

2022 BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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

NBCC EXECUTIVES 2021/2022

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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



nbccedmonton.ca/bhm



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

February 2022

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada Edmonton as you commemorate Black History Month in Canada.



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

I would like to thank everyone involved with the National Black Coalition of Canada Edmonton for their commitment to fostering open dialogue, awareness and understanding. You can take pride in knowing that your dedication to building bridges between communities is helping to create a stronger, more inclusive Canada.

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

Sincerely,

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



MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send warmest greetings as we commemorate Black History Month 2022.

Each year in February, we turn our attention to the diverse stories and remarkable contributions of Black Canadians. Alberta is what it is because of the incredible people who call it home, including folks of African, African American and Caribbean heritage. Their achievements made, and are making, our province a better place. While it is impossible to ignore the racism that so often shaped their experiences—a challenge we still contend with today—there is joy and triumph, too. And there is power in embracing the past, as Maya Angelou wrote, “History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.” We all have the privilege and the responsibility to learn from what has come before so we can continue to build a bright future together.

Thank you to the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton Chapter organizers and volunteers who have worked hard once again to create wonderful opportunities for people in the capital region to enjoy Black History Month. I appreciate your commitment to education and cultural understanding and wish you all the best for an unforgettable celebration.

A stylized blue ink signature of Jason Kenney.

Hon Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta





ALBERTA
CULTURE

Office of the Minister



**Message from Honourable Ron Orr
Minister of Culture**

Black History Month is a time to acknowledge and reflect on how Black Albertans of African and Caribbean heritage have enriched the cultural and economic life of our province.

The early history of Alberta is also the history of Black farmers and ranchers. Some Blacks came in the late 1880s to escape discrimination in the United States and more Black settlers began to arrive in the early 1900s. In the intervening years, the province has seen a welcome influx of immigrants of Caribbean and African heritage. As a result, Albertans now enjoy access to a broad mix of Black cultures. That access is found in music, food, fashion, and the cultural traditions that enhance the overall Alberta experience.

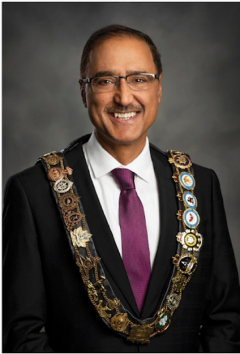
In order to understand the present, we must look to the past.

This month is a reminder for all Albertans to celebrate the achievements and culture of Black Albertans. I urge everyone to take time to look into our province's Black history and the tremendous achievements of Black Albertans such as Joseph Lewis, Annie Saunders, John Ware, and Violet King Henry and how they helped shape the province we live in today.

Ron Orr
Minister



Message from His Worship Mayor Amarjeet Sohi



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, it is my sincere pleasure to join members of the National Black Coalition of Canada in celebrating Black History Month.

This celebration is a fantastic opportunity to recognize the courage and resilience of Black Canadians, both from the past and present. I encourage all Edmontonians to take the time to learn about the many contributions and achievements that local diverse Black communities have made throughout our shared history.

Today, racialized people across our city continue their long fight against racism and discrimination. Although I am proud of the progress that has been made, we know much work remains to be done.

I thank the Edmonton Chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada for the important role that they play in this work by creating awareness, solidarity and harmony in our community.

I wish you an impactful and inspiring celebration!

A. Sohi

Amarjeet Sohi

MAYOR, CITY OF EDMONTON





ALBERTA
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton - South West*

**Message from the Honourable Kaycee Madu, QC
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General**

It is my pleasure to send warm greetings to the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada as we celebrate Black History Month throughout the month of February 2022.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to serve Albertans as the first Black Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. I am honoured to be part of a Black community in Alberta that exemplifies diversity, resilience, courage and determination.

The history of Black Alberta is undeniably marked by struggle, oppression, and intolerance, but it is also a story of joy, of creativity, resilience and of opportunity. These are some of the values that attracted me to Alberta as a young man growing up in Nigeria. I wanted to find a place where my family and I could thrive and contribute to the public good, while still honouring our African heritage.

This is the story of countless other Black men, women, and families who have come here from the mother continent of Africa, as well as the Caribbean, the United States and beyond, to build their lives, families, careers, businesses and communities. Alberta is a province that rewards hard work and provides opportunity to everyone, no matter where they come from. We are a better province because so many members of the Black community have decided to make this beautiful land their home.

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I offer my sincere best wishes for a memorable celebration of the resilience, place and contribution of the Black community and of Black History. I offer my thanks to the National Black Coalition of Canada for the important work that they do on all our behalf.

Yours very truly,

Kaycee Madu, QC
Minister





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

This is a time when we celebrate the accomplishments, contributions and lives of Black people, members of our communities whose stories were for too long forgotten and left untold. A time to proudly celebrate our cultures and traditions as part of the rich mosaic of diversity in Canada.

And the truth is, we've come a long way. Black voices have never been more prominent or Black faces more visible in culture, workplaces, media, politics and positions of power. That's worth celebrating.

But behind that truth lies another – that these gains have taken years of effort to accomplish, pushing against strong headwinds of overt and systemic racism and discrimination. And those challenges continue today. In the past year, our communities have seen Black Muslim women attacked in our streets, more significant impacts from COVID-19, a continuing rise of voices of hatred and growing tensions around long-needed conversations on discrimination in the systems that govern our lives.

That's why I've been proud to work with my colleagues to engage with racialized communities across Alberta to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations to address systemic racism in areas like education, healthcare, economic opportunity and our justice system. "Your Future, Your Voice" stands as our commitment to putting anti-racism at the heart of all our work and advocacy in partnership with all racialized communities. You can find it at AlbertasFuture.ca.

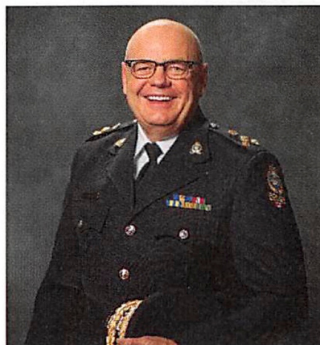
So, this month, I look forward to seeing you at events across the province as we remember and celebrate the full range of who we are and what we can be, from the streets of our communities to the highest levels of influence and power and let that fuel our fight for better. Because Black history is Alberta history and we are an integral part of its future.

Happy Black History Month!

David Shepherd
MLA, Edmonton-Centre



**Message from the
Edmonton Police Service
Chief Dale McFee**



On behalf of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS), it is my pleasure to join you in celebrating Black History Month.

It is important that we celebrate the heritage, diversity and cultural traditions of the Black community in our city, and to recognize the community's achievements and contributions around the world as well.

The efforts of the Black community to overcome racism and discrimination have helped advance social justice and human rights, and highlight the need for all of us to continue striving for safe and inclusive communities where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

EPS shares this vision and has committed to leading changes to improve community safety and well-being for all Edmontonians especially the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Through our Commitment to Action initiative, EPS has gathered feedback from a diverse cross-section of community members, partners and stakeholders, and is in the process of implementing bold new changes to: expand bias awareness and trauma-informed training for officers; develop partnerships to divert individuals from the criminal justice system into needed support services; and improve police communication and transparency through public education and ongoing community engagement.

