



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prepared by: Emily Boucher

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Fredericton, NB – The New Brunswick Student Alliance Board of Directors would like to express their sincere congratulations to the NBSA’s Executive Director, Sydona Chandon, for receiving the 2023 New Brunswick Youth Human Rights award. Chandon received this award on September 15th at a ceremony held at the Old Government House. The award celebrates and acknowledges her extraordinary work in student advocacy and her dedication to enhancing the lives of students and breaking down racial barriers in post-secondary education. Chandon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Communications & Public Policy from St. Thomas University.

During her time at STU, she was highly involved with the St. Thomas University Students Union (STUSU), serving as the International Student Representative in her second year and later Vice President Education in her fourth year. She was known for leading several roundtable sessions and events that gave students the opportunity to voice their concerns whilst creating a learning environment for faculty and staff to understand competencies that would make STU a more equitable place. Chandon also served as the third founder of the Black Student Association and Asian Student Association, further amplifying the voices of marginalized communities. She was also recognized as one of the organizers of the first Emancipation Day in New Brunswick in August 2021, an annual celebration which commemorates the abolishment of slavery across the British Empire.

Her participation with the NBSA began while she was the St. Thomas University Students Union Vice President of Education (2021). Since her employment as Executive Director, Chandon has shown a relentless devotion to advocating for a more accessible, equitable, and affordable future for students in post-secondary whilst leading the board to produce quality policy recommendations.

In her speech at the Human Rights Award Ceremony she shared;

“It is such a great honor to receive such a prestigious award for work I did while I was a student and work that I continue to do now to amplify the voices of post-secondary students”, she highlighted in her address, “Being of service to others is life-giving and ultimately the most

rewarding work you can do in your lifetime.” Chandon hopes that her work will inspire future generations to become a catalyst for change.

“On behalf of the NBSA, we are extremely proud and grateful for all the work Sydona has done to ensure all students feel safe and supported,” said Emily Boucher, Chair of the NBSA. “We could not imagine a better recipient for this award, it is highly deserved.”

Since 1988, the New Brunswick Human Rights award has recognized New Brunswickers’ outstanding efforts, achievements, and leadership in the promotion of human rights, fairness, equality, and non-discrimination in the province. This award was presented by Lieutenant Governor the Honourable Brenda L. Murphy.