



CDCO's Equity & Diversity Representative Chris Campbell addresses George Brown graduates on Monday
CDCO's Campbell inspires George Brown graduates

Toronto – George Brown College 2022 graduates were the recipients of a passionate and pragmatic keynote address on Monday, the inspirational message delivered by Chris Campbell, Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at Carpenters' District Council of Ontario, and Vice President of the Carpenters' Union.

"Don't let the adversities in your life determine your path forward. Persevere! Persevere! Persevere! Whether you came from the Ukraine, Syria, or Haiti, or grew up in social housing, put in the work," Campbell told the gathering in downtown Toronto.

Sharing his life's experiences, Campbell said he arrived in Canada in 1987 with \$20, and a dream.

"I saw Canada as a place of economic wealth and prosperity, compared to Kingston, Jamaica," he stated.

Said Campbell: "Achieving my dream was not an option. I was able to make it happen. I was motivated to work during the day, and attend college and high school at night, while working parttime on weekends."

It was a challenging time, Campbell said, recalling how hard he worked "to provide the basic needs: a roof over my head, food on the table, clothes on my back... I worked as a custodian... as a dishwasher; also, as a factory hand..."

Then speaking directly to the convocation, Campbell said a pivotal moment in his life was the realisation he needed to acquire more education and training. Earlier, he had informed the gathering that he too, was a George Brown graduate.

In what was an astute career move, Campbell said he joined the Carpenters' Union as a first year apprentice.

"I worked hard, and took advantage of every opportunity that presented itself," he said. He worked on many different projects, "just to gain the experience".

The result of his hard work, diligence, and holding on to his dream, Campbell said today he is the Vice President of the Carpenters' Union. Also, he is Director of Equity Diversity and Inclusion at the Carpenters' District Council of Ontario; as well, he is Chair of the Toronto Community Benefits Network.

Speaking directly to the gathering, Campbell said the journey ahead would likely present roadblocks and disappointments.

"You may have to detour and cut your losses along your career path; but if you are passionate and driven, never give up! Persevere! Persevere! Persevere!" he said to applause.

The convocation ceremony also saw Campbell receiving George Brown College's Advanced Diploma in Building Renovation Technology, *Honoris Causa*.



Campbell receives the Advanced Diploma in Building Renovation Technology, *Honoris Causa*

OHRC marks anniversary of Afzaal family tragedy

Toronto – The Ontario Human Rights Commission marked the anniversary of the Afzaal family killings in London, Ontario earlier this month, with its Chief Commissioner Patricia DeGuire calling on all Ontarians to work together to build a province that is safe for everyone.

In a release marking the anniversary of the June 6 tragedy, the OHRC said: "...[We] mark the painful anniversary of the tragic death of three generations of a Muslim Canadian family in London, Ontario. [On] June 6, 2021, five members of the Afzaal family were hewn down: four were killed and another seriously injured. The Afzaals were very active in the Muslim community in London."

It added, "These tragic incidents are disturbing, and remind us that hatred and discrimination based on religion, race, and many other human rights grounds, persist in Ontario, and across Canada. It is critical that each of us use every tool at our disposal



Patricia DeGuire

to build communities – to realise the vision of Ontario's Human Rights Code, and create 'a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of each person'.

The release also noted, "Everyone deserves to feel a part of the community we live in, and be able to contribute fully to the development and well-being of the community and the province."

It concluded with an affirmation to the commitment by the OHRC to working with communities across Ontario, and identifying and addressing all forms of systemic discrimination – including acts of hate.

On June 6 last year the Afzaal family was out for a walk when they were intentionally run over by a driver in a pickup truck. Salman Afzaal, 46, wife Madiha Salman, 44, their 15-year-old daughter Yumna Afzaal, and Salman's 74-year-old mother Talat Afzaal were killed. The couple's nine-year-old son was injured, but survived the attack.

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