

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2013



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NATIONAL BLACK COALITION OF CANADA EDMONTON



The National Black Coalition of Canada –Edmonton Chapter is once again proud to be presenting our 27th year of Black History Month in the month of February 2013, and continue to reach out to the community at large to share our cultural contributions that helps make Canada the great country we live in.



Canada officially recognized Black History Month in December 1995 when Jean Augustine the first African Canadian elected to parliament introduced the motion to declare the month of February to be Black History Month in Canada.

Let's pause, meditate and look at the concept and beauty of "One Love one Heart" a quote and salute from the great humanitarian Bob Marley. He used his music to captivate people of all cultures including Canadians. He changed history, inspired hope, peace and people working together to create a better world. It is the hope of the National Black Coalition of Canada-Edmonton that we can work together in unity, share and respect our diversity and 'get together and feel alright'.

Respectfully,

Yvette McFarlane
President (NBCC)

WWW.NBCCEDMONTON.CA

NBCC Executives 2012/2013

The board of the National Black Coalition (Edmonton Chapter) is elected from the membership to be as diverse and representative of the community as possible.



President - Yvette McFarlane

Vice President - Joy Thomas

Secretary - Carl Wilson

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www.nbccedmonton.ca e: info@nbccedmonton.ca



PRIME MINISTER . PREMIER MINISTRE



I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating Black History Month.

For 27 years, the National Black Coalition of Canada, Edmonton Chapter, has offered Canadians a chance to learn about the legacy and accomplishments of black Canadians, while proudly promoting and preserving the inspiring stories of early black pioneers and of those who defied intolerance to advance human rights in Canada. I encourage all Canadians to take time this February to discover more about the events and people that have helped to shape the nation we are today.

I would like to thank the organizers of the 2013 Black History Month in Edmonton for their outstanding efforts. I am certain that the many events planned will resonate with the entire community.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish you a memorable month of activities.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2013



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 207 Legislative Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada



Message from Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC Premier of Alberta

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings for Black History Month 2013.

From its sloping badlands to its fields of golden wheat and rugged, tree-lined mountains, the strength and beauty of Alberta's landscape is its diversity. The same can be said of Albertans; our strength lies in our vibrant and varied culture, traditions and heritage that help build connected communities across the province.

Black History Month is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many vital contributions Black Albertans have made and continue to make in every corner of our province.

My thanks to the numerous organizers and volunteers of the Edmonton Chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada for showcasing the Black community in Edmonton this February. I appreciate this opportunity to celebrate how culture connects us and differences unite us with one another.

Best wishes for a memorable Black History Month!

Alison M. Redford, QC

February 1, 2013



MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE RONA AMBROSE

As Regional Minister for Northern Alberta and on behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to extend warm wishes as we commemorate Black History Month in Edmonton.

Black History Month provides a meaningful opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on and to appreciate the achievements and the invaluable contributions of Canada's black community to the diversity of our great country. This month provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the important role black Canadians have played in enriching Canadian communities from coast to coast.

I would like to commend and express my heartfelt thanks to the organizers and volunteers of the Edmonton Chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada for their hard-work to promote and celebrate the proud heritage and culture of black Canadians in Edmonton this year.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable Black History Month 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rona Ambrose".

*Honourable Rona Ambrose, PC, MP
Edmonton-Spruce Grove
Regional Minister for Northern Alberta*

Message from George Rogers, MLA



On behalf of my colleagues in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, I'm very pleased to offer greetings and support for Black History Month activities and celebrations throughout the Capital Region. I would also like to express my gratitude to the National Black Coalition of Canada, Edmonton chapter for organizing these events; your tireless efforts year after year, allow us all to share in the Black journey.



This journey has taken us from Africa through slavery, emancipation, and various pieces of legislation....that rarely, if ever, have been for our benefit; to 2013, where we find black people contributing at all levels of our society, with dignity and respect, including a second-term president of the United States Of America.

Black History Month is much more than a celebration and recognition of the myriad of achievements and contributions made by Black Albertans and Black Canadians; it is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity that is the hallmark of this wonderful province, and indeed, this country. Above all, it's a celebration of hope.

