BLACK COLLING National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton 2012

Nelson Mandela 1918 - 2013

www.mbccedmonton.ca

Awards for Excellence 2013 Winners

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.

The Mary Burlie Award for effective program/and or services to the Black

Barry Curtis



Fil Fraser Award for outstanding work in literary, performing or Visual Arts

Catherine Daniel



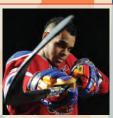
The Rosalind Smith **Business Award for** Exceptional Service in a Business from individual or group from the Black Community owning/running a business



Community & or Community at large.

Garth Prinsonsky

Peter "Sugarfoot" **Cunningham Award** for Excellence in Athletics and/or sport Performance





The Rosalind Smith Professional Award for Exceptional and prolonged service to a Black individual working in a profession

Yvette Mitchell



Klarc Wilson



The Clarence "Big Miller" Award for excellence in vocal or Instrumental Performance, **Music Composition or** Instruction OLLAW

Wayne Simpson



NATIONAL BLACK COALITION OF CANADA **EDMONTON**



As we pay tribute to the life of Nelson Mandela we must first remember the struggles and sacrifices he endured in leading the fight against apartheid in South Africa. He was branded a terrorist and some countries distance themselves from him as they saw him as a socialist.



Jamaica was the first country to impose economic sanctions against the apartheid regime of South Africa, these sanctions were later supported by the Governments of Canada, United States, United Kingdom along with other nations, and driven by a well organized liberation movement in South Africa created his release after 27 years of incarceration. His fight against white supremacy propelled him to be seen as the visionary to end apartheid in South Africa, and a defender of social justice, democracy, freedom and peace.

He went on to become the first black President of his country. The world has embraced him as an extra ordinary human being who was relentless in his fight to rid his nation of exclusion and oppression.

We, of the National Black Coalition Of Canada - Edmonton salute Nelson Mandela and hope his efforts will be carved in the minds of our community as one of the greatest leaders of the 21st. Century who made a path in History for us to follow.

As we celebrate Black History Month I thank the executive and volunteers who work tirelessly in making this festival possible.

Michael Broodhagen. President

NBCC EXECUTIVES 2014

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 - Michael Broodhagen Vice President - Joy Thomas Secretary - Jennifer Thompson **Assistant Secretary - Carl Wilson Treasurer - Constance Thomas** Assistant Treasurer - Clem Alleyne Programs/Activities Coordinator - Ken Jacob Public Relations Officer - Keenan Pascal Assistant Public Relations - Desmond Francis Youth Representative - Asha Marshall

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Premier of Alberta



Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edimonton, Alberta, Canada, T5K 2B6

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 2014.

Alberta's 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.

As you raise your glasses to celebrate the great achievements of the Black community, I know you will take a moment to honour the courage and grace of Nelson Mandela. Mr. Mandela was an inspiring individual who courageously spent his life fighting racism, oppression, and injustice. He used his days walking this earth to bring freedom, equality, and human rights to his people, his country, and to the world.

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, 2014

Alberta





Greetings from the Honourable Rona Ambrose

In February, Canadians from across our great country will celebrate Black History Month.

This month gives us the special opportunity to pay tribute to Canadians of African and Caribbean descent for their significant role in building our strong and great country. These noteworthy achievements stretches back to the origins of our country and continue today in all spheres of life. I would especially like to commend the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton Chapter for the dedicated work in promoting this rich culture and heritage.

Recently, the world lost a great man and leader, a remarkable champion of freedom and justice. Nelson Mandela's life and legacy is an inspiration to us all. And we are blessed to live in a country like Canada that shares those values and fought for Mr. Mandela's freedom.

Please accept my warmest wishes as you join in the festivities and events taking place during Black History Month 2014.

Yours very truly,

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, P.C., M.P Regional Minister for Northern Alberta

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Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, Alberta's capital city, I'm honoured to help recognize Black History Month in our city.

Founded in 1926 and officially established in Canada in 1995, Black History Month aims to eliminate discrimination and celebrate the history, accomplishments and contributions African-Canadians make in areas such as education, medicine, art, public service, economic development, politics and human rights. Today it continues to provide opportunities to increase public awareness and promote multiculturalism and diversity within our community.

