33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala

Strength Through Struggle:
A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025



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Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.)



Jacqueline Edwards
A.B.L.E. President

Welcome!

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome you to the Association of Black Law Enforcers' (A.B.L.E.) 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala. This year's celebration is especially meaningful as we proudly co-host with our esteemed partners: the Toronto Police Service (TPS), the Toronto Police Service Board (TPSB), and the Toronto Police Association (TPA). Together, we stand united in our shared mission to strengthen relationships, foster inclusion, and build bridges between law enforcement and the diverse communities we serve.

Tonight, we gather on the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. This land is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. We acknowledge their enduring connection to this land and honour their stewardship past, present, and future.

This year's theme, "Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance," powerfully reflects our collective experience. It speaks to the resilience of Black law enforcement professionals, to the challenges we have faced, and to the determination that continues to move us forward. Through perseverance, we have not only endured but thrived, inspiring others to rise, to lead, and to serve with courage and conviction.

We are deeply honoured to welcome our keynote speaker, Retired Police Chief Renée Hall, President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). Chief Hall's trailblazing leadership and steadfast commitment to equity and reform embody the very essence of our theme: leading with strength, grace, and resilience in the face of struggle and change.

To our scholarship recipients and their families, congratulations. Your commitment to education and service continues the legacy of excellence upon which A.B.L.E. was founded. You represent the next generation of justice and public safety professionals who will shape the future with integrity, compassion, and courage.

To our award recipients, your achievements remind us what can be accomplished when passion meets purpose. You exemplify leadership, innovation, and service. Your success paves the way for others to dream bigger and reach higher.

To our police leaders, community advocates, and champions of anti-Black racism, we see you, we thank you, and we stand with you. You continue to draw strength from struggle, often doing the work that is neither easy nor always appreciated. Yet you persevere, motivated by the belief that change is both possible and necessary. To each of you, we say: keep going, keep doing what you can, and never underestimate the power of your courage and persistence.

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers and planning committee, the heart of this evening's success. Your countless hours of preparation, creativity, and dedication have brought this celebration to life. It is through your efforts that A.B.L.E. continues to inspire and uplift year after year.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to our sponsors and supporters. Whether you purchased a single ticket, a full table of ten, or one of our major sponsorship packages, your contribution makes a lasting impact. Every act of support, large or small, strengthens our mission and allows us to continue providing scholarships, mentorship, and opportunities for our youth. Your generosity fuels our legacy, and for that, we are truly grateful.

As I reflect on the tremendous honour of having served four terms as President of A.B.L.E., I am filled with gratitude and pride. Our Association remains a pillar of advocacy, mentorship, and community. It stands as a testament to what we can achieve when we remain united in purpose and steadfast in our pursuit of justice and equality.

Tonight, we celebrate our journey: the struggles that have shaped us, the strength that sustains us, and the endurance that propels us forward. May this evening remind you of the power of perseverance, the beauty of resilience, and the limitless potential that lies within us all.

On behalf of the Association of Black Law Enforcers, welcome. Settle in, enjoy the evening, and celebrate with pride, purpose, and joy.

With gratitude and respect,

Jacqueline Edwards
President
Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.)

Toronto Police Service

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Office of the Chief of Police

Message from the Chief of Police



On behalf of the Toronto Police Service, it is an honour to welcome you to the 33rd Annual Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) Scholarship and Awards Gala. This evening, we come together as one community, united in our shared dedication to service and excellence, and to celebrate the remarkable achievements of those who embody the very best of community leadership and public safety.

This year's theme, "Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance," reminds us that progress is rarely easy, but it is always worth pursuing. The strength of our profession and indeed our society lies in the courage of individuals who continue to rise above adversity while paving the way for a more inclusive and just future.

A.B.L.E. has been a steadfast force in championing equity and unity within the public safety profession. Through its scholarships, mentorship, and advocacy, A.B.L.E. continues to empower future generations and strengthen the bridge between public safety professionals and the communities we serve. As co-hosts of this year's gala, our police service is proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with A.B.L.E. in this important work.

I would like to recognize and thank the generous sponsors and organizers without whom tonight would not be possible.

Congratulations to all of tonight's award and scholarship recipients. You remind us that the future of policing and the future of our communities is bright and full of promise.

Thank you for joining us for this evening of celebration and connection.

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.
Chief of Police

Toronto Police Association



On behalf of our Board of Directors, senior leadership team, and dedicated staff, the Toronto Police Association welcomes you to the Association of Black Law Enforcers' 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

We are proud to co-host this memorable evening with our colleagues at the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Police Service Board, and we are grateful to our sponsors and partners who made this event a success.

We also express our gratitude to the members and young people we honour tonight. It is because of your dedication to service, community, and the well-being of others that we are able to come together.

To our law enforcement members and community partners, your heroic efforts and professional achievements genuinely reflect a career committed to public safety. May your legacy encourage others to pursue excellence in their careers and community service.

To our students, you are an inspiration. When we consider the future of law enforcement, we think of your achievements and your goals. Any police service or law enforcement agency in Canada would be honoured to have you join its ranks one day. We hope the ABLE Scholarship will support you on your path to success.
Thank you, everyone, for joining us. Continue to do great things, and stay safe.

Clayton Campbell
President, Toronto Police Association



On behalf of the Toronto Police Service Board, I am honoured to extend our strong support and warm congratulations to A.B.L.E. on the occasion of its 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

Since its founding in 1992, A.B.L.E. has been a powerful advocate for Black and other racialized law enforcement professionals, while serving as a vital bridge between law enforcement and the communities we serve. The Board stands proudly with A.B.L.E. in its mission to promote racial harmony, cultural pride, and public trust, values that are essential to effective and equitable policing in Toronto.

The A.B.L.E. Scholarship & Awards Program, honouring trailblazers Rose Fortune and Peter C. Butler III, continues to empower the next generation of Black leaders in law enforcement, law, social work, and justice-related fields. By investing in education and opportunity, A.B.L.E. is not only transforming individual lives, it is shaping a more inclusive and representative justice system for all Canadians.

This year's Gala theme, *"Strength, Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance,"* is a powerful reflection of the resilience that defines both the history and the future of Black communities in Canada. It is also a timely reminder of the importance of continued progress, dialogue, and partnership.

The Board is proud of the Toronto Police Service and its role in bringing people together as host of this year's Gala. This event exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and community that strengthens our city and advances justice for all.

To the organizers, scholarship recipients, and all those in attendance: thank you for your unwavering commitment to equity, service, and community. The Toronto Police Service Board is proud to stand alongside you in this important work.

Warmest congratulations on this milestone event, and best wishes for a meaningful and inspiring evening.

Sincerely,

Councillor Shelley Carroll
Chair, Toronto Police Service Board

Toronto Police Service Board
40 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2J3 | Phone: 416-808-8080 Fax: 416-808-8082 | www.tpsb.ca



Thomas Carrique
Commissioner *Le Commissaire*

File #: OPP-7900-10

October 16, 2025

To: Attendees
2025 Association of Black Law Enforcers Gala

Dear Attendees:

As Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), I am pleased to offer greetings to the attendees of the 33rd Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

This year's theme – *Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance* – embodies the creativity and resilience of individuals of all backgrounds and abilities. By coming together, we drive progress, raise voices and shape a future where inclusion and opportunity will succeed.

The OPP is honoured to once again attend this important event alongside other professionals who demonstrate passion, purpose and persistence in their commitment to public safety.

Additionally, I would like to extend gratitude to the A.B.L.E. Gala organizing committee, the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Police Association for their tireless efforts and commitment to create a space where voices are uplifted and progress is honoured.

Your attendance will help spark change, foster connection and inspire hope.

Yours truly,

Thomas Carrique, C.O.M.

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B-ISN

Black Internal Support Network

Leadership Unity Knowledge Excellence

On behalf of the Toronto Police Service - Black Internal Support Network (BISN), it is our distinct honour to welcome you to the 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala, hosted in proud partnership with the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.), the Toronto Police Service, the Toronto Police Association, and the Toronto Police Services Board.

This year's theme, "Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance," powerfully reflects the unwavering spirit of our members and the communities we serve. It is a poignant reminder of the resilience, courage, and excellence that continue to shape our collective journey.

The BISN remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and supportive environment for Black members of the Toronto Police Service.

Our shared goal is to strengthen the Toronto Police Service by building a strong internal support network - one that enhances member well-being, reinforces organizational excellence, and improves service delivery to the communities we serve.

To our scholarship and award recipients and honourees, your achievements are a testament to your dedication, perseverance, and promise. We celebrate your success and encourage you to continue striving for excellence in service and leadership.

Together, let us honour our legacy, embrace the present, and build a future where every member is empowered to thrive.

With gratitude and pride, we welcome you to an evening of celebration, connection, and inspiration. May tonight remind us all of the power of unity, purpose, and community.

Have a wonderful evening!

Detective Sergeant Leslie Dunkley
Co-Chair, Black Internal Support Network
Toronto Police Service

Jordan Dunkley
Co-Chair, Black Internal Support Network
Toronto Police Service

National Black Police Association



Ronald E. Hampton, Former
Executive Director
National Black Police Association

I would like to extend a sincere congratulation to the Association of Black Law Enforcer's (ABLE) 33rd Scholarship and Awards Gala. Additionally, I want to recognize the co-host the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Police Service Board. In this present environment this partnership sets an example of what community, advocacy organizations and police can do together to create a better work place and community.

This year's theme Strength through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance is a reflection of the journal and experience members of ABLE and the National Black Police Association have had that build strength, character, and leadership skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the leadership of the Association of Black Law Enforcer, past, present, and future for preparing and building the necessary bridges and relationships while understanding the world is a very different place and its needs at this time. It is clear to that you have mastered the most important element of all. A dear friend of minds says and I quote "The youth of today does not hear us talking to them, they are closely monitoring our behavior". The Association of Black Law Enforcers, you are setting the example and I am proud to be in your present.

National Black Police Association U.S.

Welcome to the annual A.B.L.E. Gala — where excellence is celebrated, resilience is honoured, and our collective strength shines brighter than ever before.

This year's theme: Strength Through Struggle speaks volumes as we navigate and lead through these unprecedented times together.

We gather not just as law enforcement professionals, but as a living testament to strength through struggle. Each of us carries a powerful story — one shaped by resilience, courage, tenacity and an unyielding belief that service is both our calling and our legacy and will not be intimidated.

Through the struggles we've endured — the long nights, the unseen sacrifices, the moments when we stood firm in the face of doubt or adversity — we have forged a strength that cannot be shaken. That strength is not born of ease, but of endurance. It is the kind of strength that turns obstacles into opportunities and pain into purpose.

As Black law enforcement leaders, we represent a bridge a bond — between communities and justice, between history and hope. Our journey is not just about wearing the badge; it's about carrying forward a vision rooted in integrity, character, equity, and excellence.

May this esteemed event remind us that struggle does not diminish us — it refines us. It unites us. It reminds us that together, our collective power is greater than any challenge before us.

The National Black Police Association (NBPA) stands with all leaders, both in public safety and community united and strong and ready to move and speak with one voice. My brothers and sisters in leadership, we welcome a space where strength meets purpose — and where our shared struggle continues to shape a legacy of excellence, leadership and advocates for justice.

This gala is a reflection of who we are — fierce advocates of justice, protectors, mentors, visionaries, and bridge builders. We carry forward the legacy of those who came before us and pave the way for those who will come after.

My Best,
Suwana Kirkland
NBPA National Chair

National Black Police Association U.K.

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am truly sorry that I cannot be with you in person this evening to celebrate your 33rd Scholarship and Awards Gala, but I send my warmest greetings, love, and hope from across the Atlantic. This event has always stood as a beacon of excellence, unity, and purpose, a moment to honour those who lead with courage and integrity, and to remind ourselves of the power of collective action. I am determined to be there with you next year, shoulder to shoulder, as we continue to build on our shared mission.

We are all living through a time when the rights and freedoms we once took for granted are being quietly eroded. Across nations, those who stand up for justice, truth, and equality are being challenged and, at times, targeted. These struggles are not confined to one jurisdiction, they are global, and their impact is felt in every community we serve. From the UK to Canada, we are witnessing a troubling pattern: those who dare to hold institutions to account are often the ones who find themselves under fire. But we are also witnessing something powerful - resilience.