These are just some of the systemic changes underway that will help us become more innovative and inclusive, strengthen public trust, and provide the police service our community deserves.

Together, we are making great strides forward, and I want to thank the members of our Black community for their continued contributions to our police service and our city. Your efforts are helping to make Edmonton safer and more vibrant for everyone.

Dale McFee
Chief of Police



MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION OF ALBERTA

Our NDP Government was so proud to officially recognize February as Black History Month in Alberta for the first time in 2017.

Now, the importance of this declaration remains ever important as we work to learn about the black experience in our province, as we learn of the struggles many have faced and the strength and courage of the Black community to overcome so many challenges over the years and moving forward.

And the work is far from over. We know that hate crimes are on the rise in Alberta and it will take a substantial and deliberate effort from each and every one of us to put an end to racism in our province.

This month, I encourage all Albertans to connect with our history, learn more about the important cultural and social impacts the Black community has had on our province and strive to call out racism in all forms moving forward.

Please join me in celebrating Black History Month in Alberta.

A stylized white signature of Rachel Notley on a dark background.

RACHEL NOTLEY
Alberta NDP Leader



Welcome to Black History Month 2022

VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Black History is deeply entwined in the roots of Canada. In every way, Black history is a foundation of this nation, and it will continue to enrich Canada going forward. Black History deserves more than just recognition, and Black people deserve a strong voice at the table in multiple ways.

It is essential for us to push for more substantive changes, through our collected and inclusive voices. Our history is known, we have made some progress, now what? There is still much work to be done.

For many Blacks, our ability to thrive is linked with our state of health and wellness. This can be connected to “simply being Black in Canada”.

Black health and wellness are shaped by historical traumas and today's realities. Our present-day human and social conditions are a strong determinant of our health, wealth, and survival.

Our lived experiences of racial trauma and systemic racism have led us to feel discouraged and powerless. The quest to belong in an authentic and dignified way can be the same for all people identifying as Black. We must strive to be a part of the change in disrupting systemic racism and racial oppression. We must work together towards a culture of inclusion by fighting to dismantle racism within government, businesses, organizations, industries, and others.

An Ipsos poll conducted exclusively for Global News between February 2nd & 3rd, 2021 surveyed 1,000 Canadians. The finding was that 54% said they believe racism is built into the Canadian economy, government, and educational system.

Despite significant contributions to Canadian communities, it is known that Black entrepreneurship faces unique challenges in starting and growing a business, particularly around access to capital. Together, we must address this long-standing inequality to take root for seeds of change.

For 2022 Black History Month celebrations, let us challenge ourselves to create intentional spaces for learning and re-thinking about Black racism and the importance of Black health and wellness. Let's deepen our efforts to prepare tomorrow's workforce, build an inclusive economy, partner with BIPOC communities and others to align our anti-racist work.

We each have an active role to play in working against oppression towards equality, to find ways to effectively defeat and hinder systemic racism. Let's come together to celebrate Black History Month to become more mindful of the ways systems work to promote social accountability.

You too can take a lead in initiating change.

Respectfully,

Joy Thomas (Vice President)

National Black Coalition of Canada Society-
Edmonton Chapter

NBCC EDMONTON PRESENTS

Gospel Concert

\$10
+fees

EDMONTON'S FINEST GOSPEL CONCERT

The Annual Black History Month 2022 Musical Extravaganza
Featuring the Best Gospel Choirs & Singers in the City!

Sat Feb 26th @ 7pm

In-Person at the Jubilee

-or-

Streaming ONLINE

www.nbccedmonton.ca/gospel



365

Days and Ways to Celebrate Remarkable Black Canadians

Who do you know?

January	February	March	April	May	June
 Lincoln Alexander Birthdate: January 21, 1922	 Kellylee Evans Birthdate: February 7, 1975	 Lillie Johnson Birthdate: March 16, 1922	 William Hubbard Died: April 13, 1935	 PK Subban Birthdate: May 13, 1989	 Rosemary Brown Birthdate: June 17, 1930
July	August	September	October	November	December
 Viola Desmond Birthdate: July 6, 1914	 Oscar Peterson Birthdate: August 15, 1925	 Jean Augustine Birthdate: September 9, 1937	 Nathaniel Dett Birthdate: October 11, 1882	 Kadeisha Buchanan Birthdate: November 5, 1995	 Angela James Birthdate: December 22, 1964

www.nbccedmonton.ca/etfo365

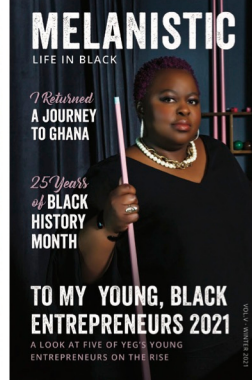
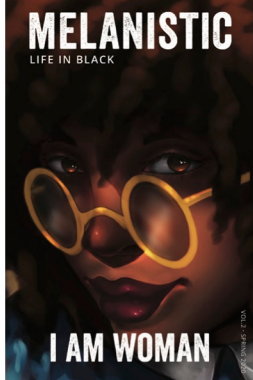
LIFE IN BLACK

BY: TANEYA ROGERS

Melanistic Magazine is Alberta's leading Black-owned and published lifestyle magazine. Launched in January of 2020, Nigel Williams engaged his co-founders Greg Davis, NiLo and Robert Tyndale; the collective recognized a lack in quality Black media output and sought to capture this niche. The publication carves space for Black representation and celebrates the nuances of Afro-culture in Western Canada. The team focused on removing the silos within the Black community while authentically presenting Black experiences to its expanding readership with the level of excellence that the community deserves.



Image courtesy of NiLo



Crossing the two-year milestone in an era that has been generally unkind to print media speaks both to the creativity of the team and the uncaptured market for Black publications. While *Melanistic Magazine* rose as a 2020 AMPA Nominee for Best New Publication, their pride extends beyond accolades. Their greatest driver and source of satisfaction is their ability to connect Black peoples across the region. Writers, entrepreneurs, artists, content creators and countless professionals, who are making their marks in underrepresented fields, are

granted a platform in each issue of *Melanistic Magazine*.

As both reach and resources expand, *Melanistic Magazine* has been in a unique position to support community-building events such as the We Lit Afro Indie Book Fair, The Afrodisiac Market and the Kiskadee Community Garden. The *Melanistic* team looks forward to representing, engaging and serving the Black Community well into the future and elevating the bar for Black media in Western Canada.

www.melanisticmagazine.com
melanisticmagazine@gmail.com



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- Black History Month Presents -

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Course

Course dates
Mondays from 6 - 8:30 pm
Jan 31- Mar 21, 2022.



Do you want help to manage your stress and learn skills to pay attention to life on purpose? Mindfulness is a great way to understand who you are and learn different perspectives in managing your life intentionally.



Our Facilitator

Rasheal Charles,
MSW, RSW



Rasheal, owner and operator of Soulistic Counselling and Consulting Services is Social Worker and Psychotherapist that is willing to help you achieve mindfulness in your everyday life.

