

Welcome to the February edition of the TTC Connects newsletter!

We have exciting program updates to share!

Applications are still open for the transit operator role!

Apply now! [Click here.](#)

Need help creating your account and setting up your candidate profile? Check out this [step-by-step guide.](#)

Need more information? Send us an email at transitoperator@ttc.ca



Pictured at home, meet the Lawless family – 2 generations of TTC operators all under one roof. (Left to right): Jessica Lawless, Tammy Lawless, Victoria Lawless, Samantha Lawless.

Operator spotlight

The Lawless family

Tammy, what inspired you to join the TTC?

I knew the TTC would be a stable career that would assist my husband and I in setting up our future. We had a toddler and a newborn at the time. We were trying to save money to buy a house and I wanted a job that was conducive to a growing family, flexible in its hours and had job security.

How do you feel your experience has influenced your daughter's decisions to join the TTC?

While raising my daughters (Jessica 28, Victoria 24 and Samantha 20) my goal was to instill in them a good work ethic and the importance of being independent.

I never pressured my children to apply to the TTC but I spoke to them about the importance of a good pension, a reliable paycheck and being a part of a union. I am very proud of my career as an operator and I feel that influenced

their decision to apply. I don't know if they will drive for the next 30 years but I know they are all excited to continue their careers within the TTC, and I can't wait to see them succeed.

Jessica, Victoria and Samantha: As successful applicants of our recent Women in Transit Recruitment Drive, what are your thoughts and opinions on this initiative?

We believe the Women in Transit Movement is imperative in today's society. Women deserve to be empowered, acknowledged and given every opportunity as other sexes.

The TTC's push to hire women sets an example for other companies to not allow past biases. Seeing an influx in female operators tells the public that the TTC, the City of Toronto and the province of Ontario is empowering women to build their lives on their own terms and giving them resources to be successful.

What advice would you give to women who are thinking about starting a career in transportation?

Apply! The TTC pays well, has fantastic benefits, job security and flexibility.

While it can have its challenges, driving a bus, streetcar, subway or Wheel-Trans is empowering and you can grow your career here. Part of this empowerment comes from the fact that there are so many opportunities to foster that growth within the TTC.

What is the most important advice you have received from your mother?

Time is your biggest commodity and always trust your instincts. Growing up we watched our mother and father work hard to build a life for us. We watched them sacrifice and succeed. They taught us that there is nothing more important than time and how you choose to spend it. The time away from those you love is just as important as the time spent with them. Always make sure the people in your life feel valued and important. With that advice also came the lesson to trust your instincts and do what feels right.



Will you marry me?

Congratulations to TTC operators Larry Hazan and Michelle Hapco on their engagement! Larry surprised his partner by popping the question just after she completed her training to join the TTC. All the best to the happy couple on their new chapter.

Happy Lunar New Year



Wishing a very happy Lunar New Year to our candidates and their families. We hope you welcome the Year of the Tiger with happiness, prosperity and more cherished moments!

Stopping the spread of COVID-19



As a necessary measure to protect the health of our employees,

COVID-19 vaccines are now mandatory for all TTC employees, contractors and students. The full Mandatory Vaccine Policy is available online on our [website.](#)



KESHIA ANGLIN

Bus Operator

“The TTC’s focus on diversity, inclusion and supporting Black employees makes me feel like more than just a number. I feel accepted, seen and heard.”

We proudly support our Black employees and celebrate Black History Month on our path to build a more inclusive TTC.

#BHMxTTC



February is **Black History Month** in Canada. During this month and throughout the year, the TTC is proud to continue working hard to honour Black Canadians, demonstrate its willingness to learn and ensure it is an inclusive organization that Torontonians and employees can be both proud of and feel welcomed by.

Black History Month is our opportunity as a city to honour the Black Canadians that have made a difference, including Black employees who have had a lasting impact at the TTC. This year the TTC has partnered with the City of Toronto’s StreetARToronto (StART) Program and is proud to highlight one of a kind art pieces and share the stories of eight Black artists from Toronto including, Curita Wright, Elicser Elliott, Leyland

Adams, Phade, Adrian Hayles, Leone McComas, Jacquie Comrie and Mediah across the system. People can see their art in our vehicles and stations, as well as on vehicle wraps on select TTC buses and streetcars and across our social media channels for the month of February. They can also take the TTC to see these pieces in the community any time they’d like. At TTC work locations, we will be recognizing the achievements of Black employees, and sharing their reflections on what an inclusive organization means to them. Visit ttc.ca to learn more.

By building a more diverse and inclusive organization, the TTC will better reflect the great city it serves while also creating places where all employees as well as customers feel welcomed and safe.



TTC’s women on the frontlines

Introducing our first all-women streetcar operator graduating class and new mentorship program.

On October 15, 2021, nine new employees graduated as TTC’s first all-women streetcar operator class. They started their training program on September 7, where they took written and practical driving tests to learn how to operate a streetcar safely.

This graduating class will participate in TTC’s pilot mentorship program, *Mentoring Frontline Women*, which also launched on October 15.

The mentorship program was designed in partnership with the Conference of Minority Transit Officials (COMTO) Toronto and

Region Chapter to guide and support diverse frontline workers who identify as women. It furthers the TTC’s goal to attract and develop a diverse and qualified workforce, as outlined in TTC’s 5-year Diversity and Human Rights Plan.

Congratulations to Nicole King, Liliana Bedoya, Liliana Queiros Martins, Sydnie Campbell, Marian O’Garro, Anna Abigail Rosero, Alyssia Henry, Laglenda Jacob and Jayde Wiklund-Roach!



ASHLEY BULLEN

Bus Operator

“Black History Month is an acknowledgement of the courage, resilience, and strength my ancestors strived for and embodied to pave the way for my right to speak, belong and participate.”

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