



CACD

**IDPAD Excellence Gala
Sponsorship and
Partnership Package**

2026

**Honouring the Legacy.
Celebrating Excellence.
Investing in Tomorrow.**

CACD's principal annual recognition, partnership-building and fundraising event, bringing together leaders from business, government, education, philanthropy and the community to celebrate excellence while investing in the next generation.

DATE: Saturday, November 14, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

LOCATION: Mississauga Convention Centre



Building Partnerships. Empowering Youth. Creating Lasting Community Impact.

ABOUT CACD

Building Pathways from Learning to Leadership, Opportunity, Purpose, and Contribution

Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development (CACD) is a Black-led registered charity that empowers Black, racialized, and underserved young people through education, mentorship, leadership, and community engagement. Since 2002, CACD has helped young people progress from learning to leadership, opportunity, purpose, and contribution.

OUR VISION

An equitable and inclusive society where every young person has the support and opportunities to realize their potential, lead with purpose, and contribute meaningfully to their community.



OUR MISSION

To empower Black, racialized, and underserved young people to become leaders through education, mentorship, leadership development, STEM, financial literacy, workforce readiness, wellness, civic engagement, and community contribution.



OUR MANDATE

CACD delivers accessible, culturally responsive programmes that strengthen leadership, learning, STEM, financial literacy, career readiness, wellness, and civic engagement. Through partnerships with families, educators, businesses, governments, and community organizations, we create pathways from learning to leadership, opportunity, purpose, and contribution.

Our Programme Areas

- Leadership, Mentorship & Civic Engagement
- Education & Academic Development
- Career Readiness, Employment & Entrepreneurship
- Community Safety & Collaborative Action
- STEM, Digital Literacy, AI & Innovation
- Mental Wellness & Healthy Development
- Equity, Anti-Racism, Cultural Identity & Belonging

Our Impact at a Glance

Building pathways to opportunity, leadership, and lasting community impact since 2002.



**Serving Mississauga & Peel Since
2002**



Registered Charity Since 2005



**Young People Served Annually
500+**



**Programme Sessions Delivered
94 per semester**



**Communities Served Black, racialized,
and underserved youth across Peel
Region and beyond**



**Community & Institutional
Partners 30+ organizations**



**Volunteer & Community Service Hours
2000+ hours**



**Youth Outcomes Leadership • Education •
Employment • Civic Engagement**

Creating Opportunities. Building Leaders. Strengthening Communities.

For more than two decades, CACD has worked alongside young people, families, schools, businesses, governments, and community partners to create pathways that help youth move from learning to leadership, opportunity, purpose, and contribution.



WHY PARTNER WITH CACD?

Partner with an organization that is creating opportunities for young people while advancing leadership, education, and stronger communities.

Reach an Influential Audience

225–400 Expected Guests

Connect with business leaders, government representatives, educators, philanthropists, community organizations, and changemakers.

Align with Meaningful Impact

Stand for something great

Demonstrate your organization's commitment to youth leadership, education, opportunity, Black excellence, and community development.

Build Valuable Connections

Join the community of change makers

Engage with decision-makers, community partners, and leaders while strengthening your organization's visibility.

Year-Round Recognition

Visibility Beyond Gala Night

Receive recognition before, during, and after the Gala through CACD's website, social media, promotional materials, Programme Booklet, and event-day acknowledgements.

Employee & Youth Engagement

Engage Employees Empower Youth

Provide meaningful opportunities for employees to mentor, volunteer, and participate in initiatives that positively impact young people.

Partnership Beyond the Gala

Build Impact All Year

Explore customized year-round partnership opportunities supporting CACD's programmes and community initiatives.

Your Partnership Makes a Lasting Difference

CACD is committed to creating equitable pathways that enable young people to access education, leadership opportunities, career development, and the support needed to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Your Investment at Work



Every sponsorship directly supports opportunities that help young people learn, lead, and thrive.



Youth Leadership Development

Helping young people develop leadership skills, confidence, and civic responsibility.