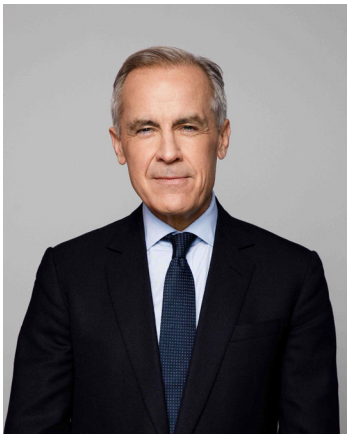
In the face of this climate, the National Black Police Association in the UK has not fractured; it has strengthened. Our membership has united like never before, determined to shape the future rather than be shaped by it. We have developed a five-year strategy that redefines our role in policing and society, and we've partnered with a leading university to benchmark every police service in the UK, ensuring that progress towards racial equity is transparent, measurable, and lasting.

The connection between ABLE and the NBPA is more important now than ever. Our shared values of justice, service, and accountability transcend borders. Together, we represent a global movement of integrity and courage in law enforcement, one that refuses to accept complacency in the face of inequality.

History will remember what we do in this moment. So, as brothers and sisters in law enforcement, let us do what we have always done best: stand firm together, hold the line against injustice, and defend the principles that define our humanity. Canada and the UK share not only historical ties but a shared calling - to protect and serve with fairness, compassion, and truth.

I send my heartfelt congratulations to ABLE on this milestone evening. Please know that though I cannot be with you tonight, my spirit and solidarity are with you and I look forward to standing with you in person next year.

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 33rd Anniversary Scholarship Awards Ball, hosted by the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.).

Founded in 1992, A.B.L.E. is dedicated to addressing the needs and concerns of Black and other racial minorities in law enforcement and in the wider community. A key initiative of the organization has been the awarding of scholarships to help visible minority youth interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement achieve their goals and pursue their dreams. I join you in congratulating this evening's award recipients and in wishing them every success in their post-secondary studies.

I would also like to commend everyone involved with A.B.L.E. for their commitment to enriching the lives of others.

I wish you all a wonderful celebration.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Ottawa
2025



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

November 1, 2025

It is my great pleasure to extend warm congratulations to the Association of Black Law Enforcers as you gather for your 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

For more than three decades, A.B.L.E. has served as a vital bridge between law enforcement and the communities they serve, working to build trust, promote understanding, and foster racial harmony. Tonight's celebration honours both the scholarship recipients whose bright futures you are helping to shape and the award recipients whose dedication exemplifies the highest standards of law enforcement. Your work reminds us that strong, inclusive communities are built through dialogue, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to justice and opportunity for all.

À titre de représentante de la Couronne en Ontario, je salue l'engagement exceptionnel de votre association qui, depuis plus de trente ans, renforce les liens entre les services de police et les collectivités, tout en ouvrant des portes pour la prochaine génération de leaders. Votre dévouement témoigne des valeurs qui rendent notre province plus juste et plus inclusive. Toutes mes félicitations pour votre leadership visionnaire qui trace la voie d'un avenir meilleur pour nous toutes et tous.

Salutations distinguées,

Edith Dumont

Ontario

Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



November 1, 2025

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

I'm honoured to extend my warm greetings to everyone attending the 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala for the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E).

This evening marks a powerful celebration of leadership, service and excellence. Under the theme "Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance", we honour the remarkable individuals who continue to shape our communities and inspire future generations.

To the scholarship and award recipients—congratulations. Your achievements reflect not only your dedication but also the values that A.B.L.E. has championed for over three decades: unity, strength and excellence in law enforcement. You represent the future of a justice system that is more inclusive, more representative and more resilient.

Thank you to A.B.L.E. for your continued leadership and advocacy. Your commitment to public service and community safety strengthens our province and sets a powerful example for others to follow.

Enjoy a memorable evening filled with pride, reflection and celebration.

Doug Ford
Premier

CITY OF TORONTO



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to everyone attending the Association for Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala co-hosted by the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Police Service Board.

This year's event themed *Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance,* brings together colleagues, partners and allies to recognize leadership, service and excellence in our communities. It is an opportunity to honour and inspire the next generation of racialized youth and support the educational pursuits of future leaders within the Canadian Justice Public Safety systems. Congratulations to all those who are being recognized and who are receiving scholarships and awards today.

A heartfelt thank you to the Association for Black Law Enforcers, the Toronto Police Service and the Toronto Police Services Board for building positive relationships with communities and maintaining professionalism and integrity as they work to enhance public safety.

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

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

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

Congratulations

Association Of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.)

It is both an honor and a privilege to extend greetings to the Association of Black Law Enforcers as you gather to celebrate this year's Gala under the inspiring theme, "Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance."

Having had the opportunity to join you last year as a guest speaker, I witnessed firsthand the powerful sense of purpose, unity, and professional excellence that A.B.L.E. continues to embody. The energy in that room reflected not only the pride of accomplishment but also the shared determination to uplift, mentor, and advance those who have dedicated their lives to public service.

The theme for this year's Gala speaks profoundly to the experiences that have shaped our profession and our personal journeys. In law enforcement, "strength through struggle" is more than a phrase — it is a truth we live every day. It represents the courage to lead amid challenge, the resilience to persevere through change, and the compassion to serve even when the path forward is uncertain. Through it all, our commitment to protecting and uplifting our communities must remain unshaken.

The work of A.B.L.E. continues to build bridges of understanding between law enforcement and the communities we serve. Your dedication to mentorship, leadership development, and community engagement ensures that the next generation of officers rises with both competence and character. Each member of A.B.L.E. contributes to a collective legacy — one that stands as a testament to endurance, integrity, and unity of purpose.

As you celebrate this year's Gala, may it be a reminder of how far we've come and a renewed call to continue the work that remains. Together, we reaffirm our shared belief that through struggle comes strength — and through strength, enduring progress.



***Congratulations** on what I know will be another extraordinary and memorable celebration. Wishing you all continued success and a truly fabulous evening.*

Warm regards,

Chief Cerelyn "CJ" Davis
Memphis Police Department

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), I am honoured to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 33rd A.B.L.E. Scholarship and Awards Gala. This remarkable event stands as a celebration of excellence, resilience, and the collective strength that defines Black law enforcement professionals and their allies across Canada.

The theme "Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance" reminds us that true leadership is often forged in the face of adversity. Each award presented tonight recognizes more than success; it represents the perseverance that drives progress and the endurance that sustains hope. The achievements reflect not only personal determination but also a shared commitment to progress, inclusion, and service. The CACP is proud to stand beside A.B.L.E. in advancing these values and in supporting the next generation of leaders who continue to shape policing for the better.

The CACP commends A.B.L.E. for its unwavering commitment to mentorship, education, and equity — values that bring lasting strength to our institutions and to our shared pursuit of public trust and safety.

Commissioner Thomas Carrique
President
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Association of Black Law Enforcers (ABLE),

It is a profound honour for me, as President of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), to extend warm congratulations to ABLE's 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala. This distinguished evening celebrates the dedicated service, leadership, and excellence of Black law enforcement professionals—women and men who make essential contributions to public safety and community trust across Ontario and Canada.

The voice of ABLE continues to be vital. Your work helps to build stronger bridges of confidence, fosters inclusive policing practices, and strengthens the legitimacy of justice institutions in the eyes of those we serve. In an era when the clarion call for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion must be stronger than ever before, your leadership stands as both beacon and backbone.

On behalf of the OACP, I reaffirm our commitment to those principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. We recognise that strong, effective policing demands diverse perspectives, genuine cultural awareness, and a workforce that mirrors the communities it protects. The OACP supports initiatives that build pathways for recruitment, retention, and advancement of Black officers and civilian staff, and backs reforms that advance fairness, accountability and public-confidence.

ABLE, you are leaders of change—advocates who strengthen the rule of law, advance meaningful reform, and help create safer, more equitable communities for all Canadians. Your voice is more needed than ever: advocating for professional excellence, promoting opportunities, and guiding our entire profession toward greater justice and responsiveness.

Thank you for your leadership. Congratulations to the nominees, award recipients. and everyone who contributes to ABLE's remarkable journey.

Sincerely,

Chief Mark Campbell
President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

Serving With Pride is honoured to extend our congratulations to the Association of Black Law Enforcers on the occasion of the 33rd Scholarship and Awards Gala.

This year's theme, "Strength Through Struggle: A Journey of Perseverance and Endurance," beautifully captures the spirit of resilience and leadership that defines those who serve our communities. We celebrate the remarkable students, professionals, and trailblazers who continue to break barriers and create space for future generations within the justice and public safety sectors.

Serving With Pride stands proudly alongside A.B.L.E. in its ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in policing and public service. Together, we reaffirm our shared vision of ensuring that every individual, regardless of background, identity, or orientation, feels valued, supported, and empowered to lead with integrity and compassion.

Congratulations to all the award recipients and scholarship honourees. Your achievements inspire us all.

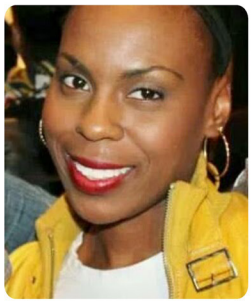
With pride and solidarity,
Serving With Pride

Noah Clouthier and Robert Chevalier
Co- Chairs, Serving with Pride

A.B.L.E. Gala Planning Committee


Adam Holness


Brian Moniz


Brooke Boca


Chris Langford


Dale Swift


Danielle Dowdy


Hyacinth McLean


Jackie Edwards


Jacky Goldshlager

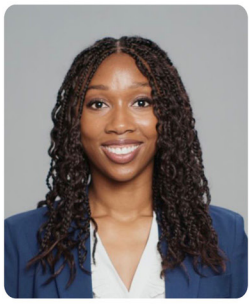


Jesseca Regisford


Jordan Dunkley


Karen Graham


Gary Maracle


Kesia Alexander

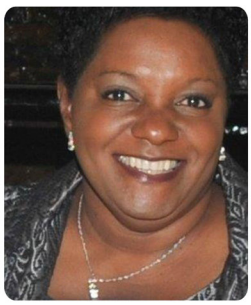

Kolin Alexander



Leslie Dunkley


Mark Brewster


Mark Wilson

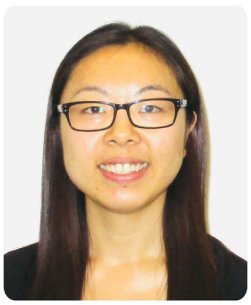

Melva Radway


Michael Hayles


Ryan Forde

A.B.L.E. Gala Planning Committee


Sharon Seepersad


Sophie Liu


Tanya Douglas


Connor McWatt


Dave D'Oyen

Thank you, A.B.L.E.Members, for your support and trust!

Interested in becoming a member? A.B.L.E. Membership is open to all active and retired Black and other racial minority peace officers and auxiliary police officers. Members of the community who support the goals and objectives of A.B.L.E. and wish to contribute to improving the relationship between the community and the law enforcement profession may also become members.

Membership Categories		
Associate	Primary	Affiliate

For More Information, contact:
Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.)

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Matthew Vincent – Change Management
Hiona Murray – Labour Relations
Evelyn Matthias – Corporate Communications



Keynote Speaker



Reneé Hall

Reneé Hall is a nationally respected law enforcement leader and Founder & CEO of TUU Enterprises, LLC, is a consultancy focused on 21st- century policing strategies. She advises police departments on policy improvement, risk reduction, modernization, and community engagement.

Hall currently serves as the President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and is Executive Director of the Community Solidarity and Safety Coalition (CSSC). In this role, she works with nonpartisan leaders and government partners to address public safety challenges and protect communities from growing threats such as domestic terrorism.

Hall previously served as Chief of Police for the Dallas Police Department, where she led 4,000 personnel and managed a $500 million budget. She became the first woman to lead the department, earning recognition for implementing reforms focused on innovation, data-driven decision-making, community outreach, officer wellness, and accountability. Her leadership was pivotal during the COVID-19 pandemic and the global protests following the killing of George Floyd.

Before Dallas, Hall rose through the ranks of the Detroit Police Department over two decades, culminating in her role as Deputy Chief.

A 2022 Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellow and former Senior Editor of the Harvard Social Impact Review, Hall has developed cross-sector programs addressing intergenerational employment, financial literacy, and the intersection of policing and economic inequality in communities of color.

She is also a Senior Fellow with the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation, supporting high-impact organizations advancing justice, transparency, and social change.

