

# 2021 Black History Month

**BUILDING OUR CANADA**  
*PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE*



2nd  
Edition

[www.nbccedmonton.ca](http://www.nbccedmonton.ca)

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The Executive of the National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton chapter is elected from the membership to be as diverse and representative of the community as possible.

## NBCC EXECUTIVES 2020/2021

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PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

February 2021



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton Chapter and to everybody commemorating Black History Month in Canada.

Black History Month offers a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the remarkable role Black Canadians have played in our history, and to celebrate the significant contributions they have made, and continue to make, to our country in all fields of endeavor.

It continues to be a challenging time for hosting and planning events. That is why I would like to thank the dedicated organizers for their efforts. You can take pride in knowing that your commitment to building bridges between communities and to fostering open dialogue, awareness and understanding, is helping to build a stronger, more inclusive Canada.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada



# MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton Chapter as you celebrate Black History Month.

In February, we take time to focus on the lives and experiences of Black Canadians. Their stories are an essential part of our heritage as a province and country, and their accomplishments continue to enrich every aspect of our society. Black History Month is our opportunity to celebrate the diversity and resilience of the Black community, and to reflect on the many contributions of Black Albertans as we work together to build a positive, prosperous future for everyone.

Thank you to the Edmonton chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada for your work to build community, support your members, and highlight this important event each year. I appreciate your commitment to multiculturalism, and I wish you all the best for a memorable celebration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Kenney".

Hon Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta





ALBERTA

CULTURE, MULTICULTURALISM AND STATUS OF WOMEN

*Office of the Minister*

**Message from Honourable Leela Sharon Aheer  
Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women**

As Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, it is my pleasure to recognize Black History Month, and celebrate the contributions of the Black community in Alberta.

This month, we honour the history of the Black community in Alberta, which dates back to the 1800s. Many Black men and women helped create this legacy through their courage, determination, and perseverance. Their work paved the way for the culture, communities, and economy of this province as we know it today.

The theme for this year's celebration, "Building Our Canada: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition," highlights the every day champions from the Black community, who are continuing the work that began more than 200 years ago. Their efforts and dedication show the need for all of us to work together to build this country. When we learn from our past, we can build a better future, where all people feel safe, welcomed and valued.

My thanks to the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton for providing this opportunity to learn more about the history of the Black community, honour the achievements of individuals and groups, and celebrate our province's diversity.

Leela Sharon Aheer  
Minister





## Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, I'm pleased to join you in celebrating Black History Month.

Black History Month is an important opportunity to celebrate the stories, contributions and accomplishments of Black Canadians who have shaped our city. It's a chance to recognize past hardships and triumphs, while also looking to create a more fair, just and equitable society for the future.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about many challenges for cities worldwide, it has also helped to spark opportunities and drive positive change. Over the last year, people around the world have come together to highlight the importance of diversity, and the need to combat systemic discrimination and racism. As a city that has been deeply enriched by diversity, Edmonton's success is inherently linked to that of our communities of colour.

I thank the Edmonton chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada for organizing this year's event, and for working to promote understanding and acceptance in our city year-round. You are helping to make Edmonton a more diverse, welcoming and uplifting home.

Best wishes for a memorable Black History Month!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Iveson'.

Don Iveson  
Mayor



## **Hon. Kaycee Madu** **Building Our Canada**



On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to join the National Black Coalition as we celebrate Black History Month in 2021. My name is Kaycee (Kelechi) Madu, and I was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on April 16th, 2019, as the MLA for Edmonton-South West. Last year, I was honoured to be appointed Canada's first Black and African-born Minister of Justice and Solicitor General by the Honourable Premier Jason Kenney. This was an important moment for our province and our community.

As the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, I will be working hard to deliver a faster, fairer, and more responsive justice system. The move to a more efficient and modern justice system will ensure Albertans are safe, secure, and protected in their communities, no matter where they live.

Last year, Albertans from all walks of life exercised their fundamental right to free expression, calling on all levels of government to address inequalities in our justice system. I want to assure Albertans, especially members of Alberta's Black communities, that the Government of Alberta heard you. In the summer of last year Alberta's government announced an expedited review of the Police Act to modernize policing in our province, and ensure Albertans are confident in our police and to the communities they serve and protect. I want to thank First Nations, leaders in our minority communities, and the chiefs of police for collaborating with the Government of Alberta to deliver meaningful and substantive reform on this critical matter.

I am proud of our province and the millions of people who choose to live, work, and raise their families in Alberta. This is a province that rewards hard work, and provides opportunity to everyone, no matter where they come from. Alberta is a better province because so many members of the Black community have decided to make this their home. Please join me as we celebrate another inspiring Black History Month with all of Alberta.





On behalf of all my colleagues in the Alberta NDP Caucus, Alberta's Official Opposition, it's my pleasure to once again join the National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton Chapter in celebrating Black History Month.

Black communities have always known what it is to be restricted - to live in a world surrounded by a constant invisible, but deadly, threat. To live in fear of its impact on their ability to make a living, their freedom of movement or their and their loved ones' lives and health.

Yet it has also always found ways to survive and thrive. Some fought to save and protect the lives of those battered and bruised by the disease of hatred and prejudice. Others to uproot and transform the systems that empowered and entrenched its spread. And yet others to inoculate hearts and minds against it.

And at the core of all those efforts has been community - finding strength in creating spaces to come together, stand together and fight together, even when hatred and prejudice strove to drive or force us to be apart. To celebrate all we are and insist and defend that our lives matter.

That is the history of the black community in Alberta and around the world. And as 2020 made crystal clear, the fight is not over. There is more work to do.

We must follow in the footsteps of both John Ware who earned the respect of his peers, and mother and community activist Ms. Poston who went to city hall to demand it in her community. Of lawyer Violet King who studied to fight for justice, and her brother Ted King who went to court to claim it. Those who became leaders and those who fought to hold leaders to account.

This February, let's remember and celebrate the full range of who we are and what we can be, from the streets of our communities to the highest levels of influence and power, and let that fuel our fight for better.

Happy Black History Month!

David Shepherd  
MLA, Edmonton-Centre



## Message from the Edmonton Police Service Chief Dale R. McFee



On behalf of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), I am honoured to join you in celebrating Black History Month.

This is a special time to recognize the many achievements and contributions members of the Black community have made locally and around the world, and to celebrate the community's diverse history, heritage and culture within our own city.

Recent anti-racism events and worldwide calls for change not only show how connected we all are, but how similar our values are – that we all want to live in safe and inclusive communities, free of discrimination, with dignity and respect.

EPS recognizes the important role we have protecting and serving all our citizens, and in working together to build a safer community for all.

We have pledged our commitment to action to listen to Black, Indigenous, racialized and underserved communities, address concerns, and work together to make meaningful changes that will transform policing and community well-being.

These are steps we can all take, and need to take, if we are to move forward on a path of equity, progress and justice.

