

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2017

*Celebrating Black People's Contribution*



**CANADA 150**



Trauma/Slavery



Business/Finance



War Veterans



Civil Rights



Education



Transportation



Building/Infrastructure

# NOW WHAT?

*We'll straighten it out*



**CSN**  
COLLISION CENTRE

**BURTON'S**

12545 - 71<sup>ST</sup> STREET N.W.  
EDMONTON , AB (780) 471-3085

Prime Minister's Message .....4

Premier's Message .....5

Minister's Message .....6

Mayor's Message .....7

Police Chief's Message .....8

MLA's Message.....9

NBCC Executive / President's Message..... 10

Awards of Excellence Award Winners ..... 11

About Black History Month ..... 12

Calendar of Events..... 15-16

Viola Desmond..... 18

Jesse Lipscombe (Make it Awkward).....20

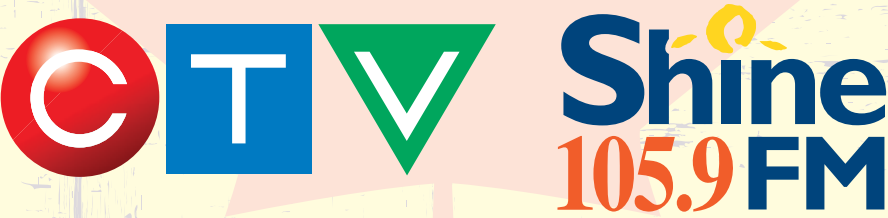
George Rogers .....23

Frankline Agbor.....25

Edward Andrews.....26

Edmonton Heritage Day – David Shepherd Petition .....27

Donna Chen .....30





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

February 2017

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) Edmonton chapter, and to everyone commemorating Black History Month in Canada.

Since its establishment, the NBCC has researched, preserved and promoted Black history and heritage in Canada. The Edmonton chapter, which was founded in 1979, has enriched the community by fostering multiculturalism through activities such as educational workshops and networking events.

Black History Month reminds us that our country's greatest strength is its diversity. This month, I encourage all Canadians to participate in the events and activities that take place in their communities to honour the bravery and strength that Black Canadians have shown over the course of our history, and to learn more about the integral role they have played in making Canada the diverse, inclusive country we know and love.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

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







Premier of Alberta

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



## Message from Honourable Rachel Notley Premier of Alberta

*On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to extend my best wishes to the Edmonton chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada, and Alberta's black community, as Canada celebrates Black History Month.*

*Black Canadians have helped shape our country for hundreds of years, playing a vital role in battling discrimination and advocating for equality, tolerance and justice for all.*

*They have fought for dignity and respect, as did Viola Desmond, the Nova Scotia hairdresser who refused to leave a whites-only section of a movie theatre in 1946. It is a mark of how far Canada has progressed that Viola will be featured on our \$10 bill in 2018 – the first Canadian woman and the first black individual to be portrayed on our currency.*

*Throughout our country's history, black Canadians have distinguished themselves in a wide variety of fields, from the arts and business to politics and sports. In doing so, they have enriched our diversity and helped build a welcoming, inclusive society.*

*Thank you to the Edmonton chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada for your ongoing work to promote black history and culture. Enjoy the festivities!*

Rachel Notley

February 2017



---

**Message from Honourable Ricardo Miranda  
Minister of Culture and Tourism**

As Minister of Culture and Tourism, it is my pleasure to join you in recognizing and celebrating Black History Month.

Black History Month has a rich history in our province. As early as the 1900s, black rural settlements were established in Alberta, playing a key role in shaping and building our province, and becoming part of our multicultural identity.

I encourage all Albertans to participate in Black History month to celebrate the extraordinary sacrifices, contributions and achievements made by Alberta's black community, and let our guiding principles of fairness, equality and inclusivity continue to build a just and welcoming province.

Thank you to the devoted organizers and volunteers of the National Black Coalition of Canada's Edmonton Chapter who have worked so hard to organize this year's festivities.

I wish you a joyful and meaningful Black History Month!



Ricardo Miranda  
Minister



### **Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson**



Black history is the heritage of early settlers who braved difficult conditions to forge a new life. It is the lived experience of hardworking people trying to balance the demands of family, career and community. Black history is the memories and hopes of new immigrants, who seek opportunity and safety in Edmonton. It is the history of the important work for equality, but also of hope, innovation, sacrifice and success.

These are some of the histories of Edmonton's black communities, but they are also stories many Edmontonians of all races can share. As we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black History Month, we recognize that black history is integral to Edmonton's progress.

I thank the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton Chapter for their commitment to recognizing the unique accomplishments of black Canadians. Your efforts are helping to make Edmonton a more inclusive and vibrant place.

I wish you all enjoyable and empowering Black History Month!

Yours truly,

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

Don Iveson  
Mayor



## **Message from the Edmonton Police Service Chief Rod R. Knecht**



On behalf of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), it is my pleasure to extend our support and best wishes for the 2017 Black History Month celebrations.

Edmonton is fortunate to have a very engaged Black community that supports newcomers, organizes events and shares the richness of African, Caribbean and other world cultures with our citizens. It is this enthusiasm that allows the EPS to work closely with our Black community on joint initiatives like the African Community Liaison Committee and the Police and Youth Engagement Program.

I thank the National Black Coalition of Canada for helping us celebrate the heritage and contributions of our Black citizens during Black History Month. The EPS will continue to support our Black community and safeguard the principles of diversity, equality and inclusion that make Edmonton such a great city to call home.

Best regards,



Rod R. Knecht  
Chief of Police

*A Message from*  
**DAVID SHEPHERD, MLA**



On behalf of my colleagues in the Government of Alberta, it's my pleasure to join the Edmonton chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada in celebrating Black History Month in 2017.

