



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HOW CAN BUSINESSES SUPPORT DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY?**

**Black Owned Manitoba Founders to share how businesses can take action in supporting our community's black owned businesses and professionals**

**November 18, 2020, WINNIPEG, MB** - Tomorrow, at The Winnipeg Chamber's virtual luncheon, Francine Bahati and Odette Bahati Bueckert, two of the three Co-Founders of Black Owned Business Manitoba, will explore what diversity, inclusion, and equity really mean and why these should be top priorities for all businesses.

In addition to co-founding Black Owned Manitoba, Francine and Odette are business owners themselves. Francine is the owner and founder of Queenfidence Cosmetics by Francine B and Odette is the founder of Timely Staging & Design.

At a young age, the sisters were forced to flee their small town in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to the civil war. They migrated to Winnipeg in December of 2012 after living in Uganda as refugees for 10 years.

"When I look around I find the majority of workplaces have diversity, because diversity has always been there. But I think we really need to tackle inclusion diversity," said Francine Bahati. "A person of colour may be sitting at the table, but they need to be a part of the decision making, not just at the table."

At tomorrow's luncheon, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce Board Chair, Shreeraj Patel, will facilitate the important conversation with Francine and Odette on how businesses can take action now in supporting diversity and inclusivity in their business.

Launched in June 2020, Black Owned Manitoba is a business directory that highlights, promotes and celebrates black owned businesses, professionals, and creatives in Manitoba. The goal of Black Owned Manitoba is to empower the black community to pursue entrepreneurship and build sustainable wealth that can be passed onto the next generation.

**DETAILS:**

Thursday, November 19, 2020  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

## **HOW TO JOIN:**

Hopin Registration Link: <https://hopin.com/events/november-luncheon-how-your-business-can-support-diversity-inclusivity>

## **PROGRAM:**

11:30 p.m. – Exhibitor Booths and Networking

12:00 p.m. - Program Starts / Welcoming Remarks

*Shreeraj Patel, Board Chair of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce and Vice President of Commercial Financial Services at RBC*

12:05 p.m. – Fireside Chat with Francine Bahati and Odette Bahati Bueckert, Co-founders of Black Owned Manitoba

*Moderated by Shreeraj Patel*

12:40 p.m. – Breakout Sessions

1:00 p.m. – Program Ends

*Need help during the Program? Look for the "WCC Help" in the "People" section of the chat.*

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## **About The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce:**

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce uses its position as a community leader, a member business supporter and a public policy influencer to build a city where industry prosperity and community wellness grow.

## **Media Contact:**

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