While this year's Black History Month celebrations may look different due to COVID-19, we must not forget to celebrate the ongoing legacy of our Black community, and we are grateful for their continued contributions to our police service and our city.

Thank you, God bless, and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale R. McFee".

Dale R. McFee  
Chief of Police

# Welcome to Black History Month 2021!

## VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Black History Month plays a significant role in highlighting the contributions that our people have made in building Canada. History, cultural education, and teaching diversity provides a vital path for unifying people and communities. The National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) Edmonton takes great pride in participating in Black History Month 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic is playing a role in making this year's celebrations quite different. Although physically distant, there is the opportunity for more people to join, participate, and learn about the Black Canadian Legacy virtually. As we celebrate the many achievements and successes of black Canadians, each of us must play a role in building a more equal and just society. We must be attentive to the events around the globe that sparked protests and renewed calls for racial justice and change. NBCC echoes the need for racial equality, eradicating structural racism, calling for inclusion and change.

NBCC acknowledges the countless Black Canadians past and present who have made notable contributions to make Canada a better place. Locally, we recognize the work of those who laid the foundation for NBCC, including Mr. Kingsley Gilliam, Mr. Arthur Clarke, Mr. Michael Broodhagen, and Mr. Alwyn Brightley.

We must encourage, and support the new generation of black youth to go forward with the legacy and continue shaping a culturally diverse and inclusive nation.

For 2021 NBCC continues the theme "Building Our Canada" from 2020.

NBCC is recognizing and highlighting the work of our local people and providing relevant information to enhance the knowledge, growth, and success of our community.

As we reflect on Black History in Canada, may we draw inspiration from the experiences, dedication, hard work, and resiliency of individuals who work in our Alberta community groups, businesses, churches, organizations, and associations.

The leadership and knowledge they produce, and share can contribute towards achieving the necessary advancement that we seek in "Building Our Canada".

Respectfully,  
Joy Thomas (Vice President)  
National Black Coalition of Canada, Edmonton  
Chapter



# AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2020

## COVID RESTRICTIONS - FORMAL AWARD PRESENTATION POSTPONED

The National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) - Edmonton Chapter, recognizes and honours individuals or groups in Edmonton, Alberta, who have made outstanding contributions to our community and society at large.

### **MARY BURLIE AWARD :**

Individuals and groups, regardless of ethnic origin who are delivering effective programs and/or services to the Black Community

Winner #1 Dr. A. Robert Turner  
Winner #2 Somali Canadian Women & Children Association (SCWCA)

### **FIL FRASER AWARD :**

This award is presented to individuals or groups who have done outstanding work in literary, performing and/or visual Arts

Winner #1 Ms. Alison Clark  
Winner #2 Ms. Amal Mohamud

### **CLARENCE "BIG" MILLER AWARD :**

To individuals or groups in the Black Community who have demonstrated excellence in vocal or instrumental performance, music composition or instruction.

Winner Mr. Jerome K-Riz Henry

### **YOUTH (NBCC) AWARD :**

To young black individuals (aged 24 years or younger) or groups who have demonstrated academic excellence and/or delivered exceptional programs and services in any area of the Black Community or society at large

Winner Ms. Sara N. Mwamba

### **ROSALIND SMITH AWARD - PROFESSIONAL :**

Exceptional and prolonged service from individuals or groups from the Black Community working in any profession

Winner #1 Dr. Habiba Mohamud  
Winner #2 Dr. Malinda Smith

### **ROSALIND SMITH AWARD - BUSINESS :**

For Exceptional and Prolonged Service from individuals or group from the Black Community owning or running a Business

Winner Ms. Debbie Gurley-Rivers

### **NOEL CHEN TRADE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD :**

Individual/s who are attending a college or vocational training program in the trades/ or be registered as an Alberta apprentice in a trade.

Winner #1 Mr. Kymani Richards  
Winner #2 Mr. Najori Rhoden

NBCC PRESENTS

EDMONTON  
GOSPEL  
MUSIC NETWORK



National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton

THE ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

# GOSPEL NIGHT 2021

FREE VIRTUAL CONCERT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27  
@ 7PM MST

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEARCH FACEBOOK  
FOR EDMONTON GOSPEL MUSIC NETWORK

WATCH LIVE ON



# 365

## Days and Ways to Celebrate Remarkable Black Canadians

Who do you know?

January	February	March	April	May	June
 <b>Lincoln Alexander</b> Birthdate: January 21, 1922	 <b>Kellylee Evans</b> Birthdate: February 7, 1975	 <b>Lillie Johnson</b> Birthdate: March 16, 1922	 <b>William Hubbard</b> Died: April 13, 1905	 <b>PK Subban</b> Birthdate: May 13, 1989	 <b>Rosemary Brown</b> Birthdate: June 17, 1900
July	August	September	October	November	December
 <b>Viola Desmond</b> Birthdate: July 6, 1914	 <b>Oscar Peterson</b> Birthdate: August 15, 1925	 <b>Jean Augustine</b> Birthdate: September 9, 1937	 <b>Nathaniel Dett</b> Birthdate: October 11, 1882	 <b>Kadeisha Buchanan</b> Birthdate: November 5, 1995	 <b>Angela James</b> Birthdate: December 22, 1964

[www.nbccedmonton.ca/etfo365](http://www.nbccedmonton.ca/etfo365)



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# ALISON CLARKE

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## THE MAGIC OF WRITING



Alison Clarke is an award-winning author and poet. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master's degree in Children's Literature from Hollins University. Writing was her first love since sixth grade. Libraries were a refuge for her growing up, and books were a safe place where she could retreat. Alison is the author of *The Adventures of Eli* in 2006 and, *The Sisterhood Book Series*. The series includes three fantasy-themed novels focusing on the power of art and the collective force, with women, especially those of colour, as protagonists. In 2016, Allison won Diversity Magazine's Artist of The Year Award for *The Sisterhood, Book One*. In 2020 Alison was awarded the National Black Coalition Fil Fraser Award for outstanding work in literary, performing and/or visual arts.

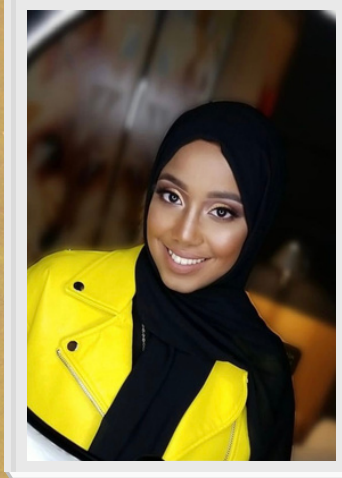
Alison believes that all forms of art can change the world. In addition to her accomplishments as a writer, she is also an award-winning visual artist. Her pieces have been featured at the Art Gallery of Alberta, University of Alberta, and both local and international art shows. Alison also enjoys performing spoken word and has been a performer at various local events, including Black Arts Matter - a festival featuring black spoken word artists.