The Black journey has been one of everlasting hope. Change has been a staple that has allowed us all, as people of the world, to live, love and grow in prosperity together. Where there is life, there is hope. This is indeed a Canadian journey. The power to change lies within each and every one of us, and when we combine this power, the result is phenomenal. I wish everyone a very enjoyable and inspirational Black History month.

Please enjoy the celebrations.

George Rogers, MLA
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

Message from Honourable Heather Klimchuk Minister of Culture

As Minister of Culture, it is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to festivities for Black History Month 2013.

Black History Month is about triumph over challenge. For Alberta's black community, there have been the challenges all people face in seeking a new life in a new land. Historically, there has also been the challenge of prejudice. Black History Month salutes the overcoming of these obstacles and rises joyfully to the current challenge of recognition for a community that forms a vibrant and essential strand of Alberta's cultural fabric.

Culture connects us to our individual and shared identities, to our personal and collective past, to one another and to the world. Black History Month celebrates the cultural contributions of Alberta's black community for the inspiration of all Albertans.

My warmest thanks to the organizers and volunteers of the National Black Coalition of Canada's Edmonton Chapter for sharing the heritage and vitality of Alberta's Black community in what I am sure will be a fantastic month of celebration.

Happy Black History Month!



Heather Klimchuk
Minister





Message from His Worship Mayor Stephen Mandel

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, Alberta's Capital City, it is my pleasure to welcome everyone celebrating the culture, tradition and rich diversity of our city throughout Black History Month.

Black History Month started in 1926 as a way to help eliminate discrimination and recognize the important contributions African-Canadians make to our city in areas such as education, medicine, art, public service, economic development, politics and human rights.

Thank you to the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton Chapter for your hard work and dedication in organizing this event. You have helped foster an appreciation and understanding of African-Canadian culture and the City of Edmonton values your commitment to such a significant part of history.

I wish you all enjoyable and meaningful Black History Month celebrations!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Mandel'.

Stephen Mandel
Mayor



Message from the Edmonton Police Service Chief Rod R. Knecht



On behalf of the Edmonton Police Service, it is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone attending Black History Month 2013 celebrations.

As Chief of Police, I have a keen appreciation for the many contributions that our Black community makes to this city. From helping newly arrived immigrants adjust to Canadian life, to hosting social events for friends and neighbours, Black community groups play key roles in ensuring that Edmonton remains a great place to raise a family and a terrific place in which to do business.

Multiculturalism is one of the cornerstones of a truly vibrant community, such as we have in Edmonton. The EPS is deeply committed to ensuring that our membership reflects the cultures of this great city. I encourage young people of all ethnicities to consider a career in policing. Please visit our website at recruitinfo@edmontonpolice.ca. And, we have a special recruiting website just for young women (womeninpolicing.ca). Visit our websites, drop us a line – we'd be happy to hear from you!

Warmest personal regards,



Rod R. Knecht
Chief of Police



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KAVIS REED

Born in Georgetown, South Carolina, Kavis Reed is the head coach for the Edmonton Eskimo's of the Canadian Football League (CFL). He was named the 19th head coach in Eskimos history on December 10, 2010. Kavis formerly played for the Eskimos from 1995 to 1999 before suffering a career-ending neck injury.



Kavis has been living in Edmonton for the past 18 years along with his wife Darlene and their two children, Tyra and Tarik.

If you weren't coaching what would you do for a living?

I had two dreams... one was to go into medical research. The other was to build a cabin in a remote location and write books.

Who's your hero?

My Grandfather - Henry Taylor Reed. His persona was that of a loving man that never judged anyone and was always willing to help, teach and encourage.

What is your proudest moment?

This one is hard to answer because there are so many moments I wish I could freeze frame. Some include the birth of our kids. My wedding day with family and friends enjoying it and from a football perspective watching players that I coached succeed and be recognized for their successes.

Tell us something about you most people don't know?

