Impact Gala Recap rough draft

General things to include:

Impact Gala Summary:

- Welcome to our 3rd annual Impact gala, an extraordinary evening dedicated to celebrating achievements, fostering community, and creating meaningful change. The Impact Gala was created as a way to raise money to advance the well-being and empowerment of Black Canadians across the nation. Last year we were able to raise an amazing $40,000 in funds to help support Black Canadians. Join us at our Impact Gala and together we can make a lasting difference
- Thank you to the sponsors

Award sponsors:

AWARDS SPONSORS




Nobellum
We bring ideas to lif
EUBANKS
SHINEHOFT
LLP
BFN
Black
Founders
Network
ABIMBOLA
Black
Entrepreneurship
Alliance.


KHEM BIRCH
KB
FOUNDATION

CENTRE DE SANTÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE
BLACK CREEK
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

Vedors:

1) Tagibooth
2) 360 photosbooth

Photographers:

1) Lucky and Adrian

General/Important details:

- **Skills for Life and the federation of black canadians**
- Saturday, September 27th, 2025 at 6:00 PM
- Dreams Convention Centre, 75 Hedgedale, Brampton, ON

Speakers:

- Charmaine Williams, MPP for Brampton Centre
- Rod Power, City Councillor, for Wards 7 & 8, Brampton
- Christopher Thompson, Executive Director, Skills For Life / Federation of Black Canadians
- **Emcee: Femi Lawson**

Attending:

- **Members of the Skills for Life Board**: Carolyn French (Board Chair); Nabila Coovadia (Vice Chair); Yonathan Kristos; Amie Martin; Mark Pileggi; Chantal Madray; Matthew Wong

    - **Members of the Federation of Black Canadians Board**: Robert Tyndale (Board Chair); Jose Wilson; Andrew Defor; Hetty Larbi; Anaïs Kasongo; Kezia Macbruce; Ziadanne Goodman

    - **Other organizations slash groups:** RBC; Black Founders Network; Black Entrepreneurship Alliance; UofT Mississauga; Nobellum; Black Health Alliance; Mansha Plan; Black Health Professionals Network; CEE Centre For Young Black Professionals; Black Creek Community Health Centre; Eubanks Shinehoft LLP

Dress Style: Formal

TIME	ACTIVITY
6:00 p.m.	Doors Open - Registration ○ Redcapret Entry with Photographers ○ Photo Activations ○ Live music ○ Horderves ○ Neighbourhood Bingo, 50/50 and Raffle Tickets
7:00 p.m.	Event begins - Welcome and Introductory topics and speeches ○ Guests are asked to take their seats. ○ Emcee welcomes everyone, gives a brief overview of the evening's agenda, and acknowledges sponsors. ○ Land Acknowledgement ○ Housekeeping items ○ How to Engage ○ Welcome Remarks from ED Special Attendees and deserving Sponsors - MP Charmaine Williams and Councillor Rod Power
7:50 p.m	Live Performance ○ Singer - Tobias (Past FBC's Got Talent Winner) ○ Salad/Appetizers
8:00 p.m	**Awards and Recognition** ○ Award recipients presented by award sponsors ○ Dinner
8:30 p.m	Fundraising Games and Activities ○ Closest to Prize Coin Toss
8:45 p.m	Live Performance ○ Spoken Word Artist - Paulina Poetry ○ Desert

9:00 p.m	Dinner & Impact and Champions ○ Impact Speakers and Testimonials
9:15 p.m	Live Performance ○ Dance - Revolutionary Movement ○ Tea Coffee Stations
9:25 p.m	Fundraising Games and Activities ○ Closest to Prize Coin Toss 2
9:35 p.m	Closing Remark: Music and Dancing - Close ○ Reminder of Silent auction/ tickets/ donation options ○ *Closing Remarks* ○ *Prizes* ○ *Dessert is Served*
10:00 p.m	DJ and Dancing ○ *Dance floor Open **until 11 pm***

