

# 2020 Black History Month

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



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



# Westmount Jewellers

For over 30 years, our family has been dedicated to providing you with excellence!

## COME SEE US FOR:

- ◆ Diamond Jewellery ◆ Custom Jewellery
- ◆ Jewellery Repair & Restoration
- ◆ Watch Repair ◆ Engraving
- ◆ Appraisal & Estate Services

[info@westmountjewellers.com](mailto:info@westmountjewellers.com)

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



# 780-451-7660

# www.nbccedmonton.ca

CELEBRATING

YEARS OF  
**YOU**



## APRIL 25 & 26, 2020

1-6 P.M.

BOYLE STREET PLAZA 9538 103A AVE, EDMONTON, AB

## SHOP. LEARN. MINGLE.

EVERYONE WELCOME

- WORKSHOPS
- INFO SESSIONS
- PANEL DISCUSSIONS
- LIVE DEMOS
- BARBER BATTLE
- HAIRSTYLING COMPETITION

- RUNWAY HAIR SHOW
- SWAG BAGS
- DOOR PRIZES
- LIVE PERFORMANCES
- FASHION SHOW

## BUY TIX ON EVENTBRITE.CA

\$10 EARLY BIRD BY FEBRUARY 15

\$15 REGULAR

\$20 AT DOOR

\*\*NATURAL HAIR DOCUMENTARY FILMING AT THE SHOW



## EDMONTON NATURAL HAIR SHOW



[edmonton\\_NaturalHairShow](https://www.instagram.com/edmonton_NaturalHairShow)



[Edmonton Natural Hair Show](https://www.facebook.com/EdmontonNaturalHairShow)



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

#enhs2020 | #enhsA15

Prime Minister's Message-----	4
Premier's Message-----	5
Mayor's Message-----	6
Cultural Minister's Message-----	7
MLA David Shepherd's Message-----	8
Hon. Kaycee Madu-----	9
Police Chief's Message-----	10
NBCC Executives-----	11
Awards Of Excellence 2019-----	12
Dr. Bukola Salami-----	14
Andrew Parker-----	16
Rawle Carter-----	17
Dr. Habibi Mohamud-----	19
Calendar Of Events-----	20
Calendar Of Events-----	21
Keenan Pascal-----	22
Sharon Long-----	23
Coleen Neita-----	24
King's Barber-----	26
Dr. Mertella Montague-----	27
Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots-----	28
The Melisizwe Brothers-----	31
Dr. Jennifer R. Kelly-----	33
McNiel-Inyani Keri-----	34
Donna Chen-----	35
Bishop Orrain G.Simpson-----	36
Jeannette Austin-Odina-----	37
Dr. John Akabutu-----	38





PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada –Edmonton Chapter, as you celebrate Black History Month.



Black History Month offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the history and heritage of Black Canadians. The activities and events planned for this month give Canadians of all backgrounds a chance to recognize the many contributions Black Canadians have made to our nation in all fields of endeavour, and to honour our rich cultural diversity.

I would like to commend the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada –Edmonton Chapter for their commitment to fostering fellowship in the community. You can take pride in your efforts to strengthen Canada's multicultural fabric.

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

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



# MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to join with all Albertans in celebrating Black History Month.

Knowing our past helps us to understand and appreciate our present. When we take time to reflect on the people of colour who came to this region seeking opportunity and enterprise, even before Alberta came to be, it is easy to see how their experiences helped shape our province. The challenges faced by black Albertans are sobering, and their triumphs are inspirational. Their legacy is an indelible part of our provincial story, as are the contributions of all those of diverse African, African-American and Caribbean heritage who call Alberta home today.

The events taking place throughout this month are a welcome celebration of Alberta's black community and of the multiculturalism that continues to enhance our society. I am grateful to the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton for its efforts to support black Canadians and help create a bright future for our province and country.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked hard to make Black History Month possible. Best wishes for a memorable celebration.

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

Hon Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta





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



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

Officially established in Canada in 1995, Black History Month celebrates the heritage of immigrants 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. 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 that are a part of the social fabric of Edmonton as a whole. As a city that thrives on diversity, we would be remiss to not recognize that Black history is integral to Edmonton's progress.

My thanks to the National Black Coalition of Canada's Edmonton chapter and all those who recognize Black History Month. You are helping to create a more vibrant, welcoming city for us all.

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



ALBERTA  
CULTURE, MULTICULTURALISM AND STATUS OF WOMEN  
*Office of the Minister*

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

As Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, I am honoured to be celebrating Black History Month and the many contributions of the black community in Alberta.

Canadians of African and Caribbean heritage have been a part of our province's story for more than a century, dating back to the first black farmers who settled here in the early 1900s. The many events taking place this month give Edmontonians a chance to discover the challenges and triumphs of their history.

Although February is a celebration of the past, it's also an opportunity to learn more about the black Albertans of today, and explore how we can help people of all backgrounds succeed.

My sincere thanks to the National Black Coalition of Canada Edmonton for the work they do to support black Albertans in all walks of life, from business owners and professionals, to community builders and students.

I look forward to taking this month to create relationships and foster cross-cultural understanding, so we can build a foundation for all Albertans to work together.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Leela Sharon Aheer  
Minister





On behalf of all my colleagues in the Alberta NDP Caucus, Alberta's Official Opposition, it's my pleasure to join the Edmonton chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada in celebrating Black History Month in 2020.

Throughout my career as an MLA 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. And as someone who didn't grow up with any significant connection to my own Black heritage, I've deeply appreciated the opportunity to learn from them and, through them, be able to have the opportunity to truly embrace my roots.

That's why, in 2017, I was proud to work with Premier Notley and Minister Miranda to have Alberta become the fourth province in Canada to officially recognize & celebrate February as Black History Month. And that's why I've been proud to support our government in forming an Anti-Racism Advisory Council, providing community grants for projects that raise awareness and understanding of racism and its impact on Albertans, creating a Provincial Hate Crimes Unit and offering grants to organizations that support women from diverse communities to take on positions of leadership and run for political office.

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 thrive as members of communities across Alberta.

Happy Black History Month 2020!

David Shepherd  
MLA, Edmonton-Centre



## **Hon. Kaycee Madu**

### **Building Our Canada**

### **Connecting Communities**



Kaycee (Kelechi) Madu was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta on April 16th, 2019, as the MLA for Edmonton-South West.

He was born into poverty in the southeastern part of Nigeria, just a few years after the Biafran Civil War. After spending his youth working on his family farm, he moved to Lagos, where he attended the University of Lagos and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws Honours degree. It was in university that Kaycee met his future wife, Emem. In 2005, after he was already a practicing lawyer, Kaycee and Emem, who is also a lawyer, migrated to Canada in search of a better life.