Sign up now on Event-Brite

Registration Is Free

Limited Spots Available

We are looking for 12-15 participants in this **FREE** course. It is 2.5 hour sessions for 8 weeks. This time spent in transformational skills will help you see things differently. You must be between the ages of 21 - 65, belong to the BIPOC community and are willing to commit to this time slot.



soulistictherapist@gmail.com



Now Booking! March intake

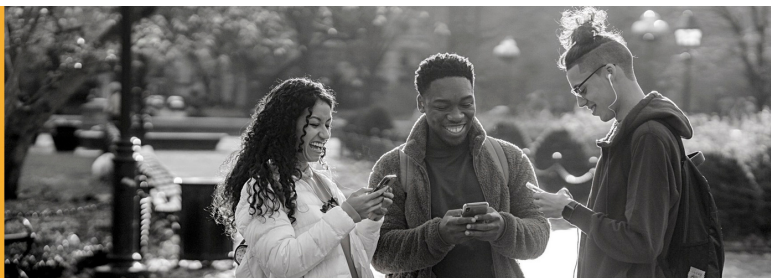
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- ☒ Are you a person of colour?
- ☒ Are you trying to figure out what to do after graduation?
- ☒ Do you want to discover what your potential career options are?
- ☒ Are you interested in entrepreneurship or business?

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- The grand prize of scholarships sponsored by local organizations
- Invaluable mentorship from people who have been through it and are working in the industry
- Network opportunities with industry professionals from local companies
- An immersive experience to learn everything you need to know to start a career in commercial real estate
- Admission to the 8-week program
- Access to a unique/proprietary virtual learning experience
- In-person workshops once a week
- Support from university students in relevant degree programs

HERE'S HOW TO APPLY

- Applications open on January 3, 2022.
- Apply online at www.reetinstitute.ca.

APPLY TODAY TO DISCOVER YOUR NEXT STEP.

For more information or any questions, contact us at info@reetinstitute.ca.



FEBRUARY 2022

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

NORQUEST
COLLEGE



The Alberta Black Therapists Network is a federally and provincially registered not for profit organization that promotes an integrated, holistic and collaborative approach to Mental health and addictions services for the Black communities in Alberta.

What we offer

We use evidence based approaches and aim to reduce barriers in accessing mental health supports. We have a healing- centered approach to counselling services for the black community with an understanding of racialized trauma and an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, and decolonizing lens that focuses on resilience and considers individual wellness needs within the context of their spiritual and cultural beliefs.

LOW COST / FREE COUNSELLING RESOURCES

Africa Centre is pleased to partner with United Way and Alberta Black Therapists Network to bring free counselling from various licensed therapists.

Action for Healthy Communities

This innovative way of Therapy service provision is possible with the collaboration of Alberta Black Therapists Network ABTN which insures the quality of the therapists' services.

Contact Details: Tel 587-400-7300

email- info@albertablacktherapistnetwork.com

IG: [albertablacktherapistnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/albertablacktherapistnetwork)

FB: [albertablacktherapistnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/albertablacktherapistnetwork)

Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiatives (SBCCI)



**AFRICA
CENTRE**

The Council for
Advancement of
African Canadians
in Alberta

The Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative (SBCCI) was created by the Government of Canada through Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to help increase the capacity of Black-led grassroots and not-for-profit organizations that serve Black communities in Canada. With an aim to increase access to funding and to provide funding to increase organizational capacity, the Government of Canada will be releasing 10.4 million dollars in funding over the next four years (2020-2024).

Africa Centre was selected as one of the four intermediary organizations to deliver the program. Using an intermediary delivery model, the initiative aims to provide funding through a fair and transparent process, and otherwise support Black community organizations across Canada to increase their organizational capacity in the areas of:

1. Providing funding through a fair and transparent process, and otherwise supporting Black community organizations across Canada (excluding Quebec) to increase their organizational capacity in the areas of:

Operational Capacity - Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of an organization's operational management through improved human and financial resource management practices; provide greater organizational stability and improved planning oversight and functions

Governance Capacity - Increase board's effectiveness in the areas of empowerment and accountability, service and fairness and accomplishments and measurements

2. Support the funded organizations and work with partner organizations towards improving the capacity of the Black-led community organizations, thus enhancing the vitality of the sector and building community capacity.

3. Address and be inclusive of diverse Black communities across Canada.

The call for proposals for the SBCCI funding has ended and all applications are currently being reviewed by independent grant review committees. Successful applicants will be announced in February/March 2022.

Visit our website for more information on the SBCCI www.africacentre.ca/supporting-black-canadian-communities

Funded by the Government of Canada's
Supporting Black Canadian
Communities Initiative

Canada

780.455.5423 — info@afriacentre.ca — Suite 106 6770 - 129 Ave NW Edmonton, AB T5C 1V7

Creating opportunities for access and full participation of the African descent community in Alberta

The Power Behind the African Caribbean Canadian Books in Colour:

A K-12 Curriculum Guide

As the parent of two girls, one of whom frequently missed school due to a chronic illness, I often wondered if they were receiving a well-rounded education. Were there teachers who looked like them? Were there books about people like them? Were they learning about different places, different cultures, and different ways of living? These were the seeds that grew into my returning to school to pursue my own research on dress, culture, and identity. This research led me to find that students, regardless of the length of time their families resided in Canada, need to be exposed to other cultures in the classroom.

In the Spring of 2020, like many other parents and grandparents, I was suddenly responsible for homeschooling my seven-year-old grandson. I had never realized how much teachers were responsible for in the classroom until suddenly I was the teacher, and my kitchen table was the classroom. With the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020 and the Black Lives Matter movement in full swing, there was a realization that my area of research, my classroom with my grandson, and social momentum were all intersecting. I reached out to Edmonton Public Library with the idea of creating a resource guide for teachers, parents, and educators similar to the SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Guide, that EPL had previously created with Edmonton Public School. I wanted a guide that would be relevant to Black Canadians, their culture, their experiences, and their identity, that educators could use to add diversity in their classrooms and to spark conversations about race, diversity, discrimination, and culture.

I am extremely grateful for the contributions from the Sickle Cell Foundation of Alberta, Edmonton Community Foundation, the Government of Canada and Alberta Gaming Liquor and Cannabis because without these funds this project would not have been possible. My praise would be insufficient if I did not mention the Edmonton Public Library, particularly Librarian Ariel Kleber, who went over and above her work to develop this book list.

Dr. Jean Walrond Ph.D.
Sickle Cell Foundation of Alberta
President & COO—Research & Education



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



A Rising Tide Lifts all Ships



Keenan Pascal is the CEO of Token Naturals, an Edmonton-based cannabis manufacturing company with a licensed processing facility in central Edmonton. In a few short years, Keenan grew the company from an idea to a multi-million-dollar manufacturing facility able to produce extract and derivative cannabis products. During that time, Keenan led two capital raises and created a sister company, Token Bitters, that creates products in the international food and beverage space.

Keenan created Token to build with inclusivity and community in mind and sees the burgeoning cannabis industry as an opportunity to create a better framework of inclusion from the get-go. "I got into this field because I felt there was a real opportunity to make a mark in a brand-new industry that was ripe for an injection of diversity and innovation," shares Keenan. "There is a lot of value for a company in bringing diverse thoughts, backgrounds and experiences together. The world is realizing more and more how true this is, and you don't have to wait on the sideline to be invited in."