Alison has travelled to festivals and conventions worldwide, partaking in readings, book signings, and writing workshops. She has used these opportunities to connect with authors from around the world. In March 2021, Alison will begin her time as the Writer-In-Residence at the Alexandra Writers' Centre in Calgary. Alison is "Building Our Canada" by continuing to enrich the community as a black author, mentor and instructor of visual arts and creative writing.

# AMAL ALI MOHAMUD

“ Building Our Canada ”

## BREAKING BARRIERS IN MEDIA



Through music, television, film and the internet, media heavily influences our lives. The lack of diversity and negative media representation of Amal's community motivated her to begin telling positive Somali stories.

The Somali community is the largest African group in Alberta. Amal utilizes her role as a Community Producer at OMNI Television to celebrate Somali stories and educate others about misconceptions they may have about the community. She is currently working on the only mainstream media project that focuses on representing and highlighting the local Somali community.

Growing up, Amal did not have role models in the media field she could relate to. With Edmonton being one of Canada's most diverse, fast-growing cities, Amal aims to ensure the next generation can see that media is a career path worth pursuing. With a goal of becoming the first Somali television producer in Canada, Amal is striving to show her community that your dreams are valid no matter where you're from. Amal has worked with Canadian Channels such as Shaw TV Edmonton, and Omni Alberta.

In our society, the media plays an influential role in shaping human interests and ambitions. Amal has been awarded Diversity Magazine's AC Junior Achievement Award (2019) and The National Black Coalition of Canada's Fil Fraser Award (2020) for her hard work and dedication to her craft and the community. She continues to act as a voice of the people by showcasing the hardworking, compassionate, talented and driven Somali individuals that make a difference in this city. Her work allows the community to be inspired, find new role models, and have positive media representation.

Amal is a first-generation Somali Canadian, who is "Building Our Canada", by breaking barriers through her work in media.



BLACK GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# 2ND STUDENT CONFERENCE

The Black Student Experience in Academia

Date: February 25, 2021

Time: 3:30pm - 6:00pm

PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW



## Conference Information

This conference will detail the multifaceted nature of the Black students' experience in academia by providing a platform for students at all post-secondary levels of study to present academic, community-based, or other work related to the outlined theme.

The presentations will depict universities as institutions that exist at the intersection of educational and social practice - a place that can both constrain and enable social transformation. More importantly, the conference will acknowledge students' role as change agents actively involved in achieving this transformation, in collaboration with university leaders, researchers and educational practitioners.

email: [bgsn@ualberta.ca](mailto:bgsn@ualberta.ca)

# PROFESSOR W. ANDY KNIGHT, FRSC

" B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a "

## CONVERSATIONS ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM



During Black History Month 2021, we ought to reflect on what I call “the George Floyd Moment”. That moment in 2020 (that Annus Horribilis) when the world witnessed a 21st century ‘lynching’ of a 46-year-old black man by four Minneapolis police officers. One white police officer knelt callously on Floyd’s neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds as a grown black man called out for his mother (who had died two years earlier), repeating the phrase “I can’t breathe, I can’t breathe.” That phrase has now become a familiar refrain not only in the United States but all over the globe; representing the asphyxiation of opportunities that black folks, the world over, have been forced to endure since the days of slavery some 400 years ago. That moment, as the life of George Floyd was drained out of him, left an indelible stain on the consciousness of anyone with a heart.

In Canada, we sometimes smugly claim that the racism in the United States is not present in our country. Yet, incidents of prejudice and anti-black racism are ubiquitous within our institutions and throughout our society. We cannot close our eyes to the numerous incidents of police brutality and violence against black people and people of colour in many of the provinces of our country. But, at times, we seem unaware of the anti-black racism that is subtle and “unconscious”. I label it “polite racism”. It is an insidious form of racism that permeates the sinews of our Ivory tower in a way that negatively impacts not only the few black faculty members hired at the University of Alberta, but also support staff members and students of colour. This form of racism may not always be blatantly exhibited but nevertheless acts to support the ideology of “whiteness” prevalent in our province. We need to confront this disease with the same fervour that our society is asked to tackle the invisible COVID-19 pandemic.

# PROFESSOR W. ANDY KNIGHT, FRSC

" B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a "

## CONVERSATIONS ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM

*cont...*

Therefore, during Black History Month this year, I have proposed to launch a new podcast -- "Conversations on Anti-black Racism in the Ivory Tower." There are two goals I have in mind for this project. The initial goal is to present to the public the views of Black faculty who, despite being at the top of their academic fields, have suffered the indignities of conscious and unconscious bias, blatant and subtle discrimination, and the psychological scars that may not be physically manifest. The intent of these "conversations" is not to shame the white population in our university or broader community, but rather to wake them up to the realities of the mental damage being done to people of colour, to the barriers being placed in the paths of black faculty, to the limitations placed on minorities that stem from white privilege and systemic racism.

The second goal is to intersperse into these podcasts the expert knowledge of critical race theorists, historians, politicians, and practitioners who can help the broader public understand the conceptual and practical ways in which "whiteness" has been used to perpetuate structural and systemic racism throughout society and within our institutions, including the Ivory Tower.

Sadly, within our university, there is a paucity of courses and knowledge generation about black history and the contributions black, coloured, and indigenous peoples have made to the multicultural society that Canada has become. During Black History Month, the U of A podcasts, supported by the Kule Institute of Advanced Studies (KIAS), will feature interviews with: Cecil Foster, a distinguished black Barbadian-Canadian novelist and Professor of Transnational Studies at State University of New York, whose latest book, *They Call me George*, is the inspiration for a new CBC and BET co-produced TV series about Black train porters in Canada who helped to spark the civil rights moment in the US; and Cecile Caesar-Chavannes, a former Member of Parliament in the Federal Liberal Government of Canada, whose block buster book, *"Can you Hear me Now"* comes out at the beginning of Black History Month.



# AFRICA CENTRE

## OUR PROGRAMS

- Early Learning & Childcare
- Mentorship & Leadership
- Out of School Time
- YEGTheComeUp
- Mental Health
- Seniors Wellbeing & Engagement
- Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment
- Employment & Skills Development
- Community Engagement
- Scholarships
- Counselling
- African Diaspora Covid Response
- Food Bank

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

- February 4th - April 11th:**  
**Art of Reflection at The Art Gallery of Alberta**
- February 1st - 28th:**  
**Art of Reflection at IKEA Edmonton**

An exhibition emblematic of the times. The Art of Reflection, created by various Black artists within the greater Edmonton region, looks at our understanding of self through careful deliberation.

**February 26th, 5.30pm - 7.30pm:**  
**Melanin Narratives**

Melanin Narratives will explore the cultural relevance of storytelling through a night of performances, in which stories are shared and told through different art mediums.

**February 28th, 3pm & March 7th, 3pm:**  
**Black Mental Health Conference**

Join us to talk about Black Mental Health with leading researchers, academics, and practitioners in the Black community.

To learn more about our Black History Month events, visit [www.africacentre.ca](http://www.africacentre.ca)



@AfricaCentreYEG

# ACCEC

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON BLACK CANADIANS.



