34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala

Courage, Commitment and Community: A Journey of Standing Together.

Saturday, October 24, 2026

HOSTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

London Police Service Board

London Police

LPA London Police Association

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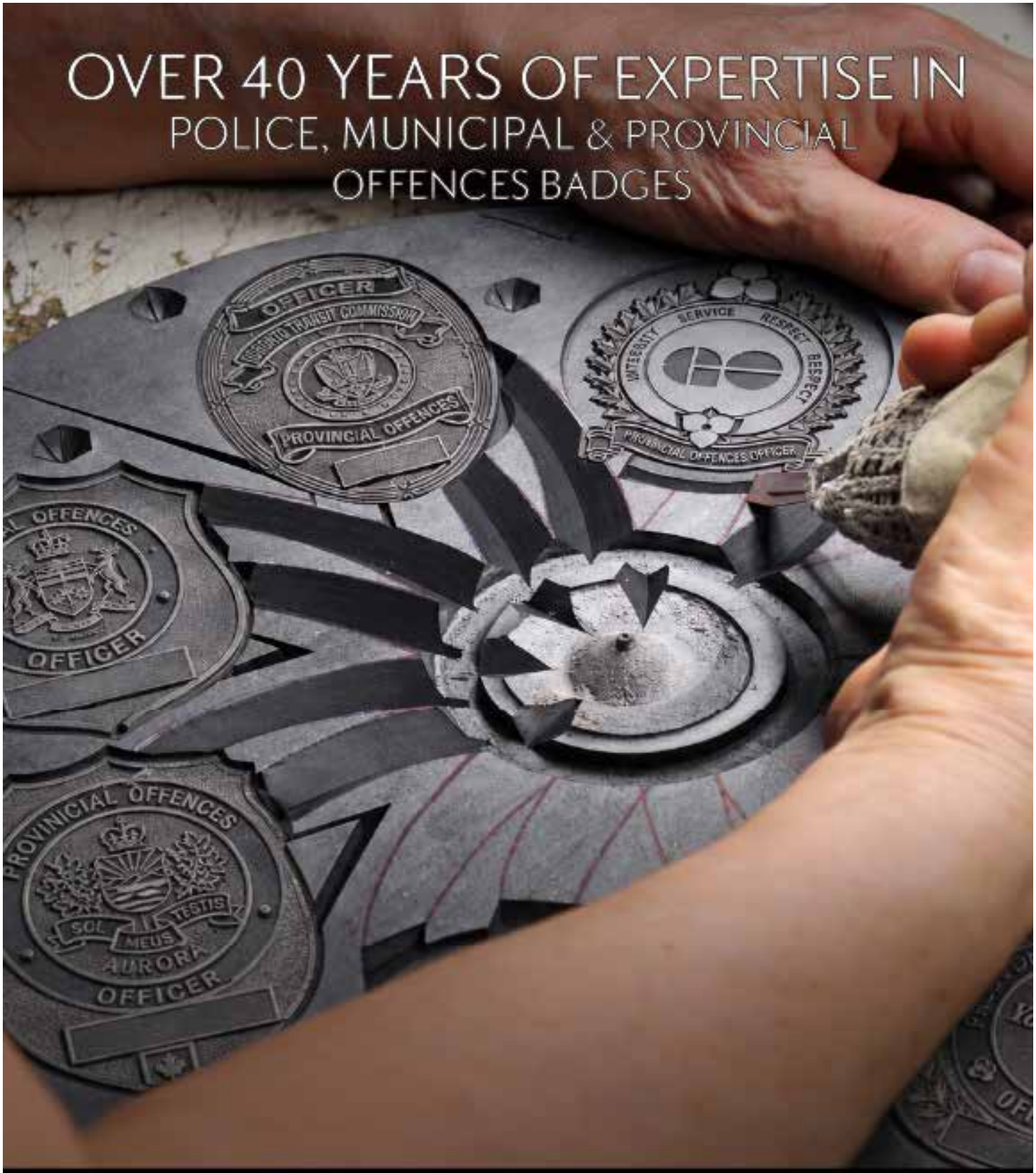

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Proud to Support
the 2026 A.B.L.E. Gala

Congratulations to tonight's scholarship and award recipients.

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



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Association of Black Law Enforcers' 34th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala.

JACQUELINE EDWARDS
A.B.L.E. President

While tonight is certainly a celebration, it is also an opportunity to come together to recognize excellence, honour service, remember those we have lost, and invest in the next generation.

Our theme, Courage, Commitment, Community: A Journey of Standing Together, reflects the values that continue to guide A.B.L.E.'s work. Courage to challenge barriers and create change. Commitment to excellence, service and opportunity. And community, because meaningful progress is possible when we come together, support one another and build on the work of those who came before us.

At the heart of this evening is A.B.L.E.'s commitment to creating opportunities for the next generation. Through the Peter Butler III Scholarship and the Rose Fortune Scholarship, we are proud to support students pursuing careers in justice-related fields. These scholarships honour the legacy of trailblazers who helped pave the way for greater representation within the justice sector, while investing in future leaders who will carry that work forward.

We are also proud to recognize this year's A.B.L.E. Award recipients. Their leadership, professionalism, innovation, dedication and service reflect the many ways our members and colleagues are contributing to their organizations and communities. Their accomplishments deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

As we celebrate the achievements of those with us this evening, we also pause to remember those in the public safety community whom we have lost over the past year and extend our heartfelt thoughts to their families, loved ones, friends and colleagues.

This year's Gala also provides an opportunity to shine a light on the experiences, accomplishments and contributions of members and public safety professionals whose stories are featured throughout this magazine. Together, these stories reflect the breadth of talent, leadership and service within our communities and remind us of the important contributions being made every day.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the London Police Service, the London Police Service Board and the London Police Association for partnering with A.B.L.E. to make this evening possible. I also want to thank our sponsors, supporters, volunteers and planning committee members whose time, generosity and commitment have helped bring this Gala together.

And to everyone joining us this evening, thank you for being here and for supporting A.B.L.E.'s work. Whether you are here to celebrate a scholarship recipient, an award honouree, a colleague, a friend, or simply to support our association, your presence matters.

Your support allows A.B.L.E. to continue creating opportunities, recognizing excellence and strengthening the communities we serve.

I hope this evening leaves you inspired by the people, stories and achievements we have gathered to celebrate, and by the difference we can make together.

On behalf of the Association of Black Law Enforcers, welcome to the 34th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala. It is wonderful to have you with us.

Walk Good,

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

London Police Service

On behalf of the London Police Service, it is my distinct honour to welcome you to the 34th Annual Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) Scholarship and Awards Gala.

CHIEF THAI TRUONG
London Police Service



This evening, we come together to celebrate Courage. Commitment. Community. Three powerful words that speak not only to the achievements we recognize tonight, but to the enduring legacy of A.B.L.E. and the people who have helped shape its remarkable journey.

For more than three decades, A.B.L.E. has been a powerful voice for representation, opportunity and progress within law enforcement and the broader justice sector. Its contributions remind us that meaningful change does not happen by chance. It happens because individuals have the courage to challenge barriers, the commitment to create opportunities for others, and the conviction that our institutions are stronger when they reflect the communities they are entrusted to serve.

As leaders in policing, we have a responsibility to recognize the path that brought us here, but an even greater responsibility to ensure that the path forward is more accessible to those who follow.

I understand the significance of representation and the responsibility that comes with leadership. When people can see themselves reflected in positions of influence and responsibility, it does more than inspire ambition. It creates a sense of belonging, strengthens confidence in our institutions and demonstrates that opportunity should never be limited by one's background.

But representation alone is not the destination. Our responsibility is to create environments where individuals are supported, their contributions are valued, and their potential to lead is fully realized.

This is why the work of A.B.L.E. remains so important.

As proud co-hosts of this year's Gala, the London Police Service is honoured to stand alongside A.B.L.E., the London Police Services Board and the London Police Association in advancing this shared commitment.

Tonight, we recognize the recipients of the Peter Butler III Scholarship and the Rose Fortune Scholarship. These scholarships carry forward the legacies of individuals whose courage and determination helped challenge barriers and open doors for generations to follow. To our scholarship recipients, congratulations. Your achievements represent tremendous promise, and I hope you recognize that your success has the power to inspire others who may one day follow in your footsteps.

We also honour the recipients of the A.B.L.E. Awards, recognizing Black and racialized law enforcement professionals and teams whose leadership, professionalism, innovation and dedication to service are making a meaningful difference.

To each award recipient, your accomplishments are a reflection of your character, your commitment to public service and the impact you have made on others. You are not only contributing to the profession as it exists today; you are helping shape what it can become tomorrow.

I extend my sincere appreciation to A.B.L.E.'s leadership, the organizing committee, our partners, sponsors, volunteers and everyone whose dedication has made this evening possible. Your efforts have brought together individuals from across Canada, united by a belief in the importance of service, opportunity and a stronger future for policing.

The true measure of progress is not simply how far we have come, but how many others we help move forward.

Let us celebrate the remarkable individuals being honoured this evening while remembering that our collective responsibility extends beyond tonight. We must continue to challenge barriers, invest in future leaders, foster belonging and build police organizations worthy of the trust and confidence of every community we serve.

Congratulations to all scholarship and award recipients.

May your achievements inspire others, your leadership create new opportunities, and your example remind us that the greatest legacy we can leave is not simply what we accomplish ourselves, but what we make possible for those who follow.

Chief Thai Truong
London Police Service

London Police Service Board

On behalf of the London Police Service Board, it is my pleasure to welcome you to London for the Association of Black Law Enforcers' 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

RYAN GAUSS
Chair
London Police Service Board



Tonight's celebration highlights what communities can achieve when they invest in their youth and work collectively toward a more inclusive future. We are proud to co-host this Gala with the London Police Service and the London Police Association.

This evening recognizes the dedication, leadership and service of this year's recipients, as well as the opportunities created when people invest in one another.

The values at the heart of this year's theme, Courage, Commitment, Community, strengthen policing and the relationships it depends on. Courage means challenging barriers to inspire meaningful change. Commitment drives us to create opportunities for others. Community reminds us that our greatest achievements are often accomplished together through collaboration, respect, and shared purpose.

A.B.L.E. puts these principles into practice through mentorship, education, advocacy and leadership development. Its work advances representation in law enforcement and strengthens community connections. By supporting young people through scholarships and creating pathways to opportunity, A.B.L.E. helps more people see a place for themselves in the public safety sector.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients, award winners and honourees, whose achievements we celebrate and whose continued leadership we look forward to seeing in the years ahead. Thank you to A.B.L.E., the organizers, volunteers, sponsors and supporters who make this evening possible.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all an enjoyable evening. I hope you leave inspired by tonight's achievements and confident in the positive impact these future leaders will have on policing.

Ryan Gauss
Chair
London Police Service Board

LPA
London Police Association



On behalf of the London Police Association's Board of Directors and staff, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Association of Black Law Enforcers' 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

We are proud to stand alongside the Association of Black Law Enforcers, the London Police Service, the London Police Services Board, and the many community partners and sponsors who have helped make this evening possible. Your support reflects something we all believe: when we invest in people, we strengthen our communities.

The London Police Association is proud to support organizations like A.B.L.E. that create opportunities, foster inclusion and help ensure the future of policing reflects the strength and diversity of the communities we serve. Together, we continue building a profession that is stronger because of the people who choose to serve.

Tonight is about recognizing excellence.

To our scholarship recipients, congratulations. Your commitment to learning, leadership and serving others is inspiring. You represent the next generation of leaders, and we are excited to see the difference you will make in your schools, workplaces and communities.

To this evening's award recipients, thank you. Your dedication, professionalism and leadership continue to make policing stronger. Through your actions, you have helped build trust, create opportunities and inspire those who will follow in your footsteps.

Events like this remind us that meaningful progress is built through partnership. By coming together, celebrating one another's achievements and creating opportunities for future generations, we continue to move our profession and our communities forward.

Thank you for being here and for supporting the important work of A.B.L.E.

I hope you enjoy an evening of celebration, connection and inspiration.

Gareth Harris
President
London Police Association

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Office of the Chief of Police

Message from the Chief of Police



On behalf of the Toronto Police Service, I extend greetings to everyone attending the 34th Annual Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) Scholarship and Awards Gala.

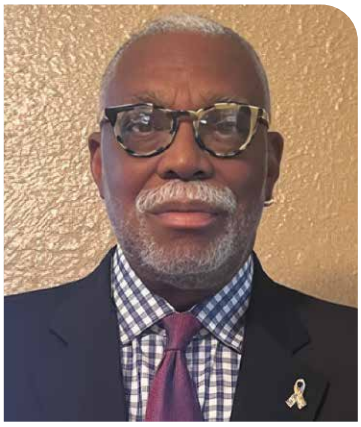
This year's theme, *"Courage, Commitment, Community,"* celebrates the values that unite us and move us forward. Progress is made possible by people who have the courage to act, the commitment to persevere, and the dedication to strengthen the communities around them.

A.B.L.E. plays a vital role in supporting Black law enforcement professionals and building stronger community connections, particularly through mentorship, representation, and leadership. The Toronto Police Service is proud to support this important work.

Thank you to all the organizers, sponsors, and volunteers who make this gala possible, and congratulations to tonight's award and scholarship recipients. Through your achievements and service, you remind us that the future of policing and our communities is bright and full of promise.

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

National Black Police Association



RONALD E. HAMPTON
Former Executive Director
National Black Police Association/US

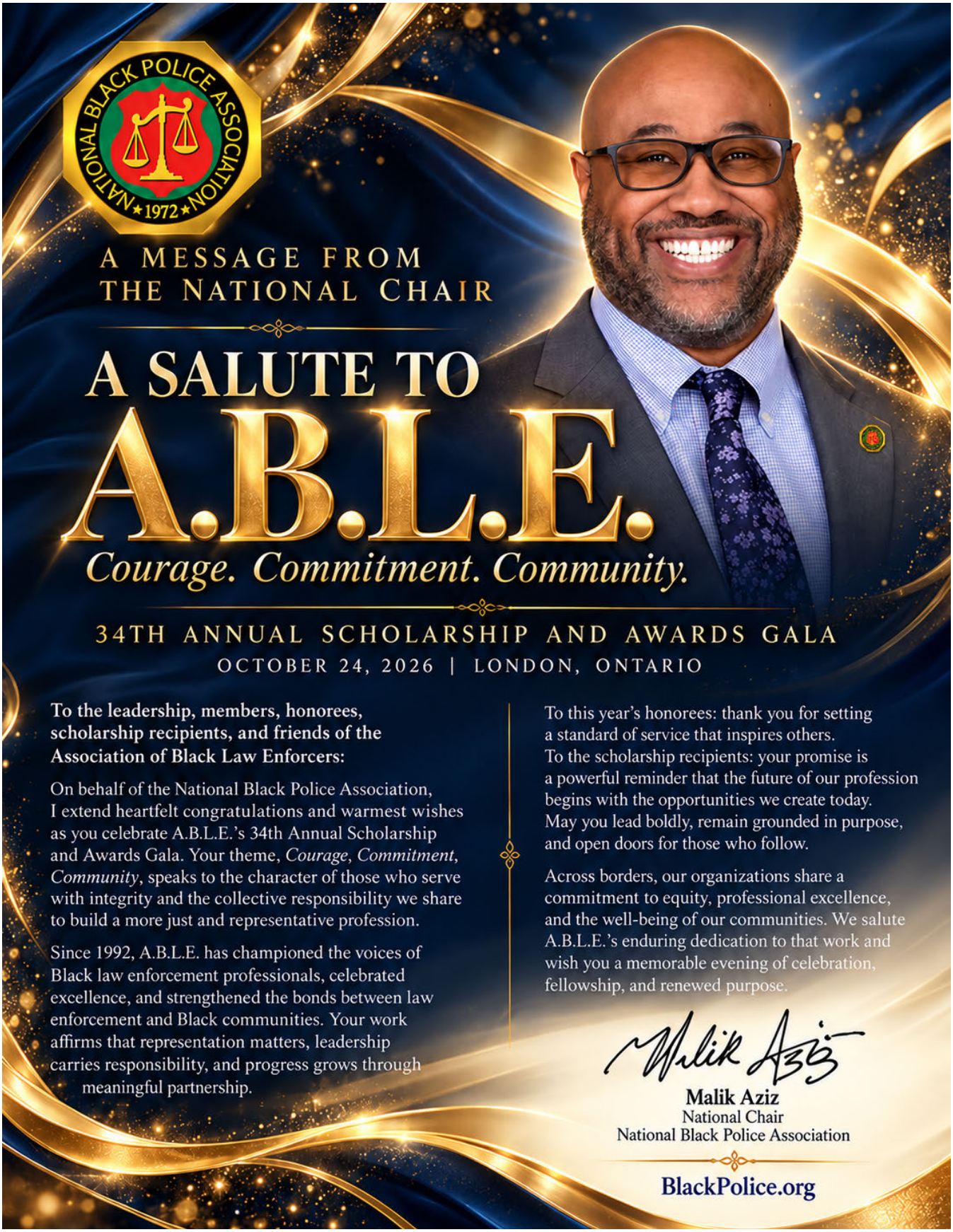
On this occasion of the 34th Anniversary of the Association of Black Law Enforcers Scholarship & Awards Gala, I would like to congratulate you and your members on successfully navigating these very difficult times and concerns we work to represent and advocate for Blacks and other people of color.

