President of the African Canadian Social Development Council, thanked all participants, speakers, and supporters for making the event successful. He reaffirmed the Council's commitment to advancing the economic empowerment of Black women and the community at large.

Empower Her 2025 reminded every woman in attendance that financial freedom is within reach and that she is not alone on the journey. ■■■



AFRICAN CANADIAN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (ACSDC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

The African Canadian Social Development Council (ACSDC) successfully hosted its 2025 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at the Jane Street Hub in Toronto. The event brought together leaders from our member organizations, community advocates, and partners to engage in meaningful discussions on critical issues impacting African Canadian communities, including food insecurity, housing challenges, funding gaps, and the need for stronger collaborative policy solutions.

The meeting featured inspiring speeches and moments of recognition. ACSN President Kayode Ogunnaike delivered an address after receiving a special award, while keynote speaker Mr. Yao Togobo, Community Development Officer with the City of Toronto's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, offered valuable insights on community empowerment and systemic change.



Our keynote speaker, Mr. Yao Togobo, Community Development Officer at the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, City of Toronto, addressing the audience during the AGM.

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Various community leaders and members



FEATURED ORGANIZATION



Naga Obazee

PRESIDENT

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
NIGERIAN LAWYERS (CANL)

The Canadian Association of Nigerian Lawyers (CANL) is a national non-for-profit professional body dedicated to advancing the interests, visibility, and excellence of Nigerian legal professionals across Canada. Since its founding, CANL has served as a platform for mentorship, advocacy, professional development, and community engagement, fostering collaboration among lawyers, law students, professional organizations and the broader diaspora community.

In November 2025, CANL marked its 10th Annual Gala, celebrating the theme "Honouring Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future." As part of this milestone, we inaugurated the Nigeria–Canada Legal Exchange Forum (NCLE) on November 3, 2025, during the International Bar Association (IBA) Conference in Toronto. The NCLE represents a landmark initiative designed to promote cross-border dialogue, legal innovation, and access to justice between both nations. This effort reflects CANL's growing role in strengthening international collaboration while continuing to build bridges among Canadian-Nigerian lawyers across provinces.

Through continuing professional development (CPD) programs, partnerships, and mentorship opportunities, CANL remains committed to empowering legal professionals, nurturing the next generation, and contributing to the advancement of justice and equity in Canada.

AWAKENING THE GIANT WITHIN

Black Youth Leadership Roundtable



JULY

25

2026

DOMENICO DILUCA
Community Recreation Centre
21 Stanley Road
North York, ON M3N 1C2

**11:00 AM
TO
2:00 PM**

Forum Highlights:

Inspiring keynote speakers

Youth empowerment discussions

Leadership and confidence-building activities

Networking opportunities

Community engagement conversations

Interactive group sessions

PARTNERS:



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