Hall holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Grambling State University and two M.S. degrees in Security Administration and Intelligence Analysis from the University of Detroit Mercy. She is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (Session 262) and the Major Cities Chiefs Association's Police Executive Leadership Institute (PELI). Her professional affiliations include the IACP Juvenile Justice & Child Protection Committee, the International Women's Forum (IWF), and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Emcees



Evelyn Matthias

Evelyn Matthias is a passionate communicator and community builder with more than 20 years of experience empowering organizations from the inside out. As Lead, Internal Communications at the Toronto Police Service, she engages and inspires over 8,000 members, helping them stay connected to a shared purpose. Her career progressively senior roles at KPMG, RBC, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, and The Home Depot of Canada, all grounded in fostering connection, clarity, and growth.

A dedicated volunteer, Evelyn has supported organizations such as 5n2 Soup Kitchens, United Way, and Canadian Blood Services, and has mentored youth, young adults, and peers through various initiatives. She believes strength is born through struggle, a truth learned through seasons of challenge and growth, grounded in her faith, and reflected in how she leads with resilience, empathy, and heart. Evelyn is most fulfilled when helping people rise, rebuild, and reach their full potential at work and in life.



Bakari Savage

Bakari Savage is an afternoon anchor and LIVE at Five, and evening co-anchor for CP24, based in Toronto.

Savage's tenure with CP24 began July of 2021. Savage has reported on a multitude of high-profile stories in the city, including CP24's coverage of the inaugural visit of Mary Simon, Canada's first Indigenous Governor General, to Queen's Park in 2022; an exclusive interview with Adam Attala, the teen hero who saved children from a burning home in Mississauga; the deadly Father's Day 2022 shootings in the GTA; and the Uxbridge tornado.

Savage is a 2020-2021 Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellow, through The Carter Center, spending the year documenting the effects of Covid-19 isolation on the psyche of tweens and teens, young and middle-aged adults alike. This designation is the culmination of almost a decade of work as a broadcast journalist, most recently as a reporter for WBRC Fox 6 News, in his hometown of Birmingham, Ala., Ground Zero of the American Civil Rights Movement. During his tenure there, Savage was also host of the lifestyle segment, "Magic City Weekend," showcasing the best restaurants, bars and entertainment around the city.

In addition to previous fellowships with SciLine, learning to better work with scientists on how to cover adolescent health, and the University of South Carolina's School of Law Media Law School, learning to better understand and ask key legal questions, Savage's work includes stints as an anchor and reporter for "Good Day Carolinas" at Fox 46 WJZY in Charlotte, N.C. and "The Morning Show" with Independent station WJXT in Jacksonville, Fla. His broadcast journalism career began at CBS affiliate KNOE in Monroe, La., before moving up to the NBC affiliate KARK in Little Rock, Ark. and jumping to News 13 in Orlando.

Before those roles, Savage spent a few years in corporate America. Savage started as an account coordinator in PR Newswire's Los Angeles office, and was promoted to account manager in the San Francisco, Calif. office.

Continuing his civic onus, Savage is a Board Member for On River Time, a non-profit organization

which works to interrupt the cycle of abuse and neglect through programming, which includes fly-fishing, and scholarship, and CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), a non-profit organization driven to change what it is to be blind today. Savage graduated from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, with a double major in Communication Studies and Political Science. Savage is a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity where he is a Life Loyal Sig. Savage is also a member of the Canadian Association of Black Journalists (CABJ) and the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). He moved to Toronto from the U.S. in 2020, to marry his wife, Jamie. Savage speaks English and conversational Italian.

Peter Butler III - Rose Fortune Scholarship Program

A.B.L.E. is committed to ensuring that the criminal justice system reflects the entire Canadian mosaic by providing opportunities for our young people to serve, protect, and contribute to correction. Accordingly, A.B.L.E. will contribute funds towards the tuition fees of each successful candidate pursuing post-secondary education in one of the following areas of study:

- Law Enforcement / Law and Security
- Correctional Worker Program
- Law and Criminal Justice Studies
- Police Foundation Studies
- Criminology



Selection Criteria and Required Documents

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on academic achievement, community service and financial need. An interview will be conducted to determine eligibility. A.B.L.E. determines the scholarship amounts on an annual basis.

To be considered by A.B.L.E., the candidate must:

- Be attending or planning to attend an accredited College or University.
- Provide proof of acceptance or present status at an accredited College or University.
- Provide transcripts of current academic standing.
- Provide a letter of support from a community agency or organization where volunteer work was, or is, being done.
- Submit an essay of 450-500 words on one of the following topics:
    1. Describe your voluntary service to the community.
    2. Why have you chosen your particular field of study, and how will your chosen career make a positive contribution to society?
    3. Why should you be selected as an A.B.L.E. award recipient?
- Candidates must be of good moral character and habits.
- Applications and the required supporting letters and documents must be received by A.B.L.E. on or before the deadline, which is determined on a yearly basis.

To obtain application packages, please contact the Student Services Department within your school or call the A.B.L.E. hotline at (905) 669-3905. Packages become available for distribution in the schools during September of each year.



Peter Butler III
1859 – 1943

Peter Butler III was born in Lucan, Ontario, in 1859. In 1883, he became a member of the Middlesex County Police, where he served as a tough but fair county constable. In 1913, he joined the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and retired in 1936 after fifty years of policing.

Although some of his town's British immigrants objected to a Black police officer, Butler quickly gained their respect. Known to carry a gun only when transporting prisoners to jail in London or chasing cattle rustlers, he was a deadly shot who maintained a personal collection of 38-calibre guns.

Constable Peter Butler III died in 1943. In his honour, dignitaries from the county and the province, as well as guests from the United States, attended his funeral. Six OPP officers followed the casket to the family plot on Sauble Hill.



Rose Fortune
1774 – 1864

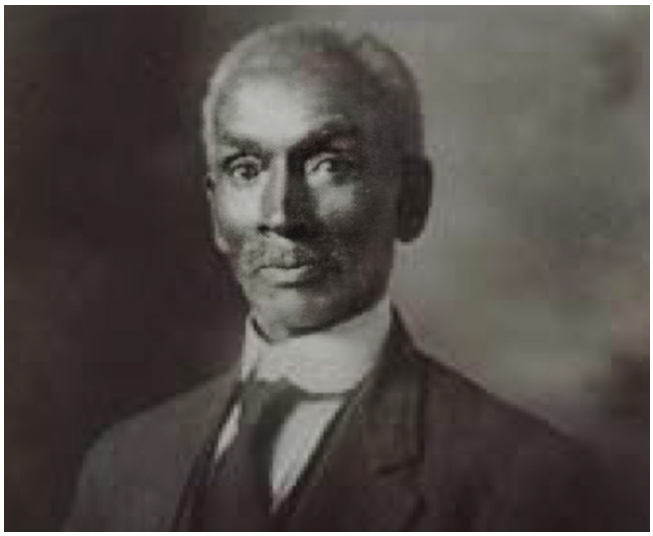
Rose Fortune was born into slavery in the southern United States in 1774. Ms. Fortune was owned by the Devone Family. As loyalist refugees, they made their way to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, following the American Revolution.

In the latter part of the 1700s, Ms. Fortune appointed herself policewoman for the area. Ms. Fortune was especially known for spanking local mischief-makers and rousing local dignitaries from their beds.

It is believed that Rose Fortune was Canada's first female law enforcer, welcomed by rich and poor alike. She was also well knownabout the town as the founder of one of Annapolis Royal's first cartage companies.

Rose Fortune gained her freedom in Annapolis and died in 1864 at the age of 90.

Learning Our Roots



Constable Anthony Banks

In 1881, Anthony Wellington Banks became the first Black male police constable and game warden in Ontario (and possibly in Canada) when he was appointed by S.S. McDonnell, the Crown Attorney of Essex County. Born in Colchester, South, Essex, Ontario, Canada, on June 9, 1840, he was the son of Irwin Banks, an escaped slave from the United States (Ohio) who fled that country and came to Canada to be free, and Esther Fields of Amherstburg, Canada.

Constable Banks served in his policing role for over 25 years. He married Susan Simpson, and they had 14 children. His son, Walter, also served as a County Constable and lived in Colchester. Constable Banks died on October 17, 1929, at the age of 89.

Credit to Amherstburg Freedom Museum





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Scholarship Recipients



Favor Solomon

Sponsored by Aaliyah Edwards - YouGotKnext Inc

Favor Solomon is a driven scholar, mentor, and advocate dedicated to advancing equity and representation within Canada's justice system. Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, French, and International Development at the University of Toronto, Favor combines academic excellence with a strong commitment to community service and empowerment.

Her passion for justice was shaped by a formative internship under a Black female lawyer who shared her experience navigating systemic barriers within law. That mentorship solidified Favor's resolve to pursue a career in the legal field, one focused on ensuring that Black voices are not only heard but influential in shaping change.

As Director of Exploration of Law with the University of Toronto Political Science Association, Favor mentors underrepresented Black students, helping them explore legal careers and access professional networks. Beyond campus, she founded a tutoring business offering affordable educational support to Black elementary students and serves as a Content Creator with the Eritrean Professionals Mentoring Network, where she highlights mentorship and career opportunities for youth across Canada.

Inspired by her family's story of perseverance as Ethiopian immigrants, Favor is deeply motivated to create a justice system that is more equitable, accessible, and inclusive. Her work reflects both intellect and compassion, an enduring commitment to opening doors for others and to use education as a foundation for meaningful social change.



Gabrielle Forbes-Cultess

Sponsored by the Toronto Police Service

Gabrielle Forbes-Cultess is a Social Psychology major at McMaster University, also pursuing a certificate in Leadership in the Not-for-Profit Sector to strengthen her capacity to make meaningful contributions within her community. Following the loss of her father at a young age, Gabrielle found support in after-school programs, an experience that ignited her lifelong passion for mentorship, service, and giving back.

Her leadership journey began in high school through the Durham Regional Police Youth in Policing (YIP) Program, where she helped organize community events, raised over $4,100 for the Coldest Night of the Year campaign, and co-led the IMPACT Youth Forum, which brought together more than 300 youth for conversations on empowerment and inclusion.

At McMaster, Gabrielle continues her dedication to youth development through volunteer work with local after-school programs in Hamilton and her role as a Community Advisor, where she mentors first-year students and promotes mental wellness and belonging. Her compassion and initiative have made her a trusted peer leader known for her ability to listen, encourage, and uplift others.

Despite personal challenges, including her mother's ongoing recovery from a stroke, Gabrielle's determination and optimism remain unshaken. She continues to balance academics, work, and volunteerism with grace and persistence. Her long-term goal is to pursue a career in community engagement within law enforcement, helping bridge the gap between police and youth through trust and education.

Gabrielle Forbes-Cultess is a testament to resilience and purpose, a young leader devoted to turning empathy into action and adversity into inspiration for others.

Scholarship Recipients



Keren Harrison

Sponsored by Dr. Lancelot Brown

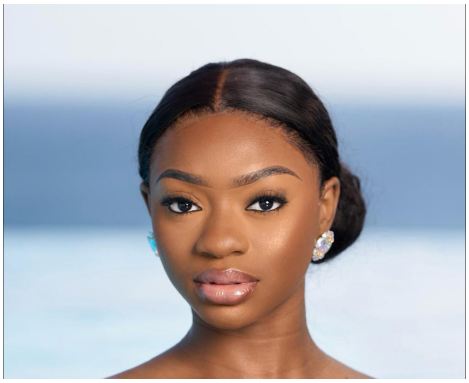
Keren Harrison is a law student, community advocate, and founder whose work bridges the gap between policy, justice, and representation. Born in Ghana and raised in North America, Keren's personal journey toward reclaiming her cultural identity shaped her determination to create meaningful change for marginalized communities through law and advocacy.

At nineteen, Keren co-founded the Black Inclusion Association (BIA) in Alberta, a youth-led nonprofit dedicated to addressing systemic inequities affecting Black Canadians. Under her leadership, the organization achieved incorporation status, launched bursary programs supporting post-secondary applicants, and developed anti-racism and inclusion workshops across education, health, and workplace sectors. She also founded Be Proud: The Intersection Between Blackness and Queerness, an annual forum amplifying LGBTQ2SIA+ voices within Black communities.

Keren's leadership extends nationally. As a former board member of the Foundation for Black Communities' Grant Advisory Council, she helped advance the creation of a historic $200 million endowment to address funding inequities for Black-led organizations in Canada. She has also volunteered with her church's refugee women's outreach program, helping newcomers access essential services and rebuild their lives with dignity.

Through her work with the Canadian Bar Association, Keren organized community legal education sessions for Black newcomers and youth, making immigration and justice processes more accessible. Her unwavering belief that the law should serve as a tool for empowerment defines her academic and professional vision.