Mentorship

Connecting youth with caring mentors and professionals who inspire future success.



Scholarships

Reducing financial barriers and expanding access to education and lifelong learning.



Career & Workforce Readiness

Preparing youth with employability skills, networking opportunities, internships, and career exploration.



STEM, Digital Literacy & Artificial Intelligence

Preparing youth with employability skills, networking opportunities, internships, and career exploration.



Financial Literacy & Entrepreneurship

Building knowledge in personal finance, investing, budgeting, and entrepreneurship.



Mental Wellness

Supporting resilience, well-being, and access to mental health resources.



Civic & Community Engagement

Supporting resilience, well-being, and access to mental health resources.



Learners to Leaders+ Pathway

Supporting CACD's signature framework that helps young people progress from learning to leadership, opportunity, purpose, and contribution.



CONFIDENT • SKILLED • EMPOWERED YOUNG LEADERS

Our Development Pathway



Learning

Building knowledge and skills



Leadership

Developing confidence and capacity



Opportunity

Creating access to pathways and networks



Purpose

Supporting personal growth and direction



Contribution

Empowering youth to give back and lead change

Our Commitment

CACD is committed to creating equitable pathways that enable young people to access education, leadership opportunities, career development, and the support needed to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

The Second International Decade for People of African Descent

The United Nations Second International Decade for People of African Descent, 2025–2034, renews the global commitment to advancing the dignity, equality, human rights, and opportunities of people of African descent. Guided by the pillars of Recognition, Justice and Development, the Decade closely aligns with CACD's commitment to empowering Black, racialized and underserved young people through education, mentorship, leadership development, and community engagement.

Recognition

Celebrating identity, heritage, and achievement.

IDPAD Focus:

Recognizing the history, dignity, identity, and contributions of people of African descent.

CACD Connection:

- Celebrating Black excellence and achievement
- Creating spaces for youth voices and representation
- Honouring community leadership and contributions

Justice

Removing barriers and expanding opportunity.

IDPAD Focus:

Addressing systemic barriers and advancing equitable access to education, employment, resources, and opportunity.

CACD Connection:

- Expanding access to mentorship and support
- Creating pathways to education and employment
- Helping young people overcome barriers to opportunity

Development

Investing in future leaders and communities.

IDPAD Focus:

Supporting sustainable progress through education, economic opportunity, innovation, and community participation.

CACD Connection:

- Leadership development
- Workforce readiness
- Financial literacy
- STEM and digital learning

Additional Areas of Global Action

- ➔ **Reparations & Redress**
Supporting accountability, healing, and equitable investment.
- ➔ **Participation & Empowerment**
Ensuring communities, youth, and grassroots organizations help shape decisions.
- ➔ **International Cooperation**
Strengthening collaboration between governments, organizations, and communities.



Why the CACD IDPAD Excellence Gala 2026 Matters

A Platform for Recognition, Partnership, and Lasting Impact

Recognition

Honouring Excellence and Legacy

The Gala celebrates the achievements, leadership, and contributions of Black, racialized, and underserved communities while recognizing individuals and organizations creating positive change.

Partnership

Building Collective Action

The Gala brings together leaders from business, government, education, philanthropy, and the community to strengthen relationships and build partnerships that advance youth and community development.

Investment

Creating Opportunities for the Next Generation

Sponsorship and partnerships will support CACD initiatives focused on:

- Youth leadership development
- Mentorship
- Scholarships
- Workforce readiness
- STEM and digital learning
- Financial literacy
- Mental wellness
- Community engagement

Advancing CACD's New Direction

The 2026 Gala serves as the public launch platform for CACD's New Direction, including:

Learners to Leaders+ Framework

Supporting young people through a comprehensive pathway from learning to leadership.

Sonia Cunningham Scholarship Fund

Expanding post-secondary opportunities and supporting future leaders.

Centre of Excellence for Leadership, Innovation and Community Development

Introducing CACD's long-term vision for a hub that advances leadership, innovation, and community impact.

CACD IDPAD EXCELLENCE GALA 2026

Honouring the Legacy. Celebrating Excellence. Investing in Tomorrow.