Thank you to the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton Chapter for your hard work and dedication in organizing events throughout the month. Your efforts enhance our community's understanding of African-Canadian culture and the City of Edmonton values your commitment to such a significant part of our history.

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

Yours truly,

Ven/

Don Iveson Mayor

Message from George Rogers, MLA

On behalf of Premier Redford and all 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, and its tireless volunteers, for decades of dedication in organizing Black History Month celebrations and keeping Black History alive.



For more than 400 years, the Black community has been a part of Canada's mosaic. During the American Civil War, 3,500 African-Americans fled to British North America, becoming one of the "founding people" of this great country – a role that has not yet been fully acknowledged, and one that Black History Month gives us an opportunity to present and celebrate. From the navigator and interpreter Mathieu Da Costa, who helped pave the way for Samuel de Champlain's explorations through Upper Canada to the 800 former slaves and freemen who settled in Victoria in 1858 and helped protect that Western island as a British outpost from American expansion. From the Blacks who moved to Canada in the 1770s with the United Empire Loyalists to our own Black settlements of Amber Valley and Wildwood, Black people have been a part of Canada's mosaic since the first tile was laid.

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. As we look around the world, and particularly in Europe, the concept of multiculturalism is being strained and tested. We can stand proud – as both Albertans and Canadians – in the knowledge that we still hold true to our vision of a peaceful, multicultural society, where the contributions of people are not determined – nor limited – by their ethnic heritage.

In 2013 we said goodbye to one of the greatest human beings to walk among us. Nelson Mandela was a giant whose legacy will impact our world for generations to come. Madiba taught us that we have more that binds us together than divides us. May he rest in peace.

Please enjoy the celebrations.

George Rogers, MLA Leduc-Beaumont Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees

Message from Honourable Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture

As Minister of Culture, it is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2014 celebrations for Black History Month.

History is the cornerstone of a society's collective identity. Black History Month serves as a reminder of a long and often difficult past but it is also a commemoration of historical milestones that have helped shape our present. As our province continues to grow, this is an opportunity to celebrate the cultural diversity of Alberta's black communities and the many contributions made to our province's multicultural mosaic.



My thanks to the organizers and volunteers of the National Black Coalition of Canada Edmonton Chapter for your continued support of Black History Month.

Best wishes for a wonderful month of celebrations!

le Vinchek

Heather Klimchuk Minister

Message from Brian Mason, MLA

On behalf of Alberta New Democrats, it is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2014 festivities recognizing Black History Month.

This Festival is a meaningful yearly opportunity to learn more about black history in Alberta, and to reflect on the challenges and successes that are as much part of our history as they are a part of our present.

As we take time to celebrate the great contributions made by people of African and Caribbean heritage to our province and our country, let us not forget the immeasurable loss our global community has suffered with the recent passing of

Nelson Mandela. The immensity of his achievement cannot be overstated. He transformed an entire nation, moving it away from oppression and injustice. In so doing, he gave hope and strength to people around the world working for social justice. I hope that this Black History Month provides us all with the chance to better understand the ways we all benefit from the achievements of our black communities working to make Alberta a more respectful and inclusive place that truly makes the most of our impressive diversity.

I wish you a thoughtful and joyous Black History Month.

Sincerely, Brian Mason, MLA Edmonton Highlands-Norwood Leader, Alberta's NDP Opposition

Message from Dr. Raj Sherman, MLA

I encourage all Albertans to set time aside this month to reflect on the significant accomplishments and achievements made by members of our community with African heritage. Black History Month provides us a unique opportunity for such reflection.

Canadians of African descent were at the onset of building this nation. And have ever since continued to making important contributions to this country in virtually every area necessary to build a strong society.

The diversity we celebrate and enjoy today in Canada is partly because of the presence of people of African heritage and their ancestors. Their history and culture, which we celebrate during Black History Month, make us who we are today as a nation.

Black History month also serve as a reminder that we must never again treat other humans as slaves. The many remarkable contributions made by people of African heritage, here in Canada and around the world, are also constant reminders for why we must never subject any group of people to such a great injustice.