It is with immense pride that I acknowledge the Association of Black Law Enforcers and the vital role you have played and are still playing in educating and strengthening the communities' understanding of the role of their criminal justice system as well as working to make sure it reflects the communities it serves.

Sisters and Brothers, this isn't easy work and not for the faint of heart, but with the strong leadership of the Association of Black Law Enforcers now as well as in the past your organization has become an institution grounded in the difficult work of representing our members and their community.

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." President Obama

Ronald E. Hampton
Former Executive Director
National Black Police Association/US


NATIONAL BLACK POLICE ASSOCIATION
★1972★
A MESSAGE FROM
THE NATIONAL CHAIR
A SALUTE TO
A.B.L.E.
Courage. Commitment. Community.
34TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS GALA
OCTOBER 24, 2026 | LONDON, ONTARIO
To the leadership, members, honorees, scholarship recipients, and friends of the Association of Black Law Enforcers:
On behalf of the National Black Police Association, I extend heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes as you celebrate A.B.L.E.'s 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala. Your theme, Courage, Commitment, Community, speaks to the character of those who serve with integrity and the collective responsibility we share to build a more just and representative profession.
Since 1992, A.B.L.E. has championed the voices of Black law enforcement professionals, celebrated excellence, and strengthened the bonds between law enforcement and Black communities. Your work affirms that representation matters, leadership carries responsibility, and progress grows through meaningful partnership.
To this year's honorees: thank you for setting a standard of service that inspires others.
To the scholarship recipients: your promise is a powerful reminder that the future of our profession begins with the opportunities we create today.
May you lead boldly, remain grounded in purpose, and open doors for those who follow.
Across borders, our organizations share a commitment to equity, professional excellence, and the well-being of our communities. We salute A.B.L.E.'s enduring dedication to that work and wish you a memorable evening of celebration, fellowship, and renewed purpose.
Malik Aziz
National Chair
National Black Police Association
BlackPolice.org

National Black Police Association U.K.

One Voice, Strength in Unity

To our brothers and sisters in the Association of Black Law Enforcers in Canada,

We send our solidarity at a time when the environment in which we work and serve our communities is becoming increasingly challenging.

Across the world, we are witnessing a rise in far-right politics, racism and division. The impact is being felt by our communities and by those of us working within law enforcement. For Black officers and staff, these pressures are often compounded by the challenge of navigating our professional responsibilities while also carrying the lived experience of being Black within institutions that have not always reflected or understood our communities.

We are also seeing attempts to frame fairness and inclusion as somehow being in conflict with impartiality. They are not. Fairness, equality and inclusion are fundamental to legitimate and impartial policing. Yet minority voices are increasingly being challenged or silenced within institutions where Black communities have historically been under-represented and, at times, let down.

This places an additional burden on our members. Alongside the demands, scrutiny and pressures that come with a career in law enforcement, we are often navigating questions of identity, belonging and representation. Doing both requires resilience, and that burden should not be underestimated.

Our associations are experiencing pressures of their own, including diminishing institutional support, while a new generation of members is looking to us for representation, advocacy, guidance and hope.

That makes our purpose more important than ever.

We must continue to hold the line for what is right. We must speak when others cannot, challenge injustice when silence would be easier, and ensure that those who have historically lacked a voice are not silenced again.

Our organisations were built on the belief that collective action can create change. One voice, strength in unity is not simply a slogan; it is our responsibility to one another and to those who will come after us.

Whatever the challenges ahead, please know that your brothers and sisters in the UK are thinking of you, standing with you and ready to stand beside you.

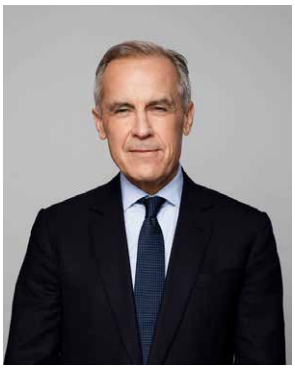
Stay true to the cause. Stay united. And continue to rise to the challenge for those who have no voice.

One Voice. Strength in Unity.

With solidarity and respect,

Andy George
President
National Black Police Association UK

PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE



I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala hosted by the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.).

This annual event offers a wondeful opportunity to honour oustanding individuals in law enforcement, as well as to present scholarships to students pursuing careers in the field. I would like to congratulate this year's award and scholarship recipients, and I join everyone in attendance in wishing them every success in their future endeavours.

I would also like to commend everyone involved with A.B.L.E. for making tonight's gala possible. You can take pride in your commitment to promoting inclusivity and excellence in law enforcement.

I wish you all a wonderful evening and continued success.

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

Ottawa
2026

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

October 24, 2026

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to all gathered for the 34th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala of the Association of Black Law Enforcers as the community celebrates excellence in policing and community service.

This gala brings together law enforcement leaders, community partners, and distinguished guests from across Canada to honour those whose dedication and integrity strengthen public safety and build trust within our communities. To all award recipients and scholarship students: your contributions and aspirations reflect the highest ideals of public service.

À titre de représentante de la Couronne en Ontario, je salue l'Association of Black Law Enforcers pour ses 34 années de leadership et d'engagement envers l'excellence du service public, du développement communautaire et du mentorat auprès de la relève. En mettant en valeur des modèles inspirants et en appuyant les étudiantes et les étudiants qui aspirent à servir leurs collectivités, l'Association contribue à renforcer la confiance du public et à bâtir un avenir où chacune et chacun peut s'épanouir pleinement. Je vous souhaite une soirée mémorable, empreinte de fierté et d'inspiration.

Salutations distinguées,



Edith Dumont

Ontario

Premier of Ontario - Premier ministre de l'Ontario



October 24, 2026

A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DOUG FORD

It's a privilege to welcome members of the Association of Black Law Enforcers, distinguished guests and honourees to the 34th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala.

Hosted in partnership with the London Police Service, the London Police Service Board and the London Police Association, this special night recognizes excellence and achievement and the values of perseverance, integrity and service that strengthen our communities.

Tonight, you gather to recognize the next generation of law enforcement and justice professionals, and honour individuals whose dedication and accomplishments serve as an inspiration to others. Congratulations to those receiving scholarships. You are our future police officers, corrections officers, paralegals and lawyers. Know that your achievements will help build a stronger and more diverse justice system that reflects the communities you serve.

Thank you to the association, organizers, sponsors and volunteers for making this night possible. I have the utmost respect and gratitude for the dedicated police officers and other law enforcement professionals who serve and protect our communities. Let's continue to build a future where justice, equity and opportunity are within reach for all.

Doug Ford
Premier

Solicitor General

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Ontario



A Message from the Solicitor General
34th Annual Law Enforcement Partnership Scholarship and Awards Gala – October 24, 2026

On behalf of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to all those attending the 34th Annual Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) Scholarship and Awards Gala.

This event provides a valuable opportunity to gather together to celebrate and support the outstanding work that A.B.L.E. does to increase representation, highlight professional excellence, invest in future generations, and build meaningful partnerships between law enforcement, Black communities and key stakeholders.

I am honoured to recognize the shared dedication to social justice and inclusion and applaud the organizers for their steadfast commitment to advancing equity, strengthening community relationships and fostering a culture of inclusivity.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those in attendance. Through your leadership, hard work and commitment, you serve as role models for the many individuals who work every day to foster safer and more equitable communities.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner
Solicitor General

London
CANADA

JOSH MORGAN
MAYOR

October 24, 2026

A.B.L.E. 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of London, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone gathered for the Association of Black Law Enforcers' 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

This year's theme, ‘Courage, Commitment, Community", reflects the values that strengthen our city and the dedication of those who work to make our communities safer, more inclusive, and more connected. This special evening recognizes the outstanding achievements of law enforcement professionals and community leaders whose service, leadership, and commitment continue to make a meaningful difference.

London is a city that values collaboration, diversity, and opportunities that help individuals and communities thrive. Through its scholarship program, the Association of Black Law Enforcers continues to invest in the next generation by supporting students pursuing careers in law enforcement, justice, social work, and related fields. These investments help build a more diverse and representative workforce while strengthening the future of our community.

I commend this year's award recipients and scholarship recipients for their accomplishments, and I extend my appreciation to the Association of Black Law Enforcers, its volunteers, sponsors, partners, and supporters for their continued leadership and commitment to advancing equity, education, and community engagement.

Congratulations to everyone being recognized this evening. I wish you an enjoyable celebration and continued success in the years ahead.

Kind regards,



Josh Morgan
Mayor, City of London

City of London
Office of Mayor Josh Morgan
300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON N6A 4L9



A Greeting from Renée Hall

Immediate Past President, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

It is my distinct honor to extend warm greetings to the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) as you celebrate your 34th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala in London, Ontario. Having had the privilege of serving as the keynote speaker for last year's Gala, I carry with me a deep appreciation for the work A.B.L.E. continues to advance. Although I am unable to join you in person this year, I am pleased to offer these greetings and to celebrate from afar, an organization whose commitment to scholarship, professional excellence, and community service reflects the very best traditions of public safety leadership.

For more than three decades, A.B.L.E. has demonstrated that strengthening public safety requires more than effective institutions, it requires an intentional investment in people. Your scholarship program is particularly significant because it creates pathways for emerging professionals pursuing careers in law enforcement, justice, social work, and related fields.

Scholarships are more than financial support. They are an affirmation of possibility. They tell the next generation that their aspirations matter, that their voices belong in the professions they seek to enter, and that their leadership will be needed.

As I reflect on my service as Immediate Past President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), I am reminded that leadership carries an obligation to build pathways for those who will follow. The measure of our institutions is not simply what we accomplish in the present, but whether we are deliberately preparing capable, ethical, and courageous leaders for the future.

That is why A.B.L.E.'s work matters.

At a time when public-safety institutions are navigating increasingly complex social, technological, and community challenges, the profession needs leaders who understand that trust is earned, service is a responsibility, and excellence must be accompanied by integrity. Supporting the education and developrenet of the next generation is therefore not simply an act of generosity, it is an investment in the future of our communities and our institutions.

I commend A.B.L.E., the London Police Service, the London Police Service Board, the London Police Association, and the many partners who make this important work possible.

Your continued commitment to scholarship and service reminds us that the future of public safety is shaped not only by those who hold positions of authority today, but by the young leaders we choose to prepare for tomorrow.

Congratulations on 34 years of scholarship, service, and impact. May this Gala honor those whose contributions have strengthened your organization, celebrate the students whose potential you are investing in, and inspire continued leadership in the years ahead.

It was a privilege to stand with you last year, and it is an honor to extend my greetings and continued support this year.

With warmest regards,

Renée Hall
Immediate Past President
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
Founder & CEO, TUU Enterprises, LLC
Executive Director, Community Solidarity and Safety Coalition

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP), I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 34th Annual A.B.L.E. Scholarships & Awards Gala. This special event celebrates excellence, leadership, and service while recognizing the contributions of Black and Racialized law enforcement professionals, students, and community leaders across Canada.

This year's theme, *"Courage, Commitment, Community,"* reflects the values that help drive positive change within our organizations and communities. The individuals being recognized this evening have demonstrated these qualities through their dedication, leadership, and commitment to making a difference.

The CACP is proud to support A.B.L.E.'s ongoing efforts to advance education, mentorship, and inclusion. Through scholarships and awards, A.B.L.E. continues to create opportunities for future leaders while recognizing those whose contributions have strengthened the justice sector and the communities they serve.

The CACP commends A.B.L.E. for its longstanding commitment to these important goals and for the positive impact it continues to make across Canada.

Congratulations to this year's award and scholarship recipients, and best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable evening.

Fady Dagher

President

Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police



On behalf of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), I am pleased to extend congratulations and best wishes to the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) on the occasion of its 34th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala.

This year's gala provides an important opportunity to celebrate excellence in policing and community service while recognizing the achievements of exceptional individuals who are helping to build safer, stronger, and more inclusive communities across Ontario.

The OACP deeply values the work of A.B.L.E. and its members in advancing the interests of Black law enforcement professionals within police services across the province. Through leadership, advocacy, and mentorship, A.B.L.E. continues to strengthen policing and create opportunities for current and future generations of public safety professionals.

Police organizations are most effective when they reflect the communities they serve and draw upon the diverse skills, professionalism, and lived experiences of their members. A.B.L.E.'s efforts support this goal by fostering inclusion, encouraging professional growth, and ensuring diverse perspectives help shape the future of policing in Ontario.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients and award honourees. Your accomplishments exemplify the dedication, excellence, and service being celebrated this evening.

Sincerely,

Chief Peter Moreira
President
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police



34TH ANNUAL A.B.L.E. SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS GALA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026 | RBC PLACE LONDON, 300 YORK STREET, LONDON, ONTARIO

GREETINGS FROM SERVING WITH PRIDE

Dear Members and Friends of the Association of Black Law Enforcers,

On behalf of Serving with Pride, we are pleased to extend our warmest greetings and strong support to the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) as you gather for the 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala. We commend A.B.L.E. and its members for the important work you continue to do to advance equity, inclusion, representation, and positive change within law enforcement and the broader justice community.

Serving with Pride recognizes that creating truly inclusive and equitable workplaces requires organizations and communities to stand together, learn from one another, and address the unique experiences and barriers faced by underrepresented groups. Our organizations share a commitment to strengthening relationships between law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve, while helping create workplaces where every member can feel respected, valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

We believe solidarity between organizations such as Serving with Pride and A.B.L.E. is essential to creating meaningful and lasting change. By sharing experiences, supporting one another, exchanging best practices, and creating opportunities for collaboration, we can continue to strengthen trust within our organizations and the diverse communities we represent.