I love old television shows. Classic television was innocent television. A family could sit down and watch them together without fear that something inappropriate would pop up. I probably know the theme music for most of them... :)

It's Game Day! What do you do before each game?

I sleep in because as coaches that is our one day to get some quality rest. I watch Star Trek and have my wife make me Cream of Wheat to start my day. Then I try to get into the office 4 hours before game time to watch some film to mentally go through game scenario's. My home Game Day routine starts the day before as I look forward to visiting the Stollery Children's Hospital. I LOVE interacting with those beautiful kids and their family. It is the highlight of my week.

What's the best part about coaching?

Teaching men about life and a game that I love. Coaches have the ability to influence lives and I take pride in making certain I give everything I have into the development of men. At the end of the day this game will leave us all, but the impact on a person's life is forever.

What's your biggest challenge as a coach?

Managing egos and personalities. Environment is very important to success. Bringing together so many different personalities is difficult. I try to make sure that there is a keen eye on locker room chemistry.

Last question, what does Black History Month mean to you?

It is a time to reflect on the pioneering spirits and courage of the men and women that sacrificed, and worked smartly and courageously to open doors for many and afford our societies advancement.

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Wayne Gilbert Simpson

June 12, 1972 - January 6, 2013



Our community sadly said goodbye to Wayne Simpson, who passed away at the age of 40 years. Wayne had spent a wonderful day at one his favorite places, Bethel United Apostolic Church. Wayne was

especially passionate about his relationship with the Lord, his family and music. Church was a top priority in his life. Wayne was very respectful and nurturing and he cherished life and those around him. Wayne worked at the Worker's Compensation Board of Alberta, where he shall be fondly remembered, as a caring person who greeted his colleagues with a smile, and consistent acknowledgement of their daily well-being.

Wayne excelled at playing the drums. At Church he was known as the "MAD DRUMMA".

On Friday nights in the heat of a Jam Session, whether he was plugged into his music, or in a live session, Wayne practiced and spent countless hours perfecting his artistic drumming skills. Wayne was very dedicated to giving back to the community and he did so in many ways, including outreach from Bethel to Hope Mission, drumming at church and choir performances and events, his youth leadership, and mentoring others. Wayne was a role model to many.

Wayne referred to his wife Diane and his daughter Olivia, as his "best friends". He was a committed and remarkable family man, a good husband and he ensured that as a family they worked together as a team to make life an example for others. As a beloved father he shared numerous precious moments with his daughter Olivia. Wayne arranged his life around teaching her valuable life lessons.

Within his own right, Wayne could be described as a self-professed activist, and in his High school year book he advocated for "ending racism". Wayne in a similar manner as his late mother Pearlline Simpson was fervent regarding youth aspiring to achieve educational goals. To honor his mother Wayne with his siblings founded the Pearlline Simpson Scholarship Fund in 2007. In June of each year thereafter a fund raising benefit concert has been held. Funds raised are awarded to a youth attending a Post Secondary Institution via an application process.

In his free time, Wayne was adventurous in his interests of Photography and Media Presentations with specialties in Video Recording and Editing. Many people relied on Wayne for his expertise in his creative edge of capturing breathtaking photos that illuminated happy, amazing moments in people's lives.

Wayne shall be greatly missed by the love of his life Diane, daughter Olivia, brother and sister Barrington and Genieve, Father Pastor O.G Simpson, relatives, church family, friends and all of those people that looked up to him, adored and had the honor of knowing him.

Rest in Peace. We will always love you!