The African Canadian Civic Engagement Council, ACCEC, is a national public affairs organization located in Edmonton Alberta. ACCEC promotes and strengthens opportunities for African, Caribbean, and Black communities. ACCEC's mission is to preserve the best interest and address the needs of African Canadians most affected by the perpetuation of poverty, civic apathy, structural, and systemic inequity.

ACCEC's achieve their mandate by providing quality driven programs, informing public policymaking, promoting human rights and inclusion through research, education, awareness, and legal advocacy.

In July 2020, through a partnership between the African Canadian Civic Engagement Council (ACCEC) and Innovative Research Group (INNOVATIVE), carried out a National study, first of its kind in Canada, the study examined the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 from the perspectives of Black Canadians and those in the broader Canadian population. The research revealed that Black Canadians are disproportionately impacted by Covid19 and uncovered the following:

### **Compared to the Canadian average, Black Canadians report far worse health outcomes related to COVID-19.**

- Black Canadians are more likely to report COVID-19 symptoms, either themselves or someone they know, more likely to say they sought treatment for COVID-19, and nearly three times as likely (21% to 8%) to report knowing someone who has died due to the virus.

### THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON BLACK CANADIANS.

*cont...*

**Although further research is needed, poorer health outcomes for Black Canadians may be explained by greater exposure at work to the virus.**

- Black Canadians are much more likely to report their job requires them to work with people face-to-face (Net: +41 vs. +25 national average).
- Black Canadians are more likely to feel that no matter what steps they take, their day-to-day routine puts them at an uncomfortably high risk of catching the virus (Net: -2 vs. -17% national average.)
- Black commuters, those who go in to work at least part-time, are much more likely than the national average to report symptoms, to seek medical treatment, and to admit themselves or know someone admitted to the hospital.
- Black commuters are twice as likely than the average Canadian worker to say their commute is unsafe (24% vs. 12%).

**Black Canadians report much worse financial impact from COVID-19 than the average Canadian.**

- Black Canadians are more likely to report layoffs or reduced working hours in their household (56% to 43%) and more worried, over the next few months, about paying their rent (45% to 36% national average).
- Black Canadians are also more likely than the average Canadian to say their household finances have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. And when it comes to age and gender, it's Black men over 45yrs who are most negatively impacted by COVID-19 when it comes to household finances.

ACCEC believe research contributes to society as an instrument for social change, through building knowledge, and facilitating learning opportunities. For Black Canadians, research offers us the ability to tell our stories using race-based data. Research enables us to hold government accountable by drawing conclusions from the data to influence Canadian policies in making informed decisions.



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Sickle Cell Foundation of Alberta challenges you to donate blood, the blood challenge will run during Black History Month from January 31 - February 28, 2021

**We need blood more than ever to help those with Sickle Cell Anemia.**

Join this challenge and make this contribution count in your name. Visit our website at [www.ourscfa.org](http://www.ourscfa.org) to register to have your blood directed to help Sickle Cell Anemia patients.

**We want to hear from you!** So take a picture, or write a few words about your experience then post it to our facebook.

#Pintsizechallenge #sicklecellwarrior #albertastrong #sicklecellawareness #sicklecellawareness365  
#sicklecellwarrioryeg #sicklecellwarrioryyc #scfa

### ... MEECH'S PINTSIZE CHALLENGE ...

Visit [Ourscfa.org](http://Ourscfa.org) to:

- Register
- Obtain Your Partner for Life Number
- For Canada Blood Service's Number
- \*\* Remember to give us a shout out about your experiences \*\*

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**SCFA**  
Sickle Cell Foundation of Alberta  
education | awareness | support

# BLACK YOUTH MENTORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## TRANSFORMING BLACK YOUTHS IN ALBERTA



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
FACULTY OF NURSING

In 2020, Dr. Bukola Salami, an Associate Professor at the University of Alberta created the interdisciplinary Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program to improve the educational and economic outcomes of Black youths in Alberta. The program has the support of around 15 Black faculty members at the University of Alberta, many of whom act as mentors. Around 10 community members and organizations are involved in an advisory committee role. Approximately 30 volunteers engage in the project as mentors and guest speakers.

The Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program is a unique, made-in- Alberta contribution to empower Black youth socially and economically in grades 10 and 11, to contribute meaningfully to the Canadian society. The goal of the Program is to improve economic outcomes, community belonging, and leadership skills, as well as foster a positive cultural identity for Black youth, the mentees. The program is open to student who are interested in any discipline including medicine, social science, engineering, arts, nursing, psychology, business, education, law, policy etc.

The Program aims to engage Black youth in innovative research and provide them with an internship opportunity to maximize their experiential learning and facilitate their upward mobility. The primary objectives of the Program are to:

1. Increase leadership skills of Black youth.
2. Increase post-secondary entry and completion rate for Black youth.
3. Foster community belonging for Black youth.
4. Create a positive cultural identity for Black youth and,
5. Increase the ability of Black youth to tackle issues of racism and discrimination.

The program was offered in Fall 2020 to 35 Black high school youths. In 2020, 10 Black youths completed paid research placements at the University of Alberta and 25 Black youths completed group projects under the mentorship of undergraduate students at the University of Alberta. Youths were either paid or received a stipend while engaging in the project. The youths also received a certificate of completion and some youths received high school credit. Participants improved their writing skills, teamwork skills and expanded their network of support. The program provided participants with vital tools to succeed in University. The program has an anti-racist and Afrocentric philosophy and is focused on capitalizing on the strengths and resources of Black youths and the Black community.



# BLACK YOUTH MENTORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

" B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a "

TRANSFORMING  
BLACK YOUTHS IN ALBERTA

*cont...*

The program will be offered again in July/August 2021. Students in the mentorship program will gain research experience with a Faculty member at the University of Alberta, attend workshops, complete a research paper and/or poster presentation, and shadow professionals in the community. The mentorship program will run from July 5 to August 13, 2021 on a full-time basis. Students will earn a stipend or salary during the program, receive a certificate of completion and there may be an opportunity to earn a high school credit if desired.

The program will include workshops and content on:

- Conducting literature searches and literature reviews
- How to develop scholarly papers
- Financing your university education
- Choosing a career after high school graduation
- How to be an effective leader
- Promoting your mental health
- Fostering a positive Black identity and tackling racism
- Succeeding as a Black youth

Research experience will be in-person and include hands-on activities in various disciplines such as arts, nursing, medicine, science, engineering, social science, and law. In addition to working on a research project, participants will "shadow" professionals and participate in lab tours. They will meet role models including faculty, students, and working professionals and discover diverse career paths.

News articles about the mentorship program can be found here:

<https://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/u-of-a-leadership-program-mentors-black-youth>

<https://www.ualberta.ca/folio/mentorship-program-helps-black-high-schoolers-succeed-in-university.html>

<https://edmontonjournal.com/opinion/columnists/opinion-its-time-to-address-systemic-inequities-faced-by-black-youth-in-school>

If you would like to register in the mentorship program for Summer 2021, please email: [immigrant.health@ualberta.ca](mailto:immigrant.health@ualberta.ca)

Also, please email if you would like to volunteer as a mentor or guest speaker for the program.