"Our team really lives the idea that **a rising tide lifts all ships**" and that what's good for one is good for all." With that ethos in mind, Keenan sits on the Executive of the National Black Coalition of Canada and the Edmonton Downtown Business Association. This past year, he founded the **Black Canadians in Cannabis Network**, a space for Black Canadians to connect and share resources. Keenan was a mentor for Startup Edmonton's 'Foundations for Black Founders' mentorship program for Black entrepreneurs and co-founded Return on Colour, an online directory of Black professionals, businesses and organizations in Alberta. In addition, he lends his expertise to the committee boards of Concordia University and the University of Alberta's Venture Mentorship Program.

"I like to think Token is a great example of how a company which focuses on and practices their values can see economic return as a result of their mandate," says Keenan. "Stay true to who you are, and partners that share your values will find you."

Before Token, Keenan spent more than eight years gaining financial and consulting experience at major banks paired with numerous entrepreneurial endeavours. Keenan has a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Alberta an MBA in Consulting & Strategic Management from UBC Sauder School of Business and has Métis status.

Educator in Residence Canadian Museum for Human Rights for anti-racism Programs



Growing up, Sarah was often the only Black student in her class. She learned amongst peers of all nations but struggled to find and form friendships with other Black children. She often credits her siblings as being her first Black friends. She did not have any Black teachers, professors, or instructors as she grew up through the different educational institutions in Edmonton.

In fact, her first teacher of colour was when she was in the 9th grade. Her quest to become a principal began when she was in grade four. She's always wanted people to feel comfortable and feel represented by the people that surround them.

In 2013, Sarah graduated with a Bachelor of Education, minoring in Special Education, from the University of Alberta. After being a substitute teacher for three months, Sarah solidified her position at a school that she stayed at for eight years. She stayed at this school because it felt like home, the staff are inclusive, and the students are diverse. It is so important for Sarah to be the representation for students of all colours and specifically young Black girls who have never been represented in education before. Sarah has begun her leadership journey to become a principal with Edmonton Catholic Schools and finished the Division leadership program in 2021. However, a new opportunity arose, and Sarah embarked on it.

In June of 2020, just after the murder of George Floyd, Sarah began to question how to have tough conversations with her students. She always incorporated diverse learning opportunities and ways for students to learn about each other, the community that surrounds them, and the world they live in.

It became evident in her class of 31 students that she was the positive representation, some of what they saw online, or on television was a negative representation of who they are. Thus began the Black Teachers Association of Alberta. Sarah and her good friend Andrew Parker founded the Black Teachers Association in June of 2020, to help all teachers be better allies and supports for the marginalized students in their schools. As an association, there are over 100 members participating in calls and meets to discuss what can be done about some of the things that students are learning and trying to unlearn about racism. The Black Teachers Association is not only for Black teachers; it is for everyone looking to be better.

Currently, Sarah is the Educator in Residence at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. As the Educator in Residence, her job is to create anti-racism programming for the museum that teachers, students, and the nation can take part in. The programming being created is meant to make you think about, who is missing, historically, and how can we be better allies to each other? This job is unlike any job that Sarah has ever had before, and she has hope that she will continue to be able to impact her greater community through this opportunity.

First Female Black Lawyer – Alberta Human Rights Commission



Sandra Badejo, who now calls Alberta her home, was born and raised in Nigeria. She is one of the first three people and the first female of African descent to be appointed to the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Sandra feels highly honoured for this historic appointment and plans to bring her wealth of experience to bear in helping Albertans resolve their human rights matters. By so doing, she hopes to foster a much more diverse, inclusive, and equitable Alberta society.

Sandra received her Bachelor of Laws degree in 2002 from the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and her Barrister at Law degree in 2003 from the Nigerian Law School. Prior to relocating from Nigeria to Edmonton, Alberta in 2006, Sandra practiced primarily in Oil and Gas Law. While juggling the demands of motherhood, work, and settling in Canada, Sandra was able to complete her Master of Laws degree in Oil and Gas Law at the University of Alberta in 2010 and complete her National Committee on Accreditation ("NCA") examinations. The completion of her NCA examinations enabled Sandra to continue with her law practice in Canada. After her period of articles, Sandra and her principal founded a boutique family law firm in Edmonton in 2011. The firm is now known as Crerar Badejo Hagen Family Law Group. Sandra specializes in all areas of family law, including divorce, parenting, child support, spousal support, and property division. She is passionate about representing the under-served members of the Alberta society, thus her work as a Roster Lawyer for the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate – Legal representation for Children and Youth. In this role, Sandra represents Alberta's children, youths, and young parents in child welfare matters.

Sandra has received various scholarships and awards. She is an active member of the Law Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association. She is also an inactive member of the Nigerian Bar Association. Sandra has served and continues to serve her community in various capacities, including as a regular presenter for the Canadian Bar Association. She is an active member of Hope City Church in Edmonton, where she currently serves as a member of the church board. Sandra is also a Society Member of Adeara Recovery Centre, Edmonton – an accredited addiction recovery centre for women and their children.

Sandra attributes her success to the support of her family, particularly that of her husband of 16 years, and her friends. Taking advantage of the mentorship opportunities available to her has also played a big role in Sandra's success. She became a lawyer because of the mentorship and support of her brother-in-law, who is a lawyer. Because she wants to see a more diverse representation in every aspect of life in Alberta, Sandra mentors black youths and provides them with opportunities that were not readily available to her in the early years of her career. To attain their goals, Sandra advises black youths to take advantage of any opportunities available to them, including mentorship, networking, and scholarship opportunities. If they are diligent and persevere in their endeavours, Sandra believes that black youths can help build a Canadian society that we all want to see.

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**AFRICA
CENTRE**

Council for the
Advancement of African
Canadians in Alberta

BLACK HISTORY MONTH **EVENTS**

February 5th

Mentorship and
Leadership Program
Black Skincare Workshop
with Ranae Thomas-James
of Take Me Away Essentials

February 12th

Mental Health Program
Art Exhibition in
collaboration with 5 Artist
I Love

February 26th

YEGTheComeUp
Melanin Narratives – Black
Music

Please Note: Event dates
and details are subject
to change depending on
COVID-19 guidelines.

Find out more about our upcoming events
on our website:

www.africacentre.ca/upcoming-events

PROGRAMS

- Early Learning and Childcare
- Mentorship and Leadership
- Out of School Time
- YEGTheComeUp
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- Seniors Wellbeing and Engagement
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Ujima Fellowship
- BOOST Employment Program
- Entrepreneurial Support
- Scholarships
- Mental Health Program and Counselling Support
- Community Capacity Development

Website: www.africacentre.ca


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Maryama Addow

Youth Success Coach



Maryama Addow is a Mental Health Professional working at John D. Bracco a public school in north Edmonton. For Black History month 2021, John D. Bracco School celebrated what being Black meant to them. CBC/Radio-Canada Edmonton approached the school to creatively contribute something for Black History Month. Maryama and thirteen grade nine students jumped on the opportunity. The students were eager to produce a piece of work that was representative of them all. This led to the idea of creating a poem that they could all read on the radio together. The students were eager to produce a piece of work regarding what “being Black” meant to them. This led to the idea of creating a poem that had rhythm, and balance.