Rooted in compassion, intellect, and purpose, Keren Harrison embodies the spirit of A.B.L.E.'s mission, advancing justice, equity, and representation for the next generation of Black leaders in Canada.



Zidania Phillip

Sponsored by Ontario Provincial Police

For Zidania Phillip, higher education is more than personal achievement, it is a means of creating lasting change. A criminology student at Brock University, Zidania is driven by a deep sense of purpose to make the law a tool for equity, dignity, and justice. Her studies have allowed her to examine the social and systemic roots of crime, shaping her vision to pursue criminal law and advocate for those whose voices too often go unheard.

Active on campus and in her community, Zidania is a member of the Black Student Success Centre (BSSC), where she helped organize Brock's Back-to-School BBQ, fostering connection and belonging among Black students. Beyond Canada, she volunteered in St. Kitts and Nevis, tutoring students in English and supporting local education initiatives, an experience that reinforced her belief in mentorship and service as pathways to empowerment.

Described by peers as intellectually curious, compassionate, and resilient, a natural leader who combines academic excellence with empathy and initiative. Whether advocating for marginalized communities, supporting youth, or shaping future policy, Zidania Phillip exemplifies the promise of A.B.L.E.'s next generation of changemakers: courageous, committed, and ready to make justice accessible for all.



Ashley McDonald

Sponsored by Dr. Sheridan Cyrus Dentistry

Ashley McDonald is a proud graduate of St. Joseph's Morrow Park Catholic Secondary School and an emerging leader whose passion for justice, empowerment, and representation defines her journey. This winter, she will begin her studies in the Police Foundations program at Niagara College, furthering her goal of serving her community through leadership and integrity.

Recognized by both the Toronto Police Service Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI), where she was honoured as valedictorian, and the Catholic District School Board for her exceptional service, Ashley has demonstrated a remarkable ability to inspire others. As leader of her school's Afro-Caribbean Club, she organized workshops, guest speaker events, and cultural initiatives that celebrated Black identity and encouraged her peers to take pride in their heritage.

Outside of school, Ashley's commitment to community shines through her volunteerism with NGOs, youth summer programs, and outreach projects for families in need. These experiences have shaped her understanding of the social challenges young people face and strengthened her resolve to be part of lasting change.
As she prepares to enter the field of law enforcement, Ashley hopes to help rebuild trust between youth and police through fairness, empathy, and accountability. She envisions a future where Black youth are empowered to lead, contribute, and thrive without fear or limitation.

Ashley McDonald stands as a voice of hope and possibility, committed to transforming her passion for justice into meaningful impact within her community and beyond.



Selina Tesfay

Sponsored by the Toronto Police Association

Selina Tesfay is a dedicated student and youth advocate whose journey from Child and Youth Care to criminology reflects both courage and conviction. A proud Humber College graduate, Selina's early work with community organizations, nonprofits, and the Toronto Catholic District School Board shaped her belief that true rehabilitation begins with compassion and consistency.

Her time working in the youth justice sector, specifically at an open custody facility, proved transformative. There, Selina discovered her natural ability to connect with young people society often overlooks. Through patience, humour, and empathy, she built trust with youth who had been dismissed as "too far gone." Moments of mentorship, teaching self-advocacy or reminding them of their worth, revealed the quiet power of listening and planting seeds of change.

Beyond her professional and volunteer roles, Selina serves her community through the Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) as a Youth Program Facilitator Assistant, supporting youth programs, mentoring participants, and helping organize events that celebrate Black identity and community resilience. Her supervisors commend her for her professionalism, empathy, and ability to create spaces of belonging for every participant.

Now pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Criminology, Selina hopes to continue her work within the justice system, bringing humanity, advocacy, and integrity to every interaction. As the first university student in her family, she carries her accomplishments with humility and purpose, committed to helping others find hope where it is hardest to see.

Selina Tesfay exemplifies resilience and heart, a future justice professional guided not only by principle, but by her unwavering belief that every young person deserves to be seen, supported, and given a chance to succeed.

Scholarship Recipients



Kamesha Wint

Sponsored by the Humber Polytechnic

Kamesha Wint is a determined and compassionate student whose journey embodies resilience, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to justice. Currently pursuing an Honours Bachelor of Applied Science in Justice Studies and a Diploma in Police Foundations at the University of Guelph-Humber, she is dedicated to understanding and improving rehabilitation and reintegration within the criminal justice system.

Kamesha's passion for law began at an early age, one rooted in curiosity and a deep sense of fairness. What started as childhood imagination has since evolved into a focused pursuit of helping those navigating life after incarceration. Her philosophy is clear: rehabilitation does not end at the facility gate; it continues through reintegration and community support.

Before returning to school, Kamesha built a successful career in retail, developing essential skills in communication, empathy, and conflict resolution. When her company closed in 2023, she embraced the opportunity for change, enrolling full-time in Community and Justice Services at Humber College. Her courage to start anew led to academic excellence, earning her both the Academic of Excellence Award and Honours upon graduation.

Now continuing her studies at Guelph-Humber, Kamesha remains driven by a desire to empower vulnerable individuals rebuilding their lives with dignity. She plans to pursue a career in rehabilitation and reintegration, developing programs that support long-term success and reduce recidivism.

Her professors describe her as a student of exceptional character, disciplined, insightful, and compassionate. Through perseverance and faith, Kamesha Wint has turned challenges into catalysts for growth and now stands as a powerful example of what dedication and purpose can achieve.



Brooke Maslen Burke

Sponsored by the Toronto Police Service Board

Brooke Maslen Burke's passion for justice, equity, and community empowerment drives her pursuit of a degree in Political Science, French, and International Development. Her studies reflect a lifelong curiosity about how public policy, education, and culture shape opportunity, particularly for communities facing systemic barriers. She hopes to continue this work through a Master of Global Affairs at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, advancing inclusive policy that uplifts marginalized voices.

As Site Lead at BGC Durham, Brooke mentor's children aged five to twelve, many from Black and newcomer communities. For more than four years, she has provided stability, guidance, and encouragement, helping youth recognize their strengths and leadership potential. Her commitment to mentorship stems from her own upbringing, raised by a strong Jamaican mother whose resilience and courage continue to inspire Brooke's dedication to empowering young Black women.

Beyond her community work, Brooke serves as Vice-President and Director of Events for the Sports Business Students Association, creating opportunities for students to connect with professionals and fostering inclusive leadership on campus. Through her academic excellence, service, and mentorship, Brooke exemplifies the values of perseverance, purpose, and leadership that define the spirit of A.B.L.E.



Kelly Fuh

Sponsored by Waterloo Regional Police

Kelly Fuh is a dedicated community advocate whose work bridges the fields of social work, equity, and public safety. A proud mother and emerging professional, she believes that true safety begins with dignity, care, and early intervention, principles that guide every aspect of her service.

Holding a Social Service Worker Diploma and a degree in Social Development Studies, Kelly approaches community well-being through both a human and systemic lens. Her academic training in psychology, sociology, and public policy enables her to see how poverty, racism, and trauma shape people's experiences, and how compassionate, culturally responsive care can restore stability and trust.

At MAREAS Therapeutic Services, where she is completing her practicum, Kelly supports trauma-informed and culturally safe counselling for youth and families. She helps clients navigate complex systems, from housing and income supports to safety planning and mental-health referrals, while collaborating with schools, clinicians, and community agencies to ensure holistic care.

Her vision for the future is clear: to expand diversion and prevention initiatives that connect people to support before crisis occurs. Kelly plans to develop cross-agency crisis-response models that pair social workers with law-enforcement officers, enhance trauma-informed pathways to treatment, and integrate harm-reduction practices that make public spaces safer for all.

Balancing parenthood, full-time studies, and community work, Kelly exemplifies perseverance and purpose. She views this scholarship not simply as recognition, but as a shared investment in building systems that treat people with fairness, compassion, and humanity.

Kelly Fuh represents a new generation of social-justice professionals, leaders who understand that lasting public safety is built through empathy, collaboration, and care.



Mya Iriah

Sponsored by Marshall Workplace Law

As a first-year law student at the University of Windsor and team captain of the Windsor Women's Basketball Team, Mya Iriah has emerged as a powerful voice for equity and inclusion, both on and off the court. Her advocacy journey began when she challenged a discriminatory uniform rule that disproportionately impacted Black women athletes. Refusing to remain silent, Mya and her teammates successfully overturned the policy, setting a precedent that has inspired reform at provincial and national levels.

Motivated by this experience, Mya co-founded the Black Student-Athlete Association at Windsor to ensure representation, mentorship, and belonging for Black student-athletes. She also helped organize the Shoot for Change charity games, raising funds for anti-Black racism initiatives, and collaborates with the Black Scholars Lounge to strengthen academic support networks for Black students.

Her leadership extends far beyond sport. As an Emerging BIPOC Leader with Inclusion Sport Canada, Mya promotes Black representation in sport leadership nationwide. She has also served as a Victim-Witness Services Case Worker at the Ontario and Superior Courts of Windsor, supporting survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence from marginalized communities.

Now pursuing a career in law, Mya remains devoted to championing equity and justice for underrepresented communities. Her drive, integrity, and advocacy embody the spirit of A.B.L.E. leadership rooted in courage, compassion, and meaningful change.

About the A.B.L.E. Awards



In 2023, the A.B.L.E. Board of Directors announced a new set of awards to be presented on an annual basis. These include:

Rising Star Award
Recognizes an individual with less than 10 years of work experience, but who has demonstrated excellence in their field, exemplifying professionalism, dedication and teamwork.

Community Leadership Award
Recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond to serve their community. An ambassador of their profession and a role model who made a tremendous impact on the community they serve.

Teamwork Award
Recognizes a team that has performed exceptionally well in the execution of a project, initiative, program or a specific task or assignment significantly impacting their organization.

Leadership Excellence Award
Recognizes an individual who has displayed exemplary professionalism over many years. This individual is renowned within their organization as a leader, possessing a high degree of integrity, commitment, and courage.

Program Innovation Award
Recognizes an individual who has created, developed or led an initiative that has contributed to public safety, job improvement or enhanced community engagement and relations.

Trailblazer Award
Recognizes an individual who is a pioneer in their career and has made significant contributions to their organization.

Legacy Award
Recognizes an individual who has made a profound and lasting contribution to law enforcement over an extended period. This individual has left an indelible mark on their organization and community.

President Award
This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication and commitment to the goals and objectives of A.B.L.E. The recipient of this award is a leader who consistently goes above and beyond to positively influence the community and the law enforcement landscape in Canada. This individual serves with passion, strives for excellence and makes a difference to the lives of many.

Rising Star Award Recipient



Staff Sergeant Mishael Yearwood

Staff Sergeant Mishael Yearwood of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) exemplifies the drive, professionalism, and leadership that define a true rising star in law enforcement. His steady rise through the ranks reflects a combination of determination, integrity, and a deep commitment to mentorship, inclusion, and community service.

After earning a Diploma in Police Foundations from Durham College in 2014 and a Certificate in Advanced Law Enforcement and Investigations in 2015, Staff Sergeant Yearwood joined the OPP as a Collision Reporting Centre Clerk. His dedication and strong work ethic quickly led to his appointment as a Provincial Constable in 2016, assigned to the Highway Safety Division, Toronto Detachment.

From his earliest days in uniform, Staff Sergeant Yearwood distinguished himself as a natural mentor and positive influence. His volunteer work with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada reflected his belief in giving back and empowering youth to overcome challenges and strive for success. That same spirit of mentorship and encouragement continues to guide his leadership within the OPP.

In 2020, he transitioned to the Divisional Crime Unit as a Detective Constable, where he expanded his investigative skills through complex casework and Joint Forces Operations. His professionalism and strong analytical abilities have quickly earned him recognition as an emerging leader.

By February 2024, he was promoted to Area Crime Detective Sergeant within the Highway Safety Division, where he led judicial authorization workshops and seminars to strengthen officers' confidence and enhance collaboration with Crown Attorneys and justice partners. His efforts elevated investigative standards and reinforced the OPP's commitment to fairness, accountability, and excellence.