# You are invited to a virtual screening of the *Black Men in White Coats* Documentary

In celebration of **Black History Month** and in a joint effort to eliminate racism in health care, the Office of Professionalism, Equity and Diversity (OPED), Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary, the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta, and the Black Physicians Association of Alberta have collaborated to bring you an inspiring and thought-provoking film screening event.

**Faculty, learners and staff of the Universities, as well as Alberta physicians, other residents of Alberta and youth interested in pursuing a career in medicine or healthcare, are invited to view the *Black Men in White Coats* documentary and participate in a panel discussion.**

***The Black Men in White Coats documentary raises awareness of the systematic barriers preventing Black men from becoming medical doctors and the consequences on society at large. Content is appropriate for youth and adults and is relevant to those outside of the medical field.***

## Registration Process:

Click [here](#) to register for the free *Black Men in White Coats* screening.

Once registered, you will be provided further details to receive your unique streaming code for use on your own device, anytime between February 21<sup>st</sup> and February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021.

You will also have an opportunity to sign up for a stimulating and empowering Zoom discussion, facilitated by members of the Black Physicians Association of Alberta, post-screening. Details on discussion dates and times will be sent to you after registering.

View the trailer for [Black Men in White Coats](#)

Questions? Contact [fomdedi@ualberta.ca](mailto:fomdedi@ualberta.ca) or [oped@ucalgary.ca](mailto:oped@ucalgary.ca)

## Offered in partnership by



**Black Physicians Association of Alberta**

"THE GREATEST INJUSTICE OF ALL IS THE INEQUALITY OF HEALTH"  
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



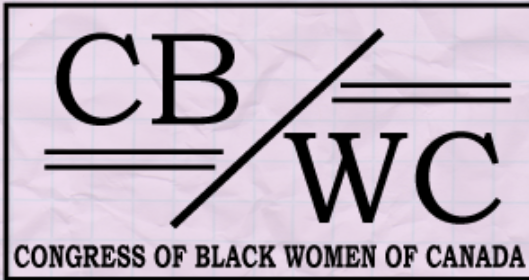
**Black Men in White Coats**

AN AUME MOTION ARTS FILM

PRODUCED BY DALE DOROSHIN PRESENTED BY MICHAEL ADITY DIRECTED BY BOBBY CISNEROS  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: CHRISTIAN WELLS, JESSICA MARTINEZ, MALAKA WHITE, SELWYN GONZALEZ  
EDITED BY JESSICA MARTINEZ  
COSTUME DESIGNER: MALAKA WHITE  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: SELWYN GONZALEZ  
CINEMATOGRAPHER: JESSICA MARTINEZ  
MUSIC BY: JESSICA MARTINEZ  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: CHRISTIAN WELLS, JESSICA MARTINEZ, MALAKA WHITE, SELWYN GONZALEZ  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: JESSICA MARTINEZ  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: CHRISTIAN WELLS, JESSICA MARTINEZ, MALAKA WHITE, SELWYN GONZALEZ  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: SELWYN GONZALEZ  
CINEMATOGRAPHER: JESSICA MARTINEZ  
MUSIC BY: JESSICA MARTINEZ

# BLACK WOMEN

" B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a "



Congress of Black Women of Canada (CBWC) is a national non-profit organization founded in 1973 by Kay Livingstone. It evolved from the Canadian Negro Women's Association (CANEWA) that had been in operation since 1951. By the early 1970's, there was a tremendous increase of Black women and their families migrating to Canada from Africa and various parts of the diaspora. CANEWA, spearheaded by Mrs. Livingstone, broadened its focus to include the more recent arrivals, and CBWC was formed.

CANEWA's goals and objectives actualized as "advocacy, informing the public, creating effective policies & programs, offering scholarships to youth, promoting the preservation of culture, and sponsoring community projects". CBWC has continued in this vein because the issues that affect us in Canadian society remain essentially the same. As the population of Black women grows with each wave of new arrivals that join those who came before, our various experiences exemplify the truism that "we may have come on different ships but now we are in the same boat"

Continuing the intention of the National objectives since its 38-year inception, the Edmonton Chapter has elaborated on and fine-tuned these objectives to respond to local circumstances. Over the years, CBWC (Edmonton Chapter) continues to provide a network of solidarity for Black Women through its numerous programs and services. CBWC-Edmonton Chapter has provided annual youth summer camps, donated books by Black Authors to the Edmonton Public Library and was the first Black Community Group to establish "Saturday School" for black children in Edmonton. CBWC produced the Community paper "Harambe"; conducted workshops for Black Women and their Families, all aimed at empowering the Black Woman. CBWC initiated the cultural Dance Troupe 'Profile', which later became "Movements" and advocated with all agencies and many forums on behalf of Black Women and Black Children.

In the last few years, CBWC has been concentrating on presenting programs on Health, & Wellness, Nutrition, Financial Planning and Fostering Self-Worth for Black Women and their families. This organization is a concrete pillar for our Black Community. Their work has produced prominent citizens who are contributing and building our community and Canada in many facets.

# DARREN JORDAN

“ Building Our Canada ”

## ARTISTIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Founded in 2006 by Darren W. Jordan, 5 Artists 1 Love promotes and celebrates the vibrancy and range of Edmonton's African Canadian Communities through artistic community engagement. As the curator and producer of the art show and musical performance, Darren has brought together a variety of artistic disciplines within the Black Community to under one accessible network, 5 Artists 1 Love. This year the event will be celebrating its 15th year.

Jordan believes that cultural events Like 5 Artists 1 Love can be conduits to not only strengthening communities, but inviting others in to learn, experience & participate in them. He says that strong communities unified in respect and understanding of each other are fundamental in building a strong and unified country.

“This year 5 Artists 1 Love looks very different.” Delivering our unique blend of ‘Art and Soul’ in the face of a global pandemic has its challenges but we’ve got you covered”, Jordan says. The current plan is to have the musical production presented in a three-part webisode beginning February 26/21. It will be a retrospective of the best moments and evolution of the show with interviews, performances, and amazing footage.

Together with local artists, 5 Artists, 1 Love has dedicated the last 15 years to creating a home for all means of artistry to flourish in the comfort of its authentic identity. The art presented in Black Every Day are a continuation of this enduring legacy and a celebration of what sits at the heart of the 5 Artists, 1 Love platform; a dedication showcasing how the intimacy of our everyday black lives, our resilience, our excellence is deserving of its place on the global stage.

As the years progressed the event has grown along with its audience, number of participants, partnerships, and supporters. Although the event is securely nestled in that coldest, shortest time of the year known as Black History Month, it offers a unique sense of community that warms the soul. Darren is Building Our Canada by fostering community cohesion through artistic community engagement.