Maryama indicated that the students wanted to talk about both the positives and the negatives of being a Black person, and specifically a Black student. With the guidance of Maryama, each student wrote a couple of lines that focused on their own personal experience. Maryama then supported three of the students in formatting their ideas into poetry. The students felt it was important for their poem to represent struggles and strength.

Each student got the opportunity to read their part of the poetry on CBC morning radio. A “stand out moment” of their experience, was to hear their names properly pronounced prior to reading their poem on national radio. The poem is titled ***“Notes from the Northside”***. Celebrating this achievement, in the midst of a layered pandemic was not only a win but a moment of reprieve.

The poem was read with the instrumentals from a Nas song called, ***“I Can”***. This was inspired by the student’s teacher, Osmo Bimba. The song uses Beethoven instrumentals and was written by Nas as a way to show kids that they could achieve their dreams and, be what they want to be.

Maryama found this opportunity to be extremely monumental for these Black students. “It was really important for them to be on such a huge platform. The students are from a multitude of backgrounds and nationalities. She was overwhelmed with, how this heartfelt piece of work was received. “It was very comforting to see them be celebrated authentically for who they are”.

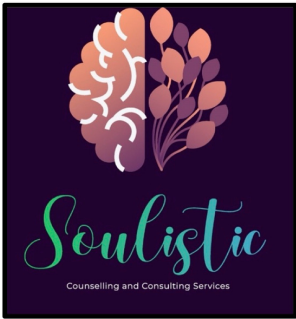
The mere fact that they are Black students, sharing their life-lived experiences, was so beautiful to witness and be a part of. The piece was then placed into the sequence of the CBCs’ podcast “The Loop”. The students received tremendous feedback once the poem aired on CBC. The students were emotional and extremely proud to share what they had created with their peers. John D Bracco School is very proud of the work of these students.

Many people may view north Edmonton with less than kind eyes. For these students and their families, it is home. It is their community, the place they know and love, where success begins. Maryama continues to engage and empower students to develop, set goals and work towards their success.

What Being Black Means To Me

- I was meant to feel inferior not superior
- I was meant to not appreciate my color but to praise others with lighter colors instead I will be the one to inspire others
- They weaponize my skin to infect the world with depravity
- They tried to hold me down but I don't believe in gravity
- I will use my power to flip the script
- No matter how many times they think I am unequipped
- Black men are no longer accepting the things they cannot change but they are changing the things they cannot accept
- We tried to find justice and peacefully protest but were met with disrespect
- I dream of a future with different ethnicities achieving their goals without a thought of discrimination
- Moving from limitations to congratulations
- Being black has been made an obstacle in this world but we are successful and are more than the boxes people have put us in
- I'm a lion hear me roar and see me win
- My blackness is the sum of greatness and I will use my blackness to bring great things
- I will be a role model and I'll spread my wings
- All I want is to see a world where black people are free to be what they want to be
- Where they can grow and succeed
- A world where black people can wake up and chase their dreams
- And not be chased by police
- Change will not come if we wait for others, we have to make our own
- I want to be able to walk this country like it is my home
- I want to be proud of my skin, whatever shade of brown
- Greatness with no limitation is where I am bound
- They tried to knock me down but we will rise from the ground
- Stand up and put on our crown

Soulistic Counselling and Consulting Services



Rasheal Charles is the Owner and Operator of Soulistic Counselling and Consulting Services. She is a passionate Social Worker that believes that self-discovery can uncover the benefits of personal growth. She holds a Diploma in Correctional Services from Grant McEwan, Bachelor of Social Work from Brescia University and Master of Social Work from Our Lady of the Lake University. While searching for opportunities to help, she has built a special skillset in advocating for marginalized individuals which turned into a passion and career. At a young age, being dubbed as "sensitive" has brought about a drive to seek out tools that the most vulnerable can feel no less than their fellow man.

She has held several leadership positions in the Human Services field and has led teams of Human Service professionals and Social Workers to achieve excellence. In 2015, her team was recognized by the Government of Alberta and awarded the Inspiration Award for their leadership in Elder Abuse. Her curated skills in leadership led her to join the New Professional Social Work Association as a Board member as they forge ahead to create more opportunities for Social Workers in Alberta.

In 2021, she was awarded the BIPOC Scholarship from the Centre of Mindfulness Studies in Toronto. This scholarship was awarded to increase access to mental health supports within the BIPOC community in communities across Canada. She has employed those skills learned in her current field of practice and is hoping to offer the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction courses in the community.

She has launched her private practice to specifically focus on supporting groups of people willing to learn about stress management, mindfulness to explore the benefits of living life with intentionality and purpose.

Soulistic Counselling and Consulting services will offer group sessions to help individuals pursue making their souls "whole" and to be wildly attuned to honouring both their struggles and successes. By using the building blocks of resiliency, kindness, and self-compassion a process of transformation will be created and mental health will hopeful be de-stigmatized for the BIPOC community.

Rasheal is "Building Our Community" by continuing to enrich the community as a leader, Mental Health Therapist and Social Worker.

Building our Community with Safe Spaces through the Arts



My name is Thato Pilane. I was born in Botswana and raised in Canada since I was 6 years old.

As a South African immigrant, I endured much hardship with poverty, bullying and racism.

I went through extreme racial bullying for my first 4 years in Canada that left me badly beaten at the age of 10. My family was very empowered to overcome these obstacles, with education and by our supporting each other. Although community, was not always easy to find when connected it proved to be a great source of positive reinforcements throughout my life.

From early childhood, I knew that I had the gift of music and dance. My passion is personal and has an indescribable feeling. At the age of 15, I found friends that had a similar passion, and we created the "White Chocolate Dance Crew" (WC Crew). As I pursued dancing successfully, I managed challenges, and I continued my education to university and graduated with a Bachelor of Management degree.

As a member of the WC Crew, I had the opportunity to travel the world and accomplished many accolades through Hip-Hop dance. We had the opportunity to be the opening act and perform for world-renowned artists including, Chris Brown, Ludacris, Ne-Yo, Ashanti, Ginuwine, Sean Paul, Kreesha Turner, The Game, Nelly Furtado, Obie Trice, Boyz II Men, Fabolous, K-Ci & JoJo, Chingy, Sean Desmond, Massari, Gary Beals, and Rochester.

The WC Crew was featured as the only Hip-Hop group that performed at Alberta's Centennial event with the Queen of England in attendance. I have shared the stage alongside Jabbawockeez, Supreme Soul, Fanny Pak, and Super Crew from America's Best Dance Crew.

I am trained as a dancer in many styles of Hip-Hop and have received training from choreographers/dancers such as The Electric Boogaloos, Sho-Tyme, Kabba Modern, Brad Rapier, Caleaf Sellers, JoJo Diggs and many more.

I have been a part of the production "Hip-Hop Saved My Life," which toured in China for a month during the summer of 2010, as Alberta's 1st Hip-Hop Dance production to tour internationally. WC Crew has earned several dance awards and has been part of a major driving force behind the growing hip-hop scene in Edmonton and across Canada.

I have struggled with depression and anxiety for most of my life. When at its worst, I tap into my art of music and dance. With family and friends as my support system, I am able to re-build my confidence.