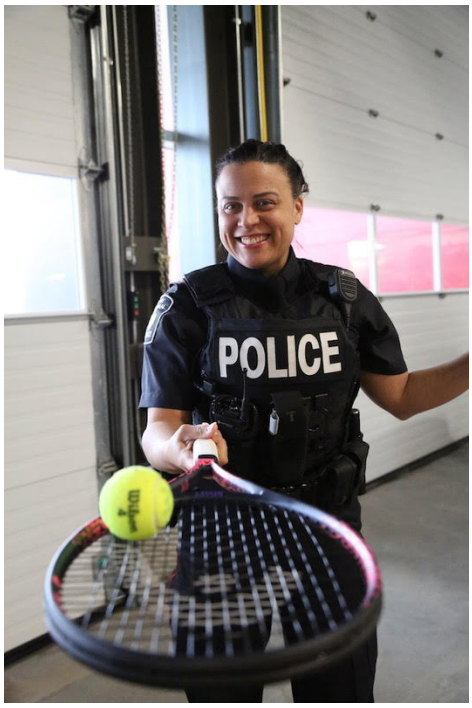
In May 2025, Staff Sergeant Yearwood reached a major milestone with his promotion to Uniform Recruitment Staff Sergeant within the Career Development Bureau. In this role, he helps shape the next generation of OPP officers, championing diversity, professionalism, and personal growth. His leadership philosophy is rooted in humility and empowerment, leading by example while creating opportunities for others to thrive.

Beyond his formal duties, Staff Sergeant Yearwood is deeply involved in community engagement and inclusion initiatives. He serves on the Highway Safety Division Inclusion Council, the Office of Professionalism, Respect, Inclusion, and Leadership, and participates in numerous community-based volunteer efforts. Whether revitalizing local churches, assisting with charity events, or organizing neighbourhood improvement projects, his actions reflect a genuine commitment to connection and compassion.

Colleagues describe Staff Sergeant Yearwood as approachable, humble, and motivating, a leader who invests in others' success. His mentorship has guided officers toward new training, advancement, and leadership opportunities, fostering a culture of growth and excellence within the Service.

Through every role, Staff Sergeant Mishael Yearwood has embodied the values of service, perseverance, and integrity. His passion for policing, his dedication to professional development, and his ability to uplift others make him a shining example of what it means to be a Rising Star in law enforcement.

Community Leadership Award Recipient



Constable Dezy Jones

Constable Dezy Jones of the York Regional Police (YRP) exemplifies the spirit of community leadership through her unwavering commitment to inclusion, collaboration, and service. Throughout her career, Constable Jones has built meaningful bridges between law enforcement and the diverse communities of York Region, leading with empathy, professionalism, and a deep respect for others.

Assigned to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Bureau, Constable Jones has been a driving force behind programs that advance understanding and foster trust between police and the communities they serve. Her work has been instrumental in strengthening relationships with newcomers, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ members, and youth from all backgrounds. Through her leadership, she has created spaces for authentic dialogue and collaboration, ensuring that every individual feels seen, heard, and valued.

Her commitment to outreach is evident in initiatives like the York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities (YRAACC) Saturday programs, which bridge the gap between Black youth and law enforcement. Her mentorship encourages young people to make positive choices and consider careers in policing, helping to shape the next generation of leaders.

In March 2024, Constable Jones organized the groundbreaking event "Know Your Police Through the Sport of Road Tennis" in partnership with Gauntlet Road Tennis Inc. and the YMCA. Using sport as a vehicle for social connection, this initiative brought together officers and community members to learn and play the Barbadian-origin sport of road tennis, fostering cultural exchange, teamwork, and mutual respect.

Continuing her mission to build inclusive communities, Constable Jones launched First Responders Week, a collaboration between YRP, EMS, and Fire Services from Markham, Vaughan, and Central York. Over several weeks, these agencies visited York Region Welcome Centres to engage newcomers, share safety information, and break down barriers between first responders and new Canadians. More than 2,000 participants took part, many expressing how the experience reshaped their perceptions of policing in Canada.

In November 2024, Constable Jones hosted the Human Rights Gala at the Community Safety Village, celebrating eleven youth from diverse communities for their contributions to human rights and social justice. The event highlighted the importance of civic engagement and representation while reinforcing YRP's commitment to equity and inclusion.

Outside of her professional role, Constable Jones continues to serve the community through volunteerism, teaching women's boxing classes at the YMCA to promote confidence and self-defence, and supporting Temple Har-Zion in Thornhill, where she helps prepare and distribute meals to those in need.

For her remarkable service and civic leadership, Constable Jones has been formally recognized for advancing inclusion, promoting civic responsibility, and driving sustainable change.

With integrity, compassion, and vision, Constable Dezy Jones embodies the essence of the Community Leadership Award, a dedicated officer whose efforts have strengthened trust, empowered communities, and inspired hope across York Region.

Teamwork Award Recipient



Toronto Police Service – In-Service Training Program Staff

A dedicated group of police and civilian educators at the Toronto Police College are transforming the way policing is taught, empowering thousands of officers to learn through the principles of cultural humility, critical thinking, and authentic community perspective.

The In-Service Training Program Staff, Donna Scantlebury, John O'Dell, Cara-Lyn Giacomini, Jennifer Dekezel, and Stephanie Nassis are being honoured with the Teamwork Award for their collective excellence in advancing professional development across the Toronto Police Service (TPS).

Each year, this exceptional team delivers training to officers from Constable to Staff Sergeant as part of TPS's annual In-Service Training Program. Their work has modernized police education, introducing curriculum that reflects today's social realities and emphasizes inclusion, cultural awareness, and officer wellness.

Among the courses developed by the team are Centering Black Experiences, The Indigenous Experience, Policing with Cultural Humility, and Police Resiliency (Mental Health). These programs encourage officers to examine their own biases, engage with diverse perspectives, and approach their work with greater empathy and understanding.

The Policing with Cultural Humility course defines humility as "a lifelong process of self-reflection, self-critique, and commitment to understanding and respecting different points of view, while engaging with others humbly, authentically, and from a place of learning." Officers are provided with tangible tools to manage bias, improve decision-making, and strengthen relationships with the communities they serve.

Courses like Centering Black Experiences and Indigenous Allyship guide officers through Canada's historical and cultural context exploring the effects of systemic inequities and intergenerational trauma on trust in policing. By applying trauma-informed and allyship-based approaches, officers learn to build bridges that foster healing, equity, and inclusion.

The team also addresses the evolving role of social media in policing, equipping officers to navigate public scrutiny and digital engagement with professionalism and integrity. Through the Police Resiliency program, participants gain strategies to maintain mental health, manage occupational stress, and sustain emotional well-being.

Together, these instructors have brought police education into the 21st century, redefining how officers connect with the communities they serve. Their innovative, community-centred approach has earned widespread praise from participants, many of whom describe the training as "eye-opening" and "transformative."

Through collaboration, creativity, and shared purpose, Donna Scantlebury, John O'Dell, Cara-Lyn Giacomini, Jennifer Dekezel, and Stephanie Nassis exemplify true teamwork. Their work continues to shape a more empathetic, informed, and accountable Toronto Police Service, leaving a lasting impact on both officers and the communities they protect.

Leadership Excellence Award Recipient



Sergeant Ozzie Nethersole

Sergeant Nethersole of the London Police Service (LPS) exemplifies what it means to lead with heart, integrity, and courage. A respected figure in both the policing community and the city he serves, Sergeant Nethersole's leadership reflects compassion, professionalism, and a deep commitment to the well-being of others.

As a Sergeant in the Community Foot Patrol Unit, he plays a vital role in building trust between law enforcement and residents. Known for his calm presence and approachable nature, Sergeant Nethersole leads by example, mentoring colleagues, guiding new officers, and ensuring that every interaction with the public is grounded in respect and empathy.

Beyond his operational leadership, Sergeant Nethersole has been a steadfast advocate for officer wellness. For over 15 years, he has served on the London Police Association Board, holding the position of Vice President since 2011 and stepping in as Interim President in 2024–2025. Through these roles, he has been a leading voice for mental health awareness and support, ensuring that wellness remains central to the Service's culture. His compassion is evident in countless acts of care, checking in with members after critical incidents, mobilizing resources for those in crisis, and providing comfort in moments of tragedy.

Integrity, empathy, and moral courage define Sergeant Nethersole's leadership. He is known for his discretion, his ability to listen without judgment, and his unwavering commitment to doing what is right, even when it means challenging convention. His advocacy has helped shape more inclusive and supportive workplace policies and inspired a generation of officers to lead with empathy and purpose.

As a Black police leader, Sergeant Nethersole continues to challenge stereotypes and foster understanding through his visibility and example. Whether serving as a mentor to young officers or hosting community events such as London's Black History Month celebrations, he uses his platform to promote unity and strengthen relationships between police and the public.

Sergeant Nethersole's positivity and energy are infectious qualities that uplift those around him and foster resilience within his team. Colleagues describe him as "impossible to keep up with," a testament to his relentless drive to serve others and improve the culture of policing from within. His leadership has been measured not only by results but by the trust, hope, and confidence he inspires in others.

Sergeant Nethersole embodies the essence of the Leadership Excellence Award, a servant leader whose compassion, integrity, and commitment to others have left an indelible mark on his colleagues, his community, and the future of Canadian law enforcement.

Program Innovation Award Recipient



Superintendent Donovan Locke

Superintendent Donovan Locke of the Toronto Police Service (TPS) is being honoured with the Program Innovation Award for his visionary leadership and transformative approach to community safety through the creation of the Community Safety Hub (CSH) initiative at Fairview Mall and the Shops at Don Mills.

Launched in 2025 under Superintendent Locke's direction, the Community Safety Hubs mark a bold reimagining of community policing, shifting from an enforcement-first model toward one grounded in prevention, education, and collaboration. Designed as non-enforcement, walk-in spaces, the hubs provide residents with access to safety education, service referrals, and community support in a welcoming, stigma-free environment.

Strategically located in high-traffic retail centres, the hubs are accessible and visible, connecting the public to key partners such as SafeTO, youth and senior support programs, and victim services. Through interactive technology, QR-code resources, and feedback kiosks, community members can engage directly with police, sharing insights that shape continuous improvement.

Under Superintendent Locke's leadership, the hubs have become focal points for prevention-focused programming, from youth micro-workshops and senior safety sessions to impaired driving campaigns and traffic safety pop-ups. His collaborative work with retailers and community organizations has strengthened relationships and fostered lasting trust across Toronto's diverse neighbourhoods.

The impact has been profound. Crime has declined in both hub areas, with reductions in shoplifting, auto theft, and robberies. Walk-in visits and community referrals continue to grow, and public feedback shows increased confidence and feelings of safety. Monthly safety roundtables with retail partners have also led to practical environmental design improvements and stronger communication.

Superintendent Locke's leadership has redefined public-private collaboration in policing. The initiative's success has been formally recognized by Cadillac Fairview, the property partner for the Fairview Mall hub, which praised its positive transformation of community safety partnerships. Other major retailers have expressed interest in replicating the model at their locations, citing its measurable success and community impact.

The initiative is recognized as a low-cost, scalable, and replicable model for urban community safety, the Community Safety Hub initiative has the potential to serve as a national and international best practice in modern policing.

Through his servant leadership, strategic foresight, and unwavering dedication to both officers and citizens, Superintendent Donovan Locke has redefined what authentic community engagement looks like in law enforcement. His innovative approach has built stronger, safer, and more connected communities, setting a new standard for modern policing rooted in trust, empathy, and collaboration.

Trailblazer Award Recipient



Trishann Pascal

With more than two decades of distinguished service at the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), Trishann Pascal stands as a powerful example of integrity, professionalism, and transformative leadership. Her 21-year career is a testament to perseverance and purpose — a journey that began in 2004 as a Student Border Officer and has since advanced to her current position as second in command of the CBSA's largest operational region.

In 2024, Ms. Pascal achieved a historic milestone when she was personally appointed by the CBSA President as the Agency's first Executive Director for Combating Firearm Smuggling. In this pivotal national role, she leads Canada's efforts to identify, target, and interdict illicit firearms entering the country. Her leadership spans multiple operational portfolios, coordinating with key domestic and international partners, and representing Canada in bilateral discussions with the United States on border security and sovereignty.

Since March 2023, Ms. Pascal has also served as Executive Director for the Greater Toronto Area Region (GTAR), overseeing approximately 2,600 employees and managing an annual budget exceeding $247 million. Her leadership ensures operational excellence across complex regional environments, where she directs enforcement, immigration, and inspection services at one of the busiest border regions in the country.

Ms. Pascal's career includes an impressive succession of leadership roles, including Director of Immigration Enforcement Operations, where she managed Canada's largest regulatory law enforcement division, and Director of Outports and Postal Operations, overseeing aviation, marine, and postal facilities throughout Southern Ontario. She was instrumental in the development of the CBSA's Alternative to Detention Framework, which balances national security priorities with compassionate and effective case management.

