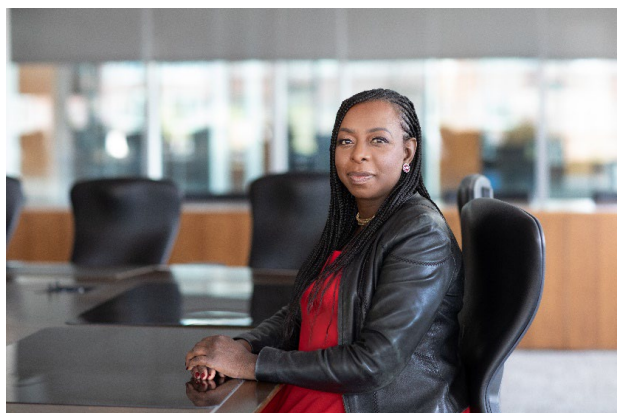


## African Heritage Conference—*African Heritage & Lateral Violence*

### Guest speaker and panelists



#### **Panelist—Karen Brown, ETFO President**

[kbrown@etfo.org](mailto:kbrown@etfo.org)

Karen began her teaching career with the Toronto District School Board in 1993. She is also a registered early childhood educator (RECE) and has extensive experience in the early years. Along with serving as vice-president of the Elementary Teachers of Toronto from 2003 to 2012, she served as their chief negotiator, and benefits coordinator.

At the provincial level, Karen has served on the ETFO Executive since 2009. She is a Governor and Fellow of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, an alumna of the 2011 Governor General's Leadership Conference, and a member of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU). In 2017, Karen was named as one of the 100 most Accomplished Black Women in Canada. Karen is a Daughter of the middle passage, and hails from "the land of wood and water", an abolitionist, proud mom, maroon, and, an agent of change for educating women and girls. On August 17, 2021 at the ETFO Annual Meeting Karen was elected president of ETFO. Karen is the first Black president to be elected to a provincial teacher affiliate union in Ontario, and the first Black president to be elected to a provincial teacher affiliate union in Canada.

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**Panelist—Celina Caesar-Chavannes** is a business consultant, coach and international speaker. She currently serves as the Sr. Advisor, EDI Initiatives and Adjunct Lecturer at Queen's University and her memoir, "Can you hear me now?" was published by Penguin Random House Canada on February 02, 2021. She was the former Member of Parliament for Whitby,

Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Parliamentary Secretary for International Development.

During her term as a Member of Parliament, Celina was awarded:

- Champion of Mental Health Parliamentarian Award by the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health
- Ontario Black History Society, Daniel G. Hill Award for Community Services (2017)
- Black Parliamentarian of the Year
- Featured in the April 2018 edition of O (Oprah Winfrey) Magazine entitled, “What would you stand up for?”
- Named Chatelaine Magazine’s Woman of the Year (2019)

Before entering politics, Mrs. Caesar-Chavannes was a successful entrepreneur, and recipient of both the:

- Toronto Board of Trade’s Business Entrepreneur of the Year
- Black Business and Professional Association’s Harry Jerome Young Entrepreneur Award.

She has a:

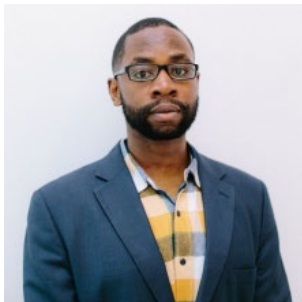
- Bachelor of Science from the University of Toronto,
- an MBA in Healthcare Management
- an Executive MBA from the Rotman School of Management

She can be followed on all social media platforms @iamcelinacc

**Panelist—Shani Ocquaye** (she/her) is an advocate who is passionate about community-based organizing, supporting underserved communities and working with youth. She strives to incorporate critical race theory and anti-racism principles into her day-to-day work. Shani currently works as a Senior Human Rights Officer at the Toronto District School Board's Human Rights Office. Previously, Shani provided legal representation to youth and parents in the areas of child welfare and family law. In her most recent role, Shani managed the development and implementation of the Humber College's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Framework and Strategy.

**Panelist—Karen Murray** is currently the Centrally Assigned Principal for the *Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement* in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). She was most recently the Centrally Assigned Principal of Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression in the TDSB. Karen leads initiatives focusing on Black Students’ Success and Excellence from K-12 and most recently has been appointed by the Ontario College of Teachers to lead the development of an Additional Qualification on Anti-Black Racism. This is not Karen’s first provincial appointment as she was previously a Student Achievement Officer with the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat- Ministry of Education. Karen is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Toronto where her research focuses on Black students’ success and the early years. Karen is the co-writer for the *Equity Continuum: Action for Critical Transformation in Schools and Classrooms*. In 2020, Karen was honored as one of the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women

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**Guest Speaker—Dr. Wendell Nii Laryea Adjetey**

 [Before arriving at McGill](#), he

held the W. L. Mackenzie King Fellowship at Harvard University’s Weatherhead Center for International Affairs and Department of History Lectureship. Dr. Adjetey’s research has garnered prizes and fellowships from many sources: SSHRC, the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, University of Pennsylvania, Yale, and Princeton, to name a few. In 2017-18, he was Visiting Scholar and Pre-Doctoral Fellow at MIT, and in 2016-17, Visiting Scholar and Senior Resident Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto.

Dr. Adjetey's first monograph—*Cross-Border Cosmopolitans: The Making of a Pan-African North America, 1919-1992*—is under contract to the University of North Carolina Press. This project situates fundamental questions of twentieth-century U.S. history—immigration, civil rights, racial identity, radicalism, surveillance, and state power—within a North American diasporic frame. He has written essays and articles for *The Washington Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, *The Walrus*, and *The National Post*.

To commemorate the quadricentennial of the arrival of African captives at Jamestown Colony, Dr. Adjetey convened ["Pluralism in a Historical Context: Challenges and Opportunities in North America"](#) at the Weatherhead Center. This conference explored the entanglement of Indigenous dispossession, enslavement of Africans and the birth of racial caste, and mass immigration to the United States and Canada in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In addition to serving as Director on multiple Boards that respectively advance citizenship, pluralism, entrepreneurship and innovation, and peacebuilding, Dr. Adjetey is an active member of the Canadian Studies Advisory Committee at Yale University.