Our past is always with us but must not shape our future. And so I encourage everyone to continue to help build a society that will make our future generations proud. We must all continue to work to remove barriers, wherever we may find them, to ensure that our daily life experiences are not shaped solely by the colour of our skin.

Please take time to reflect on and enjoy the many profound contributions by people of African heritage that you will find around you as we observe Black History Month.

Dr. Raj Sherman, MLA Leader, Alberta Liberal Opposition







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 2014 celebrations.

The EPS truly appreciates 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 joineps.ca to learn more about the recruitment process. Visit our website, drop us a line – we'd be happy to hear from you!

Warmest personal regards,

Rod R. Knecht Chief of Police

Petros Kusmu University of Alberta Student's Union President



Originally from Edmonton, Petros Kusmu is a strong advocate for an accessible and high quality post-secondary education and a politico that's experienced with nearly all political parties.

In June 2012, Petros completed the Combined Honours program in Economics and Political Science at the University of Alberta and wrote his thesis on the difference between American and Chinese trade agreements with Nigeria. Currently, Petros serves as the President of the University of Alberta Students' Union and a member of the University of Alberta Board of Governors after completing his tenure as Vice President External and University of Alberta Senator in 2012-2013. While Petros was born and raised in Edmonton, he was also fortunate to live in Eritrea for nearly seven years.

Petros has been very involved throughout his undergraduate career, previously serving as the Vice-Chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) and a Director-at-Large for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). He served four terms as a Students' Union Arts Councillor and co-founded and led numerous student groups, including the Student Network for Advocacy and Public Policy as well as the award winning U of A Musicians' Club.

Petros spent some time in Washington, DC where he interned at the Jeremy Rifkin Foundation on Economic Trends, volunteered for the Obama for America re-election campaign, participated in a Republican Youth Convention, and worked with the Roosevelt Institute | Campus Network to establish its first Canadian chapter. Additionally, he has worked on several Canadian municipal, provincial, and federal election campaigns and has been involved in various student activism movements on campus.

In his spare time, Petros performs frequently with his band, Quordal Fusion, and hopes to release an album soon.

If you'd like to contact Petros, message him at pkusmu@gmail.com, connect with him on Twitter (@Kusmu), or add him on LinkedIn.



ABOUT NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013) was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was South Africa's first black chief executive, and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid through tackling institutionalised racism, poverty and inequality, and fostering racial reconciliation. Politically an African nationalist and democratic socialist, he served as President of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1991 to 1997. Internationally, Mandela was Secretary General of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1998 to 1999.

A Xhosa born to the Thembu royal family, Mandela attended the Fort Hare University and the University of Witwatersrand, where he studied law. Living in Johannesburg, he became involved in anti-colonial politics, joining the ANC and becoming a founding member of its Youth League. After the South African National Party came to power in 1948, he rose to prominence in the ANC's 1952 Defiance Campaign, was appointed superintendent of the organisation's Transvaal chapter and presided over the 1955 Congress of the People. Working as a lawyer, he was repeatedly arrested for seditious activities and, with the ANC leadership, was unsuccessfully prosecuted in the Treason Trial from 1956 to 1961. Although initially committed to non-violent protest, he co-founded the militant Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) in 1961, in association with the South African Communist Party, leading a sabotage campaign against the apartheid government. In 1962, he was arrested, convicted of conspiracy to overthrow the state, and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial.

Mandela served over 27 years in prison, initially on Robben Island, and later in Pollsmoor Prison and Victor Verster Prison. An international campaign lobbied for his release. He was released in 1990, during a time of escalating civil strife. Mandela joined negotiations with President F. W. de Klerk to abolish apartheid and establish multiracial elections in 1994, in which he led the ANC to victory and became South Africa's first black president. He published his autobiography in 1995. During his tenure in the Government of National Unity he invited several other political parties to join the cabinet. As agreed to during the negotiations to end apartheid in South Africa, he promulgated a new constitution. He also created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate past human rights abuses. While continuing the former government's liberal economic policy, his administration also introduced measures to encourage land reform, combat poverty, and expand healthcare services. Internationally, he acted as mediator between Libya and the United Kingdom in the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial, and oversaw military intervention in Lesotho. He declined to run for a second term, and was succeeded by his deputy, Thabo Mbeki. Mandela became an elder statesman, focusing on charitable work in combating poverty and HIV/AIDS through the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

Mandela was a controversial figure for much of his life. Denounced as a Marxist terrorist by critics, he nevertheless gained international acclaim for his activism, having received more than 250 honours, including the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Soviet Order of Lenin and the Bharat Ratna. He is held in deep respect within South Africa, where he is often referred to by his Xhosa clan name, Madiba, or as Tata ("Father"); he is often described as "the father of the nation".