In Canada, Kaycee worked for Legal Aid Alberta and volunteered with the Edmonton Community Legal Centre and the Lawyer Referral Program of the Law Society of Alberta. He also worked in the public service, working as a senior technical advisor for the Government of Alberta with a focus on legislative and regulatory reviews, operational and strategic public policies, issues management, and stakeholder consultation. In 2009, alongside a team he worked with in the public service, Kaycee was awarded the Premier's Award of Excellence in the bronze medal category. Kaycee and Emem eventually opened their own law firm in Edmonton called Tisel Law Office.

Kaycee continues to volunteer with Alberta's African communities. He is very proud of the history of African and Afro-Caribbean people in Canada, which dates back to pre-confederation, and he wants to make sure Alberta's Black communities are healthy, vibrant, and successful for generations to come.

On April 30th, 2019 Kaycee was appointed as Alberta's Municipal Affairs Minister. On this day, he became the first African-born provincial minister in Canadian history.

Kaycee and his wife Emem are raising their three children in southwest Edmonton, where Kaycee is active in his local schools and churches. Kaycee is a passionate soccer fan, and has enjoyed passing his love of soccer down to his children, who all play.

As a Nigerian immigrant, Kaycee has lived the Alberta dream. Now, he is committed to ensuring that dream is alive and well for others.



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



On behalf of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), I am honoured to be a part of Edmonton's Black History Month.

February is a time to show respect and appreciation for the diversity within our city. I am proud to be a member of an inclusive police service and city, which respects all people and encourages citizens to share their cultures and traditions.

I encourage all citizens to participate in and experience the numerous events held in our city during Black History Month. These events are important for all communities to come together and learn about the history of black Canadians who shaped our city and country.

I want to thank the National Black Coalition of Canada's Edmonton chapter for organizing and hosting these educational and celebratory events each year.

We must learn from our past to forge a better tomorrow; and your police service is proud to develop our city's future with you.

Thank you, God bless, and stay safe.

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

Dale R. McFee  
Chief of Police

# Welcome to Black History Month 2020!

## VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

The National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton (NBCC) is very proud to be a sponsor of the celebrations for Black History Month 2020. We are pleased to highlight the decisive contributions that Blacks in Canada have made in building a country that is enriched today, by its blending of cultures and by its diversity.

Within our Edmonton community, NBCC acknowledges the original builders of the organization including and not limited to Misters: Kingsley Gilliam, Arthur Clarke, Michael Broodhagen, and Alwyn Brightley. They paved the way for NBCC's existence, symbolizing their contributions and dedication to building black communities in Canada.

The theme for Black History Month 2020 is "Building Our Canada: Past, Present, Future". There are many black men and women that have paved the way for our Black Canadian History through courage, determination and perseverance. We respect and honour their contributions while continuing to build on their legacy.

NBCC is proud of all individuals who work in our communities to create integration, cultural diversity, and social cohesion. This year we have chosen to highlight some of our everyday community champions, who are continuing work that begun over 200 years ago. The booklet articles will show how they make a difference in both professional and community leadership to create a legacy of greatness in Building Our Canada.

NBCC hopes that their work will inspire black youths on the importance of education, and the impact they can make as strong, ambitious and prospective leaders in our communities.

Respectfully,

Joy Thomas (Vice President)

National Black Coalition of Canada, Edmonton Chapter

## NBCC EXECUTIVES 2019/2020

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

President	Vacant
Vice President	Joy Thomas
Treasurer	Constance Thomas / Clem Alleyne
Secretary	Carl Wilson
Youth Representative	Keenan Pascal
Programs/Activities Coordinator	Desmond Francis / Joanne James
Public Relations Officer	Nigel Williams

# AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS - 2019

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



## MARY BURLIE AWARD WINNER :

**Friends and Neighbours Social Club & Sickle Cell Foundation of Alberta**

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

## DR. JOHN AKABUTU AWARD :

**Ms. Chantal Sungi Lembagusala & Ms. Reeve Agyepong**

Demonstrating Resiliency Against Challenging Odds



## FIL FRASER AWARD :

**Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots & Mr. Ahmed "Knowmadic" Ali**

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

## CLARENCE "BIG" MILLER AWARD :

**Mr. Gabriel Uduka**

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



## YOUTH (NBCC) AWARD :

**Ms. Belen Samuel & Mr. Adrian Bruff**

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

## PETER "SUGARFOOT" CUNNINGHAM AWARD :

**Ms. Linda Dorcas Kemigisha**

Individuals or groups from the Black Community who have demonstrated excellence in athletics and / or sports performance



## ROSALIND SMITH AWARD - PROFESSIONAL :

**Dr. Bukola (Oladunni) Salami**

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

**NBCC EDMONTON PRESENTS**

**\$25**

# *Gospel Concert*

**COME TO EDMONTON'S FINEST GOSPEL CONCERT**  
The Annual Black History Month 2020 Musical Extravaganza  
Featuring the Best Gospel Choirs & Singers in the City!

**Sat Feb 8th @ 7pm** - For more information email: [info@nbccedmonton.ca](mailto:info@nbccedmonton.ca)  
Buy from Ticketmaster @ 1-855-985- 5000  
or call **KEN 780-915-1837** or **CARL 780-554-8955**

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

**Jubilee Auditorium**  
11455-87 Avenue



## **Black History Month 2020** *Banquet & Awards of Excellence*

Saturday, March 28, 2020  
Chateau Louis Hotel: 11727 Kingsway Ave  
Cocktails – 6:30 pm, Supper – 7:00 pm  
Tickets: **\$60**

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

### **The Award Categories are**

- Mary Burlie Award
- James Bell Award
- Fil Fraser Award
- Clarence "Big" Miller Award
- Youth (NBCC) Award
- Peter "Sugarfoot" Cunningham Award
- Rosalind Smith Award Professional
- Rosalind Smith Award Business
- Noel Chen Trade Award
- Dr. John Akabutu Award



For 2020 Nomination forms or ticket information contact: 780-425-0319  
or [info@nbccedmonton.ca](mailto:info@nbccedmonton.ca) or visit [www.nbccedmonton.ca/awards](http://www.nbccedmonton.ca/awards)

# DR. BUKOLA SALAMI

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## THE POWER OF RESEARCH



Dr. Bukola Salami received her BSc in Nursing from the University of Windsor. She went on to complete her Masters of Nursing and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto where she received several awards during her doctoral program.