We also recognize the important legacy of A.B.L.E. as a pioneering organization within Canadian law enforcement. Through decades of advocacy, leadership, mentorship, and the creation of space for underrepresented voices, A.B.L.E. helped challenge barriers and expand what representation and belonging could look like within the profession. That work helped lay a foundation upon which organizations such as Serving with Pride have been able to grow, find their voice, and build meaningful connections. We are grateful for that legacy and proud to stand alongside A.B.L.E. in continuing this work.

Please accept our sincere appreciation for the leadership, courage, and dedication of A.B.L.E. and its members. Serving with Pride remains committed to supporting efforts that advance diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and stronger relationships across law enforcement and the communities we collectively serve. We wish you a successful and inspiring gala and congratulate all of this year's scholarship and award recipients.

With respect and solidarity,

Robert Chevalier and Noah Clouthier

Serving with Pride

COMMUNITY FEATURE

Over a Decade of Advocacy. A Legacy of Change.



Sickle cell anemia is one of a group of inherited **disorders** known as sickle cell disease. It affects the shape of red blood cells, which carry oxygen to all parts of the body. Red blood cells are usually round and flexible, allowing them to move easily through blood vessels. In sickle cell anemia, some red blood cells become shaped like sickles or crescent moons. These cells can also become rigid and sticky, which may slow or block blood flow.

Since 2012, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada has worked to ensure that people living with sickle cell disease are seen, heard and included within Canada's health system. Over the past decade, the organization has continued to champion awareness, research, policy development and patient advocacy across the country.

National Impact

National Awareness: Led the movement to recognize **June 19** as National Sickle Cell Awareness Day in Canada in 2017, helping bring national attention to sickle cell disease.

Canadian Sickle Cell Registry: Launched Canada's **first** Sickle Cell Disease Registry **in** 2022, helping **build** the evidence needed to improve care, research and policy.

Federal Policy: **Led advocacy** for Bill S-201, *An Act respecting a National Framework for Sickle Cell Disease*, advancing a national approach to sickle cell care.

Blood Equity: Led community-based research examining barriers to blood donation among Black communities and advocated for changes to outdated policies affecting eligible donors.

Patient Voice: Ensured that the voices and lived experiences of **warriors**, families and caregivers remain part of the conversations shaping sickle cell policy, research and treatment.

Community Partnerships: Built and strengthened long-standing **partnerships** across the sickle cell community. A.B.L.E. has been a valued community partner, working alongside organizations including Camp Jumoke and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada to support children, youth, adults and families affected by sickle cell disease. Their generosity and commitment in supporting Camp Jumoke have been instrumental to the community and to individuals living with sickle cell disease. We thank A.B.L.E. for its continued support and dedication to the sickle cell community.

Through more than a decade of advocacy, partnership and progress, *the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Canada continues to help shape a future where individuals and families affected by sickle cell disease receive the awareness, care and support they deserve.*

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A.B.L.E. Gala Planning Committee



Adam Holness



Amar



Angela Johnson



Anthony Varallo



Brian Atherton



Damion Bird



Danielle Dowdy



Dave D'Oyen



Desrene Lewis-Matthews



Fern John



Gary Maracle



Heather Knight



Hus Mahmood



Hyacinth McLean



Jacqueline Edwards



Jonathan Hans-Lumbwe



Julia Piening



Karen Graham



Kattie Forbes



Kolin Alexander



Krissy Cochrane



Mark Brewster



Mark Wilson



Melva Radway



Nicole Gonzales



Ozzie Nethersole



Pete Testa



Rachael Park



Scott Burke



Temi Joseph



Treena MacSween

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 Info, contact:
Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.)

Phone: 647-792-1081
Toll Free: 1-855-265-1322
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Katherine Dann, Inspector

David Ellyatt, Inspector

Craig Holland, Inspector

Charlene Humble, Inspector

Angela Johnson, Inspector

Brent Lipskey, Inspector

Jennifer Noël, Detective Inspector

Jeff Ordronneau, Inspector

David Pratt, Inspector

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Sean Sussex, Inspector

Peter Testa, Inspector

Sean Travis, Detective Inspector

Ali Chahbar, General Counsel

Jody Graham, Director

Justin Henry, Director

Madeline McKinnon, Director

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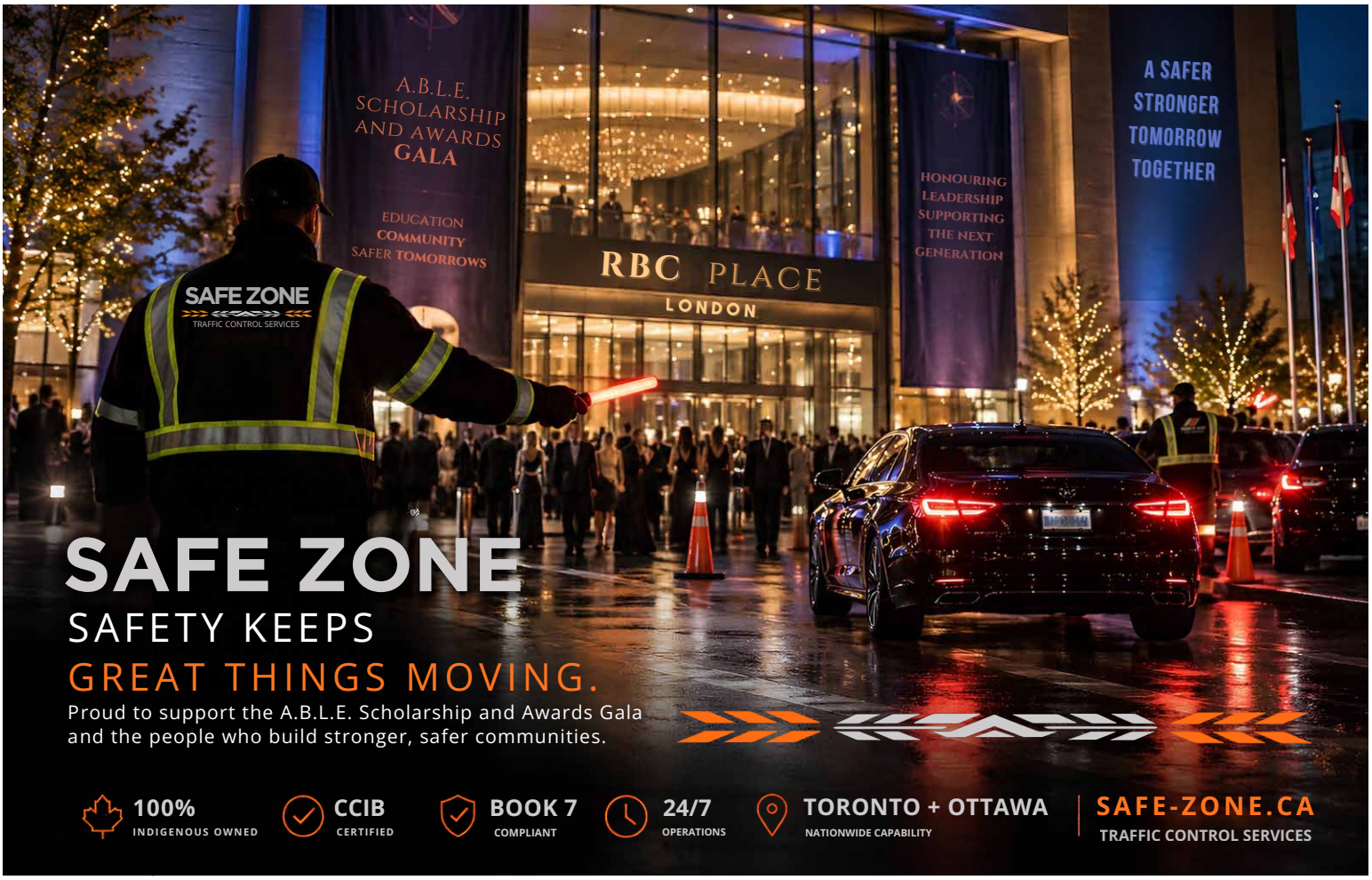
Dr. Mustaq Khan, Psychologist



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Bachelor of Applied Arts

specialization in

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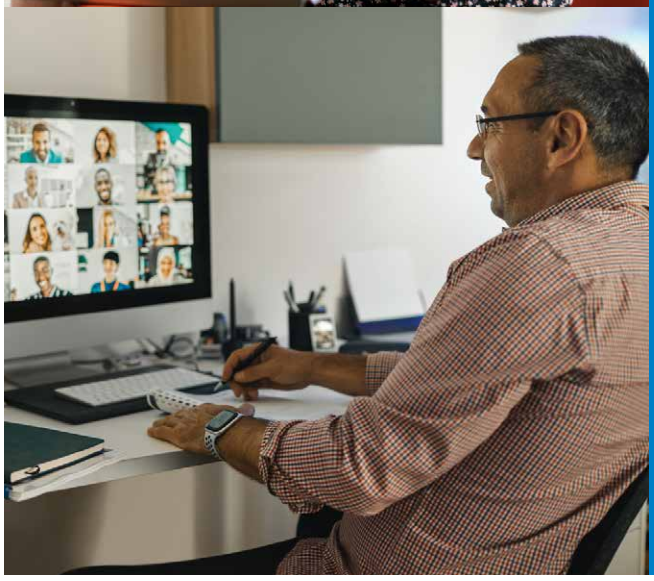
for Professionals







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Keynote Speaker



MARK FRASER
Former NHL Player

Mark Fraser is a former NHL defenseman, hockey executive, and entrepreneur dedicated to opening doors and creating opportunities for the next generation.

The son of a provincial court judge and Canadian Olympic sprinter, Mark grew up with a strong foundation in education, sport, and leadership. After captaining the OHL's Kitchener Rangers, he pursued a 14-year professional hockey career, including seven NHL seasons and time with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

In 2021, Mark returned to the Maple Leafs as Director of Culture & Inclusion—the first role of its kind in the NHL—becoming the franchise's first Black executive. He led community celebration games, championed a collaboration with Black-owned Toronto brand Too Black Guys, and helped create the Maple Leafs Management and Coaching Development Program, opening pathways for diverse talent into professional hockey.

As a member of the NHL/NHLPA Player Inclusion Coalition, Mark has delivered anti-racism education to NHL teams and advocated for inclusion across the league. He received Right To Play's 2024 Partnership Hero Award for supporting Indigenous youth hockey and served as the International Olympic Committee's North American Believe in Sport Athlete Ambassador at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Games.

Mark also amplifies Black hockey stories through film, including as executive producer of Beyond Their Years, honouring pioneer Herb Carnegie.

His guiding belief is simple: talent is everywhere, but access is not. Through leadership, advocacy, and storytelling, Mark works to close that gap.



Emcees



SGT. OZZIE NETHERSOLE
London Police Service

Sergeant Ozzie Nethersole is a dedicated advocate for mental health and wellness, recognized for his commitment to supporting both the community and his policing colleagues. Known for his approachable nature, positive energy, and genuine compassion, Ozzie has made it his mission to encourage others to prioritize their well-being and seek support during challenging times.

Raised in the south end of London, Ontario, Ozzie pursued his post-secondary education at the University of Windsor, where he earned an Honours Degree in Criminology.

Ozzie began his policing career as a Special Constable with the Hamilton Police Service before joining the Toronto Police Service. He later returned to his hometown to serve with the London Police Service, where he currently serves as a Supervisor within the Community Foot Patrol Section.

In addition to his policing responsibilities, Ozzie serves as the Vice President of the London Police Association, advocating for the health, wellness, and professional interests of sworn and civilian members.

In 2025, Ozzie was honoured with the Leadership Excellence Award from the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.), recognizing his outstanding leadership, dedication to service, and commitment to making a positive impact within policing and the community. This recognition reflects his ongoing efforts to lead with integrity, inspire those around him, and champion the importance of mental health and wellness.

Throughout his career, Ozzie has remained passionate about fostering resilience, reducing the stigma surrounding mental health, and creating supportive environments where individuals feel empowered to speak openly and seek help when needed. Whether mentoring colleagues, engaging with community members, or speaking at public events, he continues to inspire others to lead with compassion, courage, and service.



ADAM HOLNESS
A.B.L.E. Director of Communications

Adam Holness is a Police Constable with the Toronto Police Service, an accomplished public speaker, mentor, and passionate advocate for community engagement, youth empowerment, and leadership.

His journey in policing began in 2013 through the Toronto Police Service's Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI) at 33 Division. The experience inspired his career in law enforcement and strengthened his commitment to bridging the gap between police and the communities they serve.

A graduate of York University with a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, Adam returned to the Toronto Police Service in 2020 as a YIPI Program Assistant, mentoring more than 300 young people. In 2023, he became a Police Constable, returning to the very division where his journey began.

That same year, Adam made history as the **inaugural recipient of the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) Rising Star Award,** recognizing his emerging leadership, dedication to service, and commitment to making a positive impact.

Beyond policing, Adam is an engaging public speaker and master of ceremonies, using storytelling, humour, and personal experiences to inspire audiences and encourage meaningful conversations.

He currently serves as A.B.L.E.'s Director of Communications and Uniform Social Co-Chair of the Toronto Police Service's Black Internal Support Network (B-ISN).

Guided by his belief in the power of mentorship, representation, and service, Adam remains committed to empowering the next generation, strengthening community relationships, and creating opportunities for others to succeed.

Peter Butler III and 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.



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.



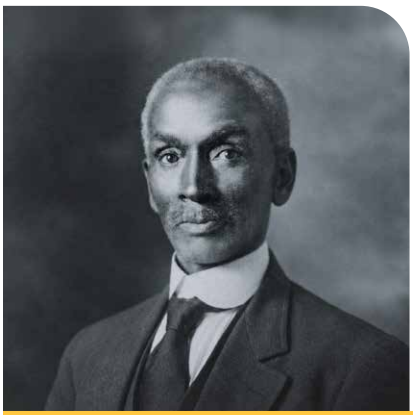
Rose Fortune
1774 – 1864

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.



Constable Anthony Banks
1840 – 1929

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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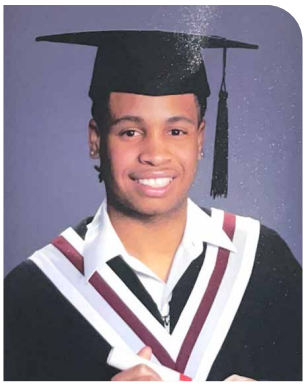
Scholarship Recipients



AKHEENU SHELLEY

Sponsored by Humber Polytechnic

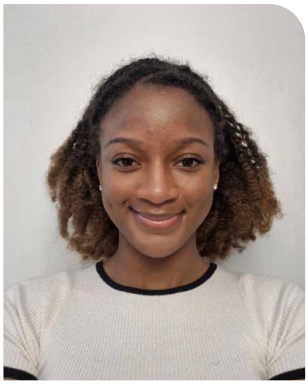
Akheenu Shelley is a Social Service Worker student at Humber Polytechnic's Lakeshore Campus whose commitment to youth empowerment guides his education and community involvement. He believes every young person deserves to recognize their strengths, understand their worth, and feel supported in building their future.

Through the Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association, Akheenu facilitated daily camp programs, supervised campers, and helped create a safe, inclusive, and culturally responsive environment. Building relationships with youth, families, and staff strengthened his understanding of patience, communication, and the importance of making each young person feel valued.