I use my skills from multiple years of teaching and performing to lift spirits, inspire and empower children, youth and young adults, to be knowledgeable, respectful, and self-confident through dance.

I am working towards being a major contributor to building the Edmonton Arts and dance community by enabling support systems that teaches self-confidence, self-awareness, and security, to create safe spaces for others.

Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program: Transforming Lives and Improving Youth Educational



The Black Youth Mentorship Program is an interdisciplinary program aimed at preparing Black youths to succeed both in university and in the working world. The program connects high school students through mentorship with University of Alberta professors and undergraduates to inspire Black youth to see themselves succeeding in what they're passionate about.

The mentorship program was established in 2020 by Dr. Bukola Salami with the support of 17 Black faculty members at the University of Alberta. The program has an advisory committee comprising representatives from the National Black Coalition of Canada (Edmonton), Black Canadian Women in Action, Alberta Black Teachers Association, Nigerian Community Association of Edmonton, Yoruba Cultural Association of Edmonton, the Sudanese community, Council for Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage, and alumni of the Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program.

The program is supported by Black professionals from a wide range of backgrounds (including physicians, social workers, psychologists, entrepreneurs, lawyers, researchers, engineers, nuclear scientists, nurses, etc.) who mentor and support youths throughout the program and beyond. Around 35 Black youths completed the program in Fall 2020 and another 35 completed the program in Fall/Winter 2021 with the support of Black professionals and researchers.



We continue to receive positive news from those who have attended our mentorship program and their parents about how the program has transformed their lives. Many of those in our program are now in diverse universities across North America.

The report on the first year of our mentorship program demonstrates its immediate impact and is available here: <https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/media-library/research/health-immigration/black-youth-mentorship-program-final-report.pdf>

Black Youth Mentorship and Leadership Program: Transforming Lives and Improving Youth Educational

The following is a statement is a written reflection”, from Anjola Oyelami a student about the impact of the program: “As a result of participating in these projects and learning many useful lessons, I now have a lot more knowledge about not only what it means to be the best version of myself academically and mentally, but what it means to be a person of colour. Being a person of colour is a privilege that I now pride myself in, but I have learned that it should not be my main drive for accomplishing my goals. My love for what I am doing should be my motivation. Because as wonderful as it is to be black, my colour is not what defines me as a person, but my actions in my everyday life. One of the most important things that I have learned while being in this mentorship program/ research assistant job is a lesson from Dr. Salami, to always say thank you for every opportunity I get.

So, to Dr. Salami and to everyone who was involved in this program I would like to say thank you. Thank you for how much you have helped me and prepared me for the future. It is something that I can only repay you back for by going out and using all the tools you have equipped me with to make society a better place for future generations.”

The mentorship program will be offered again in Summer 2022 for 6 to 8 weeks. The program will include mentorship opportunities, group activities, workshops, and the opportunity for work or research experience. Applications will be accepted in late February/early March. Spaces will be limited, and we encourage you to apply. The application form will be available on our website:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/nursing/research/research-units/health-and-immigration-policies-and-practices/black-youth-mentorship-program/apply.html>



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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today and every day*

[CANADA.CA/BLACK-HISTORY-MONTH](https://canada.ca/black-history-month)

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And Still We Rise-- A Black Presence in Alberta



Etty Cameron in her Alberta classroom in the 1970s. Stories of how Blacks contributed to education and society overall are part of an exhibit at citymuseumedmonton.ca.

Best wishes for the New Year to our readers and followers and many thanks for your ongoing support of Alberta Prime Times. It is my hope COVID-19 and its variants will no longer be controlling factors in our lives in 2022 and beyond, and everyone will share freely in all aspects of society.

Let me introduce you to something new and interesting in the Black world: something that can be viewed from the convenience of your home.

Through an initiative of the Edmonton Heritage Council, Black people are now able to tell their stories digitally. The exhibit currently on display spans the period from the 1800s to the present and highlights lived experiences, extensively researched information and pictorial representations in support of the phrase from Maya Angelo's poem "*And still I rise,*" which forms the overarching theme of the display.

It speaks to the resilience of Black people who, though often scorned and buffeted, have fiercely resisted subjugation, a precursor to annihilation. Blacks, through their indomitable spirits, have persistently risen above adversities through their determination to stay focused on Maya Angelo's challenge as a path to achieve equality and justice, thus sharing fully in all aspects of society.

This digital exhibit is a project called Edmonton City as Museum Project, (ECAMP) spearheaded by Dr. Jennifer Kelly, professor emeritus of the University of Alberta, along with curator

And Still We Rise-- A Black Presence in Alberta

Christina Hardie and her ECAMP team. Dr. Kelly has recruited writers like Donna Coombs-Montrose, Jeannette Austin Odina, and myself, to prepare stories on some of the more contemporary contributions to the main theme: "And Still We Rise, A Black Presence in Alberta."

The display consists of several panels, meant to open up the conversation on the Black presence in Alberta and contributions to the city of Edmonton. The writers and sponsor hope the provision of available materials leads to healthy conversations around Black people and may become the genesis for inclusion in an Alberta Education curriculum which should be reflective of its population.

For many years, Blacks have not been recognized in the school curriculum. This is seen as an affront to Blacks who helped to build the country through working on the railroads and on trains as sleeping car porters. They helped break land to establish communities, and more recently, shared their expertise in schools, universities, and the larger community, as well as helping to stabilize schools in remote areas of the province. Materials in this display renounce excuses for exclusion of Black studies in the curriculum.

Almost two years ago, the Black Lives Matter movement forced the world to look at how justice and equality were meted out to Black people. The movement further challenged the world to move beyond the status quo and to embark on meaningful changes whereby all persons, of every colour, can realize their full potential.

As the pendulum swings in the direction of change, the writers hope the knowledge people gain from the exhibit will result in a better understanding and treatment of Blacks. Ultimately, this may lead to mutual respect for all humanity whereby everyone in society can participate fully.

While this digital display is available to view at any time, February is Black History Month. Could this be the ideal time to start learning about Black presence in Alberta?

And Still We Rise, a Black Presence in Alberta is an exhibit on Black history in the Province from the 1800s to 1970s; available to view online now at:

<https://citymuseumedmonton.ca/exhibitions/a-black-presence-in-alberta/>

Lady Etty Cameron "Gone Not Forgotten" 1937-2022

On January 13th, 2022 Etty passed away. It is with deep sadness that we extend our condolences to her family and all who are grieving her loss.

Committed...Devoted...Faithful!

Bringing New Perspective to the Alberta Human Rights Commission



Dr. Evaristus Oshionebo was appointed to the Alberta Human Rights Commission in August 2021. Dr. Oshionebo is a tenured Full Professor and Associate Dean (Academic) at the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary, the second of three black lawyers. He teaches the Law of Contracts, Business Associations, and Mining Law. Dr. Oshionebo has a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria), a Master of Laws (LLM) from the University of Lagos as well as from the University of Alberta, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from Osgoode Hall Law School at York University.

Dr. Oshionebo won the Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award, the University of Calgary in 2014. The award honours faculty members and instructors for their teaching excellence and commitment to student success.

