

The Daniels Corporation recognized by Toronto Community Benefits Network as the 2022 NexGen Builders Champion Employer Award recipient



Representatives from Daniels at the 2022 Building Diversity Awards. Left to Right: Fatima Saya, Senior Manager, Social Impact, Heela Omarkhail, Vice President, Social Impact, Daron Blackburn, Manager, Communications & Social Media and Denise Plamenco, Manager, People & Culture.



Heela Omarkhail accepting the 2022 NexGen Builders Champion Employer Award on behalf of Daniels. Left to Right: Rosemarie Powell, Executive Director at Toronto Community Benefits Network, Heela Omarkhail, Vice President, Social Impact at Daniels, and Marilyn Horrick, Senior Vice President at Desjardins. PHOTO CREDIT: Pierro Mathiabo Photography. Event by Debonair Corporate Events

TORONTO – On May 10, 2022, [The Daniels Corporation](#) (Daniels) was recognized for its continued commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in the construction industry with the NexGen Builders Champion Employer Award at the [Toronto Community Benefits Network's](#) (TCBN) 2022 Building Diversity Awards.

Daniels was honoured with this award as an industry champion, leading in its efforts to increase the participation of Black, Indigenous and racialized workers, including youth, women and newcomers within the organization and in the real estate and construction industry more broadly. The award is given to a construction industry employer that has excelled in supporting the professional growth and development of mentees. The award recognizes a construction industry employer that has excelled in supporting the professional growth and development of diverse workers in the workplace.

“At Daniels, we understand the powerful platform we have as leaders in the development industry and as city-builders, to approach all of our work through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion,” said Heela Omarkhail, Vice President of Social Impact at The Daniels Corporation. “We’re incredibly proud to be honoured by the Toronto Community Benefits Network for our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. This is an important and ongoing journey for us as an organization, and we are committed to making meaningful improvements and lasting change.”

Daniels also sponsored the NexGen Builders Champion Award for Mentees. This award recognizes an individual from TCBN’s NexGen Builders Mentoring Program who made exceptional progress in pursuing a career in construction. The 2022 recipient was Rokhaya Gueyere, a Local 27 Carpenter Apprentice.



Left to right: Heela Omarkhail, Vice President, Social Impact at Daniels, Rokhaya Gueyere, recipient of the 2022 NexGen Builders Champion Award for Mentees & Local 27 Carpenter Apprentice and Rosemarie Powell, Executive Director at Toronto Community Benefits Network. PHOTO CREDIT: Pierro Mathiabo Photography. Event by Debonair Corporate Events

Daniels' commitment to fostering diversity, equity and inclusion extends into the communities it builds in. As one of Canada's largest and preeminent builders and developers, Daniels recently announced three new initiatives in Regent Park. The new initiatives will drive diversity, equity and inclusion at the community level and create opportunities for local economic development.

Operated in collaboration with Black North Initiative, Daniels will provide for rent Work/Live studios to Black-identifying artists and creatives at approximately 50 per cent of the market rate. These one- and two-bedroom Work/Live studios will be located in Daniels DuEast Condominiums and Artworks Tower. [Click here to view the Work/Live call for proposals in Regent Park.](#)

In collaboration with Toronto-based arts organization Akin Community Projects (Akin), Daniels will provide artists with approximately 2,800 square feet of ground floor retail space at Daniels DuEast Condominiums at a special rate. Daniels and Akin are working closely to provide affordable artist studio and exhibition space, along with community programming and events for artists to support creative endeavors and entrepreneurial undertakings in the community. The space will open in late 2022.

Inspired by the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit in Toronto's Regent Park, later this year Daniels DuEast Condominiums' office component will become home to the Daniels Entrepreneurship Hub – a small business catalyzer aiming to provide workspace for emerging entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. The first organization to utilize this space will be InfiniGuard Security Protections Inc., a social enterprise focused on training at-risk and marginalized youth, aged 18 to 29.

About The Daniels Corporation

The Daniels Corporation (www.danielshomes.ca) is one of Canada's preeminent builders/developers, building more than 35,000 new homes across the Greater Toronto Area for over 38 years. Daniels is the developer of TIFF Bell Lightbox and the City of the Arts community on Toronto's East Waterfront. Among its many initiatives, Daniels partnered with Toronto Community Housing to redevelop Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Regent Park revitalization, a 69-acre community in the heart of Toronto. At the core of the project is both a physical and social re-connection of this once stigmatized neighbourhood to the broader City of Toronto. Daniels continues to play an important role in the Regent Park Community. Understanding that quality of life is created by much more than physical buildings, Daniels goes above and beyond to integrate building excellence with opportunities for social, cultural and economic well-being.