Since my election in 2015, it's been an honour to regularly meet with members of the black community in Edmonton and Calgary to recognize their accomplishments, join in cultural celebrations, hear their concerns, join in their advocacy and support their work to uplift and empower their communities.

The black community has been contributing to the prosperity and rich diversity of Alberta for over 100 years. John Ware arrived in 1882, 23 years before Alberta became a province. He helped introduce longhorn cattle to the area and earned widespread respect through the ranching community as reflected by the natural landmarks and school buildings named in his honour.

J.D. Edwards came to Alberta in 1910, walking 100 miles north from Edmonton to help found the community of Amber Valley. He was an active member of the community, helping found the Alberta Wheat Pool and Alberta's first black baseball team. In 1973, he was honoured by the Government of Alberta with an Achievement Award in Humanities.

With the Government of Canada's repeal of racial restrictions on immigration in 1962, Alberta saw the beginning of a new wave of black immigrants, my father among them, first from a few Commonwealth countries, and later from an increasingly broad range of countries in Africa and the Caribbean. We have become proud citizens, helping to build our economy and contributing to the vibrant tapestry of art, culture and community that defines our province.

I am proud of my heritage as a black Canadian. I look forward to continuing to work with community partners like the Edmonton chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada to recognize and celebrate the contributions of black Canadians and ensure that all have the opportunity to continue their legacy and follow in their footsteps.

**Happy Black History Month 2017!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Shepherd'.

**David Shepherd**  
**MLA, Edmonton-Centre**



# NATIONAL BLACK COALITION OF CANADA-EDMONTON

## *Welcome to the 2017 Black History Month*



Our 2017 Black History Theme aligns with the Celebration of Canada's 150th years of Confederation. It explores and highlights Black People's contribution to the growth of their adopted home, Canada. In researching this theme, it brought forcibly to mind that Black people have been in Canada since the 1600's, facing and overcoming obstacles of discrimination and prejudice, poor working conditions that other immigrants seeking a new home did not have to experience.

Historically, Black people (Caribbean migrants, Black people escaping harsh racial conditions in the USA, free Blacks) made major contributions in every field: business, economic, medical, politics; they contributed to the growth of their new country. Blacks in Canada built towns, worked in the coalmines; Blacks served in the Canadian Armed Forces. When they were rejected because it was a "White man's war," they persisted until an all Black battalion was formed. The stories of these veterans have been illustrated on the Government veteran's website ([www.veterans.gc.ca/those\\_who\\_served/blackcanadians-in-uniform/interviews](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/those_who_served/blackcanadians-in-uniform/interviews)).

Blacks continued their migration to Canada throughout most of the provinces. The western provinces saw the Black Oklahoman settlers, a "wave" of West African students, Caribbean teachers, caregivers,

nurses, another wave of trades' people- welders, pipefitters working on the rigs. Another wave of people from eastern African countries is the most recent immigrants; English and French speaking, Moslem and Christians; Canada embraces diversity and each group brings their own "specialness" which adds to the richness of the Canadian culture.

To bring it closer to home, and to the present, Black people's contribution to Alberta's development and growth has been phenomenal in all areas! Black people are represented in all levels of Alberta government as managers, social workers, accountants, educators, environmentalist, etc; in Areas of economic strength in business and as professionals: doctors, pharmacists, bankers, realtors, and franchise business owners, and businesses providing employment for a diverse group of Albertans; home owners and consumers of many products and services. We represent economic, social voting power. Alberta's Black population is a vibrant part of the Canadian community.

I consider myself a "second generation Canadian" not born here, but have lived most of my life here and I now have children and grandchildren who are part of the beauty of the Canadian community. My parents have always thanked "Mr. Pierre Trudeau for the opportunities given to us and our children," (as if they knew him personally). I now celebrate and thank Canada on their behalf and my children, grandchildren and their children's behalf for another 150 years of Canadian community.

The contributions of Black people have been limitless and these stories have to be told, before they are forgotten. Let them be taught in schools, not just learn about them doing a "research project," but as part of the education curriculum, a living history of the many peoples of Canada. It will give the succeeding generations pride in their heritage and their history. Let this be a plan to celebrate more than 150 years of Canadian history but a Celebration of Canada's future, a move to celebrate and document contributions of all peoples!

Dr. Mertella J. Montague,  
President, NBCC

### **NBCC Executives 2016/2017**

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**

Dr. Mertella Montague

#### **Vice President**

Joy Thomas

#### **Secretary**

Carl Wilson

#### **Treasurer**

Constance Thomas

#### **Assistant Treasurer**

Myrtle Francis

#### **Public Relations**

Nyssa Cromwell

#### **Program Coordinator**

Vacant

#### **Assistant Program Coordinator**

Desmond Francis and Joanne James

#### **Youth Rep**

Vacant



# Awards of Excellence 2016 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.

## Fil Fraser Award Winner –

*Medgine Mathurin*

The Fil Fraser Award is presented to an individual or group who has done outstanding work in literary, performing and/or visual Arts



## Rosalind Smith Professional Award Winner –

*Keli Jamaklo*

The Rosalind Smith Professional Award for Exceptional and Prolonged service working in a Profession



## Rosalind Smith Business Award Winner –

*Allstyle Finishing & Interiors*

The Rosalind Smith Award for Exceptional and prolonged Service from individuals or group from the Black Community Owning and Running a Business

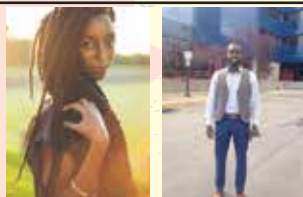


## NBCC Youth Award Winner –

*Omar Abdullahi*

*Reakash Walters*

The NBCC Youth Award for achieving academic excellence & or delivering exceptional programs and services in any area of the Black Community or society at large