CALENDAR

FOR MORE INFORMATION

GO TO → WWW.NBCCEDMONTON.CA



NBCC'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION BRUNCH

Saturday, January 26 1:00pm \$15.00

Garvey Cultural Centre, 12526 – 126 Ave

Contact: Yvette McFarlane 780-425-0319 president@nbccedmonton.ca

www.nbccedmonton.ca



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Contact: Nii 780-340-2289 patapaawe2000@gmail.com

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Saturday, February 02 6:00pm

Seventh Day Adventist, 9949 149 Street, Edmonton

Contact: Yvette McFarlane 780-425-0319 info@nbccedmonton.ca www.nbccedmonton.ca

5 ARTISTS 1 LOVE

Saturday, February 02, 2013 - Friday, March 01 1:00pm - 4:00pm 10:00am

Art Gallery of Alberta, 2 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Contact: Darren Jordan misterdjordan@yahoo.com

www.5artists1love.com

JANA ANNUAL BHM BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 02 \$15.00

Garvey Cultural Centre, 12526 – 126 Ave

Contact: Dawn dprhoden@gmail.com www.edmontonjana.com

THE MAAFA PRAYER SERVICE & BANQUET

Sunday, February 03 11am - 2pm

THE SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH, 10727 - 114 Street NorthWest, Edmonton

Contact: Stephanie 587-985-7815 s.burлие@gmail.com

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OF EVENTS



GOSPEL CONCERT

Saturday, February 09 7:00pm \$20.00
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Contact: Joy Thomas 780-425-0319 info@nbccedmonton.ca
www.nbccedmonton.ca



EPS BLACK CLC DIVERSITY-POSITIVE RECRUITING CONSULTATION

Friday February 15 6:00pm
Garvey Cultural Centre, 12526 - 126 Ave
Contact: Cst Chapman Lee 780-391-5365 or EPS 780-421-2233
or NBCC @ 780-425-0319 webmaster@nyche.com www.joineps.ca

MOVIE NIGHT - LESSONS FROM THE PAST, VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

Saturday, February 16 6pm - 9pm
The Prince of Wales Armouries, 10440 -108Ave - Near Royal Alex
Contact: Tee 780-340-2289 patapaawe2000@gmail.com

EMBRACE CHARITY'S BENEFIT CONCERT

Friday, February 22 - Saturday, February 23 5:00pm
Christcity Church, 14788 - 156 St , Edmonton
Contact: Will Vandervelde 780-419-7273 tickets@embracecharity.ca
www.embracecharity.ca

A PAST TO HONOR A FUTURE TO NURTURE - LIVING ART

Saturday, February 23 12pm - 7pm
Southgate Mall
Contact: Nii Koney 780-340-2289 patapaawe2000@gmail.com

AFROQUIZ 2013

Saturday, February 23, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Stanley A Milner Library Theatre, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Contact: Siyani Nsaliwa 7807163859 siyani@shaw.ca

THE AFRICA CENTRE EVENT

Monday, February 25 NOON - 4:00pm
The Africa Centre, 13160 127 Street (Former Wellington Junior High School)
Contact: Tesfaye Ayalew tesfaye@afriacentre.caw www.afriacentre.ca



AWARDS BANQUET OF EXCELLENCE

Saturday, March 16, 2013 6:00pm
Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre, 11727 Kingsway Avenue
Contact: Joy Thomas 780-425-0319 info@nbccedmonton.ca www.nbccedmonton.ca





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Streets of Gold: Ms. Genieve Simpson

Progress: Mr. Timothy Noel

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AHMED KNOWMADIC ALI



is a Somali-born spoken word poet who, engages issues in a humorous but compelling perspective. In 2011, Ahmed Ali was part of the triumphant team in the slam poetry national championship. He is a member of the Edmonton's Breath-In Poetry Collective, which runs weekly poetry evenings at Rouge Lounge for poetry lovers and for poets. The evenings feature poets reading or performing to large audiences. He also conducts workshops in schools and has done anti-racism work for Race and Culture Center in Edmonton. Ahmed Ali is involved in many community and artistic events throughout Edmonton.

Twitter @Aknowmadic

Facebook Fan Page

www.facebook.com/Ahmedknowmadic

These veins run blood from Africa,
I was born in Africa
I was fed Africa
then I was torn from Africa
parents fed up with Africa
so we fled from Africa
Landed in a land far, far from Africa
and we have long since forgotten
that we are not from Africa
we are Africa

Remember we come from a land
where we are kings and queens
where the trees
use their vines and leaves as rosary,
there are water beds
imbedded with the essence of life
and while the heavy eyed count sheep
the dormant souls of our ancestors
resting in the Atlantic
are carried in river beds back home.