Her exceptional service has earned her numerous accolades, including the Regional Director General Award for Excellence in Partnership (2021), Director's Awards for Leadership, Teamwork, and Dedication (2017–2019), and a CSIS Award for Excellence in Enforcement Partnership (2014) each underscoring her sustained commitment to innovation, collaboration, and public trust.

Beyond her professional achievements, Ms. Pascal is deeply dedicated to mentorship and the advancement of emerging leaders. As the Executive Champion of the CBSA's Emerging Leaders Network, she empowers employees across the agency to grow with confidence, integrity, and purpose. Her leadership style, rooted in empathy, transparency, and collaboration, continues to inspire colleagues across all levels of the public service.

Through her unwavering dedication to public safety, innovation, and inclusion, Trishann Pascal continues to break barriers and pave the way for women and racialized professionals in law enforcement. Her career reflects the very essence of A.B.L.E.'s mission, strength through struggle, leadership through service, and excellence through example.

Trailblazer Award Recipient



Abeid Morgan

Abeid Morgan, a senior leader with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), stands as a pioneering force in Canadian law enforcement. As the first Black Chief of Operations in CBSA history, he has redefined leadership through innovation, strategic foresight, and a steadfast commitment to equity, integrity, and public safety. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Morgan has been instrumental in developing and leading national security initiatives that protect Canadians and strengthen border integrity. Among his most notable achievements is the creation of the Ontario Firearms Smuggling Enforcement Team and the Ontario Firearms Strategy (OFS) in 2021. This groundbreaking initiative united the Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto Police Service, Criminal Intelligence Service Ontario, and U.S. agencies including Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Under his operational leadership, the team has seized nearly 100 illegal firearms, hundreds of suppressors, thousands of prohibited components, and dismantled multiple trafficking networks.

In August 2025, Mr. Morgan was appointed Executive Lead, expanding the OFS program through deeper collaboration with U.S. partners. His leadership has since evolved the initiative into a bi-national, intelligence-driven enforcement model, now recognized as a benchmark for cross-border firearm interdiction and cooperation.

A true trailblazer, Mr. Morgan has also been at the forefront of efforts to combat human trafficking. As Assistant Director of Criminal Investigations in the Greater Toronto Area beginning in 2018, he led operations that rescued nearly 150 victims of forced labour and exploitation. His expertise helped shape the CBSA's national anti-trafficking strategy, fostering collaboration with provincial task forces and international law enforcement partners. From 2020 to 2023, he served as a Teaching Fellow at the RCMP Canadian Police College, where he developed the border enforcement module for the Human Trafficking for Investigators course, training officers nationwide.

In 2021, Mr. Morgan was appointed Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Labour Human Trafficking Working Group, coordinating eight federal departments in advancing Canada's National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking (2019–2024). His leadership has strengthened interdepartmental collaboration and enhanced operational readiness across multiple jurisdictions.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Morgan made history at Toronto Pearson International Airport by launching the Refugee, Admissibility and Eligibility Unit (RAEU)—the first of its kind in Canada. The model improved real-time refugee claim processing while upholding national security priorities. Its success informed Canada's 2017 response to irregular border crossings and established best practices that remain in use today.

Through every chapter of his career, Abeid Morgan has embodied the essence of a trailblazer, achieved excellence while paving the way for others to follow. His courage to innovate, his commitment to justice, and his unwavering dedication to service have not only strengthened Canada's border and public safety systems but also inspired the next generation of law enforcement leaders.

Legacy Award Recipient



Detective Sergeant Ronald Boyce

The late Detective Sergeant Ronald Boyce #3267 is remembered as a pillar of leadership, mentorship, and integrity whose 39-year career with the Toronto Police Service (TPS) left an enduring legacy of service and humanity.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Detective Sergeant Boyce immigrated to Canada in 1969, where he was raised in Toronto and embraced a lifelong commitment to public service. After post-secondary studies at Seneca College, the University of Guelph-Humber, and Brock University, he began his professional journey at the Consulate General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago before joining the Toronto Police Service in 1986.

Throughout his distinguished career, Detective Sergeant Boyce earned numerous awards recognizing professionalism, leadership, and excellence, including the TPS Award Commendation, Exemplary Service Medal, Police Officer of the Month, and several Unit Commander Awards. Yet, his greatest legacy lives in the people he mentored, the communities he served, and the bridges he built between law enforcement and the public.

As a passionate advocate for mentorship, Detective Sergeant Boyce served as Coaching and Mentoring Lead for the Black Internal Support Network (B-ISN), guiding and inspiring countless officers throughout their careers. His leadership was grounded in empathy and inclusion, ensuring that future generations of officers uphold the values of equity, professionalism, and respect.

Across his tenure, Detective Sergeant Boyce served in several key capacities, from the Professional Standards Unit, promoting ethics and accountability, to the Divisional Policing Support Unit, where he oversaw major initiatives supporting frontline officers and community programs such as the Youth in Policing Initiative, Aboriginal Peacekeeping, and Elder Abuse Prevention. As Staff Sergeant of 52 Division's Community Response Unit, he led with purpose, encouraging officers to engage communities with understanding and cultural awareness.

In his final assignment with the Strategic Projects Unit at TPS Headquarters, Detective Sergeant Boyce helped shape policy and organizational reform, applying decades of operational insight to strengthen the Service's relationship with Toronto's communities. His contributions reflected his belief that meaningful change begins with listening, learning, and leading by example.

Beyond policing, Detective Sergeant Boyce's compassion extended globally. During a 2015 humanitarian mission to Jamaica with B-ISN, he helped renovate a school library and support local charitable organizations, embodying the spirit of service that defined his life.

Detective Sergeant Boyce's dedication to mentorship, community partnership, and ethical leadership continues to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. His influence reaches far beyond his years of service, a legacy built on compassion, courage, and commitment to others.

Detective Sergeant Ronald Boyce exemplified the very essence of the Legacy Award: a career defined not only by achievement, but by the lasting impact of a life devoted to service, mentorship, and humanity.

President Award Recipient

This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication and commitment to the goals and objectives of A.B.L.E. The recipient of this award is a leader who consistently goes above and beyond to positively influence the community and the law enforcement landscape in Canada. This individual serves with passion, strives for excellence and makes a difference to the lives of many.

The recipient of this award will be presented at the 33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

Nothing Happens Before Its Time: My Journey with A.B.L.E.

Mark Wilson, A.B.L.E. Vice President



My name is Mark Anthony Wilson, and I have the honour of serving as the Vice President of the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.). My introduction to A.B.L.E. dates back to 2003, when I attended a spoken word poetry event. Toward the end of the evening, one of A.B.L.E.'s founding members, David Mitchell, took the stage and spoke passionately about the organization's mission — providing support for Black officers, creating safe spaces, and fostering community empowerment. His words resonated deeply, and from that moment, I knew I wanted to learn more about this impactful association.

I soon discovered that A.B.L.E. had an office at Vaughan and Oakwood, and I made several attempts to visit, eager to connect and join. Although the office was closed each time I went, I remained undeterred. At the time, I had recently been promoted to Security Supervisor at Woodbine Racetrack, and my new role kept me busy. Several months later, while representing Woodbine at a job fair at Guelph Humber, fate intervened — it was the A.B.L.E. Job Fair. Their presence reminded me that nothing happens before its time. From that day forward, I attended every A.B.L.E. Job Fair, maintaining that connection even as I transitioned through different stages of my career.

My path has been shaped by both perseverance and community. Born in Canada, I moved to Jamaica as a young child before returning at age four to begin school. I attended Regina Mundi Catholic School and grew up in a close-knit Toronto neighbourhood known as "The Village," south of Lawrence and Caledonia. Though the area had its challenges, it was a place where everyone looked out for one another. The community taught me street smarts, while the schools provided book smarts — a balance that shaped my values of resilience and gratitude.

I went on to attend Archbishop Romero Catholic School, where I earned a co-op placement at Toronto Police Headquarters, and later graduated on the Honour Roll. I pursued post-secondary studies at Durham College, completing the Law and Security Administration Diploma Program. Following graduation, I began working at Woodbine Racetrack, where I was involved in hiring, training, and community engagement. My professional growth opened new doors — I became an instructor at George Brown College, teaching the Private Security and Investigators Course and Use of Force Training, while also assisting with final grading at Seneca College. Over the years, I worked at the Air Canada Centre for 12 years, supporting security operations for the Toronto Raptors, Maple Leafs, and numerous major events. Additionally, I have served at St. Joseph's Hospital for 19 years, where I became a Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Intervention Instructor, developing skills that proved invaluable throughout my career.

Eventually, I joined the Toronto Transit Commission, where I achieved several milestones — becoming the first to complete a secondment to train new officers, the first Supervisor promoted within Revenue Protection, and later, the first to advance into the Special Constable Service as a Training Supervisor.

To me, A.B.L.E. represents a platform for empowerment and unity. It serves as both a voice and a listening ear for our community — advocating without fear, promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and mentoring the next generation. Our focus remains on ensuring that young people see themselves reflected in positions of influence and are equipped for success. Through

A.B.L.E., we honour the achievements of our past, recognize the progress of our present, and commit to mentoring for a stronger future.

“Legacy in Action: Inspiring Leadership, Empowered Communities”
Inspector Michael Hayles



For Inspector Mike Hayles of the Toronto Police Service, policing runs deep in his DNA, but it was not always a clear path. His maternal grandfather, Tussell Brown, served as a Corporal with the Jamaican Constabulary Force in Port Antonio, Jamaica. Yet it was during high school in York Region that Mike’s perspective shifted. Two School Resource Officers stood out for their warmth and approachability, showing him that public service could be both impactful and deeply human.

Early in his career, Mike was introduced to the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.), an organization that would become a cornerstone of his professional journey. As a dedicated member and former Executive Board representative, Mike embraced A.B.L.E.’s mission of mentorship, support, education, and advocacy. He was featured in the 1997 A.B.L.E. Scholarship Awards Gala magazine and credits many of his achievements to the guidance and inspiration he received through the organization’s network of mentors. Today, he proudly serves as Co-Chair of the 2025 A.B.L.E. Scholarship Awards Gala, continuing to uplift future generations of law enforcement professionals.

Mike’s career with the Toronto Police Service began at 31 Division in the city’s northwest end, where he served in the Community Oriented Response Unit (C.O.R.) and Emergency Management & Public Order. These roles helped him develop expertise in crowd management and public safety operations. Promoted to Sergeant in 2009, he led frontline and Community Response Units at 51 Division, building strong relationships with diverse communities and partner agencies.

With over a decade of organized crime investigations, Mike brings experience in mobile surveillance, informant development, gang and firearm investigations, and intelligence operations. As the Service’s Field Intelligence Officer Coordinator, he played a pivotal role in shaping intelligence-led policing strategies. His promotion to Staff Sergeant in 2021 saw him managing a Neighbourhood Community Office and overseeing divisional detective operations in the Central North District (32/33 Divisions).

In 2023, Mike was promoted to Inspector. He has served as a Duty Senior Officer at the Toronto Police Operations Centre and is currently assigned to 55 Division. He also holds the position of Uniform Co-Chair on the Chief’s Black Community Consultative Committee, where he continues to advocate for equity, inclusion, and community engagement.

As he approaches his 30th year in policing in December 2025, Inspector Mike Hayles stands as a testament to the power of mentorship, community service, and leadership. His journey reflects the values of A.B.L.E. and the enduring impact of those who choose to lead with purpose.

A Lifelong Commitment to Justice and Community: The Story of Caroline Campbell



Caroline Campbell was born in Jamaica and raised in England. She immigrated to Canada in 1971. She is bilingual and graduated from the University of Ottawa in 1989 with an Honours Degree in Social Science; Criminology was her area of concentration.

Caroline hails from a family of law enforcers. Her paternal grandfather, her father, uncles and cousins were all law enforcers. She states that for as long as she can remember, she has had an insatiable interest in law and corrections. Between November 1990 and November 2005, Caroline was a Probation and Parole Officer in Burlington, Ontario. In November 2005, she held the position of Assistant Area Manager in Brampton. Six months later, she was assigned to the Mississauga Office in the role of Acting Area Manager. She went on to manage the Newmarket, Keswick, Jane Street and Yonge Street Probation and Parole Offices.

Caroline retired from Probation and Parole Services in April of 2018. Since then, she has worked with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada as a Case Processing Agent. Currently, Caroline is fully retired and sits on the Halton Community Legal Services Board of Directors. Her current role is that of Board Secretary. She is now in her fifth year volunteering at this agency.