## Clarence "Big" Miller Award Winner –

*Sierra Jamerson*

The Clarence "Big" Miller Award is for demonstrating excellence in music (vocal, instrumental performance, composition or instructions



## James Bell Award Winner –

*Mohamed Yusuf*

The James Bell Award is for Personal Achievement and Courage against Challenging Odds

## Mary Burlie Award Winner –

*Desfaye Ayalew*

The Mary Burlie Award for effective program/and or services to the Black Community & or Community at large



# 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.

[www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black](http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black)

**[www.blackhistorycanada.ca](http://www.blackhistorycanada.ca)**

**Website for Black History Month across Canada**



FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

Three models are featured in the poster, wearing vibrant, flowing dresses in shades of orange, red, and purple. They are posed against a background of large, overlapping geometric shapes in white and blue. The text 'AFRICAN FASHION WEEK EDMONTON' is prominently displayed in the center, overlaid on the models and the background.

# AFRICAN FASHION WEEK EDMONTON

**FEBRUARY 24 & 25 2017**

**THE SUTTON PLACE HOTEL    10235 101 STREET  
EDMONTON                                  EDMONTON**

**INFO: [WWW.AFWE.CA](http://WWW.AFWE.CA) & [INFO@AFWE.CA](mailto:INFO@AFWE.CA)**

# *Banquet & Awards of Excellence*

**Saturday March 11, 2017 6:30 PM**

**Chateau Louis Hotel  
11727 Kingsway Ave,  
Edmonton Ab**

**Adults: \$50**

**Seniors & Youth: \$40**

**12 & under: \$20**

**4 & under: free**

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

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 2017 nomination forms and banquet information call NBCC-Edmonton (780) 425-0319 or visit [www.nbccedmonton.ca](http://www.nbccedmonton.ca)



NATIONAL BLACK COALITION OF CANADA-EDMONTON



**From THE FRATERNITY OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL  
GRAND LODGE OF ALBERTA AND JURISDICTION.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO NBCC-EDMONTON ON THE CELEBRATION  
OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2017.**

# Calendar of Events

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
WWW.NBCCEDMONTON.CA**

**Add your event for FREE!**

## **Black History Month Opening Ceremonies** *NBCC event*

Come celebrate the official kickoff to Black History Month 2017 with this free event at West Edmonton Mall! We'll have spoken word, entertainment and community vendor tables for you to engage with!

Saturday, January 28 @ Noon to 6:00 pm  
Official Opening with Dignitaries: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
New Cap Stage by HMV (West Edmonton Mall)  
Level 1 Entrance 55 – 56

## **AfroQuiz Silver Fundraising Gala**

CBC Radio Active's Portia Clark will be hosting as the master of ceremonies as we look back on 25 years of AfroQuiz, with the theme of the Sankofa.

Saturday, January 28 @ 6:00 pm  
La Cité Francophone, 8627 Rue Marie-Anne Gaboury  
Cost: \$65 - A table for 8 can be purchased for \$500  
Get your tickets (through Tix On The Square) early!

## **Black History Month Church Service**

*NBCC event*

This service is a celebration for all people.

Sunday, January 29 @ 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
St. Faith Anglican Church  
11725 – 93 Street NW  
Cost: FREE!

## **Do Not Resist: Film Screening & Panel Discussion**

Edmonton & Area chapters of Black Lives Matter and Amnesty International will co-host a film screening and panel discussion on the issue of police militarization.

Wednesday, February 1 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Garneau Cinema  
8712 - 109 Street NW

## **Connections, Conversations and Cocktails – A Meeting of Great Minds**

A networking event hosted by ABLAZE. Although our events are primarily targeted at the development and growth of black professionals, everyone is welcome.

Thursday, February 2 @ 5:45 pm  
Yellowhead Brewery  
10229 - 105 Street  
Cost: \$30

## **First official recognition of Black History Month at the Alberta Legislature**

A program of approximately 30-40 minutes with addresses from the Government of Alberta, leaders/members of all opposition parties and a significant member of the local African or Caribbean communities as well as some artistic performances.

Thursday, February 2 @ 6:00 pm  
Alberta Legislature  
10800 - 97 Avenue  
Cost: FREE!

## Co-op Basics Workshop

This is an excellent workshop for people who have an idea for a co-op, a business idea, or are looking for a solution to a community development challenge.

Thursday, February 2 @ 6:00 pm  
McCauley School  
9538 107 Avenue  
Cost: FREE!

## Black History Month Gospel Concert

**NBCC event**

This event showcases the best gospel music in the city! Gospel music is so closely tied to the past achievements and successes of black people in North America.

Saturday, February 11 @ 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium  
11455 87 Avenue NW  
Cost: \$25  
Tickets at Ticketmaster or call Joy at 780.298.7074  
email: nbccedmonton@gmail.com

## Trincan Steel Orchestra Youth Workshop

This free interactive workshop will give the youth a chance to learn songs on different steel pan instruments and learn about the history of steel pan.

Saturday, February 18 & 19 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Location: Crestwood Community Hall  
14325-96 Avenue  
Ages: 9 - 19 years old  
Cost: FREE!

## 5 Artists 1 Love Music Concert – 2017

This exclusive one-night engagement explores the evolution of Black Music as it left Africa and landed on the shores of North America. From soul to R&B, jazz, gospel, reggae and contemporary sounds it's all here.

Saturday, February 18 @ 7:30 pm  
Citadel Theatre  
9828 - 101A Avenue NW  
Costs: \$45+

## African Fashion Week

Luxure productions Ltd. is proud to host its 4th annual African Fashion Week in Edmonton. This event held annually to celebrate Black History Month with colours, celebrate the diversity of fashion and share the African culture and fashion.

