



Kardinal Offishall

to perform at the 5th Annual Canadian Building Diversity Awards

Toronto, Ontario (April 29, 2025) For Immediate Release: The Toronto Community Benefits Network is thrilled to announce that Kardinal Offishall will perform at the 5th Annual Canadian Building Diversity Awards. The awards, presented in partnership with Desjardins, celebrate industry leaders who champion diversity in construction across Canada. This year's awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 29, 2025 at the Great Canadian Casino Resort Toronto located at 1133 Queen's Plate Drive, Etobicoke, Ontario. To purchase tickets, visit <https://buildingdiversity.ca/tickets>.

Toronto's own Kardinal Offishall is a global music icon, cultural leader, and philanthropist whose impact transcends generations and industries. Joining Offishall for this year's ceremony are CTV News Anchor Nathan Downer who will co-emcee with TÖME, Nigerian French-Canadian singer, songwriter, and actor. Special guest speakers and presenters taking centre stage include Angela Clayton, Interim President and CEO, Infrastructure Ontario; Heather McDonald, President & Chief Executive Officer, United Way Greater Toronto; and Ron Urquhart, Chief Operations Officer, Great Canadian Gaming Corporation.

Layne "The Auctionista" will spearhead the launch of a high-impact fundraising campaign to fuel the expansion of TCBN's transformative community benefits programs. These initiatives have already delivered meaningful economic change, securing quality jobs and career building opportunities for over 2,000 individuals from equity deserving communities. TCBN's strategic influence has had an impact on major infrastructure and urban development projects like the Eglinton Crosstown LRT, Finch West LRT, West Park Healthcare Centre, and Rexdale Casino Woodbine.

"The Canadian Building Diversity Awards stands as Canada's premier event recognizing industry leaders shaping the future of work through their unwavering commitment to diversity, excellence, and innovation," says Rosemarie Powell, Executive Director, Toronto Community Benefits Network. "This growing movement reflects a deep understanding of the economic power unlocked when we embrace the possibilities and welcome all voices to drive transformative change, and business growth that best serve the communities from which we derive value. TCBN and our partners are honoured to celebrate these trailblazers."

Desjardins, the largest financial cooperative in North America, is the presenting sponsor for 2025's Building Diversity Awards. Desjardins has 7.8 million members and clients, 55,290 employees and 2,313 elected directors. Women in Governance awarded the prestigious Platinum level of the Parity Certification to Desjardins, recognizing its commitment to achieving equal representation of women at every level of the organization.

"Diversity and inclusion cut across every sector and every region. We need leaders who champion these values and promote the positive impact that Benefits Agreements have in our communities. Through its advocacy and commitment, the Toronto Community Benefits Network is a voice of influence driving meaningful impact around diversity, equity, inclusion, and reconciliation across the country," says Marilyn Horrick, Senior Vice President, Market Growth, Brand Expansion, and Partner Relations, Outside Quebec, Desjardins, Group. "The TCBN's Building Diversity Awards shine a light on nominees who have advanced exceptional diversity programs fostering innovation and inclusivity in the Canadian construction industry. Desjardins is proud to be a partner in this journey."

The Building Diversity Awards is the premier event celebrating diversity, equity, and inclusion across Canada. This 5th annual celebration will be graced with breathtaking performances by top Canadian artists and heartfelt presentations from industry leaders. The theme for this year's awards is "Embracing the Possibilities". This theme honours the visionaries and innovators pushing boundaries in the construction industry.



Kardinal Offishall is a global music icon, cultural leader, and philanthropist whose impact transcends generations and industries. Born in Toronto to Jamaican parents, Kardinal pioneered a sound that blended hip-hop with reggae and dancehall influences, putting Canadian rap on the world stage. His groundbreaking hit "Dangerous" featuring Akon became a historic moment in music, making him the first Canadian rapper to top the Billboard Hot 100 charts. With a career that spans decades, he has collaborated and shared stages with some of the biggest names in entertainment, including Rihanna, Lady Gaga, Drake, TLC, Ludacris, and Busta Rhymes. His live performances are electric, bringing an unmatched energy that has lit up global festivals, stadiums, and some of the most high-profile events in the industry.