Caroline was introduced to the Association of Black Law Enforcers (ABLE) by a work colleague back in 2000 and became a member shortly thereafter. She remains a member today. She states that she grew up with minimal exposure to law enforcement officers of colour, but membership in ABLE changed this. She met and worked with many officers of colour from the frontline to high-ranking and from a variety of backgrounds under the Law/Law Enforcement/ Corrections umbrella. She states that not only was she impressed by the Association's objectives and goals, but also proud to be a member of this distinguished group. ABLE's practice of promoting and recognizing Black excellence, encouraging, mentoring and providing scholarships to youths pursuing education in the justice
field is commendable.

Caroline has been an active member of ABLE, assisting with Conferences, serving on the Scholarship Committee, and taking a lead role in Communications for past Scholarship Galas. She has also been a part of the ABLE delegation for several National Black Police Association Conferences in the USA and the United Kingdom, where she had the opportunity to network with law enforcement personnel from many countries.

It is a known fact that some of us who work in the field of Law/Law Enforcement/ Corrections face struggles that are different from those faced by our non-racialized brothers and sisters. During these times, it is comforting to know that
there is somewhere to turn for support and representation. That place is ABLE. Through its 33 years of existence, ABLE has had its share of struggles but, under strong and dedicated leadership, has weathered the storms and made a positive impact.

ABLE continues to rise and I believe will endure for many years to come.

Leading with Grace: Danielle Dowdy's Journey of Purpose, Policy, and Service



For over six years, Danielle Dowdy has served as Senior Advisor, Strategic Policy & Engagement with the Toronto Police Service Board, providing expert guidance and strategic counsel to the Executive Director, Chair, and Board members. Her work focuses on shaping policies, initiatives, and partnerships that strengthen the Board's civilian oversight and governance capacity, ultimately positioning the Board as a national leader in law enforcement and thought leadership.

Danielle's role requires both vision and diplomacy. She operates at the intersection of governance, policy, and community trust, ensuring that policies and strategies developed by the Board are rooted in inclusivity, community voices, transparency, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Her approach embodies collaboration and integrity, which are principles that have also guided her long-standing involvement with the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.).

Known for her extensive community work in the areas of community development, youth employment, and education, over the years, Danielle has also volunteered her time assisting A.B.L.E. in a variety of capacities. Most notably, she led the development of A.B.L.E.'s new constitution.

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A Moment of Reflection and Gratitude

At the 32nd Annual A.B.L.E. Scholarship & Awards Gala in 2024, Danielle experienced what she described as a "humbling and surreal moment." To her complete surprise, she was honoured with the President's Award for her years of volunteer service and dedication to the organization.

In her heartfelt reflection on the evening, Danielle shared how deeply A.B.L.E.'s mission resonates with her: "A.B.L.E. is an organization that is near to my heart, as it houses many areas that are important to me: uplifting Black communities, working to dismantle systemic barriers within law enforcement, and investing in young people."

Accepting the award before a standing ovation, she expressed that the recognition came at a time when she had been questioning her impact and purpose. "The day before the gala, I had a vulnerable conversation with a friend about whether my work was truly making a difference," she shared. "Receiving this recognition from an organization I hold in such high esteem was undoubtedly God's answer to my gnawing question. I've since learned to stop wondering, and to just press on."

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Leadership Through Service

Danielle's humility and transparency have made her a respected voice within both the policing and community sectors. Her reflections at the gala spoke volumes about her character and her faith in purpose:

"Our efforts often make a bigger difference than we realize or see. I continue to be grateful for the talents that God has blessed me with, and I will keep sharing them as best and for as long as I can."

To those who may be uncertain about their own path, Danielle offered simple yet powerful advice:

"Keep going. Your work is important, your efforts matter, and even when you can't see it, someone out there has been helped by what you've been able to give."

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A Legacy of Impact

Danielle Dowdy's story reminds us that leadership is not always about visibility – it's about perseverance, compassion, and faith in the unseen impact of our work. Her contributions to policy development, stakeholder engagement, and community empowerment reflect the very essence of A.B.L.E.'s mission: strength through service, progress through unity.

As she continues her journey with the Toronto Police Service Board and within A.B.L.E., Danielle exemplifies what it means to lead with both heart and conviction as a model of grace, intellect, and commitment to justice.

Continuing to Rise and Shine



Adam Holness

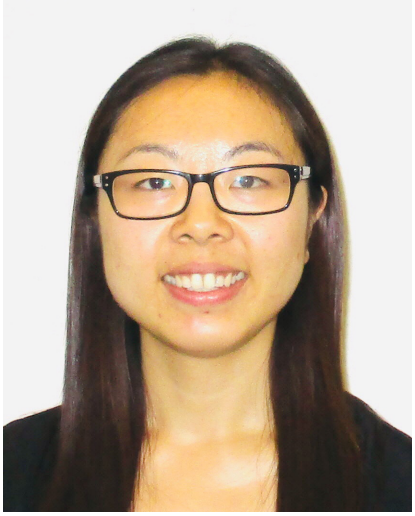
From youth participant to police constable, Adam Holness embodies the power of perseverance and purpose. His journey began with the Toronto Police Service's Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI)—a transformative program that first opened the door to a career in law enforcement. What began as a summer opportunity quickly evolved into a lifelong commitment to serve his community and inspire the next generation.

Now serving as a Police Constable at 33 Division, Adam continues to lead with integrity and compassion, valuing every opportunity to strengthen the relationship between policing and the public. His professionalism and ability to connect with diverse communities have made him a respected and trusted presence within the Toronto Police Service.

Adam also contributes meaningfully to equity and representation within policing. As Director of Communications for the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.), he plays an active role in advancing the organization's mission to support and recognize Black and racialized professionals across law enforcement and public safety.
"A.B.L.E. is important to me because it ensures that Black and racialized individuals have both representation and support within law enforcement. It's about creating pathways, building networks, and making sure that our presence and contributions are recognized."

In addition to his work with A.B.L.E., Adam serves as Uniform Social Co-Chair on the Black Internal Support Network (B-ISN) within the Toronto Police Service, fostering connection, pride, and belonging among members. He also takes great pride in amplifying the voices of those within his community, using his platform to share stories that highlight strength, perseverance, and unity.
In recognition of his leadership and commitment, Adam received A.B.L.E.'s Rising Star Award in 2023, celebrating his ongoing efforts to uplift others while championing inclusion and meaningful change. His journey reflects not only professional excellence but also a deep devotion to mentorship, empowerment, and legacy-building.

Leading with Purpose: Advancing Equity and Empowerment Through A.B.L.E.



Sophie Liu

My career began as a co-op student with the Ministry of Finance. After graduation, I returned to serve the people of Ontario as a full-time public servant. In 2020, I joined the Ontario Provincial Police as the Divisional Business and Administrative Coordinator for the Highway Safety Division.

With extensive financial work experience in the public sector, I am honoured to bring my knowledge and expertise to serve as the Interim Treasurer for A.B.L.E. It is a privilege to contribute to such a meaningful and impactful organization.

A.B.L.E. represents far more than an organization — it is a powerful commitment to advancing equity, empowerment, and community. It embodies the belief in what is possible when diverse talent is nurtured, elevated, and supported. A.B.L.E. is about fostering collective progress, uplifting others, and expanding the circle of opportunity. It is about building a strong community with shared vision and excellence.

A.B.L.E. serves as a powerful reminder that leadership is not just about individual success— it is about lifting others as we climb. Success is stronger when we rise together. Together, we do not just make progress — we make legacy. Together, we shape the future for generations to come.

A Journey of Service



Karen Graham

My career journey has been one of continuous learning and evolution. Each stage has deepened my knowledge, strengthened my skills, and offered valuable new insights. In my current role as a Condominium Manager and Executive Administrator, I take pride in creating positive experiences for both residents and clients. My dedication to people, strong communication skills, and commitment to excellence guide everything I do.

The values that drive my commitment to service are compassion, dedication, and appreciation. I believe in going above and beyond, taking initiative, solving problems, and ensuring that others feel supported and valued. My passion for service is rooted in a genuine desire to make a lasting, meaningful impact within my community.

I have been attending the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) The Scholarship Awards Gala, which I have attended since 2014, has always held a special place in my heart. The Gala is a powerful celebration of excellence, leadership, and unity within the Black law enforcement community. Each year, I'm inspired by the recognition of outstanding officers and the presentation of youth scholarship awards to students pursuing careers in justice Witnessing that level of encouragement and empowerment continues to motivate me deeply.

In 2016, I became an A.B.L.E. member, and by 2017, I proudly began volunteering, supporting ticket sales and assisting the membership team. Through this involvement, I've met incredible individuals from across the province and beyond, all connected by a shared purpose of service and leadership.

Being part of A.B.L.E. has reinforced my belief in the power of community and mentorship. It's a privilege to contribute to an organization that uplifts others, celebrates achievement, and builds pathways for future generations.

From Passion to Purpose



Melva Radway

A member of the Toronto Police Service since 1996, Melva Radway began her career in Intelligence Services before moving to the Community Policing Support Unit, now known as the Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit (CPEU). She remained there for 24 years, dedicating herself to strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the diverse communities of Toronto.

Today, Melva serves within the Strategy and Transformation Unit as the Youth in Policing Coordinator, continuing her long-standing commitment to community collaboration and youth empowerment. In 2006, she played a pivotal role in supporting the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI), a program that bridges the gap between youth and law enforcement by providing employment, mentorship, and leadership opportunities that inspire future generations to serve their communities.

Her passion lies in seeing young people grow, mature, and return to the Service, as well as being successful in their own careers. Under her guidance, the program has flourished. Today, there are 48 former YIPI participants serving within the Toronto Police Service, both as civilians and sworn members.

When asked what A.B.L.E. means to her, Melva explains that it represents unity, shared purpose, and connection, an organization that brings people together to uplift and strengthen each other.

Melva has also been actively involved with the Black Internal Support Network (BISN) since its inception, where she has served as Civilian Co-Chair and Civilian Social Committee Co-Chair, helping to foster inclusivity, collaboration, and support across the Service.

Her dedication extends beyond Canada's borders, as she participates in community initiatives in Jamaica, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago, supporting social development and outreach programs. She is deeply committed to serving seniors and those in need. Each year in Jamaica, she hosts a Senior Day Program, a Care Program at the infirmary, and a Fun Day for children at a local children's home. She is also a member of the Kiwanis Club of Toronto Caribbean.
Guided by her personal motto, "Service Above Self," Melva Radway continues to embody what it means to serve with heart, uplifting others, building bridges, and paving the way for the next generation of leaders.

A Career Reimagined: Serving with Heart at TPS



Hyacinth McLean

After many years working in the travel industry across Canada, Jamaica, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, that chapter of my life finally came to a close. Encouraged by the variety of opportunities within the Toronto Police Service, I decided to apply, and, in the summer of 2013, I was hired.

I began my career with TPS in the Video Evidence Unit, where I spent six years inputting video evidence into the system, providing copies, and ensuring quality control. While I was grateful for the experience, I always felt something was missing.

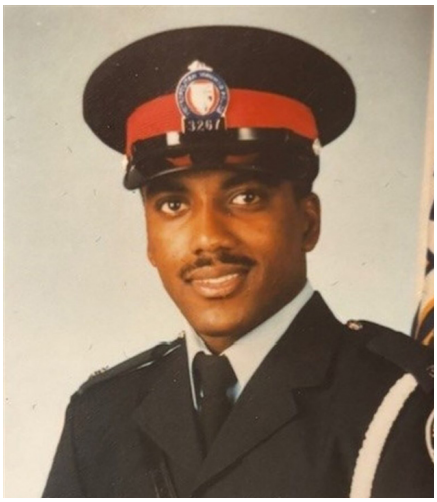
Then one day, a job posting for the Gift Shop Administrator caught my eye. The role aligned perfectly with everything I loved about working in destination services and everything I hoped to do within the Service. For the past six years, I've been in this role, and I truly love every moment of it. Whether it's seeing the joy on customers' faces, handing out stickers to excited kids, or attending graduation ceremonies for recruits, I feel privileged to be part of these special moments.

When I heard about the A.B.L.E. Gala, I knew I wanted to contribute in any way I could. I've since taken on the role of Volunteer Coordinator. My goal is to ensure a seamless experience for our guests, from check-in to seating. We want every guest to feel like a VIP.

Each day, I strive to treat others the way I would want to be treated. People come through Headquarters for many reasons, some of them difficult, and I often ask myself, "How can I turn this negative into a positive?" Sometimes, it's as simple as offering a smile, a listening ear, or a helping hand. When I meet customers who speak other languages or communicate through signing, I do my best to understand and assist. When they leave with a smile, I know they felt seen and supported.