Friday/Saturday February 24/25 @ 6:00 pm - 11:00pm  
The Sutton Place Hotel Edmonton  
10235 101 Street  
Cost: \$25 – \$90

## AfroQuiz – Jeopardy Style Game Show Competition for Kids

Jeopardy-style game show competition for kids of all ages celebrating the rich history of people of African and Caribbean descent around the globe.

Saturday, February 25 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Citadel Theatre  
9828 - 101A Avenue NW  
Cost: FREE!

## Black History Month Banquet & Awards of Excellence **NBCC event**

This event recognizes and honours individuals or groups in Alberta, who have made outstanding contributions to our community and society at large.

Saturday, March 11 @ 6:30 pm - 2:00 am  
Cocktails – 6:30 pm, Supper - 7:00 pm  
Chateau Louis Hotel, 11727 Kingsway Ave  
Cost: Adults: \$50, Seniors & Youth: \$40  
12 & Under: \$20, 4 & Under: Free  
Tickets: Joy 780-298-7074 or Carl 780-554-8955

## Barrow, Freedom Fighter – Historical Documentary Film Screening

The Barbados Canadian Association of Edmonton will be showing a historical documentary film called "BARROW".

Sunday, March 12 @ 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm  
Garneau Cinema  
8712 - 109 Street NW  
Cost: \$15

**VISIT [www.nbccedmonton.ca](http://www.nbccedmonton.ca)  
FOR A FULL LISTING OF ALL EVENTS**



**Youth Development Program**  
Trincan Steelband Music Society

# Steel pan Workshop

February 18 & 19, 2017, Ages 9-19  
Crestwood Community Hall  
14325-96 avenue  
10am - 4pm

This free interactive workshop will give the youth a chance to learn songs on different steel pan instruments and learn about the history of steel pan. They will get an understanding of how calypso/soca music translates into pan music, and view steel pan competitions during Panorama in Trinidad and Tobago

Other programs offered:

**Public speaking lessons :** March - April 2017  
Toastmasters International's Youth Leadership Program.  
Ages 11-17

**Soca/Calypso dance lessons:** June - August 2017  
Ages 8-19

**Music Studio lessons :** March - September 2017  
Engineering/production/editing/mixing/mastering.  
Ages 16-19



To register and for further details email:  
**[info@trincansteel.org](mailto:info@trincansteel.org)**

# A Face to Remember: Viola Desmond's Role in the Black Civil Rights Movement

Viola Desmond is a woman who has been making headlines her entire life-and beyond! She first started getting real attention in 1946 when she was arrested for refusing to be segregated at a theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Her refusal

to sit in the balcony section of the theatre, which was unofficially the Black section, resulted in her being dragged from the theatre, locked up in jail, and charged with refusing to pay a 1 cent theatre tax.

Nova Scotian newspapers took up her story and it became part of Canada's black civil rights movement. Her court case hit dead end after dead end, and she wouldn't be pardoned until 2010, which was years of her death, but it gave her family and supporters the satisfying resolution they had wanted for decades.

## Viola Desmond: Business

It's not just her story of injustice that made Viola a noteworthy Canadian woman, it was her determination to create opportunities for black women to learn and run businesses and fight discrimination. Here's her story:

Viola Desmond aspired to become a beautician, so she enrolled in one of the only institutions in Canada that accepted black students, the Field Beauty Culture School in Montreal. She went on to run beauty parlor at a time when such parlors were a centre of social contact within the black community.

Viola became a person with status and authority. With so many people looking up to her with high regard, she decided to teach and encourage other black women to follow her example. She opened the Desmond School of Beauty Culture, which became very successful and led to growth and employment of black women across the province of Nova Scotia. Black women who had been denied admission at other schools flocked to her school, which graduated as many as 15 students a year!

Because of her work, her story, and her influence, people were encouraged to fight discrimination, and segregation was legally ended in Nova Scotia in 1954. That means that Desmond got to see social change during her lifetime; Segregation ended 11 years before she died suddenly of a gastrointestinal hemorrhage at the age of 50.

## Public Apology and Commemoration

Unfortunately, despite many appeals, she was not pardoned of her crime from the New Glasgow theatre incident until 2010. You might not think that a pardon is a big deal, but what you may not realize is that posthumous pardons are extremely rare: She was the first person to be given a posthumous pardon in all of Canada!

That year, 2010, the government of Nova Scotia also publicly apologised and reaffirmed its commitment to Human Rights. A few years later, in 2015, the province declared the first Nova Scotia Heritage Day in her honour.

Viola made even more headlines recently when Canada Post launched a commemorative stamp with her image portrayed on it in 2012.

Then in February 2016, Desmond became the first woman of colour to be featured in a Heritage Minute where her story was told.

The next homage to this amazing woman will appear in your wallet in 2018 when Viola Desmond will be featured on the ten dollar bill! Out of 26,000 public submissions of 460 women, Desmond was chosen because she resonates with Canadians and reflects the diversity of Canada. Viola Desmond certainly deserves the honour.

Viola Desmond  
1914-1965



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2017

## OPENING CEREMONIES EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY JANUARY 28, 2017

12PM TO 6PM

1PM OFFICIAL OPENING WITH DIGNITARIES

WEST EDMONTON MALL,

NEWCAP RADIO STAGE BY HMV

## CHURCH SERVICE

SUNDAY JANUARY 29, 2017

3PM

ST. FAITH'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

11725 - 93 ST



**BOTH EVENTS ARE FREE!**

For more information contact:

WEST EDMONTON MALL 780-425-0319 or [info@nbccedmonton.ca](mailto:info@nbccedmonton.ca)

[WWW.NBCCEDMONTON.CA](http://WWW.NBCCEDMONTON.CA)



NATIONAL BLACK COALITION OF CANADA-EDMONTON

## Gospel Concert

Tickets available at  
Ticketmaster  
\$25

*Come to Edmonton's Finest Gospel Concert!*

*The Annual Black History Month 2017 Concert  
Featuring the Best Gospel Choirs & Singers in the City!*

Jubilee Auditorium

11455-87 Avenue, Edmonton

Saturday February 11, 2017 7:00 pm

For more information contact:

780-425-0319 or [info@nbccedmonton.ca](mailto:info@nbccedmonton.ca)

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



NATIONAL BLACK COALITION OF CANADA-EDMONTON



# Jesse Lipscombe

*"The racial slurs or the sexist jokes or jokes about the LGBTQ community, that's not OK. And when you hear it, instead of being quiet, make it awkward."*

## Racism in Downtown Edmonton

Jesse Lipscombe, an actor, producer and local business owner was recently targeted by racist slurs in downtown Edmonton. He was filming a public service announcement, which was ironically about Edmonton and how great it is to live here.

