



Diversity in Action

2025 Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards Honouring Leaders Who Stand Firm Amid DEI Pushbacks

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
Carmens Event Centre
1520 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton, Ontario

Hamilton, ON (October 24, 2025): Empower Strategy Group presents the 2025 Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards. The awards recognize individuals and organizations who advance equity, diversity and inclusion across the region. This year's awards luncheon will take place on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, from 11am to 2pm at Carmens Event Centre located at 1520 Stone Church Road East, Hamilton, Ontario. The community is invited to celebrate exemplary leaders who create impact through action, and inspire others to build respectful and empower communities. Tickets are \$95 per person and can be purchased at <https://www.empowerstrategygroup.com/diversity-awards>.

The poster features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. At the top, it reads "GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE DIVERSITY AWARDS and Luncheon". Below this, it identifies the "Guest Speaker: HONOURABLE DR. JEAN AUGUSTINE". A circular inset shows a portrait of Dr. Jean Augustine. The event details are listed as "OCTOBER 29, 2025 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM" at "Carmen's Banquet Centre 1520 Stonechurch Road, Hamilton". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for sponsors: Hamilton Community Foundation, FirstOntario Credit Union, st. matt's, REFUGE, NEWCOMER HEALTH, and United Way.

"The Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards are more than a celebration. They are a reflection of the extraordinary leadership, courage, and collaboration that make our region stronger and more inclusive," says Evelyn Myrie, Founder of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards and CEO of Empower Strategy Group. "At a time when diversity, equity, and inclusion is being questioned or rolled back, it is even more important that we continue to stand firm in our commitment. Progress cannot be paused. These changemakers remind us that DEI is not a trend. It is the foundation of a fair and thriving society. When we invest in inclusion, we invest in our collective future."

The Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, will be our distinguished guest speaker. Linda Rourke, respected journalist, will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Guests will also enjoy a special surprise performance celebrating the region's cultural richness and spirit of unity.

2025 Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards Nominees:

Youth Diversity Champion Award Nominees

- Daunte Hillen
- Fatima Solhail

Community Diversity Champion Award Nominees

- Jessica Bonilla-Dampney
- Sarah Ernest
- Steve Kerr
- Michele Markowski
- Deirdre Pike
- Niki Poirier
- Abdihakim Said
- Lyndsay Scott
- Gennile Thomas Smith

Senior Leader Diversity Champion Award Nominees

- Leanne Taylor
- Tehreem Zafar

Organizational Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award Nominees

- Mujeres que Inspiran (Johanna Frosseard Rodriguez and Lugo Dominguez)
- OrthoPA Network Inc. (Ohood Elzibak)
- STAC - Steel Town Athletic Club (Vince Kuber)
- TCBN - Toronto Community Benefits Network (Rosemarie Powell)

The Honourable Jean Augustine is a trailblazer whose leadership has shaped Canada's social and political landscape. In 1993, she made history as the first Black woman elected to the Canadian House of Commons, representing Etobicoke–Lakeshore. Throughout her remarkable career, she has been a tireless advocate for equity, inclusion, and education. As Minister of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, Dr. Augustine led important national conversations on gender equality, ensuring that women's diverse experiences were reflected in public policy. During her tenure, Status of Women Canada advanced gender-based analysis as a key approach to understanding and addressing inequities -- a legacy that continues to guide policymaking today. Dr. Augustine is also the visionary behind the motion that officially established the celebration of Black History Month in Canada, a milestone that recognized the enduring contributions of people of African descent to the country's growth and identity. A lifelong educator, she began her career as a teacher and principal and later founded the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment in Etobicoke, which supports girls in realizing their full potential. Born in Grenada and proud to call Canada home, Dr. Augustine's life embodies resilience, leadership, and community service. Her many honours, including the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, reflect her unwavering commitment to justice, equality and the empowerment of others.

Empower Strategy Group provides support to organizations to help them move from ideas to action. We help our partners create an actionable approach that embeds EDI within the DNA of your organization. Already have training in place, but worried about getting it right? Do you have policies that reflect your diversity goals? Not sure if you're doing enough? Sustainable progress will not be achieved if DEI is driven in a silo. EDI must be embedded within the DNA of an organization, identified as fundamental to its success and naturally woven into the fabric of its business, customer and workforce strategies.



Shelley Falconer, 2024 Senior Leader Award Winner, with the Hamilton Community Foundation's Yulena Wan.