ARTIST SpotLight Trincan Steel Orchestra

With the mass exodus of French Creoles from Martinique to Trinidad, the steelpan evolved from a communication device to the musical instrument it is used as today. Drumming was used as a form of communication among the enslaved Africans and was subsequently outlawed by the British colonial government in 1783. African slaves also performed during Mardi Gras celebrations, joining the French that had brought the tradition to the island.



The two most important influences were the drumming traditions of both Africa and India. The instrument's invention was therefore a specific cultural response to the conditions present on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

The first instruments developed in the evolution of steelpan were Tamboo-Bamboos, tunable sticks made of bamboo wood. These were hit onto the ground and with other sticks in order to produce sound. Tamboo-Bamboo bands also included percussion of a (gin) bottle and spoon. By the mid-1930s, bits of metal percussion were being used in the tamboo bamboo bands, the first probably being either the automobile brake hub "iron" or the biscuit drum "boom". The former replaced the gin bottle-and-spoon, and the latter the "bass" bamboo that was pounded on the ground. By the late 1930s their occasional all-steel bands were seen at Carnival and by 1940 it had become the preferred Carnival accompaniment of young underprivileged men.

The 55-gallon oil drum was used to make lead steelpans from around 1947. The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra (TASPO), formed to attend the Festival of Britain in 1951, was the first steelband whose instruments were all made from oil drums. Members of TASPO included Ellie Mannette and Winston "Spree" Simon. Hugh Borde also led the National Steel Band of Trinidad & Tobago at the Commonwealth Arts Festival in England, as well as the Esso Tripoli Steel Band, who played at the World's Fair in Montreal, Canada, and later toured with Liberace and were also featured on an album with him.

Trincan Steel Orchestra has been in Edmonton, Alberta for 30 years under the founder Cecil T. George. Cecil's vision for Trincan was to share the Caribbean culture with people in and around Alberta. Trincan has performed public and private events all over Alberta such as K Days, Cariwest, Black History Month, Schools, Weddings, Anniversaries and Corporate Events. Under the new direction of Ahema Hutchins, Kelvin Ganpatt and Danielle George, they are keeping the vision alive. And with this vision, Trincan has just released a Christmas Album titled Steel on Ice – A Trincan Christmas and also had a concert/cd release in December 2013.

Want more?

www.trinidadandtobagonews.com www.basementrecordings.com

If you would like to hire Trincan for your specail event you can email us at info@trincansteel.org



www.trincansteel.org

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SCHIEDUILE

NBCC'S OPENING CEREMONIES - Free

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1:00PM

West Edmonton Mall - Main Stage by The Bay Entrance 16 - 90 Avenue Lower Level 11:00 A.M. TO 6.00 P.M. All day entertainment - 1.00 to 3.00pm Official Opening with Dignataries. For more information contact Joy at 780-425-0319 or info@nbccedmonton.ca www.nbccedmonton.ca

Bethel Annual Youth Crusade

Bethel United Church Of Jesus Christ Apostolic 9950-148 Street - 780 451-1262 Bethel Annual Youth Crusade Conference Speaker: Elder O'Niel Fisher For more information: www.buctoday.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 02

Service Times: Thursday & Friday 7:30pm Sat 8:00am to 3:00pm (Includes Youth Rally & Forum) Sat 6:30pm (Black History Month Church Service) Sunday11:30am & 6:30pm

5 ARTISTS 1 LOVE

Citadel Theatre — Maclab Theatre 9828 101A Avenue

The musical performance will run from 8-10pm Ticket prices are Adults \$43* *plus applicable taxes & fees. For more information contact Darren Jordan at 780-238-3699 or info@5artists1love.com www.5artists1love.com