His dedication to service extends across several community organizations. A volunteer with Young Bosses in Business Foundation since September 2020, he has supported community events, distributed gifts to children, and prepared grocery bags for families. Recognized for his initiative, reliability, and willingness to contribute new ideas, he brings care and enthusiasm to his responsibilities. Through the Black Youth Farming Collective, he has also supported planting, harvesting, workshops, tours, and events serving community members and elders.

Participation in The Edge Program further developed Akheenu's skills in public speaking, conflict resolution, financial literacy, and personal development. These experiences reinforced his belief that leadership means using one's voice and abilities to make a positive difference.

Akheenu's long-term goal is to become a mental health therapist specializing in youth wellness. He envisions a wellness centre offering counselling, mentorship, educational resources, and a sense of belonging—a place where asking for help is understood as an act of courage. Through his studies and service, he is working toward a future in which young people have equitable access to support and the confidence to pursue their potential.



BREANNE SMITH

Sponsored by the London Police Service Board

BreAnne Smith is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies at the University of Waterloo, with the goal of attending law school and becoming a human rights lawyer. Her commitment to advocacy is rooted in her Jamaican heritage, community service, Black student leadership, and experience as a student athlete.

Growing up in London, Ontario, BreAnne learned the importance of service through her family's efforts to support children in Jamaica, welcome newcomers to Canada, and contribute to local cultural celebrations. Since 2022, she has volunteered with the Jamaicans in London, Ontario Association, helping with event preparation, food service, photography, and the practical work that brings community gatherings to life.

Following Hurricane Melissa, BreAnne connected students, teachers, and families at A.B. Lucas Secondary School with community donation locations supporting relief efforts. She also joined volunteers to sort and package supplies, contributing to a wider initiative that prepared approximately 30 barrels and more than 200 boxes and packages for shipment to Jamaica. Her involvement demonstrated both initiative and follow-through.

Throughout high school, BreAnne helped revitalize her school's Black Student Association, serving as an executive and later co-president. As an executive member of the Thames Valley District School Board's Black Student Union, she also helped organize cultural showcases, game nights, and sporting events that encouraged connection, belonging, and pride among Black students.

Athletics further strengthened her discipline and perseverance. In 2023, her relay team won the OFSAA Novice Girls 4x100-metre championship and received the "Golden Baton," an achievement grounded in teamwork and dedication.

Inspired by the legacies of Rose Fortune and Peter C. Butler III, BreAnne hopes to carry their spirit forward through education, service, and the legal profession. She approaches that future with a belief shaped by her experiences: meaningful change begins when people are willing to show up.

Scholarship Recipients



D'AVONTÉ RALPH

Sponsored by Dr. Lancelot Brown

D'Avonté Ralph is a Western University student whose interest in law is driven by a commitment to fairness, representation, and helping people feel heard. Through school leadership and practical legal experience, he has developed a clear ambition to become a lawyer and serve the community that has supported his growth.

Throughout high school, D'Avonté participated in Student Council, the Black Student Union, Principal's Council, and United Black Youth. These experiences gave him opportunities to support his peers, contribute to his school community, and strengthen his leadership skills.

A co-operative education placement with a criminal defence lawyer deepened his understanding of the justice system and confirmed his interest in a legal career. Working on case files, communicating with sureties, and assisting with legal arguments allowed him to connect his academic interests with the responsibilities of legal practice.

During his placement, D'Avonté earned recognition for his maturity, professionalism, and strong work ethic. His supervising lawyer praised his ability to meet deadlines, take ownership of assignments, and contribute without waiting for direction. Thoughtful questions and a willingness to learn further demonstrated his intellectual curiosity and initiative.

As a Black student, D'Avonté understands the importance of representation within the justice system. He hopes to challenge stereotypes, advocate for fairness, and support individuals who may feel they lack a voice. His aspirations reflect both personal ambition and a responsibility to give back.

Combining humility with determination, D'Avonté approaches his education with an openness to learning and a willingness to put in the work. He is building toward a legal career grounded in integrity, service, and meaningful advocacy.



GRACE TSEGAKELE

Sponsored by the Ontario Provincial Police

Grace Tsegakele is studying Common Law and Civil Law through the University of Ottawa's Programme de droit canadien, preparing for a legal career grounded in accessibility, equity, and representation. She believes representation changes who feels heard, protected, and included within the justice system.

Through the Black Law Students' Association (BLSA), Grace has served as Francophone Director and Co-President of her local chapter and now serves as National Secretary for BLSA Canada. Her leadership has focused on helping Black students build community, access opportunities, and envision their place within the legal profession.

During her tenure as Co-President, Grace helped establish a mentorship program connecting students with guidance on navigating law school and legal careers. She also helped increase fundraising and financial support, enabling the chapter to offer scholarships to Black students. These efforts reflect her belief that access to knowledge and opportunity carries a responsibility to share it with others.

Her commitment to service extends to Bridge YTH, a faith-based youth leadership organization serving Ottawa-Gatineau communities. A volunteer for approximately five years, Grace has earned recognition for her organization, initiative, and thoughtful approach to problem-solving. More recently, her advisory work has helped the organization identify risks and strengthen its planning. Recognition on the Dean's Honour List further reflects her academic discipline and dedication.

Studying Canada's two legal traditions has deepened Grace's appreciation for the ways language, culture, and lived experience shape people's encounters with the law. She hopes to make legal information more understandable, connect people with resources, and advocate for those who face barriers to accessing support.

As she moves toward the legal profession, Grace intends to continue mentoring young Black students and supporting scholarships and community initiatives. Her vision is for her own success to create pathways for others and contribute to a justice system that better reflects the communities it serves.



INES NZOHABONAYO

Sponsored by London Police Association

Ines Nzohabonayo is pursuing a Juris Doctor/Licence in Law (J.D./LL.L.) at the University of Ottawa, with a vision of connecting legal practice and public policy to strengthen institutions and improve access to justice. After completing a Bachelor of Social Sciences in International Development and Globalization, she recognized that meaningful change depends on both sound policy and effective legal institutions.

A legal internship with Rubeya & Co-Advocates in Burundi brought that connection into focus. Through legal research, legislative review, and contributions to reports on governance and institutional reform, Ines gained practical insight into how legal institutions operate and influence people's lives.

Her commitment to justice also takes shape through community service. With La Maison Alcide-Clément, she has contributed to after-school homework support, youth programming, and summer camps for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. These experiences reinforced her understanding of the importance of support and opportunity in helping young people thrive.

Ines also serves on the monthly newsletter team at L'Arche Agapè, an organization that builds an inclusive community for adults with intellectual disabilities. By helping communicate its mission and activities, she contributes to greater awareness of the organization's work and the people it supports.

As a Black law student, Ines values representation within the legal profession and the broader justice sector. She believes diverse perspectives strengthen public trust, enrich decision-making, and help institutions respond more effectively to the communities they serve.

Her long-term goal is to develop a career that combines client representation with contributions to equitable laws, practical legal frameworks, and stronger public institutions. Grounded in academic study, international legal experience, and community engagement, Ines is preparing to help make justice more accessible and responsive to people's needs.



JADE JUNIOR

Sponsored by the London Police Service

Jade Junior is a Wilfrid Laurier University student whose passion for law is rooted in a desire to create lasting change. As a young Black woman, she hopes to help shape a justice system that better protects, represents, and empowers the communities it serves. Her ambitions include becoming a lawyer, then a judge, with the possibility of pursuing public service as a Member of Parliament.

Jade's academic journey reflects consistent dedication. She maintained honour roll status from elementary school through Grade 12 and received the Principal's Award for courage and leadership. Having studied in French immersion since Grade 1, she is also fluent in spoken and written French.

Competitive dance has provided another setting for her leadership to grow. Through opportunities to instruct and choreograph, Jade has helped others develop confidence and discipline while learning to lead with strength, compassion, and attentiveness. Her volunteer work as a makeup artist and backstage assistant at a Black-owned dance studio has also supported young dancers of colour in feeling confident and seen.

Her commitment to service extends to A3C, a Black student alliance focused on advocacy, celebration, and education. With the Tamara Gordon Foundation, she supported administrative work, fundraising events, and an awards ceremony benefiting post-secondary students with physical disabilities. Foundation leadership recognized her reliability, initiative, professionalism, and care. She has also helped serve food to people experiencing homelessness through Kings Way Community Life Centre Church.

These experiences have strengthened Jade's belief in the power of representation and practical support. Through legal advocacy, policy reform, and community engagement, she hopes to address barriers and create opportunities for others.

Jade approaches her future with determination and a sense of responsibility to the generations that follow. Her goal is to turn educational opportunity into meaningful service and help build a future grounded in justice, equity, and hope.

Scholarship Recipients



KEMAL BLAZEVIC

Sponsored by the Toronto Police Association

Kemal Blazevic is a Humber Polytechnic student whose ambition to become a lawyer is shaped by his lived experience and commitment to helping young people. With a particular interest in youth criminal justice, he hopes to provide guidance, advocacy, and encouragement to youth navigating difficult circumstances.

Growing up in a neighbourhood affected by crime and systemic barriers, Kemal witnessed the consequences of limited opportunities and the loss of people he knew. These experiences strengthened his determination to help young people recognize their potential and see possibilities beyond their circumstances.

His educational journey has also been shaped by financial hardship and the loss of his father. Raised in a family with immigrant and refugee experiences, Kemal understands the importance of practical support in creating opportunities. He approaches his studies as a pathway toward serving others and contributing to positive change.

At Elmbank Community Centre, Kemal has become an active and valued participant in Youth Council, community programming, and event planning. He contributes wherever help is needed, from preparing events and supporting fellow youth to maintaining shared spaces. Centre staff have recognized his responsibility, teamwork, initiative, and willingness to take on tasks that strengthen the community.

Through these activities, Kemal has developed skills in communication, problem-solving, cooperation, and accountability. Participating in Youth Council has also given him opportunities to share ideas, contribute to decisions, and help create positive experiences for other young people.

Kemal hopes to carry these lessons into a legal career focused on youth criminal justice. His goal is to help young people navigate challenges, find constructive paths forward, and believe that success is within reach. Through education and continued community involvement, he is working toward becoming the advocate he hopes others will be able to rely on.



REAH MCDONALD

Sponsored by the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

Reah McDonald is studying Criminology at Humber Polytechnic, preparing for a career grounded in fairness, compassion, and public service. Her interest in understanding why crime occurs is matched by a desire to address its underlying social causes, support victims, and contribute to safer, more equitable communities.

Despite financial and personal challenges, Reah has remained committed to her education. These experiences have strengthened her resilience and deepened her empathy for people who feel overlooked or marginalized. She hopes to bring that understanding into work that combines accountability with meaningful support.

Her commitment to helping others is evident through more than 400 volunteer hours with the Certified Listeners Society. As a Chat Responder, Reah provides emotional support to people from diverse backgrounds, using attentive listening and thoughtful, open-ended questions to help them explore their experiences and identify their own solutions. Her ability to create a welcoming space has earned recognition for her communication skills, emotional intelligence, and care.

As a Team Coordinator, Reah also mentors volunteers and offers guidance during their shifts. Organization leadership has praised her maturity, initiative, positive attitude, and willingness to seek support when needed. Her openness to feedback reflects a continuing commitment to learning and providing effective support to others.

Through her studies, Reah hopes to develop the knowledge needed to advocate for people in difficult circumstances and contribute to policies that make the justice system fairer and more compassionate. She recognizes that responding to harm also requires understanding the conditions that leave individuals and communities vulnerable.

Reah's academic determination and volunteer leadership reflect a shared purpose: helping others feel heard, supported, and valued. She is working toward a future in which her education and experience can contribute to lasting improvements in the lives of those she serves.



RUTH-ANN OFE-BROBE

Sponsored by Dr. Sheridan Cyrus Dentistry

Ruth-Ann Ofe-Brobe is a Law student at Carleton University whose ambition to become a lawyer combines intellectual curiosity with a commitment to helping others. With interests in corporate and family law, she hopes to advocate for fair treatment and support families navigating difficult circumstances.

Her interest in the legal profession began in a high-school law class, where exploring court cases and participating in a mock trial helped her envision a future in the field. Involvement in Student Government and organizing school events, including a Terry Fox event, strengthened her confidence and showed her the impact she could make through initiative and collaboration.

Ruth-Ann's leadership has also grown through the Young Ladies Ministry at APC Pickering Church. Over four years of mentorship, she has earned recognition as a proactive, dependable, and purpose-driven young woman. Her mentor highlights her willingness to volunteer, support her peers, and offer creative solutions, along with the encouragement she brings to those around her.

Guided by her Christian faith, Ruth-Ann hopes to pay that support forward by mentoring young women in her church community. She wants to share her experiences, encourage them to pursue ambitious goals, and provide practical guidance with résumés, employment searches, and preparation for professional life.

After completing her undergraduate studies, Ruth-Ann plans to take the LSAT and attend law school. She also hopes to use the professional relationships she develops to connect community members with suitable legal services and help address the financial barriers that can make legal support difficult to obtain.

Through education, mentorship, and service, Ruth-Ann is building toward a career that offers both advocacy and understanding. Her vision is to create spaces where people feel supported and help others gain the confidence and resources to move forward.



TENISHA NOEL

Sponsored by the Toronto Police Service Board

Tenisha Noel is pursuing a combined JD/MBA at Osgoode Hall Law School and the Schulich School of Business at York University. Raised in Toronto's Eglinton West community, known as Little Jamaica, she brings lived experience, research, and sustained community leadership to her goal of advancing justice and building institutions that serve her community.

Her experiences informed her LL.M. thesis, "Tracing the Roots of Racial Profiling: Gender Bias, Socio-Economic Factors, and Police Encounters with Black Youth in Toronto's Eglinton West (2014–2024)." This work reflects her commitment to understanding systemic inequities and contributing to meaningful change within the justice sector.

Tenisha's path to law school required perseverance through three application cycles while balancing multiple jobs and financial uncertainty. During that journey, she built TrailblazerTenisha and co-founded the DuoVida Collective and Foundation with her partners, creating opportunities for mentorship, professional development, and community access.

At Afrika Outbound, Tenisha progressed from participant to senior volunteer leader and then Program Development and Community Engagement Lead. Her engagement strategy increased youth participation by 30 per cent and program applications by 66 per cent. Her broader service includes work with organizations supporting youth and families navigating housing insecurity, child welfare, and the justice system.

Her leadership has earned recognition through the Lieutenant Governor's Lincoln M. Alexander Award, the Ontario Heritage Award for Young Heritage Leaders, and the Federation of Black Canadians Youth Leadership Award. She has also been named among Canada's 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women.

Tenisha hopes to practise criminal justice law and eventually establish a firm focused on housing, real estate, and human rights law, serving the Little Jamaica community that shaped her. Through education, advocacy, and mentorship, she continues to turn personal experience into practical opportunities for others.

Scholarship Recipients



KAYLEE WILLIAMS

Sponsored by the Toronto Transit Commission

For Kaylee Williams, pursuing a career in law is about more than professional success. It is about representation, breaking barriers, and ensuring that future generations of Black students can see themselves reflected within the justice system.

A graduate of the University of Toronto's Forensics program, Kaylee was the only Black graduate in her program and did not encounter a Black professor until her fourth year. These experiences shaped her understanding of the importance of representation and inspired her commitment to creating opportunities for others.

Now a law student at the University of Windsor, Kaylee serves as Vice President of the Black Law Students' Association, where she advocates for equity, mentorship, and a stronger sense of belonging. She has witnessed the growth of Black student representation at Windsor Law, from approximately 12 students in her cohort to more than 50 incoming Black students.