You've probably heard the story. It went viral and was the inspiration for the #makeitawkward campaign that swept Canada this fall:

Jesse was walking down the street when a car full of seemingly intoxicated men yelled racial slurs at him. Jesse went up to the car to confront them about what they'd said, and the cameras caught the whole thing. The drunks denied the slurs, but then drove off yelling more obscenities at him.

The video went viral and people were shocked that this happened in the year 2016... But police say this is a common occurrence! Apparently screaming slurs at people as you drive by is a fun hobby among the degenerates of our community.

## Racial Outbursts: A Common Occurrence that Needs to Stop!

Personally, Jesse says that he's had a lot of experiences with racism. **Chances are that you, the person reading this article, or someone you know has been the victim of a baseless verbal outburst against your ethnicity.**

Reakash Walters, an organizer with Black Lives Matter Edmonton said, "I don't think you have time to hear all the examples that I have of people who've experienced systemic, as well as just incidental, racism." This needs to stop!

## What the Make it Awkward Campaign is All About

The Make it Awkward campaign is a way to empower people to speak up about the everyday injustices and make racist attitudes a thing of the past.

"As Canadians, we'd like to think that those [racist] values don't exist in our community. But in the hearts of some people, they do, and they need to be challenged. It's time to have an awkward conversation about that," says Mayor Don Iveson.

Iveson goes on to say, "It's not something that is new, but it is something that we need to start realising collectively is an issue so that we can move forward on dealing with it."

At the heart of the Make it Awkward campaign is the 'public shaming' element. **We need to tell people publicly that it's not ok to be hateful and racist. These sentiments are outmoded and outdated, and the people who have these views need to have their views challenged.**

It's not just drunk guys yelling the N word from their cars, it's the little racist jokes your friends tell or the stereotypes your coworkers talk about. Whether it's blatant or subtle, we can't just let these comments slide.



Join @thelipscombe & @doniveson and take a stand against racism: [bit.ly/2c0NBsn](http://bit.ly/2c0NBsn)  
It's time to speak up and #MakeItAwkward



As for the Jesse Lipscombe incident, it's no longer just about the man in the car. Jesse never sought to track down or prosecute them. It's about the message and the movement.

***Let's create a movement that people can rally behind to create real changes in people's attitudes.***

***#MakeItAwkward***





  
**Overproof Foot Lounge**

**Sonia Richardson**  
*manager*

#103 10256 112 Street,  
 Edmonton, AB  
 T5K 1M4

**780 807 5735**

sonia@overprooffootlounge.com  
 www.overprooffootlounge.com

**What are  
 Essential Oils?**

Many different uses!  
**100% Pure Therapeutic Grade  
 Essential Oil Products**

To learn more, become an independent  
 distributor or purchase your own:  
 text/call Chrystal 780-975-9862

  
**black hair  
 spot**



[www.blackhairspot.com](http://www.blackhairspot.com)

**G.Q.  
 BARBER SHOP**

10115 - 157 Street Shop 780-705-3505  
 Edmonton, Alberta

**YVES SALON**  
*Yvette Mitchell*  
 PROFESSIONAL HAIRSTYLIST

Specializing in Weaves, Latches, Senegalese Twists,  
 Wedding Updos, Custom Made Wigs and Wig Styling and Maintenance  
 and Hair Extensions for hair loss due to cancer, baldness or alopecia.

Women • Men • Children

• Cut • Colour • Braids • Dread Locks • Relaxer • Perm • Hair Extensions •

ph: 780 604 0301 10340 - 134 Street, Edmonton AB

  
**North Star**

13202 - 118 Avenue  
 Edmonton, AB T5L 4N4  
 Tel: (780) 455-0777  
 Fax: (780) 453-6060  
 Cell: (780) 983-7615  
 E-Mail: okebanks@telus.net  
 www.OwenEbanks.com

  
**OWEN EBANKS**  
 REALTOR®


Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

  
**Saffron's  
 Caribbean  
 Delight**


Tel: (780) 474-9005


"Taste the  
 Difference  
 Quality Makes"

8155 - 112 Avenue  
 Edmonton, Alberta



**Barber Dre**

 587 982 2840

 Unit 1, 4433 118 ave,  
 Edmonton, Ab



Barbados Canadian Association of Edmonton  
is privileged to present for Black History Month the film



**"BARROW, Freedom Fighter"**  
at the Garneau Cinema,



**Sunday, March 12th, 2017 at 7 p.m. Admission \$15.00**

A historical documentary narrated by Errol Holder former U.S. Attorney General  
about the late

**Rt. Hon. Errol Walton Barrow, first Prime Minister of Barbados**

Produced in Barbados by Step by Step Films  
For the 50th Anniversary of Barbados Independence

For Tickets: [www.metrocinema.org](http://www.metrocinema.org) or call

Jackie: 780 481 4291 (west), Eveite: 780 476 2716 (east)

Veronica: 780 405 8700 (south) Paul: 780 909 1963 (north)