NBCC'S CHUURCH SERVICE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 6:30PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 4:00PM

Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic NBCC Joins with the Youth Crusade @ 6.30 P.M 9950-148 Street, Edmonton For more information contact Joy 780 425-0319 or vp@nbccedmonton.ca www.nbccedmonton.ca

MAAFA - THE GENESIS OF OUR STORY

Edmonton City Hall FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 4:30PM - 8:30PM 1 Sir WINSTON CHURCHILL SOUARE For more information contact Domina 780-934-0936 patapaawe2000@gmail.com www.nilevalleyfoundation.org

NBCC'S GOSPEL CONCERT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 7:00PM

Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium 11455 87 Ave NW Tickets \$20 For more information contact: Ticketmaster 780 451-8000 - Jubilee Auditorium: 780 427-2760 NBCC: 780 425-0319

For more event details:

www.mbccedmonton.ca

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OF EVENTS

THE MAAFA PRAYER GATHERING

The Shiloh Baptist Church 10727 - 114 Street NW

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 11:00AM

For more information contact Deborah at 780-722-9141 or patapaawe2000@gmail.com www.nilevalleyfoundation.org

THE MAAFA BANQUET

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 1:00PM - 3:30PM

The Prince of Wales 10440 - 108 Avenue NW For more information contact Lola at 780-244-2191 or patapaawe2000@gmail.com www.nilevalleyfoundation.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1:00PM

AFROQUUZ 2014 Stanley A Milner Library 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square

For more information contact Siyani at 780-716-3859 or siyani@afroquiz.ca

NBCC'S CELEBRATION BRUNCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 11:00AM

Garvey Cultural Center 12526-126 Avenue \$15.00 - \$15.00 Adults / Children 12 & Under - 10.00 / Children 4 & under Free For more information contact Ken at 780-425-0319 at info@nbccedmonton.ca

THE MAAFA MOVIE SERIES

The Prince of Wales SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 7:00PM - 9:30PM 10440 - 108 Avenue NW For more information contact Domina at 780-934-0936 or patapaawe2000@gmail.com www.nilevalleyfoundation.org

NBCC BOB MARLEY PARTY

Garvey Cultural Center 12526-126 Avenue \$15.00 For more information contact Carl 780-554-8955 or info@nbccedmonton.ca www.nbccedmonton.ca

NBCC'S AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE SATURDAY, MARCH 01, 6:00PM

Chateau Louis Hotel & Conference Centre 11727 Kingsway Northwest Adults \$50 Seniors & Youth \$40 Children 12 & under \$20 4 and under FREE For more information contact Joy at 780-425-0319 or vp@nbccedmonton.ca

For more event details:

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What was apartheid?

Apartheid was a system in place in South Africa that separated people based on their race and skin color. People in South Africa were segregated into categories of white, black, Coloured, Indian (or Asian). In 1958 Blacks were deprived of their citizenship.

There were laws that forced white people and black people to live and work apart from each other. Even though there were less white people than black people, apartheid laws allowed white people to rule the country and enforce the laws.

How did it start?

Apartheid became law after the National Party won the election in 1948. They declared certain areas as white only and other areas as black only. Many people protested apartheid from the start, but they were labeled communists and put into jail.

Living Under Apartheid

Living under apartheid was not fair to black people. They were forced to live in certain areas and were not allowed to vote or travel in "white" areas without papers. Black people and white people were not allowed to marry each other. Many blacks, Asians, and other people of color were forced out of their homes and into regulated areas called "homelands."

The government also took over the schools and forced the segregation of white and black students. There were separate buses, shops and hospitals for blacks and coloured people Signs were put up in many areas declaring these areas for "white persons only." Black people who broke the laws were punished or put into jail.

African National Congress (ANC)

In the 1950s many groups formed to protest against apartheid. The protests were called the Defiance Campaign. The most prominent of these groups was the African National Congress (ANC). Initially the ANC protests were non-violent. However, after 69 protesters were killed by police at the Sharpeville massacre in 1960, they began to take a more militaristic approach.

