



Urban Alliance On Race Relations

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PRESS RELEASE

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Urban Alliance on Race Relations announces 2012 Race Relations Award Winners & the First Ashok Chandwani Media Award

TORONTO - Since 1975 the Urban Alliance on Race Relations (UARR) has addressed racism and various other manifestations of inequality and discrimination in Toronto through coalition-building and civic action.

Every two years, we recognize the efforts of individual changemakers who have demonstrated leadership and commitment to anti-racism, inclusion and diversity in the community.

We are pleased to announce that Jenny Ahn, Grace-Edward Galabuzi and Charles Roach (1933-2012) are this year's recipients of our 37th Anniversary Race Relations Awards.

In addition, the UARR is pleased to announce the first Ashok Chandwani Media Award to a journalist who through excellence in writing/reporting has raised public awareness of Human Rights. The recipient of this year's inaugural award is Carol Goar, Toronto Star Columnist.

Jenny Ahn, National Director of Membership Mobilization and Campaigns at Canadian Auto Workers (CAW). Ahn has worked in the labour movement to create a stronger presence of support and advocacy for Asian Canadian workers. Over 15 years, Ahn has recruited and mentored new activists from racialized communities, challenged systemic barriers in the workplace and her leadership has built a more inclusive and equitable labour movement in Toronto. Ahn is the daughter of Korean immigrants and the first person of colour and youngest member to be elected president of the CAW Local 40 and the first woman of colour elected to CAW's national executive board. She is a role model for young racialized activists within the labour movement and in the broader community.

Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Associate professor in Politics and Public Administration, Ryerson University and Research Associate at the Centre for Social Justice in Toronto. He is also an action-oriented community organizer and tireless advocate on social and racial justice issues for over 15 years. Galabuzi's research focuses on the experiences of racialized groups in the Canadian labour market, the racialization of poverty and the social determinants of health. Galabuzi develops and delivers training programs on social inclusion, employment equity and immigrant integration for a diverse range of institutions in the public, private and non-profit sectors. He is academic partner on the Colour of Poverty campaign, a Trustee of the United Way Toronto, board member of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Atkinson Foundation and the Stephen Lewis Foundation as well as founding member of the African Music Festival in Toronto.

Charles Roach, who has recently passed away, will be recognized with a Race Relations Tribute Award for his life-long work in anti-racism and struggle against injustice on behalf of African people in particular and the oppressed in general. Born in Belmont, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the son of a trade union organizer, Charles Roach arrived in Canada in 1955, originally to study for the ministry at the University of Saskatchewan. Politicized by the civil rights movement, he studied law at the University of Toronto. In the 1970s Roach was involved in refugee issues and represented domestic workers being deported. His activity was local and global-- active in the World Pan African Movement and encouraging racialized people to enter electoral politics in Canada. In addition, Charles Roach was one of the founders, with the late Dudley Laws, of the Black Action Defense Committee which provided an unswerving voice for justice on behalf of victims of police brutality and systemic racism. This kind of civic action galvanized all communities and helped create the Special Investigations Unit in Ontario. Charles Roach left a tremendous legacy in Toronto and beyond.

Carol Goar has been a journalist for more than 35 years. She began her reporting career working the night shift at the Ottawa Citizen and rose through the ranks until she reached Parliament Hill. She then moved to Canadian Press, FP News Service and Maclean's magazine before finding a permanent home at the Toronto Star. She has served as the Star's national affairs columnist, Washington bureau chief and editorial page editor. She now writes a thrice-weekly column focusing on issues affecting members of racial minorities, poor, homeless and young people, and individuals with mental and physical disabilities. She is a trustee of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation.

The winners will be honoured at the UARR 37th Anniversary Awards Dinner at St. Lawrence Hall, 157 King Street East on October 24th, at 6:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be Gerry McNeilly, Director of the Office of the Independent Police Review (OIPRD).

Advance ticket purchase is required. For details visit our website at www.urbanalliance.ca or contact us at 416-703-6607 ext. 5

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