

YWCA Toronto's 45th Distinction Awards
An evening of celebration, inspiration and impact

TORONTO, May 28, 2026 – This evening, YWCA Toronto will honour the achievements of seven extraordinary champions of gender equity at the 45th YWCA Toronto Distinction Awards, presented by Elmwood Spa and Bangkok Garden. Our distinguished 2026 Distinction Award recipients are [Jenny Ahn](#) (Labour), [Sara Asalya](#) (Immigration), [Kehkashan Basu](#) (Young Leader of Distinction), [Juana Berinstein and Ellen Kanika Tsi Tsa Blais](#) (Health), [Chinyere Eni](#) (Corporate Leadership) and [Janice Rubin](#) (Law).

“As YWCA Toronto’s new Chief Executive Officer, I am truly humbled and inspired by how the Association has been a powerful force for change for over 150 years. YWCA Toronto’s strength lies in its commitment to equity and in recognizing the intersecting realities that shape the lives of women, girls and gender diverse individuals,” says Deepa Mattoo. “Tonight, that spirit is exactly what we celebrate as we recognize seven inspiring Distinction Award recipients who are championing lasting change in our city, country and world—reshaping Canada’s labour movement, leading climate justice, reshaping midwifery and Indigenous reproductive justice, redefining corporate leadership and reconciliation, and transforming workplace harassment protections. Join us at our annual Distinction Awards. It will be an evening of celebration, inspiration and impact.”

WHAT: **YWCA Toronto's Distinction Awards**
Hosted by Jackie Pirico, Canadian comedian & broadcaster

WHEN: **Thursday, May 28, 2025**
Networking Reception: 5:30 PM
Awards Ceremony & Sit-Down Dinner: 7:00 PM
After Party: 9:00 PM

WHERE: [The Carlu](#), 444 Yonge St, Toronto, ON M5B 2H4

YWCA Toronto’s Distinction Awards, our largest annual fundraising event, funds vital YWCA Toronto programs and services which help women, girls and gender diverse people flee violence, secure housing, find jobs and transform their lives

Interviews with award recipients can be arranged through YWCA Toronto's office.

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RELATED LINKS: www.distinctionawards.ca and www.ywcatoronto.org