Games throughout the night:

- Coin toss
- After party
- Bingo

Food/caterer: Century delight

- Mixed Green Salad
- Spring mixed salad, carrots, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, & balsamic dressing
- Jerk Chicken Alfredo
- With Penne, & shredded jerk Chicken
- Vegetarian Penne Alla Vodka
- Brazilian Chicken
- roasted potatoes & seasonal vegetables
- Soya Bean Steak - VEGI
- roasted garlic mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables
- Sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream

Impact stories/testimonies by:

Andrea Pearl	SFI - Youth program Teacher Champion
Attah Salifu	Oasis (BEP + Newcomers)
Basra Abdi	New Age Mentorship Program SFL

Active items at the gala

General info about the gala:

- Host Femi Lawson
- people were seated around 7pm and in the meantime they walked around and mingled
- Many people from all over the gta were present . All over Canada
- Thank all the Allies that we're present
- The donations were an integral part of the evening

Ways to donate:

- **The Primary way and most impactful thing you can do tonight is donate**
- **Page 20** of the brochure has a QR code that takes you directly to the Donation page for tonight, where you can use your credit card to support
- As a benefit, anything $25 or more will be eligible for a tax receipt you can use for taxes that you get directly to your email
- We can also take cash outside by registration, or you can tap your card on any of the square readers going around the room with our staff (ask staff / Volunteers with Square readers to wave and step forward)
- **Page 5** of the brochure also shares all the additional ways you can support tonight, ranging from
- Purchasing **raffle tickets** for prizes we will announce throughout the event, **such as:** Restaurant and national park passes, an at-home voice personal assistant speaker and more

- **50/50 tickets -** for people who are new to this option - it means 50% of the pot raised you win, and 50% goes to the cause, so if we generate $1000 worth of 50/50 tickets, you take home $500 and $500 goes to tonight's cause
- **Silent Auction Prizes** - such as Ratpors Floor Seat tickets, Vacation Packages, Jewelry and more - simply write your name, contact information and Bidding price on the forms on the auction tables and keep an eye out on your bid throughout the night, and you might go home with a prize while supporting a great cause
- **Pledge Cards** - These cards on the tables can be filled out and given to staff to follow up by phone or email at a later date, when you are ready to provide a gift that would also be tax-deductible
- Also, with an overwhelming request we have brought back our famous **Coin toss game** - Buy a ticket and exchange it for a coin to toss once the game starts - Test your aim, have some fun, and win the prize _____
- For the **silent auction** - We have several items here in person you can use the bidding forms to fill out your bid which will close later tonight
- We also have the **auction going online** at FBCAUCTION.COM
- Closing September 22, 2024 (tomorrow) at 7:00pm

- These items will be available for pick up this week or can be shipped to you
- So please, please, be generous, have fun, and give what you can.
- Remember you must be present to win your prizes when they are called or we will move on to the next ticket

Special guests:

Charmaine Williams was represented by her team

Rod Power was present of Brampton Wards 7 and 8

Artist:

a) Tobias Prince Patrick a Toronto artist sang a beautiful song
b) **The Second Performance of the night** **(Paulina Slide)**. Now we have another special guest and performance for you. Paulina O'Kieffe-Anthony is an award winning artist, curator, arts educator and creative consultant based in Windsor, Ontario. ***Spoken Word Artist Performs***
c) Dance from Revolutionary Movement is a dance group

The impact awards were the highlight of the night:

The **first award** we will recognize is the **Young Black Entrepreneur** (Presented by Abimbola) - Please join me and welcoming them to the stage. Winner: Nanette Sene

Second Award. **Community Impact Award** - Presented by Barry and Laure Green Family Trust
Winner: Attah Salifu
Third award the **Exceptional Allyship Award** Presented by Mansha Plan
Winner: Brian Sankarsingh

