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# Jean Augustine

Centre for Young Women's Empowerment

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**“The seeds of a fruitful society  
are sown in the minds of its  
youth.”**

*Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine  
P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E.*





## Who We Are

Located in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, Ontario, and founded by Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine, the Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment uses a holistic approach to support young women and girls between the ages of 7 and 17 years old to overcome some of the obstacles that can stand in the way of them realizing their full potential.

Since our inception in 2014, we have offered in-person and online programming to support young women locally and across Canada.



## Our Girls

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This community-driven program is committed to teaching young women and girls a diverse range of skills that will keep them self-sufficient and independent throughout their lives.

## Our Goal

Whether they are with us for a few hours a day or five days a week, our goal is to utilize well-researched and the most up-to-date technologies to provide for the mental, physical, and social well-being of the girls in our charge.

*"It can be hard to make friends at school, here, you get to learn new stuff, make new friends. You're always welcome here."*

*Deyjen, JAC Member*

## Our Work

From after-school programs, camp programs, workshops in academics, arts, leadership, and mentorship to life skills such as personal financial management and much more, the Jean Augustine Centre is committed to a future for our girls that encompasses diverse knowledge, skills, and experience. **Click on the images below for more.**



*"This is a beautiful place to be. The atmosphere is warm and there's so much to learn. I would readily recommend girls aged 7-17 to attend the programs organized here."*

*Volunteer*

## 2021 – 2022 Initiative

### The Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment is Back!

The Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment (JAC) celebrated International Day of the Girl on Monday, October 11th, by reuniting our girls at the Centre for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic.

Since 1995, the United Nations' International Day of the Girl has been recognized globally, increasing awareness of issues faced by girls around the world. After a year of increased use of digital activities, learning and communications, this year, the UN's theme is **Digital Generation, Our Generation**. The theme aims to create a digital revolution in which girls are equal players in tech, as they are less likely than boys to use and own devices and gain access to tech-related skills and jobs.

After almost two years of virtual programming, our girls participated in STEM activities, including coding, social entrepreneurship, and academic programs.

In alignment with the UN's theme, the Jean Augustine Centre launched JAC's #LegacyLeaders in STEM, highlighting girls in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math, kickstarting our overall Jean Augustine Centre Legacy Campaign fundraiser. We are encouraging the government, corporations, and the community to support our girls and the great programming we are implementing to put them on the path to success!



# Our Founder

## Honourable Jean Augustine

Dr. Jean Augustine P.C., C.M., O.Ont., C.B.E. is the first African-Canadian woman elected to the House of Commons. She was elected in the riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore in 1993 and sat in Parliament until 2006. During this time, she served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Minister of State, and Deputy Speaker.

In 2007, Dr. Jean Augustine was nominated by the Government of Ontario as Fairness Commissioner, a position created to advocate for Canadians with foreign credentials.

Among Dr. Augustine's many achievements and honours includes leading the motion that allowed for the placement of the Famous Five statue on Parliament Hill in Ottawa and making Black History month official in Canada.



Dr. Augustine has been recognized by having the following named in her honour:

- Jean Augustine Centre for Young Women's Empowerment (Etobicoke-Lakeshore)
- Jean Augustine Girls' Leadership Academy (TDSB)
- Jean Augustine Secondary School (Peel District School Board)
- Jean Augustine Park (Etobicoke-Lakeshore)
- The Jean Augustine Chair in Education (York University)
- Jean Augustine Complex and Jean Augustine District Park (City of Vaughan)

## Our Executive Director

### Emma Asiedu-Akrofi

Executive director of JAC since 2016, Emma Asiedu-Akrofi is dedicated to supporting the young women and girls of South Etobicoke and across Canada.

Emma's career path reflects a deep commitment to celebrating gender equality, empowerment of self-identified females, and youth-based programming. She is committed to community development and inclusivity.

Emma's professional experience includes project management, risk and insurance, governance, budget management, program development & evaluation, and strategic planning. All her experience comes to bear as she helps to shape the future of some of Canada's young women and girls.



## Contacts and Equity Statement

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[Photos and Video](#)

The Jean Augustine Centre is committed to equity and diversity as a reflection of our commitment to anti-oppression, and to ensure that we can meet the needs of the diverse population served. We foster an environment that respects people's dignity, ideas, and beliefs, thereby ensuring equity and diversity in our community.