They say that imitation is
the greatest form of flattery
then would it not be vein
for us to take our customs back
since we put the art in artery
There is no reason to
go searching for my history
In hidden caves or baked clay buried deep
it's visible on my face
the way I carry myself
The proverbs of our people
the scarification on the
foreheads of Sudanese tribes

the shapes of our women's
bodies who mimic
all of the geographical
differences of Africa
and the colorful cloth
Like a rainbow bending
backwards to tie their beauty together.
I swear god must have etched
my being into its core
because my soul is drawn to Africa
and I await the days I can
sit back and overdose
on Africa

Many have fallen into
the trap of asking me
if I am from Africa
I say hush,
I am Africa
Don't tell me what you have read
because I am a Manu script
written in African
So read my lips
and my body language
and if you are ever confused
ask for translation
because I don't understand
how you might misinterpret
bare feet kissing ground
as barbaric
pass my oral tradition
as a mere clicking of tongues

Where I am from, wisdom drips
from the beards of the elders
and knowledge rests between their lips
ready to create revolutions
and their philosophies
are always willing to back them up
so I could care little
about what you've been told
because we know well enough
that only shepherds should rely on what they heard

where I am from
bloodlines are borders
neighbours are relatives
tribes are families
Africa within us and
with us
therefore
I am 56 nations in 1
and my mother is known
as the cradle of life

I am not from Africa

I AM AFRICA



MEET THE ARTIST

My name is Lorien Maheu and I was born in Maui, Hawaii in June 1988. 5 years later my mom, brother and I moved to Nelson BC. I lived in Nelson for about 14 years until deciding to move to Edmonton, Alberta for a change of pace and to start my career as a carpenter.

Growing up, my friends and I spent a lot of time in the woods building tree forts, bike ramps etc. I would also carve things. Thanks to my mom, a photographer and collage artist, I was also surrounded by art. My grandma was also a painter so art definitely runs in the family. I never expected to be an artist it just sort of happened naturally. During my teens I dabbled in painting and would usually pull out my brush at Christmas time to paint pictures as gifts for the family. Since being in Edmonton I have gained exposure to the public and people have been appreciating my work. It gives me inspiration to keep going.

I used to be fascinated by the art of the old master painters. Then it was the impressionists. Now days I am really into abstract art and experimenting with new ways of painting. I love being able to just sit there and paint without having to think about anything. The beauty of nature and its bright vivid colours is still a huge inspiration for my artwork. I also love the "rawness" of street art and graffiti.

In high school I was in an art class in grade eleven. I considered taking more classes once I discovered how much I loved art but now I don't think I would. I like the freedom of experimentation and coming up with your own ways of doing things.

My work has been shown in the "5 artist 1 love" group show for the last three years in a row and on Whyte Avenue in Edmonton during Art Walk 2010, 11 and 12. You can expect to see me there again this year or check my art out on my facebook fan page titled "Lorien Maheu's Art"

www.5artists1love.com

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FATHER'S SMILE
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*"Making Our Environment Sustainable for
Generations to Come"*



- Environmental Engineer **Maya Ganpatt**

Maya was born and raised in Edmonton by Trinidadian parents. Throughout grade school Maya excelled in all academic fields and lived on the honour roll. Upon graduating from Archbishop Macdonald High School with honours, she enrolled in the University of Alberta Faculty of Engineering in the civil environmental co-op program. Maya's passion for environmental engineering lead her to strive for excellence in her field and achieved a 4.0 GPA as well as several scholarships during her academic career. She has also contributed to the community by volunteering with Metro Continuing Education Summer ESL Program and the Cariwest Festival over the years.

Environmental engineering is still a new concept for many people, it combines science with engineering to protect human health and the health of other organisms and the environment. This may involve managing or remediating air, soil and water and waste and wastewater management. Parts of this field are definitely not glamorous but are essential to maintaining our quality of life, preventing disease and limiting environmental contamination. There are also many exciting technological developments in environmental engineering including new methods to remediate oil sands tailings and improvements to microbial fuel cells, which use microbes to remove contaminants from wastewater while producing electricity.