Fourth Award: Community Health Award Presented By Black Health Professionals Network and Black Creek Community Health Centre Winner: Elijah Gyansa

Fifth Award: Black Builder Award Presented by Black Founders Network. Please Join me and welcoming the Black Founders Network(BFN) to the stage: Winner: Adebayo Chris Katiiti - *Not Present*

Sixth Award: Excellence in JusticeAdvocacy Award - Presented By Eubanks Shinehoft LLP Winner: NNeka Ezurike

Seventh Award: Promising Athlete Award - Presented By the Khem Birch Foundation Winner: Andrew Morin (Chris to Present)

Eighth Award: Excellent Student Award - Presented By the Federation of Black Canadians Winner: Leonaes Brahel

Ninth Award: Black Business Leader Award - Presented By Nobellum Winner: Celeste Saddler

Tenth Award: Outstanding Mentor Award - Presented By Skills For Life Winner: Ala'a Adib

Special Board Shout out

- *Outgoing Chair Robert*
- *Incoming Chair Jose and*
- *Vice Chair Ziadanne - FBC*
- *In coming Chair Carolyn and*
- *Vice Chair Nabila - SFL*

How the night ended:

1) **Prizes, Closing, and Dancing**

2) DJ can Start the Dance floor

Impact in Motion: A Night to Remember at the 3rd Annual Impact Gala

On **Saturday, September 27, 2025**, the **Impact Gala** became the stage for an unforgettable evening of excellence, unity, and inspiration. Hosted by **The Federation of Black Canadians (FBC)**, and **Skills for Life,** Third Annual Impact Gala brought together community leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, and allies from across the country to celebrate achievement and drive forward the mission of empowerment and the advancement of black Canadians. Together we were able to raise $36,000 for Black Youth. Thank you everyone who attended, all of our sponsors and staff for another amazing night of impact! Visit our Gala landing page to get access to our photos and videos from the night!

A Night of Celebration and Purpose

Guests arrived to the sounds of live music by violinist Alador, trays of hors d'oeuvres, and the flash of cameras on the red carpet, captured by photographers Lucky and Adrian. Interactive photo activations by **Tagibooth** and the **360 Photo Booth** set the tone for an evening of elegance and connection. As guests mingled, participated in raffle draws, and enjoyed the warm ambiance, the program commenced under the vibrant direction of emcee **Femi Lawson**.

Special remarks were shared by **MPP Charmaine Williams (Brampton Centre)**, represented by her team, and **Councillor Rod Power (Wards 7 & 8, Brampton)**, both commending the shared work of FBC and Skills for Life. **Christopher Thompson**, Executive Director of both organizations, delivered an impassioned address sharing the purpose of the evening: to celebrate excellence while building bridges of opportunity across generations.

The Mission and Meaning Behind the Gala

The **Impact Gala** was created as a way to raise funds and awareness in support of the shared mission of FBC and Skills for Life, to advance the well-being, leadership, and empowerment of Black Canadian yputh across the nation.

Last year's gala raised **over $36,000**, enabling the organizations to expand mentorship, employment, and newcomer support programs. This year's event continued that legacy, reaffirming the belief that collective investment creates lasting change. Each donation, pledge, and partnership fuels opportunities that uplift Black communities and foster a more equitable Canada.

Honouring Excellence: The 2025 Impact Awards

The evening's highlight was the **Impact Awards Ceremony**, recognizing leaders, innovators, and community champions whose work exemplifies excellence and service.