## COMMITMENT TO ACTION



## MAKING SYSTEMIC CHANGE

EPS is engaging with Black, Indigenous, racialized and underserved communities to improve policing, and reimagine community safety and well-being.

## TELL US WHAT MATTERS TO YOU

- Join the conversation at an EPS listening session.
- Host your own community event using our toolkit.
- Share your stories and ideas with us at [epsinput.ca](https://epsinput.ca).

# DONNA COOMBS-MONTROSE

“ Building Our Canada ”

## WE JUST WANT TO BREATHE



Protests, racial oppression have erupted yet again in the United States and around the world, following the recent cold-blooded murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Criminal Justice System. Millions of protestors of all nationalities have marched in cities worldwide to demand an end to systemic racism and the continuous hunting and lynching of African Americans, the latest in a seemingly endless cycle of murders of Black people in North America.

Their inhuman conditions associated with slavery have continued many generations later, through periods of the KKK, Jim Crow laws, the struggle for voting rights, race riots in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s and beyond. The pandemic of institutionalized and systemic racism in housing, in education, in opportunity, in employment, in communities – in life – has never stopped. The trauma and tension of being Black in that environment is constant. You are shot first, guilty first. The inquiry can come later; the Police Officer, the agent of their aggression, is confident that the system will protect the perpetrator.

The Canadian experience for many African Canadians has been similar: experiencing the constant tension with law enforcement, who practice discrimination like the colour of your skin is a death sentence. Police officers are empowered to “card” young men regularly. Pockets of violent racist groups like the Soldiers of Odin flourish in our Provinces. Families of Oklahomans running from US Jim Crow laws were initially blocked from entering Canada despite their qualifications. In Alberta, they were banished off to Amber Valley. Police in Regina were called recently for a young Black Teacher entering his own parked car. Complaints of discrimination in employment, education and social services are widespread.

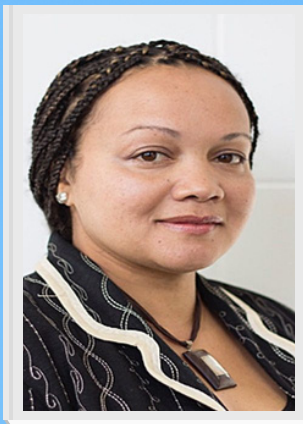
Public outcry is for all human beings to be treated as equal, to pay attention to the systemic issues highlighted by the recent spate of murders, to renew the Social Contract that demands all citizens to be treated equally. We just want to breathe.

Donna Coombs-Montrose, the writer, is a founding member (1999) and current board member of Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI).

## **SOPHIE YOHANI PHD, MED, BA (HONS)**

**“ Building Our Canada ”**

### **PASSION FOR MENTAL HEALTH**



Dr. Sophie Yohani was born in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania. As an adolescent she was touched by the impacts of the HIV pandemic, leading her to a career in the field of mental health. In her 20s, she migrated to Canada and completed graduate training in psychology at the University of Alberta. She is currently an Associate Professor of Counselling Psychology in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta and a Registered Psychologist specializing in refugee/migrant health. During her graduate training, she developed a passion for community psychology and immigrant/refugee mental health. This interest has resulted in her rich and varied career over the last 25 years.

As a healthcare practitioner, researcher, advocate and leader, Dr. Yohani's work involves mental health promotion, training, and research within community settings. Her research focus includes multicultural issues in counselling, trauma/adaptation, and refugees/immigrants' mental health. Dr. Yohani has raised awareness and helped implement and establish numerous programs, including mental health programs for refugee/immigrant populations, programs for sexual violence and genocide survivors, The Securing Hopeful Futures program, and The War Rape Initiative at the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton. She also had a vital role in establishing the New Canadians Clinic in Edmonton and the (Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton) for Edmonton City Council.

In the last three years, Dr. Yohani has worked with immigrant-serving agencies in St. John's, Newfoundland and Fredericton, New Brunswick, regarding the use of trauma and resilience-informed practices. She serves on the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC). She is a founding member of the Tanzanian Association of Northern Alberta (TANA), and for over 10 years Dr. Yohani has worked closely with members of the Rwandan community in Edmonton survivors of the 1994 genocide.

Dr. Yohani is a past recipient of the Lifetime Achievement RISE award from the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and NBCC's Rosalind Smith Professional Award. She plays an essential role in the black community, Building Our Canada, through community-based initiatives and projects to enhance our mental health and well being.

**Black History Month is an opportunity for all Canadians to learn about the many contributions that Black Canadians and their communities have made to this country. This year's theme for Black History Month is "The Future is Now", a call to action for us all to build on the legacy of those who came before us, and to recognize the transformative work that Black Canadians and their communities are doing now.**

[www.nbccdmonton.ca/2021poster](http://www.nbccdmonton.ca/2021poster)



2021 BLACK HISTORY MONTH BRUNCH

# CELEBRATING BLACK BUSINESSES & FAMILIES

THROUGH REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY AND  
DIVERSITY: OVERCOMING COVID

**CELEBRATING  
BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH!**

**Panel Discussion  
Art  
Entertainment  
Best Dressed Competition  
Games and Prizes  
+ More!**

**Date:** Saturday, February 13, 2021  
**Time:** Starting at 11am

**zoom** Register: [www.bcwinaction.ca/events](http://www.bcwinaction.ca/events)





## NEW ELITE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”  
FOR BLACK YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY



Articles and census and research analyses show that societal and socio-economic barriers disproportionately restrict access of Black Canadians to professional careers. There is noticeable lack of representation of Black Canadians in careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This lack of representation is pervasive, extending to the training programs that prepares students for careers in STEM and entrepreneurship. Only 57% of Black high school students pursue post-secondary studies. The number of Black boys or men is even lower. The new Experiential Learning in Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (ELITE) Program for Black Youth hopes to contribute to changing these statistics in meaningful and substantive ways.

Who are the Founders? Black Professionals - Dr. André McDonald, Dr. Adetola Adesida, Dr. Sophie Yohani, and Dr. Sedami Gnidehou, and their allies - launched and lead this work-integrated training program, which features entrepreneurship training. They are experts in engineering, science, medicine, and educational psychology who bring a wealth of experience to support Black Youth interns.

What does the ELITE Program for Black Youth offer? Starting in the Summer of 2021, 35 to 45 Black Youth interns between the ages of 15 and 22 will participate in paid full-time internships of up to 8 or 16 weeks. The youths will receive real hands-on experience and spend one full day per week for 8 weeks in leadership, team building and entrepreneur training at the Peter Lougheed Leadership College. Interactive counselling and coaching for resiliency in professional environments are part of the Program.