In January 2014, she became a tenure track Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Nursing, University of Alberta. Based on her outstanding achievements, she received early tenure and promotion to Associate Professor in 2018

Dr. Salami has had a measurable and sustained impact in the area of immigrant health research completing over 40 funded research projects in that area. Her current research program focuses on the health and social impacts of immigration policies in Canada, including: African immigrants' health, mental health of immigrants, health and well-being immigrant children, and well-being of temporary foreign workers. She currently leads a network of researchers across four continents (9 countries), focused on the well-being of African migrant children in the context of migration and displacement.

She organized the first stakeholder engagement session on African immigrant parenting and mental health in Alberta. The event brought 150 key stakeholders together to deliberate on strategies for improving the health and social outcomes of African immigrant parents and children in Canada.

In 2018, she was invited to join the Public Health Agency of Canada working group researching how to improve the mental health of Black Canadians. Based on her work in the Black community in Canada, she was selected as one of 100 most accomplished black women in Canada in 2018.

# MELANISTIC

LIFE IN BLACK

*Welcome to*

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

**5 ARTISTS**

**1 LOVE**

*The Reel  
Film Noir*

**COMING  
SOON!**

MELANISTICMAGAZINE.COM

**TO MY YOUNG, BLACK  
ENTREPRENEURS**

A LOOK AT FIVE OF YEG'S YOUNG  
ENTREPRENEURS ON THE RISE

VOL.1

# ANDREW PARKER

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## LEADING YOUTH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



Andrew Parker's life could have gone in a very different direction. The born and raised Edmontonian admits that, in high school, he was on the wrong path – and the positive influence of a mentor, Coach Thom Elniski, changed everything. When Elniski passed away in 2004, Parker made the decision to go back to school and get an After Degree in Education to follow in his footsteps. “I kept thinking Elniski was such a huge influence in my life and now he's gone from the north Edmonton community – would there be someone like that who would be incredibly selfless, and help kids out in the community?”

Now, that someone is Parker. He teaches and coaches at M.E. Lazerte, where he went to high school, and is the Director of Pride of the Northside – a Basketball Tournament that celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2018. For Parker, nurturing and promoting his community is a huge priority – and he wants the youth he mentors to feel the same way. “The primary goal of the tournament was giving these kids something they could call their own and take pride in – hence the name,” says Parker. Initially, it was a passion project he was paying out-of-pocket to run. Once Pride of the Northside started growing, Parker began making donations to the Stollery Children's Hospital in the tournament's name in honour of his late friend David Adomako-Ansah. Adomako-Ansah, who passed in 2013 from complications related to lupus, created the Dunk on Disease foundation and was a huge supporter of Parker's tournament.

Parker is all about building community and connections, whether that involves his time coaching and mentoring players on the court, his work as a motivational speaker or his volunteer time with the Black History Month Awards. Parker is building our Canada by leading youths in the right direction through sport, and helping to establish community pride. Parker's simple message that sums up his mission – “each one, reach one, teach one.”

-Adrianna Szenthe Avenue Magazine Edmonton

# RAWLE CARTER

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## FOR THE HEALTH OF IT



Rawle Carter is a community builder and health care professional with over 40 years of experience, including 10 years of professional and university education. He is a Clinical Mental Health Specialist and International Clinical Researcher, and has worked in many different capacities- as a nurse, a manager, administrator, and clinical instructor.

For the last 18 years Rawle has been dedicated to working in Clinical Research (8 years with international pharmaceutical companies). His research includes working with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) – primarily developing the MRI as diagnostic tool for people with psychiatric disorders, women’s health (acute stress disorders and reproductive issues) and also recently started research on Parkinson’s disease and Dementia.

With his research team, Rawle has co-authored and published over 12 articles in some of the most distinguished Psychiatric, Biomedical and Scientific magazines in the research industry. He has received several awards and citations; both professionally and at the community level, for his outstanding work in the research and clinical field.

Rawle is actively involved in the community, volunteering at many local and international events. He has served on the executive board of the local Barbados Association of Edmonton for over 10 years, and was a co-founding member of Carican- a multi-faith, multi-church, multi-cultural community choir that served Edmonton for 10 years. He served for 6 years on the board of his local church (New Hope) and 6 years as a Board Member on the College of Registered Psychiatric Nurses of Alberta.

In 2017, he was a Royal Bank of Canada National semi-finalist, as one of the top 25 immigrants who have made a significant contribution to Canada.

In October 2015 Rawle was appointed by the government of Barbados to be the Honorary Consul of Barbados to Edmonton. This is a significant recognition for his outstanding work professionally and his dedicated, commendable community service.

Rawle is married to Seeta, the father of two children, and the proud grandfather of three.

Serving Western Canada Since 1992

## SPICE ISLAND LTD.

East & West Indian Groceries

### Retail & Wholesale

Indian, Fijian, Jamaican Groceries,  
Dried Fruits, Nuts, Lentils, Spices,  
Naan, Samosas, Hot Sauces & more...

### Store Hours :

Mon to Sat. 10.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.  
Sun. & Holiday 11.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.  
Tuesday - Closed

## Hitendra Pithva

10058-163 Street Edmonton,  
Alberta T5P 3N4

780.489.2738

780.489.2741

hbpithva@hotmail.com



## Paradise Halal Meat Market Import & Export Abdul Rahman Fayad



Hamze (Owner)

Abdul (Owner), cell: 780-994-3232

T: 780-476-0233 / F: 780-377-0163

9006-132Ave Edmonton, AB T5E-0Y2

abdulfayad\_51@hotmail.com



# BLISS

theblissband.com | blissbandyeg@gmail.com | @blissbandyeg

## Island Grill

Ph. 780.761.1260

Fax 780.761.1261

15203 Stony Plain Road  
Edmonton, AB

Specializing in **JAMAICAN CUISINE**  
Catering & Private Functions Available



# DR. HABIBI MOHAMUD

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## PASSION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE



Dr. Habiba Mohamud - community builder, mother, and researcher - was born to a family of nomadic farmers in rural Kenya where access to essential services such as education, health care, and clean drinking water were extremely limited. At seven years old, Habiba began raising livestock to help with the family income, and balanced schoolwork with caring for her elderly

grandmother, who raised her following the death of her mother at childbirth. As a young adult in Kenya she earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture before relocating to Edmonton in 2001. She completed a Master's degree in Rural Sociology and a Ph.D. in Resource Sociology from the University of Alberta.