Currently in the last year of her undergraduate program, Maya is a role model for women and people of colour in our community. She believes that girls should not be afraid to show how intelligent they are. They should not avoid careers that are historically dominated by males. Every girl, and every person can rise to their full potential with hard work and ambition no matter what obstacles they may perceive as roadblocks.

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Banquet & Awards of Excellence

Saturday March 16, 2013 6:00PM

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Edmonton Ab**

Adults: \$50

Seniors & Youth: \$40

12 & under: \$20

4 & under: free

Cocktails: 6:30pm, Supper: 7:30pm

Dance to Follow

The National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton (NBCC) Awards for Excellence recognize and honor individuals and/or groups in Alberta who have made outstanding contributions to our community and society at large.

The Award Categories are:

Rosalind Smith Business Award

Peter Sugarfoot Award

Bill Miller Award

Fil Frasier Award

James Bell Award

NBCC Youth Award

Mary Burlie Award

For 2013 nomination forms and banquet information call NBCC-Edmonton (780) 425-0319 or visit www.nbccedmonton.ca



National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton

www.blackhistorymonthcanada.com

**Website for Black History Month
events across Canada**

**Feel the Heart of
One Nation**

JANA

Jamaica
Association
of Northern
Alberta

**Annual BHM Breakfast
Saturday February 2, 2013 10:00am**

**Garvey Cultural Centre
12526-126 Avenue
Edmonton**

**Tickets \$15.00
Speaker: TBD**



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Garth Prinsoonsky (stage name: Garth Prince) was born in Cape Town, South Africa and grew up in Namibia, Africa. After fifteen years of singing with African bands and touring with Namibia's number one choir, Garth ended up in Alberta after marrying an Edmonton music teacher whom he met on a Canada tour in 2006.

While in Africa, Garth was the lead singer of multiple award nominated and award-winning vocal group, "Afroshine" with whom he reached the number one spot on African music television charts. Their music connected the Namibian choral world with the contemporary scene and continues to receive airplay on African radio and television stations.

Since moving to Canada, Garth has been working on his Canadian debut album, which was released on 1 December 2012. His music and live performances have reached schools, festivals, corporate entities and just about anyone who doesn't mind learning an African dance or playing a djembe as part of the show.



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BEYOND THE STAGE

Garth's music has always been positive and uplifting because of his faith. He enjoys a healthy lifestyle and spends most of his free time playing some sort of Wii dancing game.

Behind every successful man...
Garth has a wonderful support system of friends and family.

Garth's wife has supported him tremendously in his career and she has even done backing vocals on his album and on stage.

Garth has a baby boy and a spirited little girl.



☆ Dr. Sophie Yohani ☆

Originally from Tanzania, Dr. Sophie Yohani is a registered psychologist with training in elementary education and global/refugee mental health. She currently is an assistant professor of Counselling Psychology and the director of Clinical Services (Faculty of Education) at the University of Alberta. She is an academic/practitioner whose interests stem from practice that has involved clinical-community work in private practice and in the not-for-profit sector. Dr. Yohani's research focuses on the mental health and psychosocial adaptation of refugees and immigrants influenced by pre- and post-migration experiences and practice/policy implications in education, healthcare, and community settings.



Dr. Yohani maintains a special interest in childhood and adult trauma and the experiences of hope and resiliency. For example, she has researched and used hope-focused counselling applications to understand and implement resources that individuals and helping professionals utilize to cope and adapt in light of traumatic experiences. Dr. Yohani's published works on the topic of refugee children's adaptation in school and community settings, war-related sexualized violence, and the role of hope in healing and adaptation after trauma, are featured in academic journals such as *The Journal of International Migration and Integration*; *International Journal of Mental Health, Psychosocial Work and Counselling in Areas of Armed Conflict*; *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*; and the *Canadian Journal of Counselling & Psychotherapy*.

