

**Black Business and Professional Association**  
Entreprise noire et Association Professionnelle

**Creating Opportunities • Celebrating Excellence • Investing In The Future**

**Mission:** To advance Canada's Black communities by delivering programs that support business and professional excellence, higher education and economic development.

June 17, 2024

Dear Dr. B. Denham Jolly,

Thank you for reaching out to us on June 7th, 2024. We appreciate your engagement and value the concerns you have raised.

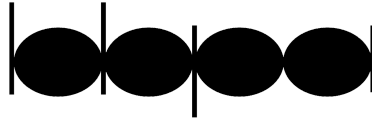
We extend our deepest gratitude to you as the visionary founder, of the Black Business Professional Association. Your foresight and determination in creating an organization dedicated to empowering Black professionals and entrepreneurs have made an indelible impact. Your pioneering efforts established a vital support system that has helped countless individuals achieve their professional goals and overcome systemic barriers. The BBPA has been an invaluable resource, providing networking opportunities, educational programs, and advocacy for economic equality. We owe you an immense debt of gratitude for your leadership and commitment to uplifting the Black business community. Your legacy continues to inspire us as we strive to build upon the strong foundation you laid. Thank you for your transformative impact on generations of Black professionals.

We, the Board, have made attempts to engage with you regarding the matters detailed in your letter. Please take a moment to review the Frequently Asked Questions section on the BBPA website, where you will find answers to the items raised in your statement, as well as facts addressing any inaccuracies.

This Board continues to volunteer passionately and diligently as elected officers, fulfilling our fiduciary duty of care to all members and funders. We are committed to seeing the investigation and review, **into the allegations that predate our tenure**, through to completion.

We are supported by the undersigned financial and community members and many others, including past Executive members of the BBPA.

Our chief aims as elected officers are to uphold the integrity of the organization you founded 42 years ago and to continue being a positive force and advocate for our community. We remain dedicated to assisting Black business owners, professionals and students, executing impactful programs, and fostering unity within our community.



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Upon concluding the investigation which includes a forensic audit, we will convene a members' meeting to share the findings. At that time, all members will have the opportunity to chart the path forward. We remain steadfast in our commitment to transparency and adherence to ONCA and BBPA bylaws, guided by expert advice.

Please understand that having the Board step down before the investigation is completed would cause tremendous harm to the ongoing work and community service that we continue daily.

In response to your request, your likeness has been removed from the BBPA website. We once again extend an invitation to meet for further discussion and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Janelle St. Omer, Interim- Chair, BBPA Board of Directors

Bryan Duarte, Interim Vice-Chair, BBPA Board of Directors

Camille Stewart- Edwards, Treasurer, BBPA Board of Directors

Stephen Dorsey, Director, BBPA Board of Directors

Tosin Ajibola, Director, BBPA Board of Directors

Charles Buchanan, Director, BBPA Board of Directors

**CONCERNED AND COMMITTED BBPA & COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Sandra Whiting, Past President, BBPA, ON

Carol Comissiong, Past Treasurer, BBPA, ON

Dr. Rosemary Sadlier, O. Ont., ON

Dr. Nicole Cvenkel, BC

Diana Alli D'Souza, O. Ont., HJA Winner 2024, ON

Claudia Davis Ewan, ON

G. Orlando Prendergast, ON

Agunbiade Seun Richards, HJA Winner 2023, NB

Emmanuel Itiveh, NS

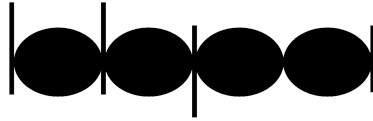
Bridget Ajayi, NS

Habeeb Arowolo, NB

Aminata Diakite Tanefo, QC

Jimmy Alalade, NB

Darace Rose, ON



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Nadine Williams, ON

Tony Downey, ON

Verette Jno-Baptiste, ON

Yamila Franco, BC

Novalee Sterling, Little Jamaica, ON

Maranda Powell, Little Jamaica, ON

Patrick (Kofi) Addo-Kessie, Little Jamaica, ON

Gnnetho Gordon, Little Jamaica, ON

Sheryl Bryan Phillips, Little Jamaica, ON

Patrick Taylor, ON