A researcher at heart, Dr. Mohamud has spent the last 11 years in public service contributing to policy development for the Government of Alberta. In 2018, she was honoured to receive the Alberta Premier's Public Service Award for her work in the area of public policy innovation. Dr. Mohamud holds membership in the prestigious Golden Key International Honour Society and continues to collaborate with the University of Alberta on Immigration Health Research and Gender Relations in African Immigrant Families.

As a co-founder of the non-profit organization Partners for Humanity Foundation, she provides leadership in facilitating intercultural reconciliation and relationship building, as well as facilitating out-of-school programs for immigrant youth. She is fluent in English, Swahili and Somali, and devotes much of her time volunteering with community and grassroots organizations assisting refugee youth and immigrant families with their settlement in Edmonton

Edmonton has been home for Habiba and her three daughters since 2001. She is many things to many people—tireless, passionate for public service, role model, and mentor. Her energy, vision, and philosophy of diversity and inclusion are emblematic of the representation she feels honoured to provide to vulnerable individuals and families. The compassion Dr. Mohamud shows to the multicultural community she serves is an inspiration for us all.

# ALBERTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Jan 18 [Sat]  
11 am-7 pm

**AHINKE'S KITCHEN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**  
Calgary | #6, 2650 36 Street SE

**MAAFA CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF RETURN**  
Edmonton City Hall

Jan 25 [Sat]  
1 pm - 3 pm

Jan 25 [Sat]  
1 pm-4pm

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH OPENING [NBCC]**  
WEM | 8882 170 street

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH CHURCH SERVICE [NBCC]**  
10830 96 street

Jan 26 [Sun]  
3 pm - 6pm

Feb 01 [Sat]  
5:30pm- 2am

**AFRO LATIN FESTIVAL YEG**  
Alberta Legislature Rotunda

**5 ARTISTS 1 LOVE MUSIC SHOW: THE REEL FILM NOIR**  
11110 104 Ave

Feb 01 [Sat]  
7 pm - 10pm

Feb 03 [Mon]  
06 pm

**ALBERTA LEGISLATURE BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT**  
Alberta Legislature Rotunda

**MACEWAN UNIVERSITY BLACK HISTORY MONTH KICK-OFF**  
Edmonton | 11110 - 104 Ave

Feb 04 [Tue]  
12:30 - 1:30pm

Feb 08 [Sat]  
10am - 1pm

**JANA ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH BREAKFAST**  
12937 - 107 Street

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH GOSPEL CONCERT & MUSICAL [NBCC]**  
Jubilee Auditorium | 11455 87 Ave

Feb 08 [Sat]  
07pm -11pm

Feb 08 [Sat - Sun]  
11 am-5pm

**5 ARTISTS 1 LOVE EXHIBITION LAUNCH/ART SHOW**  
Edmonton | 2 Sir Winston Churchill Sq

**LINCOLN ALEXANDER SCHOOL ESSAY COMPETITION**  
Fort McMurray | Lincoln Alexander School

Ongoing till Thu,  
Feb 13

Feb 15 [Sat]  
11 am - 5 pm

**RISE UP BLACK WOMEN BRUNCH**  
10844 117 Street

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

# ALBERTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

Feb 15 [Sat]  
1pm - 5pm

**BLACK HISTORY CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA**  
Fort McMurray | UNIFOR Building, 10019 MacDonald Ave

**GOSPEL CONCERT**

Edmonton | McLaurin Memorial Baptist Church

Feb 15 [Sat]  
From 6pm

Feb 22 [Sat]  
1 pm - 5 pm

**BLACK HISTORY YOUTH SOCIAL**  
Fort McMurray | UNIFOR Building 10019 MacDonald Ave

**BLACK HISTORY MIXED VIBED RUNWAY**  
14304 134 Ave NW

Feb 22 [Sat]  
3 pm -9pm

Feb 29 [Sat]  
1pm-4pm

**28TH ANNUAL AFROQUIZ**  
9828 101A Ave

**TASTE OF AFRICA**  
St. Albert | 5 Saint Anne Street

Feb 29 [Sat]  
4 pm - 7 pm

Feb 29 [Sat]  
7 pm - 11 pm

**BLACK HISTORY BANQUET & AWARDS NIGHT**  
Fort McMurray | Shell Place Grand Ballroom1 C A Knight Way

**BLACK GIRLS LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION**  
11110 104 Ave

Mar 07 [Sat]  
5pm-10pm

AFTER  
PARTY  
FOLLOWS

Mar 07 [Sat]  
6 pm - 8pm

**THE MOVIE UNBROKEN CORD**  
7524 139 Ave

AFTER  
PARTY  
FOLLOWS

**THE MOVIE MRS. LOVE**  
7524 139 Ave

Mar 14 [Sat]  
6 pm- 9pm

Mar 20 [Fri]  
6 pm - 8 pm

**THE MOVIE UNBREAKABLE**  
7524 139 Ave

**ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM I AM FROM HERE**  
Edmonton | 9810 103a Ave

Mar 23/2019-Sep 7/2020  
10am-5pm

Mar 28 [Sat]  
6:30pm- 11pm

**BANQUET AND AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (NBCC)**  
11727 Kingsway Ave

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

# KEENAN PASCAL

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## EMBRACING DIVERSITY



Keenan Pascal holds a BComm from the University of Alberta, and an MBA from University of British Columbia’s Sauder School of Business. At age 34 years old, he is the CEO and co-founder of Token Naturals, an Edmonton-based cannabis company creating a range of extracted and derivative cannabis products for businesses and consumers.

“When we founded Token Naturals, I saw an opportunity to build a company that reflected my values. With a father from Dominica and a Metis mother, I felt that more companies could benefit economically and socially from championing diversity. As a new company in an emerging industry, there was a unique opportunity to bring that sort of inclusion into this new market. By participating in this developing space, I could help bring a voice, jobs and economic diversification to our community.

Token is made up of individuals from all backgrounds and demographics. We are proud of the diversity of opinion and thought we have throughout our company. As a group, we are committed to creating an equitable industry that is inclusive and responsible, which we think will lead to sustainable success. This is especially important in cannabis in Canada, which found much of its roots in traditionally under-represented populations. That’s how I want to build the future of Canada - by ensuring that all types of Canadians are participating.”

# SHARON LONG

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

## FAMILY MATTERS



In November 1967, Sharon Long migrated to Canada leaving the warmth and familiarity of her island home in Trinidad. Her mother struggled to support her seven children, five boys and two girls, making Sharon determined that education would be her key out of poverty. After completing high school and college, Sharon obtained a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Concordia

University then attended McGill University where she completed a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW).

