



Subject: Invitation for Student Participation – PowerUp! Youth Symposium

Dear School Administrator / Educator,

One Vision One Voice (OVOV), is a community-informed program funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) and delivered by the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS). OVOV is dedicated to addressing anti-Black racism and supporting improved outcomes and equitable services for Black children, youth, and families involved with Ontario's child welfare system.

We are pleased to share details about our upcoming PowerUp! Youth Symposium, an inspiring and uplifting educational experience for Black-identifying youth. Rooted in Black history, culture, and activism, the symposium is designed to be interactive, informative, and engaging, with a focus on leadership development, critical thinking, and community connection.

Event Details

Date: Wednesday, October 14th 2026

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: Oshawa, Ontario

This full-day symposium will feature young leaders, senior leaders from OACAS, community leaders, elders, social workers. In 2025, more than 250 youth from across Ontario participated, and we anticipate a similarly impactful gathering this year.

As the symposium takes place during regular school hours, participating students may require an excused absence to attend. Where applicable, we also recommend that participating youth be granted up to 8 hours of community involvement credit toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) requirements.

Additional information about the PowerUp! Youth Symposium and the One Vision One Voice program is available at www.oacas.org/onevisiononevoice.

Thank you for your support in empowering Black youth and fostering equitable, affirming educational opportunities.

With appreciation,

Vania Patrick-Drakes PhD, PMP, Manager, One Vision One Voice

Keishia Facey, PhD Candidate (pronouns: she/her) - Director, Learning, Equity & Reconciliation

Karen Saunders, Community Engagement Analyst One Vision One Voice

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies