



# The Afro Canadian Caribbean Association congratulates Evelyn Myrie on receiving an Honorary Degree from McMaster University

**For Immediate Release (Saturday, November 29, 2025):** The Afro Canadian Caribbean Association (ACCA) is proud to congratulate its President, Evelyn Myrie, on being conferred an Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) from McMaster University. Myrie's Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, was presented on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at McMaster University's Faculties of Business, Humanities, Social Science and Arts & Science Fall Convocation at First Ontario Concert Hall in Hamilton, Ontario. Myrie also delivered the convocation address.

Evelyn Myrie, LL.D., the founder and principal of EMpower Strategy Group, emigrated to Canada from Jamaica in 1974 and settled in Windsor. She completed her BA at the University of Windsor, and began her long career in social activism with a position with Windsor Women Working for Immigrant Women.

After a role as volunteer chair of the Visible Minority Women's Committee, Myrie moved to Hamilton in 1989 and served as social development consultant with Status of Women Canada, where she worked for almost two decades.

Myrie was the first Black woman to serve as chair of the City of Hamilton's Status of Women Subcommittee and was a founding member of Hamilton's Elect More Women organization.





*Evelyn Myrie addressing attendees at McMaster University's Fall Convocation for the Faculties of Business, Humanities, Social Science and Arts & Science. Photo Credit: Augustine Umbimago*

She became the inaugural director of the Peel Newcomer Strategy Group before returning to Hamilton as Executive Director of the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion.

Myrie cofounded the John C. Holland Awards and led the development of the John Holland Institute for Leadership. The organization's annual Evelyn Myrie Award for Political Action was created in recognition of her considerable contributions.

She founded the Women Who Rock Awards and the Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards. She has served on the Hamilton Arts Advisory Committee.

Myrie served as chair of the African Canadian Legal Clinic and the African Black History Committee (now Hamilton

Black History Council), is President of the Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association, and has sat as a board member for several organizations including the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, the United Way of Burlington/Hamilton, the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre, First Ontario Credit Union, the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, and the Hamilton Future Fund.

Her efforts have been recognized with the Windsor Diversity Award, the YWCA Women of Distinction Award, the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, the Afro Global Award for Community Service, the Hamilton Spectator's Portrait of Success Award, the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women Award, the Order of Hamilton, and induction into the Hamilton Gallery of Distinction.

Evelyn Myrie's Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, reflects decades of leadership advancing equity, civic participation, and Black community empowerment, both locally and internationally. The Afro Canadian Caribbean Association celebrates this milestone and acknowledges Myrie's continued commitment to strengthening our community.

**The Afro Canadian Caribbean Association of (ACCA)** is a charitable non-profit organization that was founded in 1979 by early Black immigrants. ACCA has invested in lifting up Black excellence throughout the City of Hamilton. Today ACCA offers youth mentorship and seniors programs and is a strong voice on issues facing the Afro-Canadian Caribbean community in Hamilton. ACCA's creed is Unity, Strength and Progress. Therefore, through its members ACCA strives to provide a vehicle for uniting all African, Canadian and Caribbean people residing in the Hamilton region. At the core of ACCA's values is the belief that all residents have the right to a good life. **Website:** <https://accahamilton.com>