Her dedication to justice extends beyond the classroom. Through the Windsor Law Class Action Clinic, Kaylee has supported individuals navigating complex legal processes. Her research has also explored barriers affecting LGBTQ+ refugees, Black queer and trans newcomers, and individuals facing mental health-related challenges in accessing justice.

Aspiring to build a career in litigation and criminal justice, Kaylee hopes to become the lawyer, mentor, and professor she once needed.

Through her leadership, advocacy, and commitment to representation, Kaylee Williams embodies A.B.L.E.'s mission of empowering future leaders and creating a more inclusive and equitable justice system.



KELSIE PARRIS

Sponsored By Broadway Rentals

Kelsie Parris is completing a Paralegal Diploma through Eastern College, guided by a belief that justice should not be reserved for those who can afford it. Knowing that legal terminology, complex procedures, and financial barriers can make the system feel impossible to navigate, she hopes to become the calm, knowledgeable person people turn to when they feel unheard.

A mature student with deep African Nova Scotian roots, Kelsie lives in Fort McMurray, Alberta, and studies remotely in a full-time program that runs on Atlantic Time, often starting class by 5:00 a.m. Her commitment to that schedule reflects the discipline and determination she brings to her education.

Kelsie describes herself as organized, compassionate, expressive, and willing to speak up. Her return to school was an intentional decision to pursue a career aligned with her abilities, values, and long-term goals. Her coursework spans legal research, civil and criminal litigation, family law, business law, and professional communication.

For the past two years, Kelsie has volunteered with the Wood Buffalo Disc Golf Association, giving countless hours to tournaments, youth clinics, and community programs, from organizing events and supporting athletes to helping seniors learn the sport. Those who work alongside her describe her as dependable and caring, someone who leads by example without seeking recognition.

As a Black woman, Kelsie understands the importance of representation within the justice system. She believes people are more likely to trust the system when they see themselves reflected in it, and she is committed to ensuring clients feel heard and are treated as individuals, not files.

After graduation, Kelsie hopes to provide organized, ethical, and compassionate legal support in a law office, community organization, or government setting. Her goal is to help people facing financial, cultural, or geographic barriers navigate the justice system with clear, respectful, and judgment-free guidance.



JORDAN ROMEO GREENAWAY

Sponsored by Mental Fitness IQ (MFIQ)

Jordan Romeo Greenaway is studying Community and Justice Services at Centennial College, driven by a desire to build a better future for youth and communities connected to the justice system. He believes justice should involve accountability, along with guidance, rehabilitation, opportunity, and community support.

For several years, Jordan has volunteered and taken on leadership responsibilities with Toronto Community Housing Corporation. Working with children ages 6 to 12, he has supported academics, sports, physical activities, and other learning opportunities, while contributing ideas to strengthen community programs.

He has also supported RBI: Selects, a program that gives youth ages 14 to 18 a safe, positive place to spend Friday nights. His program coordinator describes a young man who consistently leads with a "yes" and a helping hand, whether supporting program delivery, managing logistics, or organizing supplies, and who is always the first to step up when there is a need.

A high school co-operative education placement working with children from kindergarten to Grade 4 further strengthened his ability to connect with young people of different ages. The experience reinforced the value of patience, encouragement, and positive role models, and showed him that small acts of support can have a lasting impact.

Having grown up in the community he now serves, Jordan has chosen to invest in the young people coming up behind him, mentoring younger youth and leading by example rather than by lecture. His growth from someone the program supported into someone who now supports others reflects the representation and trust A.B.L.E. was founded to advance.

Jordan hopes to use his education to contribute to the justice sector while continuing to support youth and underserved communities. He wants to connect young people with resources, encourage better choices, and help build safer, stronger communities where youth are not defined by their mistakes or circumstances.

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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.



Community Leadership Award Recipient



MELVA RADWAY
Building Bridges, Creating Opportunities

For three decades, Melva Radway has dedicated her career to building relationships, empowering oung people, and responding to the needs of communities in Toronto and beyond.

A member of the Toronto Police Service since 1996, she embodies the spirit of the A.B.L.E. Community Leadership Award through a lifelong commitment to putting service into action.

Melva began her career in Intelligence Services before joining the Community Policing Support Unit, now known as the Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit. During her 24 years with the unit, she helped build meaningful partnerships, supported community initiatives, and created opportunities for greater trust and collaboration between the Service and Toronto's diverse communities. Her work reflects an understanding that strong relationships grow through consistent engagement, mutual respect, and care.

Today, Melva serves in the Strategy and Transformation Unit as the Youth in Policing Coordinator. In 2006, she played a pivotal role in supporting the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI), which connects young people with meaningful employment, mentorship, leadership development, and opportunities to explore careers within policing.

Her passion for YIPI is rooted in watching young people grow in confidence, discover their abilities, and pursue their goals. Through her guidance and continued support, she has helped shape the experiences of countless youth across Toronto. More than 50 former YIPI participants now work within the Toronto Police Service as civilian and sworn members—a lasting reflection of the opportunities and relationships she has helped nurture.

Melva's commitment to belonging also extends to her colleagues. From the inception of the Black Internal Support Network (B-ISN) until 2025, she served in leadership roles that included Civilian Co-Chair and Civilian Social Committee Co-Chair. Through this work, she supported mentorship, collaboration, and inclusion, helping create a network where members could find encouragement, connection, and a stronger sense of community within the Service.

Beyond Canada, Melva contributes to community initiatives in Jamaica, Grenada, and Trinidad and Tobago. Her outreach supports individuals and families through access to medical check-ups, free haircuts, educational programming, and opportunities for personal development. These efforts address practical needs while recognizing the dignity and potential of every person served.

Each year in Jamaica, she hosts a Senior Day Program, supports a Care Program at a local infirmary, and organizes a Fun Day for children at a local children's home. Whether bringing companionship to seniors or creating joyful experiences for children, Melva takes a hands-on approach to service. In 2025, she also supported hurricane relief projects for families in Jamaica, helping direct resources and assistance to those facing hardship.

As a member of the Kiwanis Club of Toronto Caribbean, Melva continues to contribute to initiatives serving youth, seniors, and the wider community. Across her professional and volunteer commitments, a common purpose emerges: bringing people together and ensuring that those in need receive meaningful support.

When asked what A.B.L.E. means to her, Melva speaks of unity, shared purpose, and connection—people coming together to uplift and strengthen one another. Those values are evident in the way she mentors, leads, and serves.

Guided by her personal motto, "Service Above Self," Melva Radway has made community leadership a daily practice. Her legacy lives in the young people she has encouraged, the colleagues she has supported, and the families and communities whose lives she has touched.

Community Leadership Award Recipient



CONSTABLE HEATHER KNIGHT | LONDON POLICE SERVICE

For Constable Heather Knight, community leadership is rooted in connection — creating opportunities for young people, supporting colleagues and strengthening relationships etween policing and the communities it serves.

Serving with the London Police Service in Human Resources, Recruiting and Outreach, Heather has established herself as a dedicated ambassador for policing through her commitment to mentorship, advocacy and meaningful community engagement. Her work regularly brings her into schools, community events and partnerships with agencies and service providers, helping to strengthen public understanding of policing while building relationships grounded in trust and collaboration.

One of the clearest examples of Heather's impact is her leadership of the London Police Service High School Co-op Program. Through strong relationships with local school boards and educators, she helped expand the program from only a small number of students each semester to seven placements.

More importantly, Heather has worked to ensure those placements provide students with meaningful exposure to the many different roles that contribute to modern policing.

The impact has been significant. Participating students reported that their experiences exceeded expectations and, for many, positively changed their perceptions of policing and community service. Every participating student indicated they would highly recommend the program to their peers.

Through initiatives like the co-op program, Heather is helping young people see policing from a new perspective while introducing them to opportunities they may never have previously considered.

Her commitment to mentorship extends equally within the organization.

Recognizing that the early stages of a policing career can present unique challenges, Heather has taken a leadership role in developing a Diverse Employee Mentorship Program. The initiative is designed to support diverse employees throughout recruit training, probation and their first two years of employment by connecting them with experienced mentors who can provide guidance, advocacy and support.

The program seeks to strengthen employee retention, wellness, professional development and inclusion while providing members with a confidential and supportive environment in which they can navigate workplace culture, develop professional networks and address challenges including bias and discrimination.

Whether supporting a student considering a future in policing, mentoring an applicant beginning their journey or helping a new employee find their place within the organization, Heather's leadership is centred on helping others succeed.

Her work demonstrates that meaningful community leadership does not happen through a single initiative. It is built through relationships, mentorship and a willingness to create opportunities for others.

By investing in young people, supporting colleagues and strengthening connections between the London Police Service and the community, Constable Heather Knight continues to build bridges whose impact will extend well beyond the programs she leads today.

Leadership Excellence Award Recipient



SERGEANT LEO WALKER

For more than twenty years, Sergeant Leo Walker of Peel Regional Police has demonstrated leadership through service, mentorship, and the courage to stand up for others.

His influence reaches beyond his policing responsibilities, shaping careers, creating opportunities for youth, and strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the communities it serves.

Leo's career includes extensive investigative experience and contributions to significant, high-profile cases. He has served as a uniform supervisor in Mississauga and was selected to serve as Acting Staff Sergeant for uniform patrol before moving into his current role leading the Youth Crime Bureau. Across these assignments, he has brought professionalism, integrity, and a commitment to supporting the people around him.

His dedication to developing others extends to training new officers in intelligence services, helping equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed. For Leo, leadership involves sharing experience, offering guidance, and preparing others to take on responsibility with confidence.

A long-standing supporter of the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.), Leo has consistently championed diversity, inclusion, and representation within policing. At a time when some hesitated to be publicly associated with the organization, he remained steadfast in his support. From 2006 to 2023, he participated in A.B.L.E.'s career fair initiatives at the University of Guelph-Humber, helping connect prospective applicants with opportunities in law enforcement and public safety.

Within Peel Regional Police, Leo contributes to the Black Internal Support Network, mentoring colleagues and advocating for their professional growth. His support also reaches individuals who once viewed policing as an unattainable career. Through résumé reviews, practical advice, and personal encouragement, he has helped prospective candidates recognize their potential and pursue their goals. His insight is valued by recruiting officers, who seek his input when working with applicants.

What distinguishes Leo's mentorship is its continuity. He maintains relationships with the people he supports, whether civilian or sworn, offering guidance long after their initial application or appointment. His approach recognizes that entering a profession is only the beginning; sustained encouragement and honest advice can help people navigate challenges and build fulfilling careers.

Beyond policing, Leo has coached and mentored young athletes through the Brampton Racers Track Club, supporting children from their early years through adolescence. He encourages excellence in sport while emphasizing discipline, confidence, and personal development. To expand their opportunities, he coordinated a networking event connecting athletes with university coaches from Canada and the United States, creating pathways to higher education and athletic achievement.

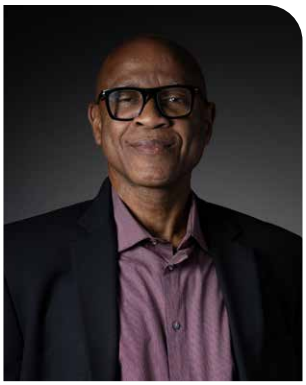
His community outreach also includes organizing a Peel Regional Police recruiting initiative at Praise Cathedral in Mississauga. In partnership with the Service's Community Mobilization Unit, he helped deliver an anti-bullying presentation for racialized youth that brought together more than 100 parents and children for conversations about respect, safety, and resilience.

Courage and fairness remain central to Leo's leadership. He has spoken out against injustice and discrimination and supported colleagues even when doing so carried personal risk. His willingness to act on his principles has earned respect within the organization and the broader community.

A devoted husband and father, Leo brings compassion, resilience, and a commitment to uplifting others to every part of his life. His example shows that leadership is measured through daily actions: the guidance offered, the opportunities created, and the relationships sustained.

Through professional service, youth development, advocacy, and lasting mentorship, Sergeant Leo Walker continues to help others move forward.

Program Innovation Award Recipient



CALVIN LAWRENCE

Calvin Lawrence approaches innovation with a clear purpose: making public services more accessible, responsive, and effective.

As a Project Manager with the London Police Service, he has translated that purpose into a modern online reporting system that strengthens how residents share information and how the Service responds to non-emergency demand.

Since joining the Service in November 2024, Calvin has contributed to its Innovation Delivery and Implementation Services branch. His leadership of the Rubicon Online Reporting integration brought together technology, operational planning, and community input to replace a legacy platform with a more accessible and connected reporting experience.

Fully launched in March 2026, the new platform is multilingual, compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), and integrated with the Service's records management and digital evidence management systems. Since launch, it has received more than 10,000 reports from the public, with reporter satisfaction scores exceeding 4.2 out of 5. These results reflect both strong public use and a positive reporting experience.

Calvin recognized that the project required more than a software upgrade. It needed a practical operating model that would support residents submitting reports and staff reviewing them. He designed the intake process so reports arrive structured, with supporting evidence attached, and ready for assessment. This approach gives reviewers a clearer workflow and provides leadership with a practical tool for managing non-emergency demand, helping sworn resources remain focused on priority calls.

Accessibility was central to his work. The previous platform was not AODA-compliant, creating a need for a more inclusive service. The replacement supports reporting across devices and in multiple languages. It also operates in kiosk mode at London Police Service Headquarters, providing an option for residents who lack reliable internet access. By considering different circumstances and access needs, Calvin helped broaden the ways people can connect with the Service.

One of the project's most significant innovations emerged from listening to community stakeholders about hate-motivated incident reporting. Calvin helped develop an approach that invites residents to describe their experience from their own perspective, rather than requiring them to determine whether it meets the classification of a hate crime.

This change places greater emphasis on hearing the reporter's account and allowing the Service to assess the information provided. According to the nomination, the resulting rejection rate is five per cent, compared with reported rates of 54 to 72 per cent at comparable Ontario services. The approach supports a fuller understanding of the experiences being brought forward by the community.

Delivering the project required coordination across several demanding areas. Calvin managed the vendor relationship, a privacy impact assessment, systems integration with the Information Technology team, reviewer training, and senior leadership expectations. Throughout the process, he demonstrated professionalism, steady judgment, and sustained attention to the people who would use the system.

His work illustrates the value of innovation grounded in listening. By bringing community perspectives into the design process and aligning technology with operational needs, he helped create a service that supports both public participation and effective report review.

The Rubicon Online Reporting integration demonstrates how thoughtful program design can produce meaningful improvements in accessibility, service delivery, and community engagement. Through his leadership, Calvin Lawrence has helped turn a complex technical project into a practical public service.

Rising Star Award Recipient



SERGEANT AKEEM GUY

Sergeant Akeem Guy's policing journey spans two countries and reflects a commitment to service, perseverance, and professional excellence.

Since joining the Woodstock Police Service in 2021, he has distinguished himself through investigative success, academic achievement, and leadership. His promotion to Sergeant marked a historic milestone as the first Black member of the Service to attain that rank.

Akeem began his career with the Jamaica Constabulary Force in 2010. During an early assignment to the Tactical Unit, his involvement in recovering a firearm led to an arrest and conviction, earning him a commendation and local media recognition. His investigative aptitude brought him into the Criminal Investigation Branch, where he spent six years developing his skills and taking on greater responsibility.

