



March 1, 2018

Dear **FRIENDS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

The Vaughan African Canadian Association is celebrating fifteen years of community service on May 5, 2018. The theme of this year's Gala is "A Legacy for Our Children."

To celebrate this special occasion, we are presenting a "Legacy" award to 15 deserving Black Youths making in impact on their community and striving for excellence. We are also recognizing distinguished individuals and organizations who are creating a positive "*Legacy for our Children.*"

Our **Fifteen Year Anniversary Celebration and Awards Show** will take place at the Avani Event Center in Vaughan on **Saturday May 5, 2018** beginning at 5:00PM.

The event will include the Awards presentation, live entertainment, dinner, and an African cultural fashion show. To support our theme "*A Legacy for Our Children*" we are supporting Girls in Business through the launch of 3 Girls Ink, an incredible female empowerment clothing line and lifestyle company run by girls ages 14, 16 and 19. They will be launching their line at our Gala and giving away signed original T-shirts.

Tickets must be purchased in advance due to seating arrangements. Tickets are on sale at vacaorg.com. For the purchase of a table of 10, please send us an email and we will reserve a table for you and/or your organization or company. Proceeds from the Gala will benefit our Girls' Entrepreneur Program, Our new office space and Ballers' Paradise Sports Foundation.

We look forward to sharing this milestone with you and thank you for your continued support. As we continue to grow and expand our programs throughout the Region, we look forward to working with you for decades to come. I am looking forward to seeing you on May 5, 2018.

Sincerely,
Sherrett Martin
Executive Director

2018 Legacy Award Recipients:

Hon., Celina Caesar-Chavannes MP., Whitby

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Development

Hon., Michael Couteau, MPP., Don Valley East

Minister of Community and Social Services, Minister of Children and Youth Services

Minister responsible for Anti-Racism

Hon., Mitzie Hunter, MPP., Scarborough - Guildwood

Minister of Advanced Education & Skills Development

Abdi Mirza, Community Director, Ahmaadiya Community & Peace Village

Jeewan Chanika, Superintendent of Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression, Toronto District School Board

Cst. Amaree Watkis, Constable, Diversity & Cultural Resource Unit, York Region Police

Andre Crawford, Deputy Chief of Police, York Region Police

Cecil Roach, Superintendent of Equity & Engagement, York Region School Board

Rashmi Swarup, Superintendent of Education, York Region School Board

Lisa Leoni, Principal, York Region School Board

Sulemaan Ahmed & Khadija Cajee, Founders, NoFlyListKids and Parent and student advocates

Vaughan Parsons, Youth Outreach Worker, Dufferin Clarke Community Center

Peel District School Board

Canada Basketball

Michel Bowe, Supervisor, Diversity & Outreach, York Children's Aid Society

Cheryl Yarde, Teacher, York Region District School Board, President, BFCN (Black Foundation of Community Networks)

Vernon Hendrickson, President, Thornhill African Caribbean Association

Amira Elghawaby, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM)

Serena Thompson and Ulysses Gurrier, TAIBU Community Health Center

Sandi Folkes, President/CEO, CariFestival