What is the Gala?

The CACD IDPAD Excellence Gala is Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development's principal annual recognition, partnership-building, and fundraising event. Guided by the theme "Honouring the Legacy. Celebrating Excellence. Investing in Tomorrow," the Gala brings together leaders from business, government, education, philanthropy, and the community to recognize excellence and invest in meaningful opportunities for the next generation.

Inspired by the United Nations Second International Decade for People of African Descent and its pillars of Recognition, Justice, and Development, the 2026 Gala marks a new chapter for CACD. It will serve as the public platform for introducing CACD's New Direction, including the Learners to Leaders+ Framework and initiatives that advance youth leadership, education, opportunity, and community impact.

Gala Experience Highlights

- IDPAD Excellence Honours recognizing outstanding community contributions
- Keynote reflections from leaders and changemakers
- Cultural performances celebrating African heritage and creativity
- Networking opportunities with community, business, and institutional partners
- Dinner experience and artistic showcases
- Community storytelling highlighting Black excellence and impact

A Celebration With Purpose

The Gala is more than an awards ceremony — it celebrates achievement, builds partnerships, and creates pathways for young people.



Gala Leadership Partner



Become the exclusive Gala Leadership Partner of the CACD IDPAD Excellence Gala 2026 and receive premier recognition throughout the event and across CACD's communications. This partnership offers meaningful visibility, executive engagement opportunities, priority guest experiences, and the opportunity to support CACD's work in advancing leadership, education, and community development.

Exclusive
Opportunity
Investment

\$25,000

Your Sponsorship Includes:

- Exclusive Gala Leadership Partner designation, limited to one organization within its industry category
- Premier brand visibility across invitations, promotional materials, event signage, presentation screens, media backdrop, and the official programme
- Prominent recognition across CACD communications, including the website, Gala webpage, social media, newsletters, and selected media releases
- Executive engagement opportunities, including welcoming remarks and participation in a major award or ceremonial presentation
- Premium corporate table for up to 10 guests with priority seating and VIP reception access, where applicable
- Opportunity to showcase your organization through a brief, mutually approved corporate or community-impact video during the Gala
- Year-round partnership opportunities with CACD through youth mentorship, career engagement, employee volunteering, community initiatives, and future events
- Recognition as a leading supporter of CACD's Learners to Leaders+ Framework, Sonia Cunningham Scholarship Fund, and vision for a Centre of Excellence for Leadership, Innovation and Community Development

Community Supporter Sponsor

\$1,000

- ✓ Sponsorship acknowledgment in social media posts
- ✓ Sponsor logo on event website and programme
- ✓ VIP Table and Tickets — 2 Guests
- ✓ Logo shown during sponsor slideshow
- ✓ Sponsorship acknowledgment in email blasts

Bronze Sponsor

\$2,500

- ✓ Sponsorship acknowledgment in social media posts
- ✓ Sponsor logo on event website and programme
- ✓ Quarter-page advertisement in Programme Booklet
- ✓ VIP Table and Tickets — 2 Guests
- ✓ Logo shown during sponsor slideshow
- ✓ Sponsorship acknowledgment in email blasts

Silver Sponsor

\$5,000

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Sponsorship acknowledgment in social media posts |
| ✓ | Sponsor logo on event website and programme |
| ✓ | Quarter-page advertisement in Programme Booklet |
| ✓ | Logo and sponsor name shown on event promotional video |
| ✓ | Sponsor one of the awards |
| ✓ | Opportunity for a short greeting on stage |
| ✓ | Special meet-and-greet with keynote speaker, special guests, and awardees in VIP Lounge |
| ✓ | Mention in event-related blog posts or articles |
| ✓ | Recognition in event press releases and media outreach |
| ✓ | VIP Table and Tickets — 4 Guests |
| ✓ | Logo shown during sponsor slideshow |
| ✓ | Sponsorship acknowledgment in email blasts |