After achieving one of the highest examination scores within the force, Akeem became one of its younger members appointed Detective. He was subsequently selected as one of only six members awarded a full scholarship to pursue a Bachelor of Laws degree at the University of Technology. While studying, he was promoted directly to Sergeant, bypassing the rank of Corporal and becoming one of the youngest members to achieve that position at the time.

Following his move to Canada in late 2016, Akeem remained committed to policing. He enrolled in Police Foundations at Niagara College, earning Winter Scholar recognition for his academic performance. At the Ontario Police College, he received the Pincombe Award for achieving an overall standing above 90 per cent, along with a commendation for volunteering with the Honour Guard.

Joining Woodstock Police Service as a patrol Constable, Akeem quickly demonstrated initiative and sound investigative judgment. In December 2022, a traffic stop he conducted resulted in the seizure of more than $47,000 worth of illegal drugs and the recovery of a police radio, earning a formal commendation. Further commendations followed his involvement in a high-risk vehicle takedown involving a firearm seizure in 2023 and a traffic stop that uncovered a substantial quantity of ammunition in 2025.

His proactive patrol work and investigative follow-up have also contributed to recovering stolen vehicles and seizing illegal drugs. Alongside these operational achievements, he has developed specialized expertise as a Collision Reconstructionist and Crash Data Retrieval expert, assuming responsibility for collision reconstruction within the Service.

Colleagues recognized Akeem's leadership before he held a supervisory rank. Officers sought his guidance because they respected his professionalism, judgment, and ability to navigate difficult situations. His selection as a Coach Officer and Acting Sergeant provided further opportunities to mentor others and demonstrate his readiness for greater responsibility.

In March 2026, Akeem scored 96 per cent on the Ontario Police College Sergeant's examination—the highest mark in his organization's history. He subsequently finished at the top of the Service's promotional list and earned promotion to Sergeant after approximately five years with Woodstock Police Service. For Akeem, this achievement carries significance beyond personal advancement: it represents the breaking of a barrier and the possibilities created through preparation, dedication, and perseverance.

As a member of the recruiting team since late 2024, Akeem has represented the Service at recruiting events, including A.B.L.E. initiatives, encouraging diversity and helping prospective applicants explore policing careers.

Through each stage of his journey, Sergeant Akeem Guy has combined ambition with service and achievement with a willingness to support others. His contributions to public safety, mentorship, and representation exemplify the promise recognized by the Rising Star Award.

Teamwork Award Recipient



ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE UNIFORM RECRUITMENT UNIT

The Ontario Provincial Police Uniform Recruitment Unit demonstrates what can be accomplished through shared purpose, coordinated effort, and a commitment to public service.

In 2025, the team delivered significant hiring results, expanded community outreach, increased representation, and strengthened support for prospective applicants across Ontario.

Members recognize that recruitment shapes the future of policing. Every candidate supported, relationship developed, and individual hired contributes to an organization's ability to serve its communities. Guided by this understanding, the unit brought together applicant processing, background investigations, psychological services, outreach, fitness preparation, marketing, and candidate support to meet demanding recruitment needs.

In 2025, the unit received 3,071 applications and supported 708 hires: 468 Regular Recruits, 85 Experienced Police Officers, 29 Cadets, and 126 Auxiliary members. These results strengthened the OPP's operational readiness and capacity to maintain service delivery across the province. Achieving them required members to balance high-volume hiring, travel, community engagement, and collaboration while maintaining a professional and supportive applicant experience.

The team also made measurable progress in representation. In 2025, applications from racialized communities increased by 28 per cent, while hires from racialized communities increased by 48 per cent. Black Regular Recruit applications grew from 98 in 2023 to 229 in 2025. Based on the year hires were reported to the Provincial Police Academy, Black Regular Recruit hires rose from six in 2023 to 30 in 2025, with 51 Black Provincial Police Constables hired across the three-year period.

These gains accompanied sustained engagement with Black communities. Members connected with students, athletes, newcomers, job seekers, and prospective candidates through schools, cultural celebrations, faith-based settings, career fairs, and virtual information sessions. Their participation in A.B.L.E. events and other community initiatives created opportunities to answer questions, explain the application process, and offer practical guidance.

The unit's outreach included the Black Career Fair at Weston Collegiate Institute, information sessions for Black high-school students, a Somali mosque career session, and events serving African and Caribbean communities. Members also engaged with newcomer Welcome Centres and organizations such as Jaku Konbit, building connections with people whose experiences and perspectives can enrich policing.

Across Ontario, the team delivered 291 events and engaged more than 130,000 people during 2025. Activities included information sessions, post-secondary visits, fitness events, and OPP Bound events and symposiums. One in five events focused on marginalized communities, while 74 per cent targeted Generation Z. These efforts helped prospective applicants explore policing careers and prepare for the recruitment process.

The unit continued to support opportunities for women and other underrepresented groups. Women accounted for 20.3 per cent of Regular Recruit hires in 2025. Through outreach and candidate engagement, the team helped more people see a place for themselves within the organization.

Digital communication extended that reach. Recruitment content reached approximately 6.6 million people, generated 800,000 views, and contributed to a 7.1 per cent increase in social media followers. Online information sessions and digital resources provided additional access for people in rural, northern, and geographically dispersed communities.

Behind these achievements is a team that combines specialized expertise with care for applicants and respect for community relationships. Its members have worked collectively to expand opportunities, support future officers, and help the OPP meet evolving public-safety needs.

Through measurable results and sustained collaboration, the Uniform Recruitment Unit has advanced professional excellence, representation, and community connection.

Trailblazer Award Recipient

ADRIAN



Adrian has built a career in security and intelligence grounded in principled leadership, meaningful partnerships, and a commitment to equity and inclusion.

A Senior Investigator with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), he has helped advance operational work while creating connections between institutions, colleagues, and communities.

Rooted in a Black Canadian heritage tracing back to the American Revolutionary War, Adrian's journey began in Nova Scotia. His rise from humble beginnings reflects resilience, vision, and dedication to public service. That heritage provides an enduring backdrop to a career defined by both professional achievement and a determination to create opportunities for others.

Throughout his career, Adrian has distinguished himself as an operational investigator in the Toronto region, playing a pivotal role in leading significant, high-profile cases. His work combines strategic foresight with an emphasis on authentic partnerships, recognizing the value of relationships in supporting effective security and intelligence operations.

Among his notable contributions, Adrian spearheaded the creation of an extensive liaison and outreach program within the federal public service. This work reflects his belief that sustainable security depends on meaningful collaboration. By placing authentic engagement at the centre of his approach, he has helped strengthen connections with partners and communities.

His leadership extends across the Greater Toronto Area and Southwestern Ontario, where he has served as a mentor and advocate for a more inclusive public service. Alongside his operational responsibilities, Adrian has consistently worked to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion are reflected in organizational relationships and practices.

As a co-founder of his organization's BIPOC Network, Adrian helped create a forum for connection and advocacy among Black, Indigenous, and other racialized colleagues. His involvement reflects a commitment to supporting people within the institution while contributing to broader conversations about representation and belonging.

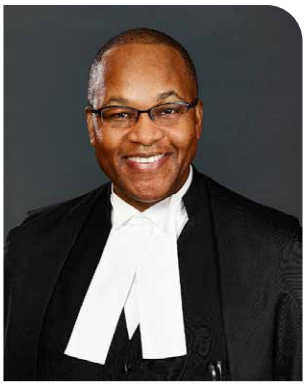
Adrian was also instrumental in originating the partnership between A.B.L.E. and CSIS. By connecting his home agency with an organization dedicated to supporting Black law-enforcement professionals and strengthening community relationships, he helped establish another avenue for collaboration. This contribution brings together his professional experience and his commitment to building trust across institutional boundaries.

Law-enforcement partners, community organizations, and external stakeholders have recognized Adrian for his authentic engagement and principled leadership. His approach places value on the quality of relationships and the shared purpose that allows people and organizations to work together effectively.

Mentorship remains an important part of his contribution. As he continues to guide the next generation of public servants, Adrian shares the experience and perspective gained through his own career. His leadership connects operational excellence with a responsibility to support those who will carry the work forward.

Adrian's achievements reflect the spirit of a trailblazer: someone who advances their profession while helping create a more equitable and collaborative future. Through investigative leadership, outreach, advocacy, and mentorship, he has made a lasting contribution to public service and the relationships that sustain it.

Legacy Award Recipient



JUSTICE MICHAEL TULLOCH
Chief Justice of Ontario and President of the Court of Appeal for Ontario

The Honourable Michael H. Tulloch was appointed Chief Justice of Ontario and President of the Court of Appeal for Ontario on December 15, 2022.

He brings more than two decades of judicial experience and a distinguished record of leadership in justice reform, mentorship, and public service.

Chief Justice Tulloch began his legal career in 1991 as an Assistant Crown Attorney in Peel and Toronto, where he helped develop a charge-screening model that continues to guide prosecutorial decision-making in Ontario and across Canada. He later practiced criminal law for eight years and served as a Special Prosecuting Agent with the Federal Department of Justice. During this time, he contributed to key legal policy initiatives, including reviews of civilian oversight of policing, the Ontario Legal Aid Plan, and the Criminal Code.

Appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in 2003, he served in the Central West Region before his elevation to the Court of Appeal for Ontario in 2012. He has authored numerous significant decisions in criminal, constitutional, and public law.

He has also led two major independent provincial reviews – the Independent Police Oversight Review (2016) and the Independent Street Checks Review (2017) – both widely recognized for their thorough analysis and lasting impact on public policy and accountability.

Chief Justice Tulloch is the recipient of the Canadian Bar Association's 2024 Touchstone Award, recognizing his contributions to advancing equity in the legal profession. He has mentored generations of lawyers and judges from all sectors of society and communities, and is a strong advocate for a holistic approach to legal education.

His honours include the Ontario Bar Association's 2017 Award for Distinguished Service and Lifetime Achievement, and in 2013, he was named one of Canada's Top 25 Immigrants. He holds seven honorary degrees, including honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the Law Society of Ontario, Osgoode Hall Law School, and the University of Ottawa. He is also a Senior Fellow at Massey College at the University of Toronto and a Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

Chief Justice Tulloch has served extensively in the community, including as past president of the Caribbean & African Chamber of Commerce, and as a member of numerous legal and civic organizations. Together with the late former Chief Justice Roy McMurtry and Richard Gosling, he co-founded the Second Chance Scholarship Foundation, which supports post-secondary education for young people from underserved communities and those who have been in conflict with the law.

He holds a B.A. from York University and an LL.B. from Osgoode Hall Law School. As Chief Justice, he is committed to a people-centred court that is accessible, transparent, and responsive to the needs of all Ontarians.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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 34th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala.

Proud to support the 34th Annual A.B.L.E. Scholarships & Awards Gala.

Supporting communities across Canada is central to Bell's purpose. We partner with more than 2,000 community organizations, including the Association of Black Law Enforcers by investing in initiatives, sponsorships, and volunteer time.

It's part of our commitment to make our world more prosperous, more sustainable, and more connected every day.

Bell

Connection is everything

Constable Justis Mowatt: Full Circle Moment

2023 ABLE Scholarship Recipient | Waterloo Regional Police Service

Originally from Hamilton, Ontario, Constable Justis Mowatt's journey reflects a desire to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

A criminology student at Wilfrid Laurier University and a 2023 ABLE Scholarship recipient, he joined Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) in February 2026, proudly serving the Waterloo community. His inspiration to pursue policing came from his brother, Blaze, who also is a constable at WRPS.



Initially aspiring to become a teacher, Constable Mowatt discovered another path to helping others through policing. Although he once describes himself as an introvert, connecting with people has become the most rewarding part of his work. His greatest realization has been the profound impact an officer can have on someone experiencing one of the worst days of their life.

As he continues developing his skills alongside his coach officer, he looks forward to growing within the profession, with aspirations of joining the Emergency Response Team.

At this year's gala, ABLE proudly celebrates Constable Mowatt's journey from scholarship recipient to police constable. Through its investment in his education, ABLE helped him achieve his dream of becoming a police officer—a powerful example of how supporting young people's aspirations can translate into meaningful service to the community.



Project BRIDGE: from the Spice Isle to the Forest City

Building Resilience, Innovation and Development through Global Exchange

Project BRIDGE is a mutually beneficial knowledge exchange initiative that brings together the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF), the Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS), York Regional Police (YRP) and The Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.). Supported through funding from Global Affairs Canada, the program is founded on a profound principle: lasting community safety is built through mutual trust, shared responsibility, and partnerships that honour local expertise while transforming collective knowledge into meaningful action.

The program combines Ontario's prevention-focused approach to community policing with Grenada's long-standing strengths in community engagement and relationship-building. Grounded in partnership, prevention, and responsiveness to local needs, Project BRIDGE creates opportunities for meaningful collaboration among public safety professionals while fostering stronger connections between police services and the communities they serve.

Through the exchange, WRPS, YRP and A.B.L.E. share practical strategies related to youth outreach, community partnerships, crime prevention, and place-based policing. In return, they learn from the RGPF's expertise in tourist policing, destination crime management, public safety planning for major events, rural policing, and innovative approaches to community trust-building through sports, cultural initiatives, and the renowned RGPF Police Band.

What makes Project BRIDGE particularly significant is its emphasis on reciprocal learning. Rather than a one-way transfer of knowledge, the initiative recognizes that every community possesses valuable insights and experiences.



By fostering joint training opportunities and the exchange of best practices, Project BRIDGE strengthens policing effectiveness, encourages innovation, and supports evidence-based approaches to addressing shared public safety challenges.

The values that guide Project BRIDGE align closely with A.B.L.E.'s mission of empowering individuals through education, mentorship, and meaningful community engagement. The same principles that underpin the A.B.L.E. Scholarship Program, leadership, service, inclusion, and community building, are reflected throughout the project. A cornerstone of Project BRIDGE is a deliberate investment in young people as partners in crime prevention and future community leaders. The guidance of the Association of Black Law Enforcers has been transformative in shaping this approach, grounding it in inclusion, representation, and the belief that every young person deserves opportunities to thrive. Drawing on its commitment to developing the next generation and strengthening relationships between law enforcement and Black communities, has helped place youth empowerment at the heart of the project—connecting community safety with belonging, trust, and possibility.

From the vibrant shores of Grenada's Spice Isle to the thriving communities of Ontario's Forest City and beyond, Project BRIDGE serves as a powerful example of how international partnerships can strengthen public safety, deepen cultural understanding, and inspire future leaders.



Leading Through Service



DETECTIVE EGLON "JUNIOR" WEIR
York Regional Police

For Detective Eglon "Junior" Weir, leadership is measured not simply by the positions a person holds, but by what they choose to do with them

A member of York Regional Police's Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau, Junior has spent the past several years extending his commitment to service far beyond his policing duties. Through faith, mentorship, basketball, philanthropy and community engagement, he has consistently used his time and influence to support others, particularly youth and members of the Black community.

Since 2020, Junior has volunteered extensively with One Church Toronto, serving in several capacities including Youth Leader, Deacon, Treasurer, Elder and member of the church's Financial and Risk Committee. His involvement has allowed him to support individuals and families while helping guide the church's broader work in the community.

It was also through this space that Junior brought together two important parts of his identity — his connection to the Black community and his role as a Black police officer. He created a video message aimed at helping bridge the divide between police and members of the Black community and encouraging greater understanding between both groups. The message would eventually extend beyond the congregation, becoming incorporated into York Regional Police's anti-Black racism training.

His commitment to building bridges has continued through his leadership as Co-Chair of the African, Caribbean, Canadian Internal Support Network.