Just prior to her graduation in 1981, Sharon was recruited by an HR team from Alberta, while on the McGill campus. She accepted a Child Welfare social worker position in St Albert and with fear and trepidation, relocated to Edmonton and began her thirty-four year career.

She quickly acquired various leadership roles and had the honour to serve Alberta Children's Services - Edmonton Region, as interim CEO in 2005. Subsequently Sharon led the child death review team at the Ministry's corporate office and assumed various senior management roles at the provincial level, until her retirement in 2015. Sharon was the first Black woman to assume many of her roles and often times was the only person of colour at the table. She was instrumental in the development of the Child At Risk Response Team (CARRT) in Alberta. This team is a partnership between Children and Youth Services and municipal police, where they investigate reports of children and youth being abused. The team went on to receive a Premier's Award of Excellence.

On a community level, Sharon is active in multiple roles at West Edmonton Seventh-Day Adventist church. For over thirty years she has been involved in the Caribbean Association of Adventists in Alberta (CAAA) on the executive level, most recently as President for the 2017-2019 term. Over the years she has supported Congress of Black Women and the National Black Coalition of Canada, Edmonton chapter. Sharon was the 2006 recipient of the Rosalind Smith award for exceptional and prolonged service.

When she is not traveling, Sharon does contract work for the Alberta College of Social Workers (ACSW). Her family is a motivating factor in her life. Sharon is the mother of four, grand mother of three and great grandmother of one. She eagerly awaits the birth of a great grand daughter and twin grand daughters in February 2020.

# COLEEN NEITA

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

## TRUSTED TO DELIVER



Coleen left Jamaica as a teenager to study nursing in Scotland. After completing studies in Midwifery, she immigrated to Canada in 1975. She arrived to Alberta in the middle of winter and began her career at Red Deer Regional Hospital. The people Coleen met in Red Deer nurtured her and she decided to make Canada her permanent residence, Jamaica her home.

After five years in Red Deer, Coleen moved to Edmonton continuing her career at Edmonton General Hospital. Shortly thereafter she took the exciting opportunity to volunteer as a nurse in Palestine. Upon returning to Edmonton, she joined the team at the Misericordia Hospital. Coleen became the Unit Supervisor for Labour and Delivery using her midwifery expertise and knowledge to provide compassionate labor and delivery care to thousands of women, newborn infants and families. Throughout her career Coleen continued to collaborate with nurses abroad completing a project with nurses in a Belize City hospital and travelling to South Sudan regarding the building of the hospital. Retiring in 2014, Coleen played an unforgettable role in patients' lives for 31 years.

Since 1980, Coleen has worked with likeminded individuals to build the Jamaican Community in Edmonton, serving as an executive with the Jamaica Association of Northern Alberta (JANA). In 1999, she became the President and has maintained a consistent role in utilizing creative methods and formats to support Jamaican immigrants living in Alberta, while promoting Jamaican culture within the context of diversity and cultural sensitivity. Coleen was instrumental in establishing Jamaica National Money Transfer in Edmonton. She championed the "Back Pack Project" that has supplied students at 16 schools in Jamaica with school supplies for over 20 years.

In 2008, Coleen was appointed Honorary Consul for Jamaica in Edmonton. Coleen is committed to working collaboratively with community partners to build the Jamaican Community in Edmonton and to promote unity, trust and respect among all people.

**YVES SALON**  
*Yvette Mitchell*  
 PROFESSIONAL HAIRYLIST

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

Specially formulated for loose and locd Afrot textured hair.

AFRODISIACNATURALS.COM

**CIRCLE**  
*A Sisterhood Story*  
 ALISON CLARKE



RANSFORD  CARLTON

**KINGS BARBER SALON**

Men & women's beauty salon  
 Also Hair Products

10965-101 Street  
 Edmonton, Alberta T5H 2S9

Telephone:  
 780-426-1823



**token**  
 BITTERS

Use code TOKEN20 for 20% off your online order.

*Choose*  
 LOCAL YEG  
 tokenbitters.com

A story about a little girl with Big Hair...

**Harriet's HUMONGOUS Hair**

Available at [Afrodisiacnaturals.com](http://Afrodisiacnaturals.com)

... And and even BIGGER imagination

# KING'S BARBER

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

## A CULTURAL FORUM



For decades, Barber Shops and Beauty Salons have served as special places in the black community. Seen by many as more than establishments to get your hair done, salons are safe spaces and an open forum for the community to share stories, have debates and ultimately support one another.

Ransford Perry, locally known as "King", is a legendary barber in Edmonton. He immigrated to Canada from Jamaica in 1980, living in Toronto for a year before moving to Alberta's capital city. King opened his first barber shop in downtown Edmonton at Canada Place. In 1987 he relocated to the shop he continues to work out of today at 10965 101 St NW.

For many in our community King's Barber feels like home. You can credit that to the salon being a family business. King has worked alongside his son Carlton for nearly 30 years. Originally studying graphic design in college, Carlton was drawn to the business and its welcoming, culture filled environment. Together they have built a faithful clientele, with many customers (including multiple Edmonton Eskimos and NHL players) trusting King and Carlton with their line ups, fades and touch-ups for over 30 years.

As barbers in the black community King and Carlton are building our Canada through their unofficial roles of uncle, father, brother, debate moderator, confidence booster, role models, confidants and more. King's Barber is a sanctuary in Edmonton where genuine connections are cultivated, a sense of pride is instilled, and stronger communities are formed. The shop plays a vital role in both the economic and cultural development of the community at large.

# DR. MERTELLA MONTAGUE

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## BRIDGING THE GAP



Dr. Mertella Montague is a Jamaican Canadian who has lived in Canada for the last 45 years. She's a mother, step-mother and grandmother of many children. Living her purpose and passion for helping individuals live successful lives, Dr. Mertella is a College Instructor/Student Counsellor at Yellowhead Tribal College.

She has 25 years' experience as a Children Services Worker in Edmonton, Toronto and Ottawa. As an Alberta Interprovincial Social Worker she has worked with Indigenous families and has visited most Reserves in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Dr. Mertella has been the CEO of Aramuda Associates and Aramuda Corporation, since 1999. She became a National Health and Safety Officer (NCSO) and Licensed Auditor in the Construction industry because she felt immigrants were unaware of their rights and responsibilities under Canadian/Alberta Legislations (Occupation Health and Safety, human rights, employment standards etc).

She has done extensive volunteer work in various roles in Alberta's Multicultural Sector and the black community, and has been recognized and awarded for developing innovative programs to motivate and heal individuals and families. In 2012 she received the National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) Edmonton Chapter's Rosalind Smith Award for Excellence in her professional work. Dr. Mertella has worked hard to create bridges between cultures, individuals and communities and recently completed serving as the President of NBCC.