Gold Sponsor

\$10,000

- ✓ Sponsorship acknowledgment in social media posts
- ✓ Sponsor logo on event website and programme
- ✓ Special recognition in press releases
- ✓ Dedicated social media post highlighting sponsorship
- ✓ Logo and sponsor name shown on event promotional video
- ✓ Sponsor one of the awards
- ✓ Opportunity for a short greeting on stage
- ✓ Special meet-and-greet with keynote speaker, special guests, and awardees in VIP Lounge
- ✓ Mention in event-related blog posts or articles
- ✓ Recognition in event press releases and media outreach
- ✓ VIP Table and Tickets — 6 Guests
- ✓ Logo shown during sponsor slideshow
- ✓ Sponsorship acknowledgment in email blasts
- ✓ Logo shown on presentation stage/electronic banner
- ✓ Half-page advertisement in Programme Booklet
- ✓ Logo shown in emails provided to guests, indicated as major event sponsor

Diamond Sponsor

\$15,000

- | | |
|---|---|
| ✓ | Sponsorship acknowledgment in social media posts |
| ✓ | Sponsor logo on event website and programme |
| ✓ | Special recognition in press releases |
| ✓ | Dedicated social media post highlighting sponsorship |
| ✓ | Logo and sponsor name shown on event promotional video |
| ✓ | Sponsor one of the awards |
| ✓ | Opportunity for a short greeting on stage |
| ✓ | Special meet-and-greet with keynote speaker, special guests, and awardees in VIP Lounge |
| ✓ | Mention in event-related blog posts or articles |
| ✓ | Recognition in event press releases and media outreach |
| ✓ | VIP Table and Tickets — 6 Guests |
| ✓ | Logo shown during sponsor slideshow |
| ✓ | Sponsorship acknowledgment in email blasts |
| ✓ | Exclusive logo along with exclusive sponsorship acknowledgement |
| ✓ | Company named as premier sponsor during event introduction |
| ✓ | Mention of company and representatives by emcee |
| ✓ | Full-page ad on event programme and website |
| ✓ | Prominent logo placement on all event marketing materials |
| ✓ | Logo shown on presentation stage/electronic banner |
| ✓ | Logo shown in emails provided to guests, indicated as major event sponsor |

BECOME A CACD IDPAD EXCELLENCE GALA SPONSOR

Join CACD in honouring the legacy, celebrating excellence, and investing in the next generation of leaders.

Confirm Your Sponsorship

Scan the QR code to access the Sponsorship Commitment Form, select your preferred sponsorship level, and provide your organization's contact information.



Scan to Complete
Sponsorship Form

Payment & Commitment

After completing the Sponsorship Commitment Form, sponsors will receive confirmation and payment instructions.

Sponsorship Commitment Deadline Wednesday, September 30, 2026

To ensure full recognition and inclusion in Gala marketing materials and the Programme Booklet, sponsorship commitments should be received by the deadline above.

Submit Your Logo & Advertisement

Please submit your high-resolution logo and any applicable advertisement materials by:

Advertisement Submission Deadline:

Deadline: Friday, October 16, 2026

Accepted Formats

- Logos: PNG, JPG, EPS or PDF
- Advertisements: Print-ready PDF or high-resolution JPG
- Resolution: Minimum 300 dpi

Materials may be emailed to:
info@cacdcanada.org

Detailed dimensions and specifications will be provided based on your selected sponsorship level.

To ensure inclusion in the official Gala Programme Booklet and applicable promotional materials, all logos and advertisements must be received by this date. Materials received after the deadline cannot be guaranteed inclusion.

Let Us Customize Your Partnership

CACD welcomes the opportunity to develop a customized partnership that reflects your organization's community investment priorities, brand objectives, and desired level of engagement.

To discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact:

Ron Cunningham

Founder & Chief Executive Officer

☎ (647) 339-2223

✉ rcunnin123@rogers.com

✉ ron.cunningham@cacdcanada.org

🌐 www.cacdcanada.org

**Together, we can honour
achievement, expand
opportunity, and invest in
the leaders who will shape
tomorrow.**