



COURT OF APPEAL FOR ONTARIO
COUR D'APPEL DE L'ONTARIO

March 21, 2025

Dear Participants of the Braiding Diversity into Justice Program:

Congratulations on taking part in this year's Braiding Diversity into Justice Program! Your participation is an important step in exploring the role that you—your talents, your voice, and your lived experience—can play in shaping our justice system.

The Ontario Justice Education Network, and the many organizers and volunteers across the province, have created something remarkable in this program. Whether you are joining from Kitchener, Toronto, Thunder Bay, Durham Region, Ottawa, Hamilton, or beyond, you are now part of a growing community of young people who see themselves as having a place in the law. And I want you to know this: you do belong here.

I was born in Jamaica and immigrated to Canada at the age of nine. As a young Black boy growing up in Toronto in the 1970s, I had never met a lawyer, let alone a judge, who looked like me. Today, I have the honour of serving as the Chief Justice of Ontario. But it took time, belief, and the support of those who encouraged me to see what was possible. I hope this program does the same for you.

You should never view a career in law—or any profession of influence—as beyond your reach. The justice system must reflect the full diversity of the people it serves if it is to be just, legitimate, and relevant. That means we need more voices like yours—voices informed by a wide range of cultures, identities, perspectives, and experiences.

Even if you ultimately choose a path outside the legal profession, I trust that what you learn today will empower you to better understand your rights, your community, and the role you can play in shaping a more inclusive and equitable society.

I also want to thank the many legal professionals, mentors, and volunteers whose time and example help make this experience possible. Your efforts are not only generous—they are transformational.

To all the Participants: I hope you leave this experience feeling informed, uplifted, and inspired. The legal profession needs you.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael H. Tulloch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael H. Tulloch
Chief Justice of Ontario
Court of Appeal for Ontario