Nelson Mandela

One of the leaders of the ANC was a lawyer named Nelson Mandela. After the Sharpeville massacre, Nelson led a group called the Umkhonto we Sizwe. This group took military action against the government including bombing buildings. Nelson was arrested in 1962 and sent to prison. He spent the next 27 years in prison. During this time in prison he became a symbol of the people against apartheid.

International Pressure

In the 1980s, governments around the world started to pressure the South African government to end apartheid. Many countries stopped doing business with South Africa by imposing economic sanctions against them. As the pressure and protests increased, the government began to relax some of the apartheid laws.

Ending Apartheid

Apartheid finally came to an end in the early 1990s. Nelson Mandela was released from prison in 1990 and a year later South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk repealed the remaining apartheid laws and called for a new constitution. In 1994, a new election was held in which people of all color could vote. The ANC won the election and Nelson Mandela became president of South Africa!

ARtist SpotLight NUELA CHARLES

Edmonton's soul pop singer Nuela Charles has won the first Edmonton music prize sponsored by the city through the Edmonton Arts Council

Called a "smooth, triumphant, star-in-the-making album of retro soul and R&B with moody trip-hop and electronica", by Sandra Sperounes of the Edmonton Journal, Aware was released October 23, 2012. Its the second album for Charles, who toured Canada and Switzerland this year.

The album flew under the radar for the beginning of 2013 until it was highlighted during the CBC Searchlight Contest and had producer Andrea Warner call Charles the future queen of Canadian soul.



Nuela has been performing in front of an audience this year that has been exponentially growing and filling venues like The Club at the Citadel (Edmonton), The Bassment (Saskatoon) and the Jack Singer Concert Hall (Calgary) when she opened up for Ziggy Marley. Taking part in festivals such as the TransCanada Alberta Music Series (Calgary), Edmonton Jazz Festival, and K-Days (Edmonton), where she was one of the opening acts for CLASSIFIED.

Having just recently won the Edmonton Music Prize, which highlights a recording that has made a unique contribution, or outstanding accomplishment in music within the last 18 months, Nuela will be beginning the new year with multiple TV licensing syncs. Shows that will be featuring songs from Aware include VH1s Black Ink Crew, CityTVs Seed and W Networks Tessa And Scott.

Doors have been opening up for Nuela Charles since the release of her Aware album, says Alberta Musics Executive Director, Chris Wynters, her career is on an upward trajectory that is impossible not to get excited about.

For more information: www.nuelacharles.com



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780-452-1234 Westmount 780-444-5321 West Edmonton 780-427-2760 Jubilee Auditorium

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TRIBUTE TO MADIBA

Broadening our conceptual understanding of the human capacity - Ubuntu By Dr. Sentsetsa Pilane MSc, MEd, PhD, Edmonton, Alberta

Madiba in his life and his death is all-in-one a global teacher and global father, a man of service to humanity for humanity through humanity. Even in his death he offers us lessons to broaden our conceptual understanding and knowing of our human capacity (our Ubuntu)

I am honoured and yet humbled to be able to pay tribute to baba (Zulu), tata (Xhosa) or ntate (Tswana and Sotho) Madiba as we call him in South Africa. I feel my words cannot be enough to do justice to a complex life that was so humble, compassionate and yet owned by the entire world.

On several occasions I have been asked to talk on different issues including community building, community health and wellness, education, youth empowerment in community gatherings around the city and I can always draw the essence of my conversations from the rich and complex and yet simply intentional cultural foundation of Ubuntu that I learned from my parents and elders in my youth. I have come to realize that Madiba's life is the embodiment of UBUNTU, a lived human example of our era that illustrates what it means to live one's life as a person with Ubuntu. His life, his compassion, his day to day interactions, his purpose and commitment to his intention and other people (despite all odds) all are but a glimpse of what Ubuntu is.

The educator and parent in me beg to ask what life lessons can we learn from this life lived so unnaturally painful yet so desirably admirable? What lessons can we learn for ourselves and for the young ones coming after us whose lives we can still impact? The curriculum drawn from this life can be so wide ranging and diverse ranging from philosophy, culture and society, power and politics, law and justice through education to history to sports and the list goes on if we want to find it we can. However, at this moment two lessons stand out for me. These lessons are on Ubuntu – humanness and reconciliation.

