



Ask Me Anything: Black History Month

A courageous conversation on Anti-Black Racism

Featuring: Darren Ruck and Susan Young

Moderated by: Samantha Moonsammy

Presented by: Your Professional Network, National Network for Diversity and Inclusion, and Canadian Coast Guard Internal Communications, Event Management and Publications

Date and time: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 | 1pm EST

Location: [MS Teams Live](#)

Audience: Open to all Government of Canada employees

Feel free to **submit an anonymous question** for our guests speakers.

More information and resources can be found on the [Ask Me Anything: Black History Month intranet page](#).

“We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace, and the norms and notions of what just is isn’t always just-ice.” – Amanda Gorman, Poet, Activist

Event description

We are pleased to invite you to participate in our Ask Me Anything: Black History Month event, to highlight stories from members of the Black community. We will be joined by guest speakers Darren Ruck and Susan Young, who will share their own voice and stories. You can read their biographies below. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the histories, heritages and the contributions of people of African and Caribbean descent and to reflect on our organization as a whole.

This year, more than ever, we must also take this opportunity to reflect on the systemic racism in the public services and our communities and take action to do better, as Clerk Ian Shughart wrote in his [Call to action on anti-racism, equity and inclusion in the Federal Public Service](#).

About Black History Month

During [Black History Month](#), people in Canada celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today.

DFO-CCG Ask Me Anything sessions

This is the second in our series of Ask Me Anything sessions that are giving us a platform to share stories, listen, ask respectful questions and continue on our journey to becoming a more inclusive organization. Diversity comes in many forms: gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, age, culture, etc. These all contribute to an individual's uniqueness, talent and perspective. We know, through diversity, workplaces and communities are stronger, more successful and resilient. Though we are all different, we must also remember the bonds that unite us.

We encourage everyone to submit an anonymous question for our guests speakers. This is your chance to Ask Me Anything! You will also have a chance to ask questions during the event.

Please let us know if you need accommodations to participate and contact the [CCG Internal Communications Team](#) if you have any questions.

Meet our amazing guests: Darren Ruck and Susan Young

Darren Ruck, MBA, Senior HR Advisor, Public Services and Procurement Canada



Darren was born and raised in Halifax Nova Scotia. He started his career with the Department of National Defence in 1984 where he was last appointed as a civilian operations manager in Base Supply, CFB Halifax.

After 14 years in the banking industry, he joined Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) where he has occupied roles as Regional Manager, Diversity and HR Planning and A/Regional Manager, Learning and Programs. He is now on assignment with the National office of PSPC, Diversity and Inclusion Unit.

An experienced facilitator and trainer, Darren has a passion for learning and promoting an inclusive workplace that supports good health, great careers and engagement at all levels.

Darren holds a Master of Business Administration from Saint Mary's University. He has also been an active community volunteer in areas of restorative justice, and non-profit board governance.

Susan Young, Executive Assistant, Communications, Fisheries and Oceans Canada & Virtual Counselor, Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare Services, National Defence



Susan's parents immigrated to Canada from the Caribbean island of Trinidad. She was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec.

Susan has a Certificate in Justice Studies from Algonquin College, an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology and Psychology from Western University, and a Graduate Certificate in Social Service Work from Algonquin College.

Susan is very active in anti-racism and inclusion efforts. She is currently a part of the DFO National Network for Diversity & Inclusion; the Anti-Racism Ambassadors Network; the Federal Black Employee Caucus, the Communications Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Working Group and the Positive Space Initiative.

Susan, along with DFO employee Katherine "Kat" Middleton, developed an anti-racism resource document geared toward educating others on anti-racism and how to become an ally. The document includes internal and external resources for adults and children. It has received positive feedback and has been shared interdepartmentally.