

## Tropicana Welcomes **163** New Canadian Citizens



Above L-R: Nimo Abdulkadir – Interim Executive Director, Tropicana Community Services, Judge Rochelle Ivri, Nadine Williams, Dorothy Abbott – Ontario Black History Society, Lorenza St. Martin – Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Right: New Canadian Citizens proudly display their certificates of citizenship.



In celebration of Black History Month, Tropicana Community Services and the Ontario Black History Society hosted a Canadian Citizenship ceremony that welcomed 163 new Canadians from 35 countries. Judge Rochelle Ivri presided over the ceremony held at Tropicana's Centre of Excellence on February 26, 2019. Judge Ivri opened the ceremony by acknowledging the land and its Indigenous roots and proceeded to share historical contributions made by Black Canadians, including Viola Desmond. As part of the celebration, award winning poet Nadine Williams recited her poem "Viola 10", which commemorates Desmond on the Canadian \$10 bill.

Judge Ivri's remarks united everyone when she said, "And while very few of us share the same past, as Canadians, we can all share the same future. By working together, our accomplishments are limitless." The general mood after the ceremony was one that was filled with hope and a bright future.

## Dozens of women from the community attended Tropicana's International Women's Day celebration.

Tropicana Community Services, in celebration of International Women's Day, held its 16th annual IWD conference, co-hosted by Tropicana Community Services facilitators Melanie Beckford, Josette Leader and Jennifer Grant.

The conference whose theme this year was, Balance for the Better – Be Ready, Be Resilient, Be Remarkable, had 60 women from within the local community in attendance, and featured guest speakers Naturopathic Doctor Sophia Ma, and Community Outreach Coordinator of Connecting Women with Scarborough Services, Shagufta Sadique, among others.

Gender equality, the stigmas surrounding women in negative relationships, the reality of those situations, how to combat such issues, showing support for such individuals, as well as the importance of proper nutrition in better promoting, and maintaining mental, and physical health were key features of this year's conference.

**Get Your Tickets TODAY!**  
Friday June 7, 2019 at 6:00 pm

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Presents

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A.Adamson@TropicanaCommunity.org  
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## TD Mentors Share Their Knowledge of the Industry



On April 10th, 2019, Tropicana Community Services in partnership with United Way and TD Bank, organized a networking event for youth 18-29 years old. TD volunteers connected with youth participants, by sharing their industry knowledge, expertise and career insights. Volunteer mentors from TD also shared tips on breaking into the job market and speaking about their experience and life journeys. We had a great attendance of 15 volunteer mentors from TD and 29 youth mentees who attended the event, all youth are currently completing their pre-employment programs at Tropicana. This event helped our youth to build confidence, expand professional networks and meet new career role models!

*Thank you TD for your continued support!*

# Women Take the Lead in Pre-Employment Program



In the past two years, the Toronto Youth Job Corp (TYJC) Program has never had an all-female cohort, until this spring. The four women in TYJC's pre-employment program participated in painting non-profit coops, job searching in the community and recruited youth for the very program they were enrolled in. The end results for the group were amazing! Each woman learned how to proficiently paint, give back to the community through volunteering, and how to market themselves to potential employers. Their hard work landed each participant one or more interviews which in turn resulted in employment.

Today, Tropicana Community Services is very proud of this group of young women, who were already

empowered, but needed a slight boost in their confidence and support with their career goals.

Throughout the five week program, the participants bonded with each other and offered support along the way.

The Toronto Youth Job Corp facilitators watched these young women go from fearful to fearless.

Indeed, they have demonstrated their tenacity and are ready to prove to the world that they can do it.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE INTO MARCH AT TROPICANA



On March 20, 2019, Tropicana Community Services held its Black History Month youth, and community celebration, at its Centre of Excellence. The event was organized by the Youth Mentorship program and Defy Your Label Girls and Boys



programs which featured hosts Fitzgerald Charles and poet Barack Davy-Simmonds. The celebration featured performances from Igigbe - local shango drummer, members of the Defy Your Label programs and community artists. The event which was originally scheduled to be hosted during Black History Month was set up to educate the youth that attend programs at Tropicana.

Co-organizer Jo-Anne Henderson had this to say, "YMP [Youth Mentorship Program] and Defy Your Label – Girls decided to host The Black History Month Celebration because we felt...it was an opportunity to seize the moment to educate the Black youth we serve about Black African, Caribbean history and customs." Henderson continues. "It is also fitting to say that mentoring is part of the Black Youth Action Plan and thanks to our funders, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services."



# Events and Programs Blooming at TEC



Tropicana Employment Centre has been delivering the Employment Service program since its inception in 2010. When job seekers sign up for this program, they are offered a full suite of services which, combined, allow job seekers with many different types of barriers to be successful.

One of the key components of the Employment Service program is Employment Counselling. When a job seeker comes to Tropicana Employment Centre, they will first meet with an employment counsellor who will complete the intake process where they will assess the job seeker's skills, experience, employment goals and barriers. This assessment allows the employment counsellor to determine how best to support this particular client in becoming job ready. This support could include teaching the client how to conduct labour market research and identifying a career goal or improving their ability to sell their skills to a potential employer. Many clients have more complex needs which means that the employment counsellor might refer the client to the various services in the community. For example, clients who are struggling with mental health may be referred to the Counselling program at Tropicana or CAMH. Job seekers come to Tropicana with a variety of barriers such as housing challenges, problems finding affordable daycare, legal issues and addiction. The Employment Counsellors work hard to build relationships with organizations in our community so that they are able to refer our clients to appropriate services. We strive to meet job seekers where they are and we stand with them to help them achieve their goals.

When the job seekers are ready for employment, they are introduced to a job developer. The job developers at Tropicana Employment Centre have

built strong relationships with employers in our community. TEC job developers are able to connect job seekers with jobs in every industry and they often host job fairs where job seekers can come to Tropicana and meet the employers face to face. The job developer does not stop their support when the job seeker is hired. Knowing that many of our clients are facing a multitude of barriers, the job developer keeps in touch with both our client and the employer to help them address any issues that arise.

The success of Tropicana Employment Centre's Employment Services program is in the people we are able to help. There are so many stories of people who have been helped through this program. In the last year, Tropicana Employment Centre helped 1193 job seekers find employment through the Employment Service Program. In the words of Migdalia Jones, the Manager of Programs and Services at TEC, "At Tropicana Employment Centre our staff strive to offer the best assistance through our employment programs. We are continuously creating ways to improve our programs by offering a client centric approach where the needs of our clients are paramount. Without the collaborative relationship we maintain with employers, funders and community partners, we would be unable to provide the best quality service our clients deserve."

Helping job seekers find employment is rarely quick or easy, but the Employment Service Program at Tropicana allows us to make a genuine impact on the lives of the clients we serve because we are helping them become self-sufficient and we are supporting them in achieving their goals. We are proud of the work that we do every day at Tropicana Employment Centre.

## GIVE A **MONTHLY GIFT** TO !

**Your monthly donation will make a difference in the lives of youth, newcomers, people of Black and Caribbean heritage and others in need.**

You can donate monthly through pre-authorized gifts by credit card (Visa, MasterCard and Amex) or by submitting a void cheque for pre-authorized payments through your bank account.

Simply let us know the amount that you would like to give, and where you would like to designate your gift. Information about your monthly donation can be provided to us by fax, mail, phone, or online through [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org).

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