Young Black Entrepreneur Award – Presented by Abimbola
Winner: Nanette Sene

Community Impact Award – Presented by Barry & Laure Green Family Trust
Winner: Attah Salifu

Exceptional Allyship Award – Presented by Mansha Plan
Winner: Brian Sankarsingh

Community Health Award – Presented by Black Health Professionals Network & Black Creek Community Health Centre
Winner: Elijah Gyansa

Black Builder Award – Presented by Black Founders Network
Winner: Adebayo Chris Katiiti

Excellence in Justice Advocacy Award – Presented by Eubanks Shinehoft LLP
Winner: Nneka Ezurike

Promising Athlete Award – Presented by Khem Birch Foundation
Winner: Andrew Morin

Excellent Student Award – Presented by the Federation of Black Canadians
Winner: Leonaes Brahel

Black Business Leader Award – Presented by Nobellum
Winner: Celeste Saddler

Outstanding Mentor Award – Presented by Skills for Life
Winner: Ala'a Adib

The ceremony also recognized the leadership transitions within both organizations, with **Robert Tyndale (outgoing FBC Chair)** passing the torch to **Jose Wilson (incoming Chair)** and **Ziadanne Goodman (Vice Chair)**, while **Carolyn French** and **Nabila Coovadia** assumed roles as Chair and Vice Chair for **Skills for Life**.

Performances that Inspired

The gala's performances captured the creativity and spirit of Black excellence. **Tobias Prince Patrick**, a Toronto-based artist and past *FBC's Got Talent* winner, opened the night with a soulful performance. Later, award-winning spoken word artist **Paulina O'Kieffe-Anthony** delivered a powerful piece about resilience, identity, and hope. The evening concluded with a high-energy performance by the **Revolutionary Movement**, whose dance captivated the audience and filled the room with applause.

A Taste of Culture and Community

Dinner was catered by **Century Delight**, offering a flavorful blend of comfort and culture. Guests enjoyed **Jerk Chicken Alfredo**, **Vegetarian Penne Alla Vodka**, **Brazilian Chicken**, and **Soya Bean Steak**, paired with roasted vegetables and mashed potatoes. The meal ended on a sweet note with **Sticky Toffee Pudding and Vanilla Ice Cream**, a fitting close to a night that celebrated unity, heritage, and impact.

Stories of Impact

Throughout the evening, moving testimonials showcased the direct impact of FBC and Skills for Life programs. **Andrea Pearl**, a *Youth Program Teacher Champion*, spoke about empowering students through experiential learning. **Attah Salifu**, from *Oasis (BEP + Newcomers)*, shared how mentorship helps newcomers establish a sense of belonging. **Basra Abdi**, of the *New Age Mentorship Program*, reflected on the transformative power of guidance and opportunity. Their stories served as a reminder of why the Impact Gala exists, to turn generosity into real, measurable change.

Continuing the Impact: Ways to Give

A big thank you to all those who donated, we appreciate your generosity as every contribution helps sustain mentorship programs, youth initiatives, and advocacy efforts that strengthen communities nationwide. If you're looking to find other ways to support the Black community, consider becoming a member.

Becoming a member of the Federation of Black Canadians (FBC) directly supports our mission to advance the social, economic, and political empowerment of Black communities across Canada. Membership contributions help sustain programs like the Black Entrepreneurship Program, the Black Builders Network, and national advocacy initiatives that address systemic barriers and promote equity. Each membership not only strengthens our collective voice but also ensures we can continue delivering impactful research, youth leadership opportunities, and community-driven events that celebrate and uplift Black excellence. By joining FBC, you're investing in a future where Black Canadians thrive, lead, and shape meaningful change nationwide.

Become a member today!

A Joyful Ending

To all sponsors, partners, and attendees including **Ambimbola, Nobellum, Black Founders Network, CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals, Black Health Alliance, Mansha Plan, University of Toronto Mississauga, Black Health Professionals Network, Black Entrepreneurship Alliance, and Eubanks Shinehoft LLP**,, your partnership and generosity made this year's gala a resounding success.

Through the continued work of **Skills for Life** and the **Federation of Black Canadians**, the impact will continue to grow, creating opportunities, amplifying voices, and shaping a future built on equity and empowerment.

To learn more or to make a contribution, visit fbcfcn.ca/gala-2025. The celebration may have ended, but the mission continues.