Dr. Mertella is applauded for her ongoing passion toward community growth, to unlock opportunities that will help to build a promising future while celebrating our diverse heritage, histories, and cultures.

# SHILOH CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL ROOTS

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## REMEMBER THE ROOTS

From 1905 to 1921 there were about 1800 African-Americans who had moved from the United States to Western Canada in the hopes of finding a better life. Slavery had been abolished in the United States by 1865, but subsequent laws such as 'Jim Crow laws' enforced segregation and other inhumane practices that continued to make life unbearable on most levels for the freed black citizens.

With the onset of the Canadian government's campaign to recruit people to settle the prairies, a massive advertisement campaign began that included Canadian government agents who travelled to the U.S. encouraging Americans to move to the 'Last Best West': own and homestead 160 acres of land for the registration fee of \$10.

Seeing this campaign, African Americans from Oklahoma, Mississippi, Iowa, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas and other such states 'answered the call', made the life changing decision to leave the difficult conditions in the United States, in order to be truly free, and immigrated to Western Canada.

Fears about the so-called "influx" of African Americans moving to Alberta resulted in the Edmonton and Calgary Boards of Trade petitioning Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier in 1911 to prohibit any further migration of blacks from the United States. The Board of Trade also asked that black settlers who were already on homesteads be officially segregated from white settlers.

Responding to the public's concerns, in 1911, the Canadian government passed Order-in-Council, P.C. 1324, banning Black people from moving to Canada for one year. The Order-in-Council was approved in August of 1911 by the Cabinet of Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but was repealed in August of that same year, before it became law. Instead, the government's effort to prohibit the migration of African Americans to Canada was enforced at the border. The Canadian government sent agents to the United States to dissuade African Americans from moving. These actions eventually led to the end of migration until the 1960's when immigration was opened up to the Caribbean countries followed by African countries in the 1970's.

There were five main settlements where African Americans were placed: Wildwood was the first, Amber Valley near Athabasca was the largest, Campsie, near Barrhead, Breton and, in Saskatchewan, Maidstone, the Eldon District (near Lloydminster). Some individuals and families chose to settle in the city of Edmonton or Calgary. The black population of Edmonton and Calgary grew as individuals from the settlements came in to the city for work or to further their education.

Black settlers experienced a significant amount of discrimination living in Western Canada, particularly those residing in the cities. It was difficult to find a job that was above menial tasks level regardless of one's qualifications, skills or education level.

In spite of imposed restrictions, laws, discriminatory and injustice acts, the African American Canadian presence, their contributions, adversities, and sacrifices paved the way for a better life for all African diaspora who live here in Western Canada.

***Remember the Roots, honour and celebrate their historical legacies and present-day achievements during Black History Month 2020 and more importantly, all year long.***

WINNER



2018  
ORAL HISTORY IN  
NON-PRINT FORMAT AWARD

WINNER



ALBERTA  
HISTORICAL  
RESOURCES  
FOUNDATION  
2018  
ALBERTA HERITAGE  
AWARENESS AWARD

WINNER



2018  
GOVERNOR GENERAL'S  
HISTORY AWARD

WINNER



2019  
OUTSTANDING PUBLIC  
HISTORY AWARD

WINNER



2018  
ELIZABETH B. MASON  
AWARD

# We Are The Roots

Black settlers and their experiences of  
discrimination on the Canadian prairies



## A SCMR DOCUMENTARY FILM

Produced and directed by Dr. Jenna Bailey  
in collaboration with Dr. David Este and Deborah Dobbins  
*Supported by Human Rights Commission of Alberta*



Human Rights  
Education and  
Multiculturalism  
Fund



Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots



BAILEY  
and SODA  
FILMS

View documentary film at [www.baileyandsoda.com](http://www.baileyandsoda.com)

For more information contact: Deborah Dobbins, SCMR President at [shilohcmr@gmail.com](mailto:shilohcmr@gmail.com)



**NIGEL**

LIVE ON  
FACEBOOK

Tune in and join the  
discussion

SUNDAY NIGHTS AT 7pm

# THE BLACK MULTIVERSE THEORY PODCAST

 @BLACKMULTIVERSETHEORYPODCAST



**NILO**

**“I learned  
that courage  
was not the  
absence of  
fear, but the  
triumph  
over it.”**

**- Nelson Mandela**

During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today. People of African descent have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada 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.



**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)

# THE MELISIZWE BROTHERS

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

## THE GIFT OF MUSIC



Marc (16), Seth (13) and Zacary (12) James, professionally known as the Melisizwe Brothers, are an internationally recognized boy band from Alberta, Canada. The brothers got their start in 2012 when their mother's co-worker gifted the family with a second hand Yamaha keyboard. Never having played any instruments, the brothers toyed with the keyboard and discovered they had latent musical talents and a passion for music. Through practice and devotion, they went from the living room of their small town, Leduc, to the world stage. Their musical gift inspired them to create the Gold Mind Music Program™ as well as the Gold Mind Philosophy™.

Generosity taught the boys a few life lessons that fuels their creativity to this day. As they started to appear on television shows like Ellen DeGeneres, the Steve Harvey Show, the Apollo Theatre, and meet the amazing Stevie Wonder, the brothers received numerous gifts of musical instruments. These first-hand experiences of generosity showed the boys the value and impact of giving and receiving. They learned that generosity creates opportunity and one gift may lead to the discovery of one's own Gold Mind.

The Gold Mind Instrument Program™ is an opportunity for people to gift new or used musical instruments. Your generosity may be the difference-maker – the gift that provides an opportunity and changes someone's life! The instruments collected through the Gold Mind Instrument Program™ are distributed to individuals and families within Canada and abroad; to give them a start on their musical journey.

shinefm.com



# MUSIC THAT SPEAKS TO YOUR HEART

**Shine**  
**105.9 FM**

Safe & Fun for the Whole Family!

**THE LIGHT**  
A M 9 3 0

**Proud Sponsor  
of NBCC Gospel  
Night Edmonton**

# DR. JENNIFER R. KELLY

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## LIVING HISTORY



Dr. Kelly was born in Jamaica, and immigrated to the UK at six years of age. She completed her degree in Education and moved to Edmonton in 1990 with her family. While completing her M.Ed. and PhD in Edmonton, Dr. Kelly researched school youths. Her research produced two books and highlighted a knowledge gap in the education system with regards to how people of African descent contributed to building Canadian communities.