Simple acts of kindness can create lifelong connections, and that's what I aim to do every day.

In Loving Memory
Detective Sergeant Ronald Vincent Boyce



July 19, 1962 - June 10, 2025
"Leadership is a matter of intelligence, trustworthiness, humaneness, courage and discipline." - Sun Tzu

Ronnie Boyce lived these values every day of his 39-year career with the Toronto Police Service (TPS).

Born in Trinidad and Tobago and raised in Canada, Ronnie's life was a testament to perseverance, service and compassion. From Dewson Public School to Seneca College, Guelph-Humber, and Brock University, he pursued excellence with humility and heart.

Before joining TPS, Ronnie began his professional journey at the Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago. Within the Service, he became a pillar of leadership across multiple divisions, known for his unwavering commitment to justice, mentorship, and communityengagement.

A Legacy of Leadership and Mentorship
Ronnie wore many hats - mentor, strategist, volunteer, and friend. He was deeply involved in initiatives like the Black North Initiative and Urban Rez Solutions. For over 15 years, he coached and guided officers through the promotional process with the Black Internal Support Network (BISN).

He rose through the ranks with determination, inspiring young Black officers to believe in their place at the table. His perseverance was a beacon for others, and his leadership left a lasting impact.

A Devoted Family Man
Ronnie's greatest pride was his family. He is survived by his loving wife Michele ("Ladybug"), cherished daughter Kyra ("Bo'), mother Shirley, father Lorenzo, and siblings Deborah, Ricardo, and Gregory. He was predeceased by his beloved son Matthew.

The Brothers in Blue from Division 52
Ronnie stood proud, a trailblazing light,
A Black officer rising, with justice in sight.
He faced every challenge, both silent and loud,
Breaking down barriers, making his people proud.
They marched side by side, through struggle and strain,
Uplifting each other through sorrow and pain.
A voice for the voiceless, a shield in the storm,
In the darkest of hours, their unity was warm.
Ronnie's legacy lives in the hearts that remain,
In the halls of 52, through sunshine and rain.
For service, for honour, for all they've been through -
We salute the brave brothers in blue from Division 52.

Final Reflections
Ronnie's passing leaves a profound void, but his legacy lives on in the lives he shaped and the love he gave.

Ronnie, thank you for being a shining example of what it means to lead with heart. Rest easy, ourbrother. Until we meet again.

BUILDING BRIDGES









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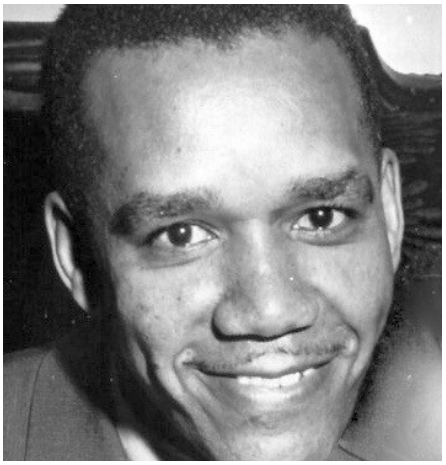
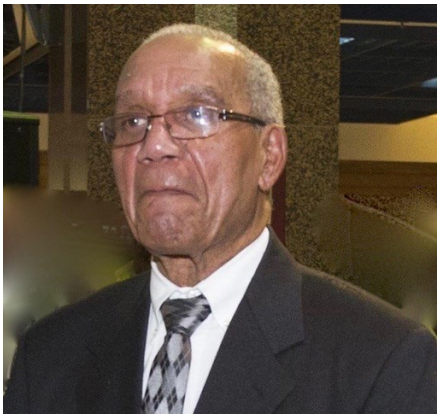
Trailblazer: Honouring Lawrence McLarty: Breaking Barriers, Building Legacy







On January 25, 1960, history was made when Lawrence McLarty became the first Black police officer hired by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

Born in Jamaica on January 12, 1929, McLarty served six years with the Jamaican police before immigrating to Canada in search of new opportunities. His early days in Canada were humble — a one-day stint shining shoes on the railroad, then packing catalogues at Sears, and cleaning banks at night. With perseverance and the encouragement of his wife, he pursued his dream of policing once again.

After initially being turned away for not meeting the height requirement, McLarty's determination led him to a tailor — and a surprise. The measurements proved he met the mark. Armed with a new suit and renewed confidence, he reapplied and was accepted.

Graduating top five in his Police College class, McLarty was praised by Magistrate Charles O. Bick, who compared his hiring to Jackie Robinson's entry into Major League Baseball. Over a 32-year career, McLarty rose to the rank of Detective Sergeant, earning the nickname "Hutch" from colleagues who admired his calm professionalism and integrity.

He credited his wife's unwavering support throughout his journey, noting that she, too, passed the police entrance exam — though policies at the time prevented couples from serving together.

When he retired on August 2, 1992, McLarty left behind more than a decorated career — he left a legacy of courage and inspiration. His story continues to open doors for others, reminding us that progress often begins with one person's determination to stand tall — even if only by an eighth of an inch.

Special thanks to the Toronto Police Service Museum for their invaluable assistance with this project.

Trailblazer in Blue: Gloria Isadora Bartley





Metropolitan Toronto Police Force's First Black Female Officer

In 1960, Gloria Isadora Bartley — then known as Ms. Isadora Gloria Roberts — made history as the first Black woman hired by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force.

Born on April 4th in Tobago, British West Indies, Gloria's journey to policing began long before she arrived in Canada. She served for over a decade with the Port of Spain Police Force in Trinidad, earning respect for her professionalism and dedication. After immigrating to Canada from Jamaica in 1958, she brought that same commitment to public service to her new home.

On October 12, 1960, she proudly received Badge #5516 and joined a profession where women — particularly women of colour — were rare. Much of her early work involved directing traffic, a common duty assigned to female officers at the time. Yet, every day she donned the uniform, Gloria represented courage, progress, and the breaking of barriers.

After about seven years of service, Gloria left the force to marry and start a family, as police regulations of that era required women to leave upon marriage or pregnancy. She passed away in 1984, leaving behind her son, Alfonso, and a legacy of strength and perseverance.

Gloria Isadora Bartley's trailblazing role opened doors for future generations of women in policing. Her story remains a powerful reminder that true change often begins with one brave step forward.



Special thanks to the Toronto Police Service Museum for their invaluable assistance with this project.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Celebrating Promotions and Honouring Retirements

The Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) extends heartfelt congratulations to all members and colleagues who have achieved promotions over the past year. Your dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence continue to inspire our law enforcement community and the next generation of officers who follow in your footsteps. Each promotion is not only a reflection of individual achievement but also a testament to perseverance, purpose, and service that uplifts our collective mission.

We also take this moment to celebrate and honour our retired members for their years of distinguished service. Your contributions have paved the way for others to lead with integrity, courage, and compassion. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, know that your legacy continues to strengthen our organization and the broader law enforcement family.

To those promoted and those retired, A.B.L.E. proudly salutes your accomplishments and thanks you for your continued commitment to justice, equity, and community.

— The A.B.L.E. Executive

Toronto Police Service

- Chief Superintendent Kelly Skinner
- Superintendent Ryan Forde
- Superintendent Richard Harris
- Inspector Tiffany Castell
- Inspector Roger Forde
- Inspector Michael Hayles
- Inspector Peter Wallace
- Inspector Errol Watson
- Inspector Phillip Sinclair
- Staff Sergeant Neil Hall
- Sergeant Robert Asner
- Sergeant Lawrence Parasram
- Joseph Ariwi, Manager Analytics and Innovation

York Regional Police

- Superintendent Kolin Alexander
- Staff Sergeant Michelle Foster
- Sergeant Andrew Simmonds
- Sergeant Aaron Huggins
- Sergeant Marcel Price
- Sergeant Dovelin Hawthorne

Peel Regional Police

- Superintendent Joshua Colley
- Superintendent Joy Edwards
- Inspector Matt Small
- Staff Sergeant Charles Ayivie
- Staff Sergeant Donna Foreman



Ontario Provincial Police
- Inspector Charles Lorway
- Staff Sergeant Misheal Yearwood
- Sergeant Charmaine Tomlinson

London Police
- Deputy Chief Treena MacSween

Hamilton Police Service
- Inspector Carolyn Rahsford

Correctional Services of Canada
- Deputy Warden Charlene Byfield

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- Charlene Tardiel, Youth Center Administrator

Toronto Transit Commission
- Sergeant Kulvinder Dhillon

Retired Members

Deputy Commissioner Rohan Thompson, Ontario Provincial Police
Inspector Phillip Brown, Ontario Provincial Police
Sergeant Shernett Williams, Ontario Provincial Police
Sergeant Lester Nichols, Ontario Provincial Police
Superintendent Maurice James, York Regional police
Inspector Andrew Cooper, Peel Regional Police
Detective Sergeant Adrian Adore, Peel Regional Police
Sergeant Auden Whyte, Peel Regional Police
Constable Joy Brown, Peel Regional Police
Beverly Brereton, Peel Regional police
Beverley Mahadeo, Peel Regional Police
Marva Carter, Toronto Police Service



Entertainment

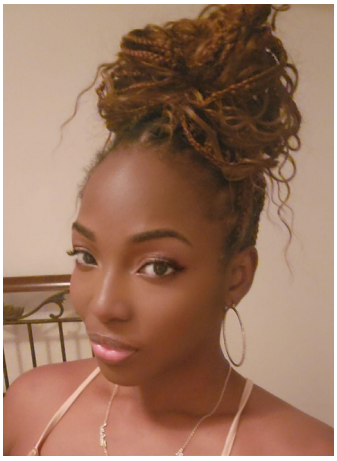
As one of the country's most respected DJs, Christopher Michaels has entertained crowds locally and internationally with an uncanny ability to move effortlessly between diverse musical styles. His career has spanned over four decades and he has played at most venues in Toronto, holding residencies at classic Toronto hot spots Studio 69, Bamboo and Fluid Lounge and a 17 year stretch at King St West's Brant House/ Citizen. His clientele includes ET Canada, Google, Burger King and a host of celebrity events including Vince Carter and President Obama.

This multi-award winning DJ began his commercial radio career in 2001 by co-hosting the all-old school mix show, Reflections, helping to launch Canada's first urban radio station FLOW 93.5FM. "Your Girlfriend's Favorite DJ" was the resident mixshow DJ on weekend afternoons at Flow for 10 years. His show - The ChrisMix,captured the attention of listeners across the city and online round the world.

In 2011, he joined G98.7 FM, the country's first urban adult contemporary station and established "The Soul School Mix" a mixshow heard twice daily during the morning and afternoon rush hour drive where Chris engaged listeners with his diverse mixes.

Christopher continues to entertain crowds and when he's not in the DJ booth he spends time as a volunteer basketball coach helping young female athletes achieve scholarships at American division 1 universities .





Tanya Douglas

Singing of the national anthem

For the past 12 years, Tanya Douglas has been a dedicated member of the Toronto Police Service (TPS) Parking Enforcement Unit. As a Patrol Supervisor, Tanya's leadership among her platoon and peers fosters a positive environment and consistently boosts morale within any unit she serves. Tanya has served on the Executive Committee as the Social Co-Chair -Civilian Representative of the Toronto Police Service's Black Internal Support Network (B-ISN) since 2016. She actively participates in and supports numerous B-ISN initiatives, including humanitarian projects in Jamaica and fundraisers for hurricane disaster relief in the Caribbean. Tanya has spearheaded the B-ISN's first challenge coin and has continued to create a series of coins honouring the Black Trailblazers of TPS.

Tanya has always had a passion for music. She sang her first solo at the age of three. She remained integral to the children's choirs and her church's praise and worship teams. At 11, she began vocal lessons at the Ontario Conservatory of Music. Tanya reintroduced herself to singing when she performed the Black National Anthem at the Toronto Police Service's Black History Month 2024 kick-off at the service's headquarters. Since then, she has sung at various Toronto Police Service events, including the Police Week kick-off and Gloves Up Toronto and Tropicana Community Service.

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J&R Decor and Party Rental Solutions is your one-stop destination for elegant event planning and décor. Specializing in customized designs that reflect each client's unique vision, J&R offers full-service event styling and rentals — including dinnerware, glassware, linens, chair covers, backdrops, and stunning centerpieces. With exceptional service and attention to detail, they help transform every occasion into a beautifully curated and memorable celebration. It was an honour for J&R to contribute their services to an inspiring community event such as the A.B.L.E. Gala.














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