

# AUDREY WALTERS



As a teenager, I became involved with politics, campaigning for then MP Bob Kaplan. When that campaign was over, other caring community activists like Linda Morowei and others felt it was important to extend our involvement and acts of service further. Collectively, we founded the Jane Finch Concerned Citizen Association. When it came time to register the organization we learnt that our mission and mandate more accurately functioned as an organization, and so upon registration, we became the JFCCO. The acronym for the Jane Finch Concerned Citizens Organization. I was about 17-years old at its founding and became its president at the age of 21.

In retrospect, it became clear to me that leadership is innate, and so as the years passed, I continued to serve my community with priority. To my biography of service, it is important to name a few, not all, of the organizations that I served and mention with gratitude some of the recognition given for my community work. During the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in 2014, I worked closely with then Minister of Health, Ms Rona Ambrose and her team, liaising with then President of Sierra Leone, Mr. Earnest Bai Koroma, and Dr. Monty P. Jones, to address the Ebola Pandemic crisis.

In 2018, I was given an honorary Doctor of Humanities by the Faith Open Door Ministries Bible College, and was honoured to deliver the keynote address. In the same year, the Government of Jamaica bestowed upon me the Badge of Honour for Community Service. I am recipient of other awards such as:

- Dudley Laws Advocacy Award
- Black Canadian Women Award - National Role Model
- Humanitarian Award from Help Fight Ebola Canada/Africa Rising Society presented by Nbaba Mandela (Grandson of Nelson Mandela)
- Recognized by the Association of Black Law Enforcers (ABLE), for Outstanding Achievements for the Advancement of Women

My years of service include holding the office of Vice President and the President of the Black Business & Professional Association, (BBPA), a short stint as Vice President of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) and others.

Not considering myself a politician at the time, I was asked to represent the Conservative Party of Canada, (CPC), as a candidate. Wanting to represent the community that touched my heart, I asked to run as the Federal Conservative Candidate in the riding of York West, now called Humber River Black Creek. Although one year post brain surgery, my devotion to serve caused me to honour my commitment to that community. Although I was not successful, what I learned during my campaign was that a large sector of the communities I aimed to serve were not citizens. With that knowledge, I formed an organization called the Citizenship Initiative Group. Its mandate was to assist landed immigrants, who are in good standing, apply for Canadian Citizenship. It was effective.

Forced to focus on my health, having endured brain surgery in 2010, I continue to mentor others and act as an advisor to anyone who needs assistance.

It is my hope that my partial biography captured some of my community work and gave you a brief insight into who I am and the work that I have been involved with over the years.