As part of Black History Month in February 2025, Junior helped organize a gala designed to bring people of different cultures and backgrounds together to learn from one another while celebrating Black culture. Proceeds from the event supported youth programming through the Markham African Caribbean Association, the North African Caribbean Canadian Association and 360°kids, helping create opportunities for young people who may not otherwise have had access to them.

Outside of policing and community organizations, Junior can often be found on a basketball court.

Since 2021, he has volunteered with Northern Kings Basketball, working with youth between the ages of nine and thirteen. As an assistant coach, he focuses on strength and conditioning, mindfulness and player development, while stepping into the role of head coach when needed.

But his investment in the young people he coaches extends beyond the game.

Junior has helped raise funds to ensure children facing financial barriers have the same opportunity to participate as their teammates. The impact of that support was brought home during one fundraiser when the mother of a player won a 50/50 draw. Her child later told Junior that the money meant his family could now afford the first and last month's rent for a two-bedroom apartment.

It was a reminder that an act intended to support a basketball program could reach far beyond the court.

Across each of these roles runs a common thread: Junior creates spaces where people can feel supported, included and capable of moving forward.

Whether mentoring youth, coaching young athletes, strengthening connections between police and community, supporting families through his church or helping community organizations access needed resources, his approach to leadership remains centred on service.

Junior's work reflects the power of showing up consistently. Through years of volunteerism, mentorship and community investment, he continues to demonstrate how one person can use their position not simply to lead, but to create opportunities for others to succeed.

Rising with Purpose



DETECTIVE CONSTABLE KE'ANA MARTINEZ-KNIGHT

Ontario Provincial Police

In just a few short years, Detective Constable Ke'ana Martinez-Knight has distinguished herself through professionalism, discipline, investigative excellence and a commitment to continuous growth.

Beginning her policing career in 2021 with the Sarnia Police Service, Ke'ana joined the Ontario Provincial Police in 2023 as an experienced officer and quickly brought her frontline leadership skills to the Lakeshore Detachment.

Her progression was equally swift.

After approximately one year in uniform and a temporary assignment with the Essex County Criminal Investigation Unit, Ke'ana's work ethic and investigative ability earned her a full-time position as a Detective Constable. Her supervisors recognized her early as an emerging talent, noting the strength of her investigative skills and her consistent commitment to excellence.

Since joining the Criminal Investigation Unit, Ke'ana has continued to take on increasingly significant responsibilities. She has been entrusted as co-lead on an active, multi-jurisdictional and high-profile homicide investigation while continuing to manage an extensive existing caseload.

The responsibility reflects not only her investigative proficiency, but also the confidence placed in her ability to remain organized, composed and effective in complex circumstances.

Her work has also earned recognition beyond her immediate unit. In 2025, an Assistant Crown Attorney acknowledged Ke'ana for her thoroughness, eagerness to assist and proactive approach to investigations — qualities that have contributed to her reputation as a reliable and respected investigator.

Ke'ana's commitment to development extends well beyond operational policing.

While working full time as a Detective Constable, she completed a Bachelor of Criminal Justice through the University of Waterloo, balancing the demands of academic study with an active investigative workload. She continues to seek out training and new learning opportunities that strengthen her abilities and expand the knowledge she brings to her work.

That same commitment to growth is reflected in the relationships she builds with those around her.

Ke'ana is known for her calm presence and ability to communicate effectively with colleagues, members of the public and internal and external partners. She brings thoughtful insight to challenging situations, contributes to best practices and has developed a reputation for professionalism beyond what might typically be expected at this stage of a policing career.

Her contributions also extend into the community.

Ke'ana has supported OPP community initiatives including the first local Polar Plunge in Essex County in support of Special Olympics. She has also participated in recruiting events, physical readiness testing initiatives, Fire Week and other community-facing activities, consistently representing the OPP with professionalism and pride.

She has further demonstrated a commitment to supporting vulnerable children and youth through her involvement with the Windsor Essex Child/Youth Advocacy Centre, reinforcing a broader dedication to service that extends beyond enforcement.

What stands out most about Ke'ana's journey is not simply how quickly she has progressed, but the consistency with which she approaches every opportunity.

Whether managing a complex investigation, pursuing higher education, contributing to community initiatives or supporting colleagues, she continues to demonstrate the qualities of an emerging leader.

Detective Constable Ke'ana Martinez-Knight represents the promise of the next generation of law enforcement leadership — capable, composed, continually learning and determined to raise the standard with every step forward.

Setting the Standard Early



POLICE CONSTABLE NABILA MOHAMMED
London Police Service

In only two years of policing, Police Constable Nabila Mohammed has already established a reputation for professionalism, reliability, compassion and consistently high-quality work.

Serving with Two Section, Patrol Operations at the London Police Service, Nabila has distinguished herself through strong communication, sound judgment and a willingness to contribute wherever she is needed. Supervisors, investigators and community members alike have recognized the care and consistency she brings to her work — qualities that continue to set her apart early in her career.

One of Nabila's strengths is her attention to detail.

Her investigative reports and statements have repeatedly been recognized for being clear, thorough, chronological and complete. The quality of her documentation has even been used as an example for trainees, reflecting her understanding that strong investigations often begin with accurate and well-organized information.

That same level of professionalism carries into dynamic operational situations.

During a May 2025 incident involving a suspect connected to a stolen vehicle, Nabila participated in a foot pursuit before making the important decision to maintain officer safety after losing visual contact. She later supported the Canine Unit as a cover officer during the successful track and arrest.

In another high-risk incident involving concerns about possible firearms at a residential unit, Nabila located the original complainant, obtained detailed information and quickly relayed relevant intelligence to Emergency Response Unit members preparing to enter the residence.

In moments where circumstances can change quickly, her calm communication and ability to gather and share critical information have contributed to safe and coordinated police responses.

Nabila has also demonstrated a strong commitment to evidence-based policing and proactive community safety.

In February 2025, she was the highest contributor on Two Section for hotspot policing activity, completing 54 hotspot doses and continuing to rank among the section's top contributors in subsequent months. Her participation supports broader efforts aimed at crime prevention, visibility and community trust.

Yet some of the strongest examples of Nabila's emerging leadership are found in the way she approaches people experiencing vulnerability.

During an interaction involving an unhoused individual facing several complex challenges, Nabila looked beyond whether a criminal offence had occurred. She sought guidance, considered available community supports and prepared a detailed referral to a community partner.

Her approach reflected an understanding that effective policing can sometimes mean connecting someone with the right resources rather than simply concluding an investigation.

That compassion has also been recognized directly by members of the public.

Following a missing-person investigation involving an at-risk youth, Nabila contacted the young person's parent after the youth had been located and transported to hospital. She provided an update and offered reassurance during an extremely difficult moment — a gesture remembered by the family for its empathy and professionalism.

These moments collectively tell the story of an officer who understands that excellence in policing requires more than enforcement.

It requires attention to detail, good judgment, teamwork, initiative and the ability to treat people with dignity when they may be experiencing some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Police Constable Nabila Mohammed continues to demonstrate those qualities with a level of maturity well beyond her years of service.

Through her investigative work, operational contributions and compassionate approach to community service, she is already setting a strong standard for the career that lies ahead.

Breaking Barriers, Opening Doors



DEPUTY CHIEF TREENA MACSWEEN
London Police Service

Throughout a policing career spanning more than 28 years, Deputy Chief Treena MacSween has built a legacy defined by leadership, perseverance and a willingness to challenge barriers that once limited who could be seen in positions of influence.

Her career has included a wide range of operational, investigative and administrative leadership roles with both the Hamilton Police Service and the London Police Service. Along the way, she has earned the respect of colleagues, community partners and those she leads through a leadership style grounded in integrity, collaboration and service.

But Treena's journey has also been marked by a series of historic milestones.

In 2017, she became the first person of colour promoted to the rank of Inspector with the Hamilton Police Service. Four years later, she advanced to Superintendent, becoming only the fourth woman in the Service's history to hold that rank.

Each milestone represented more than personal advancement. They challenged long-standing expectations around leadership in policing and demonstrated the importance of ensuring that senior ranks reflect the diversity, experience and talent found within the communities they serve.

In 2023, while serving as Superintendent with the Hamilton Police Service, Treena was recognized as the inaugural recipient of the A.B.L.E. Trailblazer Award. This historic recognition celebrated her exceptional leadership, the barriers she had broken throughout her career and her commitment to creating opportunities for others. As the first recipient of the award, she helped establish a standard of excellence that continues to reflect the spirit and purpose of trailblazing leadership.

Her appointment as Deputy Chief of the London Police Service in 2024 marked another significant chapter in that journey.

With the appointment, Treena became the first woman of colour to serve on the London Police Service command team and, according to her nomination, the highest-ranking Black female police officer in Canada.

Yet what defines her leadership most is not simply the significance of being first.

Throughout her career, Treena has consistently used her position to encourage and support others, particularly women and racialized members seeking to build careers and pursue leadership opportunities within policing.

She has demonstrated that trailblazing leadership carries a responsibility to create space for those who follow.

By mentoring emerging leaders, encouraging others to pursue opportunities and investing in organizational culture, Treena has helped reinforce the idea that leadership should never feel out of reach because of background, race or gender.

Her approach has remained equally focused on community trust and collaboration.

Whether leading internally or engaging with external partners, Treena has emphasized relationships, accountability and the importance of creating environments where people feel valued and equipped to succeed.

For many women, racialized officers and aspiring police leaders, her career offers a visible example of what persistence and authentic leadership can achieve.

Her accomplishments have challenged traditional expectations and helped expand perceptions of who can occupy some of policing's most senior leadership positions.

That influence may ultimately be one of the most enduring parts of her legacy.

Deputy Chief Treena MacSween has not only crossed barriers throughout her own career — she has helped move those barriers for the people coming behind her.

Through historic achievement, mentorship and a sustained commitment to inclusion and service, she continues to demonstrate that true trailblazing is measured not simply by being the first to reach a destination, but by making the path wider for everyone who follows.

Setting the Standard Early



STAFF SUPERINTENDENT DIRK NILES

Staff Superintendent Dirk Niles is a senior public safety leader whose 28-year career has been defined by courageous leadership, sustained commitment, and service to the community.

His parents arrived in Canada from St. Lucia in the late 1960s and built a life grounded in the pursuit of excellence, service, and perseverance. His father, a neuroscientist and professor emeritus at McMaster University, taught him to view obstacles as opportunities and to believe that innovation, strategy, and hard work can change outcomes—values that became the foundation of his leadership.

Before entering policing, Niles worked as a child and youth worker, gaining early insight into how access to opportunity can shape positive outcomes—and how its absence can deepen disparity. At Peel Regional Police, he became one of Canada's first Superior Court-qualified experts on street gangs, combining enforcement with youth intervention and community support. He also pioneered racial-profiling education, lecturing to thousands of law enforcement personnel across Ontario on systemic issues and disparities in policing.

Drawing on his expertise, Niles designed the framework for the Strategic and Tactical Enforcement Program (STEP) in 2007, establishing a sustainable model that combines targeted gang enforcement with youth intervention and community support. Through the collective efforts of hundreds of Peel Regional Police members, STEP has secured more than $12 million in provincial funding and contributed to the seizure of over 11,000 firearms to date, strengthening public safety across the region. As one of the Service's longest-running grant-funded programs, STEP demonstrates the lasting impact of pairing effective policing with prevention and credible pathways for young people.

After advancing through operational, investigative, and administrative roles into senior leadership, Niles became executive lead for Peel Regional Police's Human Rights Project. Under Chief Nishan Duraiappah's leadership, he has helped guide one of the Service's most significant system-wide reform initiatives. Over six years, he has worked with colleagues, the

Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Police Service Board, leading academics, and the community-led Anti-Racism Advisory Committee to move the Project from consultation to implementation and finalize legally binding recommendations for lasting institutional change. His leadership has centred on elevating community voices—particularly the lived experiences of Black, Indigenous, and other racialized communities—and translating concerns about harm and disparity into reforms. These reforms span policy, training, race and identity-based data, accountability, de-escalation, and a zero-harm, zero-death approach to service delivery. Niles feels fortunate to have helped lead this work, which contributed to Peel Regional Police receiving the 2026 IACP Leadership in Human and Civil Rights Award and positioned the Project as an international model for human-rights-centred, community-informed police reform.

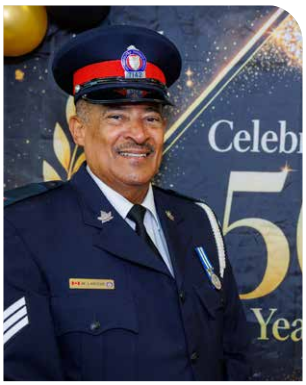
Over the past five years, Niles has developed a valued partnership and friendship with Jacqueline Edwards, President of the Association of Black Law Enforcers. Guided by A.B.L.E.'s commitment to systemic reform and eliminating discrimination in service delivery, they have collaborated on provincial and national priorities addressing race and identity-based data and disparities in policing. He deeply values this partnership and the opportunity to advance work grounded in A.B.L.E.'s mission. Their shared commitment informed Niles's work co-leading the development of the OACP Race and Identity-Based Data Framework, adopted in 2023 for all police services across Ontario.

Nationally, he was selected as a CACP leadership candidate and non-voting Board member. He later co-chaired, with the RCMP, a national working group that developed training on police-reported Black, Indigenous, and racialized identity data. He is honoured by the confidence placed in him by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, and values their shared commitment to system-wide reform. His contributions have been recognized with the CACP President's Award and his appointment as a Member of the Order of Merit of the Police Forces (M.O.M.).

Today, as a member of the Chief's Management Group working within Peel Regional Police's Strategy, Innovation and Technology Command, Niles continues to bring a community-informed perspective to his work. Throughout his career, he has sought to turn obstacles into opportunities—confronting difficult issues with courage, advancing meaningful reform, and ensuring community voices help shape institutional change.

If asked what he is most proud of, however, Dirk would point not to an award or professional achievement, but to the family he has built with his high school sweetheart, Charrie: their five adult children and their newest blessing, nine-month-old granddaughter Nyla Grace.

Five Decades of Service: A Legacy of Leadership, Community and Commitment



SERGEANT WINSTON LAROCHE
Toronto Police Service

For Sergeant Winston Laroche, policing has never been simply a profession. It has been a lifelong commitment to service, community, and the belief that meaningful leadership is measured not only by accomplishments, but by the lives we impact along the way.

In 2026, Winston celebrates an extraordinary milestone: 50 years of dedicated service with the Toronto Police Service, a remarkable legacy spanning five decades of change, progress, and unwavering commitment to the communities he serves.

Winston began his career on August 9, 1976, with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force at 33 Division. Throughout his distinguished career, he served in numerous assignments, including Primary Response, Criminal Investigations, Youth Bureau, Major Crime, Homicide, and Community Policing. Promoted to Sergeant in 1993, he continued to demonstrate the professionalism, integrity, and leadership that have defined his career. In 2003, he joined PRIME, formerly the Central Alternate Response Unit, where his experience and mentorship continue to make a lasting impact.

Among his notable achievements was his instrumental role in investigating a series of sexual assaults in the early 1980s. His investigative instincts, initiative, and perseverance helped bring the investigation to a successful conclusion, earning him and his partner a Service Award.

Beyond his operational accomplishments, Winston has been a dedicated advocate for community engagement, representation, and inclusion. A proud member of the Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) since April 11, 2004, his more than two decades of membership reflect his longstanding connection to an organization committed to mentorship, professional development, and the advancement of Black law enforcement professionals.

