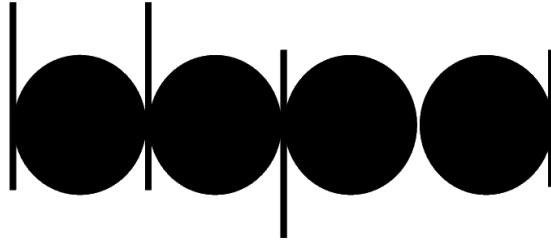


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 18, 2019



Black Business and Professional Association

Kevin Johnson to deliver keynote at The 37th annual Harry Jerome Awards, presented by title sponsor TD Bank

Mediacom CEO complements the list of Black Canadian Game Changers who will be honoured at this year's prestigious Gala event taking place on Saturday, April 27, 2019

Toronto, ON - The Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA) is pleased to announce that Kevin Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of Mediacom will be this year's keynote speaker at the 37th Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards, held on April 27th, 2019. Johnson, who first joined Mediacom Canada in 2014 as the chief client officer, was promoted to CEO in 2015, a significant move for representation in Canada's c-suite. In the role, Johnson has executive responsibility for an agency which consistently ranks in the top tier of Canada's agency billings, garnering revenues in the hundreds of millions year over year.

In addition to Johnson's keynote, the BBPA Harry Jerome Awards are set to deliver another spectacular evening of Black Canadian Excellence. This includes performances by Toronto Mass Choir, Jay Douglas and JRDN. The illustrious night kicks off with an exclusive red carpet co-hosted by CP24 reporter/anchor Brandon Gonez and media personality and author Andrea Bain, and ends on a high note with an after party showcasing Toronto's finest sound crews, including DJ Power, D'Enforcas and Black Reaction. The 37th Annual Harry Jerome Awards are co-hosted by CTV's Marci Ien and Ontario Court Justice Donald McLeod.

"We are thrilled to have a powerhouse like Kevin Johnson grace the stage at this year's Harry Jerome Awards. In his own professional life, Mr. Johnson is himself a game changer, and his story is inspirational to many of us. Canada's Black Communities are bursting with positive stories and we look forward to continuing the tradition of the awards to amplify these stories for our 37th consecutive year," BBPA President, Nadine Spencer.

Established in 1983 in memory of the late Harry Jerome, a Canadian Olympian and Social Advocate, the BBPA Harry Jerome Awards recognizes and honors achievements within the Canadian Black Community. The award is a fundraiser that supports the BBPA's work in promoting the professional business advancement of African Canadians. The BBPA supports business and professional excellence, higher education and economic development.

"The Harry Jerome Awards induction of new honourees will include Black Canadian game changers in a night filled with excellence and inspiration. From our keynote by Kevin Johnson to

the fabulous entertainment lineup, we look forward to delivering a signature BBPA stellar event,” Marcia Bowen, Chair of the Harry Jerome Awards.

The BBPA Harry Jerome Awards is recognized as one of the most prestigious national awards in Canada. The honorees receive awards in fourteen categories: Arts, Athletics, Leadership, Business, Entertainment, Professional Excellence, Health Science, Community Service, Lifetime Achievement, Culture, Trailblazer, Young Entrepreneur, Media and the President’s Award.

This year’s Harry Jerome honorees are:

- Rustum Southwell (Lifetime Achievement Award)
- Ross Simmonds (Youth Entrepreneur Award)
- Paulette Senior (Trailblazer Award)
- Leslyn Lewis (Professional Excellence Award)
- Grace Foods Canada Inc. (Business Award)
- Wendy Beckles (Leadership Award)
- Exco Levi (Entertainment Award)
- Ray Williams (President Award)
- Shaquille Smith (Athletics Award)
- Traci Melchor (Media Award)
- Karen Burke (Arts Award)
- Dr. Dominick Shelton (Health Science Award)
- Frances-Anne Solomon (Culture Award)
- Gezahgn Wordofa (Community Service Award)

Event Information: The 37th Annual BBPA Harry Jerome Awards, presented by TD Bank, will be held on April 27th, 2019 at the International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd. Tickets for the Harry Jerome Awards are \$250. To Purchase Tickets: [37th Annual Harry Jerome Awards](#)

About the Black Business and Professional Association (BBPA): Founded in 1983, the BBPA is a charitable organization whose mission is to advance Canada's Black Community, by facilitating the delivery of programs that support business and professional excellence, higher education and economic development. Along with workshops and programs at the BBPA Centre of Excellence, the BBPA presents the Annual Harry Jerome Awards, the BBPA National Scholarships and the National Black Business Convention (NBBPC),

For more information, please visit the BBPA online at www.bbpa.org, Call [416-504-4097](tel:416-504-4097), or email pr@bbpa.org

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