A community worker and social activist at heart, Dr. Yohani engages in various projects outside of academia aimed at community development, education, and mental health capacity-building. Her interests have led to a wide variety of international and local experiences over the years including working with street youth in Tanzania, inner city children in England, and school teachers in Kenya. Dr. Yohani currently serves on the board of the Alberta Teacher's Association Guidance Council and she has worked with community colleagues to start mental health initiatives for the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, the Edmonton Newcomers Health Clinic, and the former Edmonton Centre for Survivors of Torture and Trauma. She serves as a mental health consultant for the Africa Centre, Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, and the Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative (MCHB).

In her own ethno-cultural community, Dr. Yohani is one of the founding members of the Tanzania Community Association of Northern Alberta (TANA), and currently serves as the vice president and officer of external relations. In 2012, she was involved in organizing the first Tanzanian Diaspora Conference in Canada, an event that brought over 300 delegates from government and businesses in Tanzania to engage with local Canadian and African Diaspora professionals and businesspeople – including the honorable, President of Tanzania, Dr. Jakaya Kikwete.

Dr. Yohani is a mother of two beautiful young teenagers, and notes that "their births in Canada helped me to plant roots in my new home." She maintains a strong connection to Tanzania, and enjoys travelling, hiking, reading, good wine, and music. She can be contacted at sophie.yohani@ualberta.ca and (780) 717-5358 or (780) 471-1860 for information regarding her research and practice.

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OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2013.**

ABOUT BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Despite a presence in Canada that dates back farther than Samuel de Champlain's first voyage down the St. Lawrence River, people of African descent are often absent from Canadian history books.

There is little mention of the fact that slavery once existed in the territory that is now Canada, or that many of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were Blacks. Few Canadians are aware of the many sacrifices made in wartime by black Canadian soldiers, as far back as the War of 1812.

In an attempt to heighten awareness of black history in the United States, historian Carter G. Woodson proposed an observance to honour the accomplishments of black Americans. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Woodson is believed to have chosen February for this observance because the birthdays of the renowned abolitionist Frederick Douglass (February 14) and former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln (February 12) fall in this month.

During the early 1970s, the week became known as Black History Week. It was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month, following a motion introduced by the first black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first black man appointed to the Senate, introduced a motion to have the Senate officially recognize February as Black History Month. It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month. Senator Anne Cools was the first black woman to be appointed to the Senate.

source: www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black/background.asp

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Who is Frankline Agbor?

Entrepreneur Frankline Agbor, pictured above arrived in Edmonton less than four years ago through the Canadian skilled immigrant program. In the course of this short period, he used his keen business strategy, innovative tactics and dynamic enthusiasm to setup an Edmonton based enterprise with a sustainability face called Green Crusader in 2010. In the process, Frankline has inspired a generation of clients and community members and has been described as a charismatic, business driven and passionate leader.



Frankline Agbor holds a M.Sc. in Environmental Engineering. He is seriously involved in the Afro-Canadian community and plays a significant role as a Community Liaison for the Cameroon Community in Edmonton, Action for Healthy Community and Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. In addition, he is a Communications Director for Timbuktu Business Club of Alberta and a producer for the Afro Trade Show that is profiled by the Edmonton Examiner. Frankline Agbor is the producer of City of Edmonton and Edmonton Chamber of Commerce endorsed annual award ceremony for Afro-Canadian Entrepreneurs, called, African Entrepreneur of the Year Award. This event is profiled on the front page of the Edmonton Journal. Frankline is also profiled in 50 Years of Impact: A Biographical Dictionary of Canadians of Cameroon Origin.

His most recent project is the launch of the bilingual (English and French) Afro-Canadian Magazine. This quarterly glossy colorful magazine which features a collection of inspiring, educative and exhilarating stories of Afro-Canadians with a recap database called "Afro Pages" at the backside of the magazine. The database includes contact information of organizations, ethno-cultural associations and upcoming events. The Afro-Canadian magazine was officially launched on Dec 15, 2012, during Afro-Canadian Heroes event in Edmonton, Alberta. For more information on Frankline and his projects, please go to www.greencrusader.ca

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