Winston was also part of a team that successfully championed the formal recognition of Black History Month within the Toronto Police Service and secured support for a Service float in the Caribana Parade. These efforts contributed to greater cultural recognition and helped strengthen connections between policing and Toronto's diverse communities.

His commitment to service extends beyond the uniform. Through his involvement with United Mothers Opposing Violence Everywhere (UMOVE), Winston has supported initiatives focused on violence prevention and families affected by homicide-related violence. As a volunteer with the Service's Critical Incident Response Team, he has also provided compassion, guidance, and support to fellow members during some of their most challenging moments.

Throughout five decades, Winston has witnessed the evolution of policing firsthand. Yet his greatest contribution may be the example he continues to set: that leadership requires humility, service demands compassion, and lasting change is built through the courage to advocate for others.

As A.B.L.E. celebrates Sergeant Laroche's remarkable 50-year milestone, his career stands as a powerful reflection of the values of courage, commitment, and community.

Fifty years in policing is an extraordinary accomplishment. Fifty years of opening doors, strengthening communities, and inspiring those who follow is a legacy that extends far beyond the badge.

From First to Forever Remembered: The Enduring Legacy of Lewis "Bud" Coray



LEWIS CORAY
London Police Service

Sergeant Lewis "Bud" Coray was a pioneering member of the London Police Service (LPS) whose courage, professionalism, and commitment to community helped pave the way for future generations of police officers and community leaders.

In August 1951, Sergeant Coray became the first Black police officer hired by the LPS, entering a profession at a time when racial barriers and discrimination were common throughout Canadian society. Despite those challenges, he embarked on a distinguished policing career that would span three decades.

Throughout his 30 years of service, Sergeant Coray earned the respect of both his colleagues and the community through his dedication, integrity, and leadership. He began his career as a uniformed officer before moving into criminal investigations. In 1963, he became a detective and ultimately retired from the Fraud Unit as a Detective Sergeant.

Beyond his investigative work, Sergeant Coray was actively involved in supporting and advocating for fellow officers through leadership roles within the LPS. His influence extended well beyond policing, as he became a role model for countless individuals pursuing careers in public service and law enforcement.

In recognition of his groundbreaking accomplishments and lasting impact, the LPS established the Lewis Coray Trailblazer Award in 2012. The award celebrates young people from African, Caribbean, and Black communities who demonstrate leadership, academic achievement, volunteerism, and a commitment to making a positive difference in their communities.

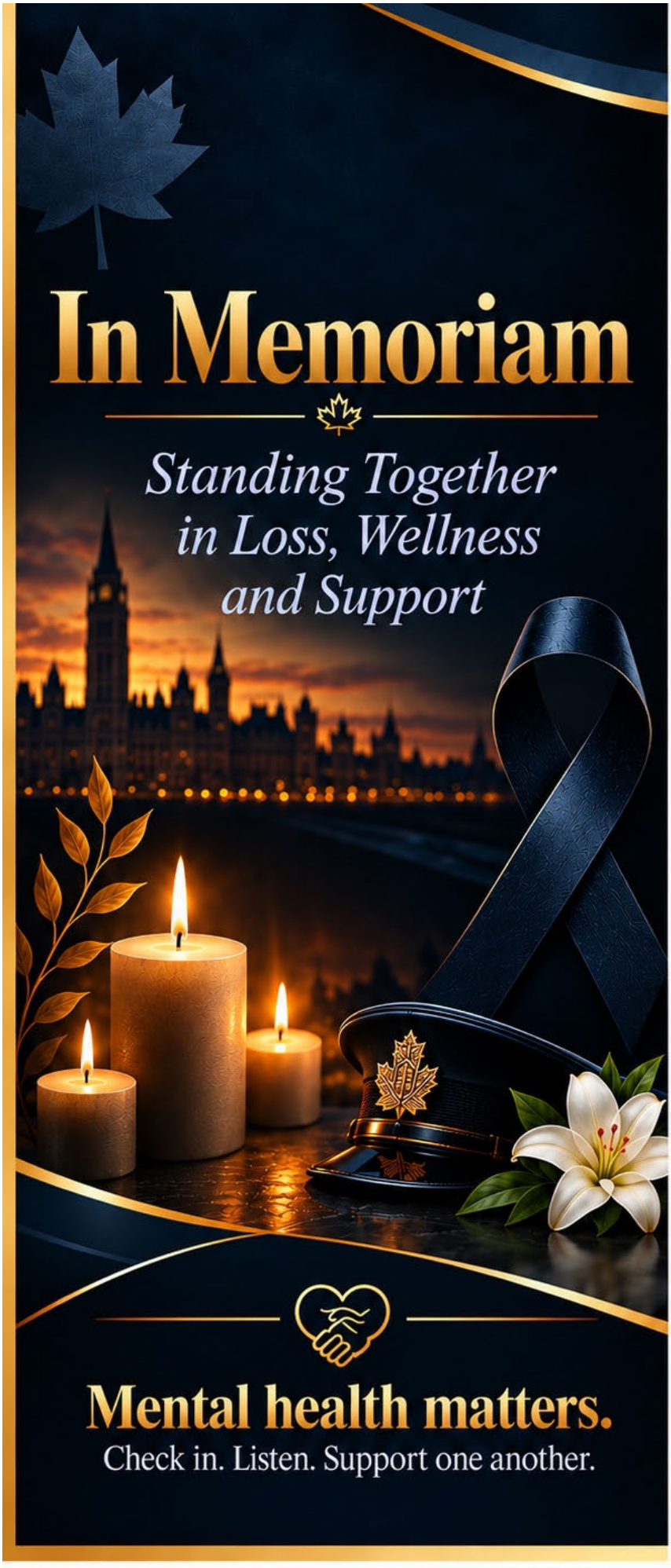
In 2020, the LPS further honoured Sergeant Coray by renaming a community space at London Police Headquarters the Lewis "Bud" Coray Community Room. During the ceremony, he reflected on the extraordinary journey that began when he was hired in 1951, noting that he never imagined he would become a role model for future generations of minority police officers.

Sergeant Coray passed away on January 12, 2023, at the age of 96. His legacy continues through the annual Lewis Coray Trailblazer Awards Evening and the many lives he inspired through his example of perseverance, dignity, and service.

At the 14th annual Lewis Coray Trailblazer Award ceremony in 2025, LPS launched Lewis Coray Connections as an extension of the award. Through the Lewis Coray Connections event, LPS continues to foster and enhance relationships with the diverse communities of London and more particularly, young people of London's African, Caribbean and Black communities.

Today, Sergeant Lewis "Bud" Coray is remembered not only as London's first Black police officer, but as a trailblazer who served as a beacon for his family, London's Black community, and London's community at large, and whose contributions helped shape a more inclusive police service and a stronger community for future generations.

A Special Thank You to Our 2026 Sponsors



Honouring Those We Have Lost

This year, A.B.L.E. joins the broader law enforcement and public safety community in mourning a number of profound and heartbreaking losses.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the following members who lost their lives in the line of duty, and while serving their communities.

We remember Sergeant-Investigator Anaïs Fortin-Cozzens of the Sûreté du Québec, **Sergeant Brandon Malcolm** and **Provincial Constable Tarun Bali** of the Ontario Provincial Police, **Constable Marc Pinizzotto** of the Toronto Police Service, and **Constable Mohamed Lamine Benredouane** of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal, who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.

We remember Correctional Officers Nicolae Serban and Ramandeep Kaur Maan, who lost their lives while carrying out their duties with the correctional service in Canada. Their dedication, professionalism and service will never be forgotten.

We remember Constable-in-Training Tyrone Magbitang of the **Durham Regional Police Service**, whose life was tragically cut short while travelling to the Ontario Police College as he pursued his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, colleagues and the entire Durham Regional Police Service.

We remember other members of our public safety community who have also experienced deeply felt losses within the **Hamilton Police Service, Durham Regional Police Service, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and** other organizations across the country. To every family, friend, colleague and organization carrying the weight of loss, A.B.L.E. extends our heartfelt condolences.

Behind every uniform is a person — a colleague, friend, parent, sibling, partner and loved one. Their absence is felt far beyond the organizations in which they served.

These moments also remind us of the importance of continuing to support the mental health and wellness of those who serve. Careers in law enforcement, corrections and public safety can carry tremendous responsibility, stress and exposure to difficult circumstances. No member of our community should ever feel that they have to carry those burdens alone.

As a community, we must continue to look out for one another. Check in on your colleagues. Make space for honest conversations. Listen without judgment. Reach out when you need support, and encourage others to do the same.

Asking for help is a sign of strength.
Being there for one another can make a difference.

A.B.L.E. stands with the families, friends, colleagues and organizations mourning these losses. We honour those we have lost for the lives they lived, the service they gave, and the lasting impact they made on their families, colleagues and communities.

We remember them. We honour them.
May they rest in peace.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert States

A LONGTIME A.B.L.E. MEMBER AND
RETIRED TORONTO POLICE SERVICE SERGEANT

SERVICE · COMMUNITY · LEGACY · ALWAYS REMEMBERED



Robert States during a recent visit to the Toronto Police Museum & Discovery Centre, standing in front of a display featuring his earlier years of service.

The Association of Black Law Enforcers (A.B.L.E.) mourns the passing of Robert States, a longtime A.B.L.E. member, respected member of the law enforcement community, and retired Sergeant with the Toronto Police Service. Robert passed away on July 28, 2026, at the age of 71.

Robert began his policing career with the Toronto Police Force in the 1970s and went on to dedicate 33 years to policing. Throughout his distinguished career, he served in a variety of roles, including as an undercover detective, before retiring at the rank of Sergeant in 2009.

Beyond his service with the Toronto Police Service, Robert was a valued member of A.B.L.E. and its community. His membership reflected a shared commitment to service, representation, professiomd excellence and strengthening the bonds between law enforcement and the communities we serve. His contributions form part of the history and legacy of A.B.L.E., and we are proud to recognize him as one of our own.

Robert is pictured during a recent visit to the Toronto Police Museum & Discovery Centre, standing proudly beside a historic Metro Toronto Police cruiser. Above him is a museum display featuring Robert during his earlier years of service — a fitting and meaningful reflection of a career and legacy dedicated to policing and public service.

A.B.L.E. extends our deepest condolences to Robert's family, friends, former colleagues, fellow A.B.L.E. members and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

We honour Robert States for his service, his membership and his lasting contribution to our community.
May his legacy continue to be remembered.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HELEN HIBERT
Singing of the national anthem

Juno Nominated singer /songwriter Helen Hibbert is still touching the hearts of listeners everywhere from the church sanctuary to the airwaves on social media, her voice and music always tell the story of love and joy.

As the co-founder of Wonderful Women Unite, a yearly gathering for women of all races, Helen reminds us through song that Unity is possible, impactful and powerful.



KERRY KING AND BRONSON DEAGLE
Singing of the black national anthem

Kerry King and Bronson Deagle (better known as the Deagle Twins) are a well-known local singing duo that have been singing & performing together in London since the tender age of 4.

They started singing in the church, and have since progressed to doing weddings, funerals and apparently now Police functions.

They are also current praise team members & worship leaders for their church at Word of His Power Faith Christian Center here in London.

They love God, they love to volunteer and they love to serve their community using their abilities & talents...

Please welcome to the stage Kerry & Bronson Deagle for the singing of the Canadian National Anthem!



BIO DJ- RICK THOMAS

Rick "DJ Slick Adrian" is an independent record store owner and music curator with a deep passion for the sounds and cultures that have shaped his musical journey. Of Jamaican and Bajan heritage, DJ Slick Adrian draws inspiration from his Caribbean roots and his strong connection to London, Ontario, through his wife and Trinidadian in-laws. Bringing that rich cultural influence to every performance, he seamlessly blends Soca, Reggae, Hip Hop, Afrobeat, and other global genres to create an energetic and inclusive atmosphere. His sets celebrate diversity, unite communities, and showcase the power of music to connect people across cultures.Please welcome to the stage Kerry & Bronson Deagle for the singing of the Canadian National Anthem!



THE GOLDEN HARPS STEEL ORCHESTRA

Entertaining London and surrounding areas since 2002, the Golden Harps Steel Orchestra brings the sweet rhythmic vibes and sounds of the Caribbean to any occasion or celebration. The Golden Harps Steel Orchestra will have you singing and dancing to the unique sounds and dynamic range of the steel pan, Trinidad and Tobago's national instrument. Feel the rhythm. Catch the vibe. Let the Golden Harps Steel Orchestra bring the Caribbean to you!

Bookings and inquiries can be made at:
goldenharpsbookings@gmail.com
or by contacting band founder and leader,
Terry Greene at 519-317-4505.



HALEY SHEPSTONE

Hailey Shepstone is a 20 year old musican and a proud member of the 2SLGTBQIA+, BIPOC, and Differently Abled communities. Predominantly self-taught, Hailey began playing and writing music in their basement. They later joined a local music community, performing on stage for the first time in 2022, going by the name J.A.S. (Just Another Stranger). Their stage name comes from the quote "He knew the dream chose the dreamer not the other way around." from Laini Taylor's, Strange the Dreamer. With music being their form of catharsis, Hailey utilizes music to express herself, as well as using it as a means of understanding and making sense of the world around them. Since 2018, Hailey has written over 500 songs, and currently attends university to pursue a degree and career in music.

LKCGC
LONDON KIDS COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

THE LONDON KIDS COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR

Founded in Fall 2022 by Montreal-native, London-based Director Achlaï Ernest Wallace, the award-winning London Kids Community Gospel Choir (LKCGC) is comprised of 38 children and youth ages 7–17 from London and surrounding areas. LKCGC provides a welcoming space where choir members learn to sing traditional and contemporary Black gospel music while developing their voices through complex harmonies and creative vocal expression. More than just a choir, LKCGC nurtures confidence, connection, and a strong sense of belonging among its members. The Choir has been recognized as a 2024 Forest City Music Awards nominee, a 2nd place winner at London's Got Talent 2024. Most notably, the London Kids Community Gospel Choir was the recipient of the Gospel/Contemporary Music Artist of the Year Award at Essence and Cultural Awards in both 2025 and 2026.

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TROPICANA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

TROPICANA JUSTICE SERVICES

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PHOENIX YOUTH PROGRAM

Supporting Black youth in the justice system through mentorship, advocacy, and life skills development.



AYA BLACK JUSTICE NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Guiding Black individuals age 18–30 through the justice system and connecting them to resources and opportunities.



SAFARI COMMUNITY REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

Helping individuals successfully reintegrate into the community with support, services, and second chances.

RE-ENTRY SUPPORT
AS PART OF THE MISSING BLACK BOYS CRISIS

We provide culturally responsive re-entry support to help young men and their families transition back into the community with stability, opportunity and hope.

ACCEPTING REFERRALS

For more information:

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OUR COMMITMENT

We believe in equity, dignity, and the power of community. Our programs are rooted in cultural pride, compassion, and a vision for a just and inclusive future.

TOGETHER, WE BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

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LPA
London Police Association

The London Police Association Leadership would like to congratulate tonight's A.B.L.E. scholarship and award recipients.



The London Police Association Leadership

GARETH EDWARDS	OZZIE NETHERSOLE	PAULO DOMINGUES	MIKE HAY	WALTER LABACHER	GARY BEZAIRE	JUSTIN BRUNI	KYLE TEDBALL	KINGA WISNIEWSKAN
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