Email: [gaskinh@shaw.ca](mailto:gaskinh@shaw.ca)

**Island Grill**

**Ph. 780-761-1260 · Fax 780-761-1261**

**15203 Stony Plain Road**

**Specializing in Jamaican Cuisine**  
**Catering & Private Functions Available**



*Hair Flaire*  
Complete Styling for Men and Women

**Nancy, Senior Stylist**  
Unit 3, 4433 - 118 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5W 1A8  
Phone: 780.477.1051  
[www.hairflaire.ca](http://www.hairflaire.ca)

Hairweaves & Extensions • Perms • Relaxers • Colour



**Leak's  
Basement  
Waterproofing Inc.**

**Isaac**  
780.240.9463  
[leaksbasements.inc@gmail.com](mailto:leaksbasements.inc@gmail.com)

Foundation Repair  
Sump Pump  
Weeping Tile Installation  
Window Well Installation

**ENHS**



**EDMONTON NATURAL HAIR SHOW**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> annual**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**April 8 & 9, 2017**

**2nd annual**

**Edmonton Natural Hair Show**

**Workshops, Prizes, Swags, Demos and More**

**NEW this year kids corner & live contests**

[www.EdmontonNaturalHairShow.com](http://www.EdmontonNaturalHairShow.com)



**JOHN A. YEBOAH**

**B.SC., B.Comm.**

**Specializing in:**  
**Life Insurance**  
**Critical Illness**  
**Disability Insurance**  
**Health & Dental Plans**  
**Mortgage Insurance**  
**Wealth Management**

*Independent Insurance &  
Life Insurance Broker*  
**37 Lakewood Village**  
**Edmonton, AB T6K 2B3**

**Cell: 780-802-3757**  
**Office: 780-465-2033**  
[joyeb@telus.net](mailto:joyeb@telus.net)



# George Rogers

Councilor, Mayor, MLA  
of Leduc from 1992-2015

George Rogers arrived in Leduc Alberta in September 1975, and started Grade 11 at Leduc Senior High. He was scrawny, talked funny, wore bell-bottom dress pants, and he looked nothing like the other boys in the school. He was ridiculed for just about everything. He may have been an outcast, but he knew how to fit in.

A year later (with the help of the same boys who ridiculed him) he was elected President of the Students Union. George would graduate and go on to earn an Accounting

Diploma from NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) in 1980. He would later earn a certificate in Local Government Studies from the University of Alberta. George worked in the oil industry as a successful accountant, and joined the City of Leduc as Accountant/Assistant Treasurer, and served two years as Municipal Administrator/Assistant Town Manager for the Town of Redcliff.

In 1992, George returned to Leduc to start a 12-Year Real estate career with Royal LePage; he would also run for a seat on Leduc City Council in October of that year. George would best 9 other candidates, and go on to serve two very successful terms as a councilor. In 1998 George ascended to the Mayor's chair with a record number of votes, becoming Alberta's second black mayor, the city's youngest ever mayor at age 40. This was significant, as there were only ever a handful of black families in Leduc. George would joke after his victory, "that he got in because of the black vote...all six of them".

The city prospered under Rogers' leadership, and grew from a population of 13,500 in 1992 to over 30,000 today. During his municipal tenure, Rogers also served as a ten-year Board Member of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and as its president from 2001 to 2003, and an Alberta representative on the national board of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. For his work advocating for Alberta's Villages Towns and Cities, he was recognized by Alberta Venture magazine as one of the "Alberta's 50 Most Influential People" in 2003.

In 2004, Rogers was encouraged by then Premier Ralph Klein to seek the nomination to run as the Progressive Conservative candidate in his home riding of Leduc Beaumont Devon; a tall order considering that he had to defeat the incumbent member to do so. After a very heated contest, Rogers secured the nomination, and subsequently won the seat against a former school board chair representing the Liberals by over 3400 votes. George would win two more elections over a 10-year span (one by almost 7000 votes). During his tenure in the Legislature, he would serve on and chair a number of committees, finishing his career as the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees.

George was a tireless worker in support of his colleagues, his leaders, and most importantly the people he served, not only as a legislator, but also by advocating for a variety of needs and issues, including the building of six schools; he also took great pride in mentoring young people. George has been featured in the books "Who's Who in Black Canada", and, "Jamaicans in Canada ...When Ackee Meets Cod Fish". He is a Life Member of the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association, and was recognized by his Alma Mater NAIT, as one of its Top 50 Grads of its first 50 Years.

George is very proud of his humble Jamaican roots, and the guidance of his parents Hazel and Hal Rogers (Deceased); his favourite saying is borrowed from Hal Rogers, who said,

"If you want good, you nose have to run" (nothing good comes without hard work). He is the proud father of three adult children, and the grandfather of a very special little boy.



# The **AFRICA CENTRE**

6670 129 Avenue, Edmonton



*Unity*

*Cooperation*

*Integrity*



*Responsiveness*

*Integration*

*Diversity*

*Heritage*

*Inclusive*

Vision: To establish an Africa Centre that will serve as the hub of the community and provide an atmosphere which is welcoming, shows respect for diversity and support members of all interest and abilities.

We are a community based not-for-profit organization. Contact us for more information regarding programs & services we deliver to the African communities in Edmonton.

**In addition to providing direct programs and services, we connect people and groups to the resources they need.**

Drop-in to see us, or call (780) 455-5423  
[www.africacentre.ca](http://www.africacentre.ca)

***"Prosperity through hard work and co-operation!"***

*The following article, by Frankline Agbor for Diversity Magazine titled "Is this the Price for Being a Black Man Walking the Streets of Edmonton?" has been adapted for clarity and length.*

# Racial Profiling

## is still present in Edmonton

On an evening that was refreshing in temperature, low in traffic, and inviting for a walk, I got an unpleasant surprise. I was on my way to the Diversity Magazine office from the annual general meeting and award event of the Boys & Girls Clubs/Big Brothers Big Sisters (Edmonton chapter) on September 6, 2016 when my evening was interrupted by some racial profiling.