## **NEW ELITE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”**

**FOR BLACK YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY** *cont...*

Who are the ELITE Program partners and sponsors? The National Black Coalition of Canada – NBCC Edmonton, l’Alliance Jeunesse-Famille de l’Alberta Society, Future Skills Centre, InnoTech Alberta, RBC Foundation, and the University of Alberta Faculties of Engineering, Science, Medicine and Dentistry, and Education, Campus Saint-Jean, Black Students’ Association, and the Peter Lougheed Leadership College are partners in the ELITE Program for Black Youth. They envisage that this Program will equip Black interns with marketable technical skills, facilitate transition to post-secondary studies, and strengthen their professional network for future employment prospects in STEM fields and in entrepreneurship.

What does this all mean for the Black Community in Edmonton? The recent global awareness of disproportionate inequality towards Black Canadians has proactively initiated a societal call to action that has shed light on these expansive inequities that affect and marginalize Black people. The ELITE Program for Black Youth has answered the call by pursuing an affirmative path to transfer inalienable technical knowledge and skills to Black Youth. Our sincere hope is that these efforts will result in a generation of Black Youth who will be innovators and entrepreneurs, creating sustainable jobs and stimulating the economies of our local Black communities.

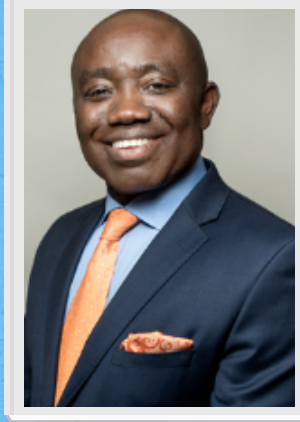
To learn more about the ELITE Program for Black Youth and the technical training projects, visit their website at [www.eliteprogram.ca](http://www.eliteprogram.ca)



# NDUKA "DUKE" AHANONU

" Building Our Canada "

## A MENTORING PLATFORM



Nduka (Duke) Ahanonu was born in Nigeria. He completed his Bachelor of Law degree at the University of Lagos. He came to Canada in 2004 as a recipient of the University of Alberta's Alberta Law Foundation Scholarship in pursuit of his master's degree. Following the completion of his Master of Law program in 2006, he secured a job at Legal Aid Alberta, where he also completed his articles before setting up his own law firm, Duke & Company, in 2010.

Duke was a lawyer in Nigeria before migrating to Canada. As a professional, he overcame challenges in his bid to practice law in the country. The challenges Duke faced are typical for ethnic minorities and internationally trained professionals. This journey helped Duke re-ignite his passion for service in ways that he had not previously envisioned. For Duke, the promise that Canada held for people like him was greater than the challenges and could not stop him from realizing his dream of becoming a lawyer in Canada.

Duke has always been happy that he decided to relocate to Canada from his native Nigeria. Duke's fascination with Canada started in 1995. As a young law student in Nigeria, he observed the Canadian government's stand against the then military dictatorship in Nigeria with great admiration.

Duke realized that he could help build this great country by applying his entrepreneurial skills to the service of his community. The law firm of Duke & Company was born out of this conviction. Duke's success has inspired many internationally trained lawyers to get into legal practice in Alberta. His company serves as a platform for other immigrants and internationally qualified lawyers who seek to re-launch their careers in Canada. Duke has provided articling opportunities and mentorship to many internationally trained lawyers and lawyers with ethnic minorities.

Duke has served as president of the Igbo Cultural Association of Edmonton and other capacities within his community. He has also served as Secretary of Rotary Club of Edmonton Urban Spirits for two terms. He is an active member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, where he continues to volunteer his time to the service of God and humanity.

DUKE LAW OFFICE  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS  
[www.dukelaw.ca](http://www.dukelaw.ca)

# ODION WELCH

" Building Our Canada "

## CHAMPION FOR MENTAL HEALTH



Born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Odion Welch is an internationally recognized Amazon best-selling author for her novel *Breakthrough: A Courageous True Story of Overcoming Depression and Anxiety*. She is currently the Mental Health Program Youth Coordinator at The Africa Centre. Odion is one of the many Black Fembosses that consistently balance work and school. She holds a certificate in Business Management from MacEwan University, a degree in Human Resources & Labour Relations from Athabasca University, a recruitment designation from the Association of Professional Recruiters, and is working towards her Master of Arts in Leadership at Royal Roads University. In 2020 she was nominated for the Womanition Superlative Award and Avenue's 40 under 40 Award.

Suffering from depression and anxiety all her life, she aspired to share her story to help minorities, particularly women and children. Her book chronicles her personal journey through depression and anxiety and lists the resources that helped her to build a coping strategy to make it through the darkness. Odion's vulnerability to share how she conquered personal struggles demonstrates to others that we are not alone. It shows others that there is hope when dealing with mental illness, and that together, we can fight the stigma surrounding mental health.

Through her work and her book, Odion has created, supported and implemented panels, workshops, and organization rebranding. She uses vulnerability and conversations to empower women to overcome their struggles, whether family, finance or connections, and has engaged in a Western Canada book tour, hosted a panel at Edmonton Comics Expo and spoke at Kingsway Mall's International Women's Day Panel. Additionally, she works with Girls on Fire, Come2Life, a charity that provides free mental wellness supports to youth and other youth-focused organizations.

Although her accomplishments are vast at such a young age, Odion believes they came by finding a balance between persistence, perseverance, and self-care. Her desire drives her to show the next generation that they can become the person they needed growing up. Ms. Odion Welch is "Building Our Canada" by engaging as a cultural community advocate helping to break down the negative stigma associated with cultural mental health.

# NBCC WOKE EDU BURSARY AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## BLACK COMMUNITY FOCUSED EDUCATION



The Woke Edu Bursary and Mentorship Program aims to help youth in our Black community realize self-sufficiency through post-secondary education and skills development.

Hosted by NBCC, this program supports young Black Albertans in their post-secondary studies with monetary awards and community mentorship. Each year, bursaries of \$1000 (renewable up to four years) will be given to students (ages 17-25) who demonstrate involvement, or readiness to become involved, in their local Black community, as well as financial need. Funds are to be used towards the costs of tuition, books, and living expenses.

In addition to receiving the bursary, each recipient will be enrolled in our Mentorship Program and paired with a mentor from the Black community. We believe that mentorship can fill in some key gaps in the education system and help students overcome barriers often faced by Black students (including personal, social, academic, and institutional/systemic barriers). Mentors can help students navigate life both on and off campus and can offer tangible strategies and resources that are specific to Black students and the unique challenges that they face.

### **Value:**

Four bursaries of \$1000 each (renewable up to four years for a total of (\$4000 per student)

### **Mission:**

To enrich the education of our Black youth and give them the resources, strategies, and connections they need to surmount barriers and achieve success.

For Eligibility - How to apply - Further Information: Please visit:  
[www.nbccedmonton.ca](http://www.nbccedmonton.ca)

# RIBBON ROUGE FOUNDATION

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE



The Ribbon Rouge Foundation (RRF) serves the African, Caribbean and Black community in Alberta by facilitating systems change in structural and social determinants that often lead to poorer health outcomes.