Nathan Downer is the Co-Ancor of Toronto's most-watched local newscasts: CTV News at Noon and CTV News at Six. Downer was previously an anchor and reporter for CP24 and an anchor of LIVE AT FIVE on CTV Toronto. Downer is an experienced radio and television broadcaster. He has covered the city's most significant news stories during his 11 years with CP24, from federal, provincial, and municipal elections, to the Bruce McArthur serial killings investigation, and the 2019 NBA championship win by the Toronto Raptors. Prior to joining the CP24 Team, Downer's work as a reporter for Global TV earned him three RTNDA awards in 2005, including a national prize for a feature story. He enjoys hosting many special community events and is an active member of the

Canadian Association of Black Journalists. Raised in Scarborough, Ontario, Downer studied at the University of Toronto and George Brown College and loves living in the east side of downtown Toronto with his family.



TÖME has toured with African international music heavyweights; Wizkid, Burna Boy, Mr Eazi and performed with so many of your favourites. Headlined festivals and concerts across Canada and globally, The Nigerian French-Canadian Singer-Songwriter born in Montreal, Canada boasts of a sonic palette that is just as diversified as her multicultural background. Her half-a-decade musical journey is marked by her debut project; One with Self, a 5-track self-recorded acoustic EP that was released on Soundcloud in 2015. TÖME continued to hone her skills and nurture her audience with the release of her first official tape; Tomesroom: Chapter 1 in 2019. In 2020, she released her sophomore album, Bigger than 4 Walls followed by her JUNOS award-winning track 'I Pray' which features Jamaican artist, Sean

Kingston. Following her EP; Dreams in 2021 and her third official album; LÖV (love over vanity) in early 2022. She finished 2023 with a 6-track EP titled "PRELUDE" as a re-introduction to her sound and brand.



Angela Clayton was appointed interim President and CEO of Infrastructure Ontario in December 2024 while Michael Lindsay is on secondment to Metrolinx as that agency's interim President and Chief Executive Officer. With over 25 years of experience in the infrastructure sector, Angela has extensive experience working in both the public and private sectors in the areas of strategic planning, risk management, and program management. In her current role, she is responsible for overseeing the strategy, planning, and implementation of over \$100B in infrastructure projects across Ontario. Angela is a Chartered Professional Accountant with a bachelor's degree in commerce. She also holds several professional designations, including her

ICD.D, PMP, FMA and RPA. She is a passionate advocate for women in the infrastructure sector and actively seeks ways to make meaningful contributions to her community through her involvement in industry associations and volunteer efforts.



Heather McDonald has more than 25 years of leadership in the social and human services sector, her career includes work in the fields of community health care, harm reduction, and street outreach. Most recently, Heather served as CEO of LOFT Community Services, one of Ontario's largest providers of supportive housing and mental health services. Under her leadership, LOFT significantly expanded its housing portfolio, diversified its funding base, and deepened its impact across the Greater Toronto Area. Heather has a master's degree in social work from Wilfrid Laurier University and certification in mediation. She has been awarded Wilfrid Laurier University's Award for Community Impact in 2023, the 2022 National Changemakers Award by the Globe and Mail, the North American Heart of

Social Work Award in 2016, and the National Terry Fox Humanitarian Award in 1992. Described by others who have worked with and for her as a “purpose-driven, values-driven leader” and a “servant leader deeply dedicated to city-building”, Heather is seen as someone who has positive energy, is super smart, has executive presence, and is very strategic with great people skills. She was appointed CEO and President of United Way Greater Toronto in February 2025, where she will lead the organization as it embarks on its ambitious 10-year strategic plan and fundraising campaign.



Ron Urquhart is the Chief Operations Officer of Great Canadian Gaming Corporation, overseeing operations across 23 casinos nationwide. With a focus on operational excellence, growth, and guest experience, Ron drives the strategic direction of the company’s diverse gaming and hospitality portfolio. Since joining the company in 2001, he has held senior leadership roles across multiple regions, including launching key properties in Ontario and leading significant expansions in the GTA. As COO, Ron is responsible for ensuring operational efficiency, strategic and operational management, and the continued growth of the organization. He also prioritizes governance and compliance efforts across all sites, supporting a culture of integrity, safety, and accountability.

2025 Building Diversity Awards Website: <https://buildingdiversity.ca/>
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