

Woman of Distinction turned her life around

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Two years ago, the Jane-
Finch Community &
Family Centre hired her to
help form a youth council
in the area. Her personal
experiences and dedication
to youth empowerment
inspired 20 young people to
organize a forum that
attracted about 1,100
youths from the
community.

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She also founded the
Medina Collective, an or-
ganization for young
women of colour that re-
cently launched Toronto's
only woman-centred urban
arts magazine.

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A first-year Arts & Con-
temporary Studies student
at Ryerson University,
Morgan - who aspires to
pursue a career in social
marketing and advertising
— plans to dedicate the
award to the many women
who have played important
roles in her life.

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Other 2005 Women of
Distinction award winners
include Sylvia Chromins-
ka, Dianne Schwalm, Di-
anne Martin, Margaret Mc-
Cain, Sister Ellen Leonard,
Ebonnie Rowe and Beth
Jordan.

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Rowe is the founder and
CEO of PhemPhat
Productions, an all-female
production company ded-
icated to showcasing young
women interested in urban
music, and a co-founder
and former director of Each
One, Teach One, a highly
successful mentoring
program that paired youths
between the ages of 14 and
24 with professionals
working in various trades
and occupations.



TONIKA MORGAN



EBONIE ROWE



BETH JORDAN

Jordan co-founded the
Provincial Cross Sectoral
Violence Against Women
Strategy group in response
to a spate of murders in the
summer of 2000 and con-
tributed crucial analysis to
the women's movement
response to federal Di-
vorce Act reform.

She is currently the
principal of Abode
Consulting that specializes
in feminist anti-racist
training.

Inaugurated in 1981, the
awards honour women for
their outstanding
community involvement.

This year's awards cere-
mony takes place on May
31. Previous winners in-
clude June Veacock, Deb-
bie Douglas, Jean Augus-
tine, Muriel Collins, Joan
Grant-Cummings, Eslin
Payne, Dr. Avis Glaze,
NourbeSe Philip, Claire
Prieto, Kamala-Jean Gopie,
Hesper Philip-Chamber-
lain, Rev. Paulette Brown
and the late Bev Mascoll.