



*My focus is to build the sustainability piece for the mentorship program by testing out a business model that will turn Empower'em into a social enterprise that can be self sustaining. I also look forward to friendships and stimulating conversations.*

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*Culturally Inclusive Mentorship Program for Women of Colour, Ontario, Canada*

My initiative focuses on researching, developing and piloting a model and framework for a sustainable leadership and mentorship program for women of colour aged 18+ in Ottawa. I would like to combine the lived experience insights of women of colour with professional leadership development support to create culturally appropriate leadership training, mentorship and networking for women of colour.

As a woman of colour, I have the lived experience of dealing with the many challenges faced by my community. Often the programs offered for us are not catered to our needs (such as being culturally appropriate). When I first started to notice these gaps seven years ago, I organized an initial workshop for women of colour to have a space to come together. Since then, the organization I founded, Empower'em, has organized programming for over 2,500 women and through this mentorship program, I want to foster this community further.

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