I learned and came to understand the concept of Ubuntu from my parents, elders and my culture as a child and continue to renew my lessons now as an adult from the active participatory engagement with the people around me. The word Ubuntu is a South African word shared among many Bantu cultures that signifies the essence of humanity as understood and conceptualized in those cultures. Like Madiba I learned what Ubuntu is from listening to my elders and learning from their every word. While as children we knew our place, we also knew to listen and learn from the wisdom of our ancestors' stories and guidance richly embedded in the proverbs and sayings that to this day guide me. In these cultures, Ubuntu is not just a word that can be thrown about unconsciously. Because of its deep meaning which can be understood at multiple levels it is a concept that encapsulate a culture, a philosophy, a way of life that can actually be lived. It has embedded in it a dimension of spirituality that demands that one should "do unto others as they would have done unto them"

A person with Ubuntu lives their life boldly – they cultivate the qualities in them and in others that allow them to proclaim without fear what they know and what they do about what they know for the common good.

Madiba in his mastery of Ubuntu realized what Albert Einstein had come to proclaim

"We cannot solve today's significant problems with the same level of thinking we were at when we first created them." -Albert Einstein

TRIBUTE TO MADIBA... CONTINUED

His understanding of Ubuntu did not only transform his and his immediate comrades' lives in prison, his prison wardens but transformed the world. Madiba lived his life boldly with intention. The life lessons of Madiba would require us to likewise consciously "Live with intention". Ubuntu is learned and taught formally and informally as elders teach their young to learn to pay attention to what they pay attention to in their interactions with others and with self. It is thus a tool for self-reflexivity and meta-analysis that can elevate the human mind to act in ways that have great social impact. It is Madiba's strong commitment to this philosophical ethic, passed on in many South African cultures through oral traditions that I believe, coupled with his natural propensity to embrace humanity and his remarkable skills and intellect as a lawyer that must have intuitively guided baba Madiba's being in the world and perfected his remarkable resiliency and compassion for his supposed oppressors. Ubuntu was the moral shield that could not permit the chain bearers to rob him if his integrity and his humanity. A person with Ubuntu is a human being with dignity and integrity and who can live his/her life boldly like Madiba.

Madiba also taught us that reconciliation and forgiveness starts with the self and acknowledging where you are no matter how difficult. He did not let circumstances define him instead he defined who he was, boldly facing, acknowledging and working within and with the context he lived in. He acknowledged right from the beginning of his imprisonment that once he and his comrades were behind the prison walls they were no longer leaders in the community but they were prisoners and as prisoners they had a duty to teach those who were guarding them how to treat them with respect (as human beings first). Madiba was the first to confidently show respect to the wardens and to request to be treated with respect. He taught his prison wardens how to treat him and his imprisoned fellow comrades. Even when embattled with bad news from outside prison of the treatment of his family meant to dehumanize him, break his spirit and bring him to servitude, his respect for himself and others eventually taught others to respect him and also taught those who imprisoned him how to respect others.

In his release from prison he never ignored the fact that reconciliation and forgiveness were agonizingly painful processes. He sought to transform and transcend the historical pain to memorialize it in strength and resilience for his people so that his nation could set itself free and be free of bitterness – a tall order to ask of a people maimed, stolen from and deprived in their own rich home. Reconciliation and acknowledging the truth would become necessary to start healing the wounds and to sow the seeds of forgiveness.

He continues to teach us that each moment is a moment of choice – we can choose to not be defined by our circumstances but to be compassionate, to empathise, to be brave and step out of our comfort zone or we can choose to just do our work and perform according to the dictates of our titles, rules, regulations and standards. Our intention is our reason or motivation for acting it is the consciousness behind our actions. I invite us to stop and think about how we could use this great life we were given to learn personal lessons and to create opportunities for us to talk to each other and to our kids about compassion, humility, purposeful conscious living and forgiveness, integrity, purpose, commitment, leadership and service at home, in the schools and in our daily interactions everywhere.

"I have learned that courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid but he who conquers it". Nelson Mandela

Thank you all for honouring this great man Madiba, he never roared but his courage soared and reverberates across the entire universe.

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