The organization impacts the community by amplifying Black voices, documenting recommendations for change, and advocating for community members in desperate need of support. Over the past three years, RRF has been involved in multiple collaborative efforts that have supported nine severely marginalized Black families. With the foundation's support, these families have experienced fair-minded outcomes for their improved health and well-being.

The Ribbon Rouge Foundation has implemented many initiatives in its fight for equity over the past few years. These initiatives have resulted in the formation of the African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) Caucus of Alberta. The Caucus is a rapidly growing group of sixty ACB leaders from a variety of backgrounds (such as people with lived HIV experience, provincial and front-line health and social care providers, front-line legal services, public health, ethnocultural organizations, business owners, academic and community researchers) with explicitly pro-Black intentions for positive social change and the attainment of health justice and equity in Alberta.

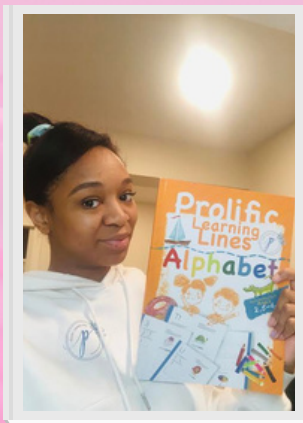
The ACB Caucus has helped create the Black Equity in Alberta Rainforest (BEAR), a holistic socially innovative community initiative designed to mobilize data and research to bring meaningful change in the fight for equity for Alberta's Black Communities. The vision is to create a collaborative environment where knowledge, resources, and connections are shared to close racial gaps. Over the next three years, the BEAR will nurture a robust ecosystem involving over 600 institutions, community, and individual partners; and employ thirteen community members in partnership with the University of Alberta and NorQuest College. This is an exciting, one-of-a-kind, ground-breaking initiative for Black Equity in Alberta.

To learn more about the Ribbon Rouge Foundation and how you can get involved, please visit [www.ribbonrouge.com](http://www.ribbonrouge.com)

# SHADAINE DAVIS

“ Building Our Canada ”

## EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION



At 21 years old Shadaine Davis fearlessly transitioned from being a university student to an entrepreneur, with the desire to create and become her own boss.

Growing up in Edmonton with her two older siblings, Shadaine experienced a Canadian upbringing that included her parents of Jamaican heritage.

Shadaine studied at Concordia University of Edmonton for two years, pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Arts with a major in psychology and a minor in business. Her experience of anxiety, negative criticism, uncooperative professors, and failure to stay healthy forced Shadaine to take a break from her post-secondary studies.

Shadaine remained interested in her studies. She realized that "If you can understand the psychology of people, you can sell them most anything". Laying her plans of pursuing her studies to become a Clinical Psychologist aside for now, she used the skills she studied in psychology and business to become an entrepreneur.

In the height of COVID-19, Shadaine took the calculated risk of starting her own business. She began her brand, Prolific Learning Lines, providing parents with educational books for children. She created and self-published her first book, Prolific Learning Lines Alphabet, within a month. The book is a step-by-step guide that teaches children between the ages of two and a half to six years, how to write the alphabet.

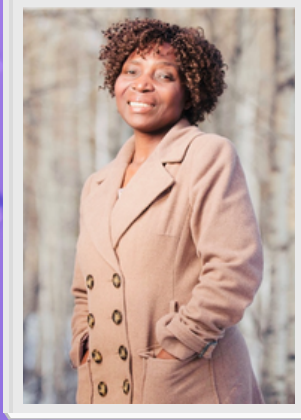
Moving forward, she is creating the movement of a "prolific learner". In Nipsey Hussle's song "Victory Lap", he begins with the lyric - "I'm prolific, so gifted". Shadaine decided to implement the idea of "being prolific" by giving a child the necessary skills to foster successful habits through her workbooks. Hence, creating a "prolific learner".

Ms. Shadaine Davis is youth who is "Building Our Canada" by playing a pivotal role in educating the next generation through her creation of the community of Prolific Learning Lines.

## TABITHA PHIRI

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

### ADVOCATE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS



Tabitha Phiri is the Program Coordinator of Domestic Violence for Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association (CAIWA), where she has worked for 13 years. She holds a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Loma Linda University, California. Originally from Zimbabwe, she has lived in Canada for 21 years and has firsthand experience living in a foreign country as a sole breadwinner and mother of two boys, who are now grown. She uses her lived experience to help newcomers to improve their settlement experiences. Miss. Phiri has held various roles on the Central Alberta Diversity Association's Board of Directors, including Vice President over the last 9 years, and she is a member of several committees in Central Alberta that include the Domestic Relationship Violence Initiative Committee (DRVIC), Red Deer.

Over the past six years Ms. Phiri has coordinated three research projects in the areas of economic security, domestic violence and immigrant settlement programs. Her research has shown that immigrant families face certain issues that can make domestic violence more traumatic. Language barriers, the fear of reporting the abuse, and the challenging concern that spouses will use their immigrant status to threaten deportation if they report. Immigrants also fear that their children may be taken away. Many immigrants experiencing domestic violence, have expressed that they feel that domestic violence is a form of correction, for something they have done wrong.

Understanding the cultural background of immigrant families is an area of struggle for many service providers. Many immigrants use their families as their source of support, and once they are in Canada, they find it difficult to seek support outside of family.

Ms. Phiri is "Building Canada" through her work as a passionate advocate for marginalized minority groups. She believes that employers, community services providers, elected leaders, and educators can meaningfully effect change in the lives of immigrants who are working hard to be successful in their new life in Canada.



# THE AFRICA CENTRE

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## FREE COUNSELLING CLINIC FOR AFRICAN DESCENT COMMUNITY



The Africa Centre is pleased to announce Western Canada's first FREE culturally relevant counselling clinic, focused on the African descent community. Partnered with regulated Mental Health Therapists from The Alberta Black Therapists Network, the clinic aims to provide Albertans with mental health support through therapeutic sessions led by Black Therapists without the barriers of cost.

Through research led by Africa Centre's youth program YEG "TheComeUp", and Dr. Bukola Salami, findings signified that, although stigma still exists with therapy, members of the community actively seek mental health support but found that there were still barriers in accessing professional help. From high costs and cultural barriers, therapy was found to be inaccessible to most members of our community.

With these findings, Africa Centre partnered with United Way and The Alberta Black Therapists Network to bring free counselling from various licensed therapists. These services provide formal one-to-one therapeutic sessions in evidence-based intervention, solution-focused therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy.

The clinic provides solution-focused therapy using CBT, EMDR, and other methods through an anti-oppressive and decolonized viewpoint and are available to persons regardless of immigration or employment status. Sessions are provided to include Family, Individual, Children and Couples provide online and in person. With combination of Black male and female therapists who have been trained in trauma informed care to relate to members of the African descent community.

Our therapists are currently bilingual and offer the following languages: English, French, Creole, Shona, Ndebele, Mauritian Creole with translators available with advance notice.



**United Way**  
Alberta Capital Region



**AlbertaBlackTherapistNetwork**  
*Helping you find your tribe*

Please visit our website for more information or book your appointment at:  
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