In 2017, Dr. Oshionebo was awarded the 'GREAT Supervisor Award' by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Calgary. Prior to joining the University of Calgary, he was a tenured Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba. In 2013, he won the University of Manitoba Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching, as well as the Students' Teacher Recognition Award for outstanding teaching. Prior to his academic career, Dr. Oshionebo practiced law in Nigeria specializing in corporate and commercial litigation. He was also Deputy Editor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria Law Reports, the Nigerian Weekly Law Reports, and the Commercial Law Reports Quarterly.

Dr. Oshionebo's research focuses primarily on the law and policy governing the extraction and mining of natural resources. His book, *Mineral Mining in Africa: Legal and Fiscal Regimes* (London: Routledge, 2020) engages in a comparative analysis of the legal and fiscal frameworks for hard rock mining in several African countries. His earlier book, *Regulating Transnational Corporations in Domestic and International Regimes: An African Case Study* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009) examines the range of strategies for regulating transnational corporations in Africa's extractive industries.

In addition to his work on natural resources, Dr. Oshionebo researches and publishes on corporate responsibility, corporate governance, regulation of transnational corporations, sustainable development, international investment law, and intellectual property law. Dr. Oshionebo is the Co-Editor of the *Asper Review of International Business and Trade Law*.

Comment on my appointment to the Human Rights Commission:

Dr. Oshionebo believes that in order to accomplish the statutory mandate of the Alberta Human Rights Commission to promote and ensure access to justice, advance equity and inclusion, and uphold human rights principles in Alberta, members of the Commission must not only be professionally competent but also reflect the society they serve. In his opinion, "discrimination, racism and inequality in any society can only be properly addressed when those who are vested with the legal authority to address these issues are diverse and reflective of the different communities that make up the society." Prior to his appointment, the Alberta Human Rights Commission lacked diversity in terms of membership of its Tribunal. Dr. Oshionebo believes that his appointment to the Alberta Human Rights Commission is important because, as a person of colour, he is able to bring a different perspective to the Commission. He hopes that his appointment represents the beginning of the diversification of the membership of the Commission.

Comment on Black Youths

Dr. Oshionebo encourages Black youths to get an education so that they can participate actively and meaningfully in society. He would like the youths to reach out to adult members of the Black community who are able to provide mentorship and guidance as they navigate life's journey. On his part, he mentors Black youths, particularly those who are interested in becoming lawyers in Canada. He wants Black youths who are interested in studying Law to reach out to him for mentorship and guidance.

One Of The First Three Black Members Of The Alberta Human Rights Commission



Duke is a first-generation immigrant from Nigeria. He completed his law program at the University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria, and practiced law in Nigeria for a couple of years. He moved to Alberta in September 2004, as a recipient of the Alberta Law Foundation scholarship at the University of Alberta. After completing his Master of Laws program, Duke went back into legal practice, but this time he opted to remain in Alberta. He founded the law office Duke & Company (A.K.A Duke Law Office) in 2010. He has been providing mentorship and training opportunities to students that completed their law programs abroad, especially the minorities.

Duke had practiced in the areas of corporate/commercial law and commercial litigation while he was in Nigeria. In Canada, his practice areas include family law, immigration, and civil litigation.

Duke believes in giving back to his community. Therefore, he has been actively involved in his church and he has served the Rotary Club International and the Igbo Community in Edmonton in different capacities. As an internationally trained black lawyer, Duke experienced the systemic challenges that minorities like him usually encounter. Therefore, he understands the importance of devoting his time, knowledge, and skills to causes that will help in building a society that everyone will thrive in, notwithstanding the difference in skin colour, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation. Duke understands that, for purposes of building a better society, the Province of Alberta and indeed the entire Canadian society require the knowledge, expertise, and skills that people like him bring. It was with this mindset that Nduka accepted an appointment in 2021. It was in this light that Duke was appointed in July 2021 as one of the first black members of the Alberta Human Rights Commission.

Duke received the appointment with great optimism because such appointments are important in the increasingly diverse society, that Alberta has become. The diversity in the Province of Alberta requires that there should also be diverse opinions, experiences, skills, understanding and cultural awareness in a significant body such as the Alberta Human Rights Commission. The work at Alberta Human Rights Commission demands a significant amount of time from the members, and for a busy lawyer, this might seem like a real challenge. However, Nduka takes on the challenge with his remarkable passion, pride and dedication, knowing that serving in such a commission, as one of the first black members, will help in encouraging younger professionals who look up to people like him.

The 3 black members of the Alberta Human Rights Commission have since started their work at the Commission. It is recognized that the journey of diversity and inclusion is a process that needs commitment on the part of policymakers and the society at large, however, the appointment of Nduka and his colleagues as the first 3 black members of the Alberta Human Rights Commission is a step in the right direction.

Getting Your Affairs in Order

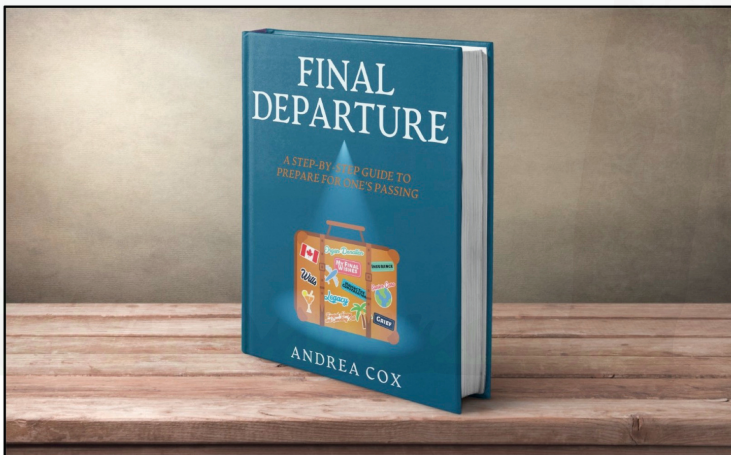


Born and raised in Calgary to Jamaican parents, Andrea identifies as JAMADIAN (Jamaican and Canadian), and a professional volunteer. She masters opportunities to spearhead black community programs including, the Black History Gospel Extravaganza, and she is the inventor of the Business Extravaganza in Calgary, under the CAAA (Caribbean Association of Adventist in Alberta). These events serve as platforms for black community cohesiveness, where skills, talents and various business expertise are shared and learned.

Andrea is a Licensed Funeral Pre-planning Consultant in both BC and Alberta.

Over the last 6 years, Andrea has gained invaluable experience with helping individuals understand the importance of putting a plan in place before a crisis occurs. Andrea has created the “Getting Your Affairs in Order Program”, to educate on the importance of having the uncomfortable conversation, with loved ones about death, and ways to plan before a death. Andrea continues to educate individuals from all walks of life through webinars/seminars and other various social media platforms.

Andrea has stepped into the world of writing, and her soon-to-be-published book teaches relevant lessons and a step-by-step guide for putting a plan in place and getting your affairs in order. Andrea strongly believes that having a plan in place now is a gift of love that brings peace of mind tomorrow to loved ones.



Go to: www.preplanfirst.com to preorder your book today!

Distinction in Education and Service to Community



Jean came to Canada in 1968 from the beautiful islands of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies to study Statistics and Economics at Sir George Williams University, Montreal. In 1975, her family moved to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. We left Nova Scotia in 1979, for Alberta.