It should have been a 15 minute walk, but it turned into an hour-long nightmare.

I had Kemoh Mansaray, President of Sierra Leone Association of Alberta, on the phone. He was giving me fantastic updates on their upcoming elections here in Edmonton.

I noticed a police SUV concealed behind a car. I didn't think much about it even as the siren grew louder and louder, clearly headed in my direction.

I continued on my way thinking they had sprung to action because of a call or something, but then I heard a strong voice say, "Stop! Get on the ground. Put your hands up."

I almost ignored the orders. Then I heard the officer say, "We are looking for a black man with a long black jacket having a gun and you fit his description. We have to search you."

This was no joke. Two police officers jumped out of the SUV and walked toward me with their guns out. I ended my call, put the phone in my pocket, and prepared myself for their orders. I thought, "I just have to obey them and see how this goes."

They said, "Get down on your knees." I did. "Put your hands up." I did. The orders continued until I was up against the side of their SUV while they searched me. I silently watched as they pulled out my cards, keys, and receipts. Their search through my bag revealed my camera, Diversity Magazines, pens, papers, and notebooks--but no gun.

## They Realized They Got the Wrong Guy

After the search, their demeanor softened and they started to question me, asking where I worked and not seeming to believe me when I told them I work for Diversity Magazine.

When the tension died away, I asked the officers why they put me in handcuffs before searching me.

One of the officers replied, "Our job is dangerous, so we have to take precautions. I hope you understand that we did not target you."

I picked up my things and asked the officers for their names and badge numbers. They grudgingly gave them to me. I felt like (and still feel) there was a racial flavour to this story, and I wanted to follow-up with how the officers treated me:

I had a gun pointed at me, then was searched and questioned while I was in handcuffs. It was humiliating and uncalled for.

I had not committed a crime. I wasn't acting suspiciously and I was targeted despite an extremely vague description: "a black man with a long black jacket."

## We all Deserve Equal Treatment

I question the officers' heavy-handed tactics with someone who was clearly just going about his daily business, carrying a professional's bag, and talking on the phone. Someone terrorizing the neighbourhood, running around with a gun probably isn't going to be taking a leisurely stroll and chatting on the phone.

I feel like the colour of my skin played a big part in the how the officers treated me, and that is unacceptable.

People of all races deserve equal treatment and freedom from racial profiling.



# DAVID SHEPHERD:

*David Shepherd is set to bring Black History Month to Alberta's Legislature.*



Albertans have been celebrating Black History Month for decades, but this is the first year it will be officially recognized by the Alberta Legislature.

David Shepherd, MLA for Edmonton-Centre (currently the only sitting MLA who is black), has played a big part in making Black History Month official this year because he believes it's vital to honour black history.

As Shepherd puts it, "It's important to recognize the rich history and diversity of black heritage in the province. [It's also important to recognize that] the African and Caribbean community are part of our province and they're great contributors."

Over the last year, Shepherd has invested a significant amount of time in working with Edmonton's African and Caribbean communities. Through that work he has learned about the history and experience of Albertans of African descent – a history that goes back over 100 years

"Diversity is a real strength in our province and adds a lot to our communities."

On February 2, 2017, Black History Month will continue with an event at the Alberta Legislature. It will feature speakers from the government, the opposition, and leaders of the African and Caribbean communities.

Shepherd is also petitioning for an official Black Heritage Day, like the Ukrainian Heritage Day Act, which was approved late 2016.

BRINGING YOU 11 YEARS OF FIERCE ART AND SOUL

# 5 ARTISTS 1 LOVE

ART | ENTERTAINMENT | CULTURE | LOCAL FARE

5ARTISTS1LOVE.COM

FREE ART RECEPTION AT THE  
ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA JAN 28/17 4-7PM

ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA  
2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE  
RUNS FROM JAN 21 - FEB 14 /17

U OF A AUGUSTANA CAMPUS LIBRARY  
4901 46 AVE, CAMROSE  
RUNS FROM FEB 1 - 28 /17

SCOTT GALLERY  
10411 -124 ST  
RUNS FROM FEB 1 - 28 /17

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALBERTA ARTS COUNCIL





**Western Carnival Development Association Presents:**

# **CARIWEST 2017**

**Cariwest Festival – Caribbean Arts Festival**

**Friday August 11th to  
Sunday August 13th, 2017**

**Cariwest is one of Edmonton's most colourful and vibrant festivals! It was developed more than 30 years ago by the Western Carnival Development Association to fill the need of Caribbean immigrants to share their Carnival Culture, Music, and Cuisine with Canadians. Today, Cariwest is proud to be a member of a worldwide community that makes Carnival a MAJOR tourist attraction. Cariwest Festival involves thousands of dedicated artists, participants of various backgrounds, volunteers and generous sponsors. It is a unique annual even that attracts more than 50,000 people over a span of three days in downtown Edmonton.**

For more information please visit:

***[www.cariwest.ca](http://www.cariwest.ca)***

shinefm.com



# MUSIC THAT SPEAKS TO YOUR HEART

**Shine**  
**105.9 FM**

Safe & Fun for the Whole Family!



**Proud Sponsor  
of NBCC Gospel  
Night Edmonton**





# EDWARD ANDREWS

## *A Man's Dream Becomes Reality*

He started with just \$600 on him. He slept in public parkades and had not a dime to pay for his trip to Edmonton from Fairview, Alberta.

Today, traffic solutions expert, Edward Andrews has become successful in Alberta by providing traffic safety solutions--from parking areas to highways. He's hired and trained hundreds of people in the process.