In 2001, she was appointed as a tenure track Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at University of Alberta. She specialized in Theory, Culture and International Studies in Education, with a focus on race, racialization, youth and identity. Responding to the comments of students and parents regarding the lack of consistent content on black history in the school curriculum, Dr. Kelly researched and examined the historical racialization and lived experiences of peoples of African descent in Alberta. She received grants from the Social Sciences Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for her historical research and dissemination. Her research theme continued throughout her five-year term as department Chair at U of A through to retirement in 2018.

Dr. Kelly's scholarly research over the past 30 years has allowed for recognition of the complexities, overlaps and relationship between Black diasporic communities and mainstream society. Her work argues that Black History is Canadian history and provides a challenge to the idea that the experiences of peoples of African descent is a side topic not worthy of inclusion in mainstream curriculum. Her valuable research has been able to provide youths with the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the history of their city and province, giving them a sense of place, social belonging and a shared identity.

Dr. Kelly is the recipient of several prestigious scholarly grants and awards, and has been recognized for her outstanding commitment to the advancement of the Black Community in Edmonton. She is a founding member of the Living History group (CCACH), has been an active member of the Alberta Labour History Institute, and was a founding member of the National Black Canadian Studies Association. In 2015/2016 she was invited to be a visiting Jean Augustine Chair at York University.

# MCNIEL-INYANI KERI

“ Building Our Canada ”

## PASSION FOR SCIENCE



McNiel-Inyani Keri was born in Kosti, Sudan. He spent his childhood in Cairo, Egypt, and Juba, South-Sudan. Mr. Keri came to Canada as a refugee near the end of the second millennium. In spite of his struggles he focused on getting a good education.

In 2016, he graduated from the Biomedical Stream in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Alberta. During his undergraduate studies, he participated in several compelling projects, including developing hardware and software for Nanoscale spectroscopy (FACIA Lab) and contributing to a software program for DARPA, the US defence agency, intended to improve the analysis of eye-tracking and motion-capture data for health-related applications (ACELab). He developed an augmented reality system, aimed to improve surgical outcomes for prostate cancer (Telerobotic and Biorobotic Lab).

Guided by Dr. Albert Vette (Ph.D.) and Dr. Jacqueline Hebert (MD), director of the Bionic Limbs for Improved Natural Control (BLINC) lab, McNiel-Inyani successfully defended his master's thesis in Mechanical engineering in 2018. His thesis focused on (Building Bionic Limbs) restoring movement feedback to the lower limb amputee population. To achieve this, he developed a low-cost wireless system capable of tracking the progress of prosthetic devices to bridge the movement of a prosthesis to actuators responsible for administering the movement feedback.

In addition to his academic achievements, McNiel-Inyani has many years of community involvement. Notable examples include Neighborhood Bridges, a local human rights agency focusing on supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities, his role as the lead tutor for the Edmonton Mennonite Centre For Newcomers (EMCN), and his contributions to the development of the South Sudanese Youth of Canada (SSYC), an organization aiming to improve the livelihoods of the South Sudanese youth diaspora.

For his work, McNiel-Inyani has received the 2017 Edmonton RBC Rise award, the Alberta's Council for global cooperation 2018 (ACGC) top 30 under 30 award, the National Black Coalitions of Canada's (NBCC) 2018 Youth Excellence Award, and a feature in Alberta's Professional Engineers and Geoscientist (APEGA) 2018 summer magazine and 2020 centennial video.

Currently, McNiel-Inyani is pursuing a Doctor of Medicine at the University of Calgary. There, he hopes to continue his commitment to the community, his passion for science and to infuse his past academic training into the practice of medicine.

# DONNA CHEN

" Building Our Canada "

## ECONOMIC IMPACT



Donna Chen was born in Jamaica, West Indies. Through hard work and determination she has become a successful entrepreneur in Canada. Working in the service industry in management positions for over 35 years, Donna is a hardworking owner of Tim Hortons franchises with restaurants in Leduc and Nisku. In 2009 she was one of the first franchise owners in Canada to utilize the Foreign Workers Program. Through this, she created an opportunity for hard working Jamaicans to come to Canada and help build the economy here.

Donna takes pride in giving back to the community. She served as Rotarian in Invermere, BC and has done significant work with the Family Resource Centre, where she served on the Board of Directors. The desire to serve women facing particular challenges in communities is very important to her. She has served on the board of the "Rise - Up Society" Alberta in Leduc bringing hope and healing to those impacted by domestic abuse.

In 2018, she established an Apprenticeship Trade Cash Scholarship in partnership with the National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) - Edmonton Chapter, in honour of her late husband Mr. Noel Chen. This scholarship is presented to individuals who are passionate for and excel in the trades.

She is currently an Ambassador for the Tim Hortons Children Foundation that sends over 19,000 kids to the various camps across Canada and the USA on an annual basis. Her focus continues to be on possibilities not problems. A quote she often shares is that **"The secret of change is to focus all your energy, not fighting the old, but on building the new"**. This mindset has aided to cement her in the diaspora of time as a strong Black Woman building Canada.

# BISHOP ORRAIN G. SIMPSON

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## A COMMUNITY ROOT



In September 1977 Jamaican born Minister O.G. Simpson relocated from England to assume the task of pastoring a little church in Edmonton, Alberta Canada called Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic. His first reaction was, “Lord, what am I doing here”? He thought Edmonton was strange, cold and different from what he was used to in England.

The early years were challenging as Pastor Simpson maintained a full-time job in addition to his role as a full-time Pastor. Church attendance was low and it seemed as though his efforts were not successful. Pastor Simpson persevered and God has blessed him and the

church. Under his leadership Bethel has experienced tremendous growth and development, both spiritually and temporally resulting in an expansion of the church building in April 1996.

Pastor Simpson presents Bethel as a “Community Church”. The church is involved in many community outreach programs including youth and seniors programs, Hope Mission, Prison Ministry, Nursing Home/Hospital Ministry and Blessing Babies. The church choir, Essence of Praise (directed by his son and daughter, Barrington and Genieve Simpson) has thrilled and provided hope and inspiration to many audiences locally and throughout Canada.

Bethel has built communities by the multiple churches they have established across the country. They are currently working on an expansion plan to provide more services to the community and have acquired approximately 60 acres of land. The plan includes the building of a new church with associated buildings such as a senior’s home and a youth drop in center. Bethel wants the church to grow and continue being a spiritual and monumental force in the community at large.

In 2019 Pastor Simpson became an ordained Bishop. He is now the Bishop of the Western District churches. Bishop Simpson is a strong man of God who has a heart and passion for serving, loving and helping people to live faith-filled lives.