Jean holding a B.Sc. in Statistics & Economics resigned from her banking career and returned to university in 1988. She studied and attained degrees of a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Human Ecology. Her daughters joined her at university in the 1990s and left her there, as she completed an M.Sc. degree in textiles and identity construction, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in education. While at university, Jean earned multiple scholastic accolades.

For Jean's master's degree, she investigated how immigrants use dress as identity construction artifacts by documenting the history of the Cariwest Festival. She became a member and then president of the Western Carnival Development Association.

Jean has had a career that spans through 12 years of banking administration, a Junior Economist with the Government of Canada, a Small Business Owner, and more than 20 years as an Educator (University of Alberta, Concordia University, NAIT, City University Seattle-Edmonton). Jean has authored, Girl Guides of Canada/Guides du Canada – Leader, and has had accomplished roles as a Camp Adviser, Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow award, Edmonton Chapter Human Ecology/Home Economics Association, AGD Fraternity member, and Servant of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Jean is a “champion of volunteers” and has had volunteer excellence in many areas of our black community including, the Council for Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage, Cariwest and over 20 years as a board member president of the Sickle Cell Foundation of Alberta (SCFA). SCFA is a registered charity that is dedicated to creating awareness about Sickle Cell disease, providing support to its members, and educating the community at large about this genetic illness. Jean has been the lead on most of the socio-cultural and psychological research about the illness in Canada and a convener of accredited international conferences. She has also volunteered with Edmonton Transit System Advisory for 6 years as Edmonton implemented its Horizon 2000 transit project.

Jean has successfully worked on projects that include encouraging Black youth to become blood donors. There is a Canada-Wide Social Science and Humanities Research, on the topic with Canada Blood Services and Carleton University. Jean is a champion of the creation of an A-K Books in Colour Curriculum guide in Alberta. Jean enjoys sewing, gardening, reading and time with family and especially her grandson.

Training the Future Generation of Scientists



Dr. Adetola Adesida is a British-born Nigerian Scientist. As a junior high school student in Nigeria, he was fascinated by the biology of living systems. That fascination has been central to his training and career choice in medical research. He completed his doctoral studies at the University of Manchester and fellowship training at Manchester and Harvard Medical School. He was recruited to the University of Alberta in late 2009 and is currently a **Full Professor of Surgery and the Divisional Director of Orthopaedic Basic Science Research**. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (FRSB) for his distinction in biological research, teaching, or the application of biology.

Dr. Adesida's work involves the education and research training of future scientists, bioengineers, and surgeon-scientists. His research interest is in cartilage tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, particularly in manufacturing cartilage grafts for knee and nose reconstructive surgeries and understanding the impact of space travel on cartilage health. Dr. Adesida is passionate about training the future generation of scientists in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Dr. Adesida and his team engineered cartilage that can be used for nasal reconstruction for head and neck cancer patients who have had major deformities after extensive treatment or surgery.

He co-leads the Experiential Learning in Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship (ELITE) Program for Black Youth - a funded university-government-industry-community collaboration to support hands-on learning and work-integrated training of Black Youth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Adesida is a past recipient of awards from Harvard University, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Marie Curie fellowship program of the European Commission, which he exercised at the University Hospital of Basel, Switzerland. He was awarded the Collaborative Exchange Prize of the American Orthopaedic Research Society. His work is supported by significant awards from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Foundation of Innovation, the University of Alberta Hospital Foundation, and the Alberta Cancer Foundation.

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Connecting Community Through Shared Voices: The Monitor

The Congress of Black Women of Canada, Edmonton Chapter is happy to introduce you to our monthly newsletter, 'The Monitor'. Launched on October 30, 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, the intention of 'The Monitor' was to find a way to reach out to the community, bringing relevant information to members during a time of significant isolation.

Our current issue in time for Black History Month focuses on careers as the theme, with an attempt to bring awareness to the achievements of our Black women. Despite the odds, Black women have managed to carve their space within an environment which at times struggles to be inclusive and provide equal opportunity for all.

Whatever the choice of your read, all articles promise to inform and engage your mind. Our intention is to always bring you material relevant to you and your family's lives as Black people in this society.

We thank you for your interest, as we invite you to further participate by submitting an article of your own on any subject matter you feel passionate about.

To read 'The Monitor' visit www.cbwc-edmonton.com/newsletter.



The Monitor's logo was designed by Michelle Holder, who also illustrates the quarterly cover pages with whimsical illustrations and inspirational quotes.

Michelle is a Canadian, born in the United Kingdom of Barbadian parents. A graduate of MacEwan University in Alberta, she majored in Visual Communications, Environmental Graphic Design. She has worked as a graphic designer in Edmonton and also in Barbados with a prominent advertising agency.

Michelle also spent time working with one of Canada's leading financial service organizations in the client relations sector in Toronto. Michelle's transferable skills led her to management,

specializing in customer services and client experience management. For the last 8 years, Michelle has rekindled her joy of illustration and advertising, merging it with her client branding expertise. Michelle currently enjoys assisting small businesses and entrepreneurs with their creative marketing presence. Michelle also customizes a variety of personalized items into unique gifts. A sample of her work is available on MH BRAND IMAGE DESIGN on Facebook.

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Threading the needle between Martin Luther King and George Floyd



The murder of 46-year-old George Floyd on 25 May 2020 turned out to be a pivotal moment for me. Watching that white Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, kneel on the neck of Floyd for over nine minutes, while Floyd was handcuffed, lying face down on the street pavement until his life was drained from his body, riled me up and jolted me from a state of complacency to one of activism.

Clearly, I was not the only one who watched that modern-day lynching with utter disgust. Millions of people around the world saw what I saw, in real-time, and were equally disgusted. How could any decent human being, regardless of the colour of one's skin, observe that despicable racist act and not be revolted?

But the impact of that George Floyd moment was monumental as far as I was concerned. I am an international relations specialist who has had the good fortune of growing up in a beautiful and peaceful place called Barbados. My Dad, a religious minister, and my mom were the best parents a kid could ever have. They shielded me and my siblings from the negative aspects of life for as long as they could. They made sure we received the best education, that we were also well clothed and fed, and that we had access to musical instruments, that we were exposed to all types of sports – mainly cricket and football -- and that we kept out of trouble.

I grew up in a home in which racism was not a frontal issue. Yes, we heard about the derogatory treatment of black people in the United States and in South Africa. We knew about Jim Crow and about the struggle of black people in the US in their efforts to emancipate themselves from the lingering effects of slavery. We even had an idea about the racist Brits who legally made Barbados "the first black slave society, as the historian Sir Hilary Beckles, the Vice-Chancellor of The University of the West Indies has documented in his book by that title.

But the true barbarity of our colonial masters during the time of slavery (1636-1876) was not something I learned at Boys Foundation High School or at Harrison College (an elite school that used to be primarily for white kids from prominent families) which I attended in the fifth and sixth form.

That history was never taught to us.

We knew more about the history of Great Britain and its hegemonic conquests than we learned about how our ancestors were mistreated...

...to continue reading this article visit: nbccedmonton.ca/mlk-george-floyd



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