"Money is a tool to be used to make money, not to spend foolishly," he said. "Dreams can

become a reality in Canada because the opportunities are here," in an interview to Diversity Magazine. Edward Andrews was born in the western Ghanaian Region of Takoradi but was raised in Accra. After attempting to find post secondary education in Germany, he ended up in Alberta, where he attended Fairview College and studied agriculture with hopes to return to Ghana one day and do mechanized farming.

Andrews graduated from Fairview College in 1976 and moved to Edmonton. He hardly knew anybody in Edmonton but it was the closest place to Fairview and best of all, he had a free ride.

In the beginning, life was full of challenges. With no money, he slept in public parkades or hostels for the homeless.

Andrews overcame his challenges by working in construction, and by 1979, he had a wife and a baby. In 1981, Andrews founded a pavement marking company, Swerdna Services Ltd. which operated as AAA Striping and Seal Coating Service.

Today, a 34 year old company, Swerdna Services operating as AAA Striping, is a traffic safety service provider. The company has grown over the years and has proven to be "recession-proof."

With a diverse group of employees from all cultures and ethnic groups, Andrews and his team work an average long hours in a given day, with sometimes little to no social life.

In 2014, he suffered a major loss in his family and business. His eldest son, Kwame, who was the president of the company, tragically passed away. His younger son, Dorian was able to step in to run the company after being a Division Manager.

The Andrews family and their company, AAA Striping, support many charities in the city and province. Organizations such as Black Stars of Edmonton Soccer Team, Kidney Foundation, Aramuda Development International Foundation, Nile Valley Foundation, Winifred Stewart Foundation, and Edmonton Food Bank.

When Andrews looks back and sees how far he has come since being new to Canada 34 years ago. He is grateful for the opportunities we have here. He believes that with a good plan and the determination to succeed, one can overcome many challenges.

Andrews never gave up; he was persistent with his work and believed that failure was never an option. His refusal to quit helped him to build a pavement marking business that generates seven figures each year.

He's happy to hire anyone who's serious about entering the pavement marking field, but he believes in hard work. He tells his trainees, "I can take you to the dance, but I can't dance for you!" (I can show you the way but I can't do it for you.)

# Donna Chen

*Tim Hortons*  
OWNER/OPERATOR FRANCHISEE



“Purpose Driven” is what best describes the life of Donna Chen. She is particularly known for turning challenges into opportunities and exemplifies the age old adage of putting service above self. Donna hails from the pearl of the Caribbean – Jamaica, where her journey began from very humble beginnings in the rural villages there. Through her determined and rebounding spirit, she has propelled into becoming a successful entrepreneur in Canada. For well over 30 years, Donna Chen has occupied several offices at varying levels in the service industry; she has made her indelible mark on several organizations and is highly regarded for her quality of service and astonishing ability to reform organizations.

In 2006, Donna realized her long-time goal of owning her own business. She became an owner and operator of a Tim Hortons - Canada’s leading and most recognized brand. Starting with a single store in Invermere, BC, she now owns three restaurants in the Leduc area. A firm believer in setting clear goals, she attributes her success to being diligent and striving for continuous improvement; as such a typical day in the life of Donna commences at 4 a.m. and ends when she has exhausted her daily to do lists or simply when she is utterly exhausted, then the cycle continues. Her tenets centers around her vision for quality service, dedication, and driving innovation. The key ingredient for the success she has attained over the years, she says, is service; service to our fellow men and service to society. She has learnt that the more we serve others, the more successful we become.

She believes that whilst many strive to be successful, it is important that the drive doesn’t end there. In fact, success should be used as a platform to build competencies in others around you – this way success becomes perpetual. With this as her mantra, she continuously look for opportunities to give back to society. Back in 2009, she was one of first franchisee owners in Canada to utilise the Foreign Workers programme. She created an opportunity for hard working Jamaicans back home to come to Canada and build the economy here. She served as a Rotarian in Invermere, BC, and has done significant work with the Family Resource Centre where she serves on the board of directors. The desire to support women facing particular challenges in our communities is very important to her. She currently serves on the board of Riseup Society Alberta in Leduc, whose goal is to bring hope and healing to those impacted by domestic abuse as well as to educate and empower communities to end abuse in all its forms. Her warm-heartedness has led her to empower people to lead better lives. She also serves as an Ambassador for Tim Horton’s Foundation which enables over 19,000 children to attend summer camp each year.

Donna has a profound love for art and she enjoys travelling, doing outdoor activities and reading a good book. She is quick to remind you of the tough lessons learnt as well as the successes. Her focus continues to be the possibilities and not problems. This mindset has aided in cementing her in the Diaspora’s annals of time as a strong black woman. She believes that as a black woman one ought not to be complacent but ought to evolve as much as the universe might permit. Her management ethos is to build goodwill by empowering every member of her team in order for them to grow in confidence and reach their full potential. A quote she often shares -

*“The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new”.*

# ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT **YOUR CAREER?**



## **THIS CAREER CHANGES EVERYTHING:**

### **YOUR COMMUNITY**

Reduce Edmonton's crime, solve community issues and change people's lives for the better.

### **YOUR SKILLS**

Learn skills no other job can offer from investigating a crime scene to working undercover.

### **YOUR CAREER PATH**

With over 100 different career options, you'll get a lot of variety throughout your career.

### **YOUR TRAINING**

Paid training starting at over \$65,000 with access to in-house and external courses for ongoing knowledge and skill development.

EDMONTON  
**POLICE**  
SERVICE

**NOW HIRING**

Join **EPS.ca**

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**



Zeidler Hall (Citadel Theatre) • 1 PM

Register at [www.AfroQuiz.ca](http://www.AfroQuiz.ca)

**Win! Prizes! Tablets! Books! And More!**



CC  
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license

**CCACH**  
Council of Canadians of  
African & Caribbean Heritage