With the Bethel Leadership Team he has dedicated over 40 years of consistent service to the black community. They have worked with God’s obedience, willingness and determination. As a result, their work has added cultural leadership, value and legacy to the community.

# JEANNETTE AUSTIN-ODINA

“ B u i l d i n g O u r C a n a d a ”

## COMMUNITY FIRST



In 1967, Jeannette Austin-Odina arrived in Montreal from Trinidad and Tobago. She went on to complete her studies in Education after moving to Alberta and worked as a Teacher Consultant with Edmonton Public Schools until her recent retirement.

Commonly called “Sister Jeanette”, she is also a Registered Social Worker and has invested over 53 years mentoring, organizing and giving back to the black community. Jeannette believes that a group can make many changes for the better and founded the Alberta Women Self Help Association in 1991. This organization has provided service to shelters such as the Bissell & Marian Center, Win-house, Canora Place and the Mustard Seed Church for close to 30 years. Jeannette houses members of the Black Community who come from Northern Alberta for medical services.

Jeannette served as President of the Council of African and Caribbean Heritage (CCACH) and has held several positions on the board - Chairperson, Director of Community Programs, and Director of Education. She is a co-founder of the Afro-Quiz Competition that encourages students of all races to learn Black Diasporic History and compete for prizes. This benefits Albertans by allowing students to learn more about the lives of people of African descent and encourages Black Canadian youth to excel in school.

Jeannette has worked purposely hard at mentoring youth. She believes in handing over the reins to the next generations, teaching them how to succeed and move forward so that our community does not have to keep starting at ground zero. Jeannette is very proud of God’s gift of six exceptional children and nine grandchildren, who have learned her values and are willing to walk in her shoes.

# DR. JOHN AKABUTU

" Building Our Canada "

## TRUSTED TREATMENTS



Originally from Ghana, Dr. Akabutu came to Canada in 1962 to study medicine at Dalhousie University. He has expertise in Stem Cell Transplant, Blood, Pediatric Oncology and Pediatric Hematology. He arrived in Edmonton in 1972 to start a Pediatric Hematology Oncology program at the University of Alberta. At the time, the survival rate among children with leukemia across Canada was less than 10%. Dr. Akabutu set his sights on improving this number to 100% and introduced a program of chemotherapy. He made considerable progress and headway to transform the quality of life and survival rate among children with cancer. This is one of his greatest achievements.

In 1996, Dr. Akabutu launched the first public Cord Blood Bank in Canada in Edmonton. The bank collects blood cells from the umbilical cord as an alternate source of stem cells for leukemia treatments and provides stem cells for transplantations in Alberta, across Canada and around the world. By the time he retired as an active Cancer Specialist, the survival rate among children in Northern Alberta with the most common forms of leukemia was 95%. For the more difficult types of leukemia the survival rate increased to 60-70%, which was unheard of. The bank has been able to supply units of cord blood required for transplantations, reaching children with leukemia in Canada, the United States, Britain and Poland.

In 2011 Dr. Akabutu was presented with the Harry Jerome Award for Technology Innovation for being a leading stem cell researcher and developing methods to purify, freeze and store stem cells from the umbilical cords of newborns. This research led to remarkable advances in science. In 2013 he received the Alumnus of the Year award from the University of Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association.

In February 2019, in appreciation of the work that Dr. Akabutu has done in the area of research and medicine, The National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) introduced the Dr. John Akabutu Award for Demonstrating Resiliency Against Challenging Odds. This award will be presented annually at the Black History Month Awards of Excellence Banquet.

In Edmonton the John Akabutu Comprehensive Centre for Bleeding Disorders provides diagnosis, treatment, and management of bleeding disorders. Dr. Akabutu is humble and modest. He indicates that he has derived incredible joy from being a physician and a teacher. He hopes that through the work he has done the world will have a better tomorrow.

Celebrate

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

at the Alberta Legislature

With **David Shepherd**  
MLA Edmonton-City Centre



**MONDAY**

**FEBRUARY 3**

**6:00 PM**

**RECEPTION  
TO FOLLOW**

To avoid lineups, please arrive around 5:30pm for the musical interlude.  
Open to all including children.

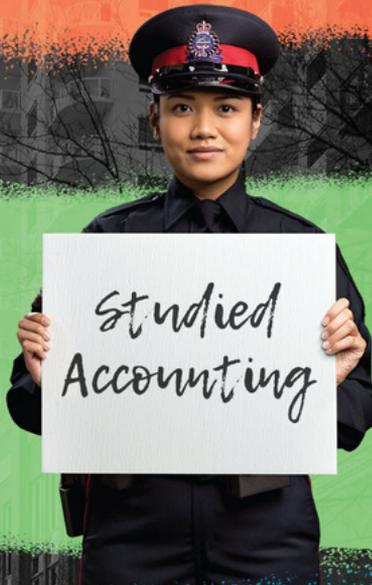
If you have mobility issues, please contact my office at:  
[edmonton.citycentre@assembly.ab.ca](mailto:edmonton.citycentre@assembly.ab.ca)



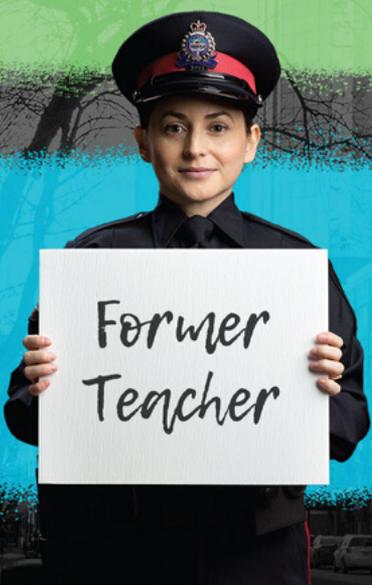
**INSPIRED BY:  
HELPING PEOPLE**

*Former  
Engineer*

**INSPIRED BY:  
SERVING MY  
COMMUNITY**



*Studied  
Accounting*



*Former  
Teacher*

**INSPIRED BY:  
A CAREER  
WITH VARIETY**

You don't need a policing background to become a member of the Edmonton Police Service. Every year we hire people from a wide variety of backgrounds. They were born in different cities, countries and speak a variety of languages. They all have different educational backgrounds, career paths and reasons for joining. But the one thing they do have in common is the desire to serve the citizens of Edmonton.

If you're looking for an exciting career full of purpose, variety, and lifelong learning, ask yourself:

**WHAT'S YOUR INSPIRATION?**

EDMONTON  
**POLICE**  
SERVICE

Join **EPS.ca**