



December 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

One Vision One Voice (OVOV) is a community informed program funded through the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and housed at the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, within the Practice Transformation Department. One Vision One Voice focuses on addressing anti-Black racism and supporting improved outcomes and equitable services for Black children, youth, and families in Ontario's child welfare system.

PowerUp! is an inspiring and uplifting experience for Black-identifying youth participants with connections to Black history, culture, and activism. This event is interactive, informative, and educational and will support the development of leadership skills, critical thinking, and community collaboration. Last year, over 250 young people from across the province attended the event.

This year's *PowerUp! Youth Symposium* will take place on Thursday March 06, 2025. Programming for the event runs from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

This full-day event will feature appearances from young leaders, OACAS senior leaders, community leaders, elders, social workers, and African Canadian artists. As this event is during school hours, some youth may need excused school time to attend. We also suggest that youth who participate in the *PowerUp!* event receive credit for 8 hours of community involvement and work towards their requirement to graduate high school, if applicable.

If you have any questions about the *PowerUp! Youth Symposium*, or the One Vision One Voice program, I invite you to visit our website at www.oacas.org/onevisiononevoice, or please feel free to contact me via email at ypatrickdrakes@oacas.org

With many thanks,

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