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www.speakerscanada.com +1 (866) 420 3338

## Kwame Osei

Adversity, Teamwork, Leadership, Inclusion and Diversity Expert



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**Language Spoken**

English

**Travel's From**

Kington, Ontario

## Speaker Biography:

Kwame Osei was born in Ghana West Africa. He came to Canada at the age of 4 and resided in Toronto with his parents and sister. They all lived in Rexdale where he grew up and later attended high school at Father Henry Carr. Living in Rexdale Kwame was susceptible to street culture and embraced a perspective on life that resulted in having low expectations of himself. As a result, in his first year of high school Kwame Osei failed almost all of his classes and had a few conflicts with the law. He began to lose childhood friends due to gun violence and he too was once held by gun point and stabbed. After a series of life threatening experiences Kwame decided to turn his life around and make a change. Kwame Osei attended St. Francis Xavier University and played football for the X-Men, he was voted team captain for 3 seasons. During his last year of University he achieved Academic All-Canadian honours. Kwame earned two degrees from StFX and became the first member of his family to earn a university degree.

After university Kwame had a brief professional football career with the Toronto Argonauts. He then moved to Fort McMurray Alberta and began his career as a teacher and football coach. Kwame helped start a football program that produced various post secondary student-athletes. He also coached provincially for Team Alberta and for the Alberta Summer Games. Kwame is now a coach for Queen's University in Ontario.

Kwame is the author of two children's books. Outside of football Kwame is also an author of a children's book called "If Not Me Then Who". He is the Co-Owner of an athletic apparel company called Triumph Elite and is the Co-Founder of a non-profit mentorship organization called Northern Elite Football. Kwame was a cast member on The Amazing Race Canada season 6 (Hero's Edition) and has appeared in various tv commercials. He has also been hired as an event host on many occasions, a role he takes very seriously as he knows the right host/speaker can be the difference between a good and great event.

Kwame Osei has a passion for public speaking a term he refers to as "seed planting". He has had speaking engagements with teams, schools, corporate teams, non-profit organizations and charities. Kwame's goal is to inspire change and growth in every individual he meets, he does this through sharing his life experiences and incorporating metaphors as means of helping to create a perspective shift for his audience.

## Topic Presentations

### **Adapt and Conquer:**

Kwame uses the art of storytelling from his life to inspire his audience to adapt and conquer every obstacle that comes their way. Kwame urges his audience to understand that after stress comes success and from struggle comes strength. Kwame has learned this through the course of his life, as he overcame the negative environment he lived in. He overcame the stereo types placed on him, countless situations in which he could have easily lost his life or been incarcerated. Kwame urges his audiences to not only find their passion but to also place themselves in the right environment to truly grow to their full potential. Find out how Kwame turned his obstacles into triumphs and turned lead into gold.

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### **Growth Mindset:**

Kwame will help his audience understand that the differences between successful people and unsuccessful people is simply the way they perceive the events of life. In this presentation Kwame will breakdown the importance of having a growth mindset and how your life can be completely altered in a positive way if you choose to see it in a positive way. Kwame passionately believes that perception is everything in life. Book Kwame now and find out how his perception helped him at critical times in his life.

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## **Inclusion and Diversity:**

In this presentation Kwame will dive into personal stories involving inclusion and diversity. Kwame recalls firsthand experiences he had in his life involving the lack of inclusion and diversity. In this presentation Kwame thoroughly explains what an inclusive work space looks like, and he teaches his audience how to create a diverse environment in order to produce cultural competence and cultural understanding. Book Kwame now and find out how you can create a culture that permeates inclusion and diversity.

Videos



**Toronto Black Author Inspiring The Youth**

Watch Video



## Testimonials

North Island College had the pleasure of hosting Kwame for a virtual talk where he shared his thoughts and experiences related to the Power of Choice. Kwame's outgoing and energetic presence made for an engaging event and provided the NIC community with a much needed boost of hope during these uncertain times. Kwame's use of storytelling to convey his message of adapting to change is captivating.

***Dean Martin, M.Ed. Manager, Student Life North Island College***

"Kwame spoke to employees of Library and Archives Canada on Diversity and Inclusion in March 2021. From our first meeting, I notice that he was invested in the subject and easy to work with in order to plan and ensure the success of our conference. He is sincere, humble and approachable.

Kwame captivated our audience with his inspiring words and stories, as well as his passion and energy. We could have listened to him all day! Thank you Kwame!"

***Rachel Amyot, Senior HR Advisor, Library and Archives Canada***

"My club, the Queen's University Black Academic Society, had the absolute privilege of booking and being blessed to learn of and reflect on the motivational stories and messages that Kwame had to share, at an annual conference that we hold at the University. Every head in the building was locked on Kwame for the entire message, and every eyeball in the room grew wider and wider with focus and anticipation for the gems that he would drop next. Even at his young age, Kwame has lived an extremely interesting life and has both failed, been challenged, and overcame a number of times. He accounts for every failure and challenge along his journey, as he makes clear that they are the opportunities in life to pivot and elevate. Kwame's vast success is due to his unique perspective in life, and the passion and energy with which he shares that perspective make it impossible not to internalize. I know Kwame made an impact on myself and my cohort and we look forward to inviting him to events in the future."

***"Rasheed Tucker Queen's Black Academic Society"***

"I had the pleasure of working with Kwame Osei as our Emcee for the Keyano College Gala 2018. He brought his energy and enthusiasm to all aspects of the project. Kwame was very good at reading the audience. He used his humor and a jovial approach to maintain guest attention during key program moments.

Kwame also went above and beyond the usual Emcee duties by participating in some promotional opportunities for our event. He was very well spoken and candid in interviews, willing to have fun with some social media sneak peek videos and worked with us to create an entertaining entrance video.

I have received many compliments on just how well the formal stage program was executed and how we were very lucky to have Kwame join us as Emcee for our event. I look forward to the next opportunity I have to work with him again!" "

***"Lauren Thomas Events Coordinator"***

"Kwame Osei was a speaker at our Youth Symposium held in Nov 2017, themed 'Champions of Tomorrow'. It was organized to bring local youths together, to inspire, elevate and guide positive life choices. Kwame's tailored message to the audience was spot-on! With his interactive, genuine, relatable message of overcoming hurdles and building perseverance. Kwame's professionalism



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showed, both on and off the stage, where he spent time and interacted with other attendees even before he began his talk. We were looking for a speaker who would be able to connect, be an expert on his message and leave a lasting impression. Kwame delivered all that and more! It was great working with him.”

*“Abena Twumasi-Smith Program Manager “*

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