

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023

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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.

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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

February 2023

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the members of the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton Chapter, and to everybody commemorating Black History Month in Canada.

Every year in Canada, the month of February serves as an occasion to honour the legacy of Canadians from Black communities, past and present, and to recognize and celebrate the significant contributions they have made to the history and continued growth of our nation.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I encourage all Canadians to take part in the events and festivities being held in their communities to mark the occasion. Special thanks to the organizers for their commitment to fostering open dialogue, awareness and understanding. Together, we can help to build a more diverse, equitable and inclusive society.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

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





MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, it is my pleasure to send greetings to readers of *Black History Month Cultural Magazine 2023*.

The people of our province have written an incredible story together over the last 117 years. In February, we focus on the experiences and celebrate the contributions of Black Canadians, and take time to recognize the impact they have had on Alberta.

From John Ware, the first Black cowboy, to Violet King and Lionel Locksley Jones, the first two Black people admitted to the Alberta Bar, to internationally renowned novelist Esi Edugyan—thousands of Albertans of African, African American and Caribbean heritage have left their mark on our history and communities. People from every walk of life have come here in search of opportunity. Overcoming the obstacles they faced, they flourished and helped build one of the best places in the world to live, work and raise a family. What a privilege we have to shine a light on who they are and what they have achieved.

Thank you to the National Black Coalition of Canada – Edmonton for facilitating this annual publication and helping us mark Black History Month.

Best wishes for a memorable celebration!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Danielle Smith".

Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta





ALBERTA
CULTURE

Office of the Minister



**Message from Honourable Jason Luan
Minister of Culture**

For longer than Alberta has been a province, people from the African diaspora have made their homes here. In many cases, they had to overcome hardships to build a life for themselves and their families and stand against those who contested their right to do so.

We honour these Albertans—the homesteaders and cowboys, labourers and business owners, soldiers in the World Wars, artists, students, and professionals from all walks of life—who have made significant contributions to the social, economic, and political life of our province.

Their names are woven into the fabric of Canadian history: John Ware, Violet King Henry, Eleanor Collins, Fil Fraser, and countless others. Their achievements, along with their resiliency and determination in the face of adversity and prejudice, continue to inspire Albertans today.

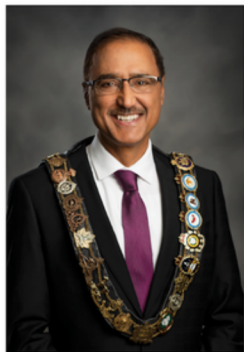
Black History Month is an opportunity for us all to celebrate the many contributions of Black Albertans over the years, to commemorate their unique history, and to honour the important role they have played—and continue to play—in building the Alberta we all call home. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the cultures and heritage of Black newcomers who come to our province from across the globe, further enriching our province through excellence in entrepreneurship and innovation, leadership in industry, healthcare and higher education, and by embracing of all Alberta has to offer.

I want to say thank you to the many Black Albertans who continue to take a stand for equality and fairness, as well as to those who are building bridges of connection and understanding through the sharing of culture and community. It is my hope that the faith in a better tomorrow that inspired Black Albertans in the past will continue to inspire all of us today, and especially as we celebrate Black History Month together.

Jason Luan
Minister



Message from His Worship Mayor Amarjeet Sohi



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, happy Black History month!

One of the things that I love about Edmonton is that we regularly celebrate our diversity through our many vibrant cultural festivals, art galleries, restaurants and markets. This is especially true in February when we take the time to recognize the contributions and achievements that Black Canadians have made in our region since the 1800s. This month's programs and events provide us with the important opportunity to learn and grow our understanding of our shared history.

The talented and resilient members of the local Black community continue to be key partners in creating a welcoming and inclusive city for everyone. As we work together to become an anti-racist city, the voices and lived experiences of Black Canadians are needed more than ever. I encourage Edmontonians to participate in this year's activities and to listen to diverse voices in our community as we combat systemic racism together.

I want to thank the National Black Coalition of Canada - Edmonton for organizing Black History Month celebrations every year and empowering Edmontonians to shape a future where everyone can benefit equally.

A. Sohi

Amarjeet Sohi

MAYOR, CITY OF EDMONTON





MESSAGE FROM MLA DAVID SHEPHERD



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 this is essential because representation and visibility matter.

I've seen what it means to Black students to read books or see movies where the hero looks like them, where families look like theirs and share their food and their culture. I've seen the impact of telling the stories of Black women, like Hattie Melton, who ran successful businesses that lifted their community up. I've seen the power of knowing and sharing our history in this place and the strength that brings to Black Albertans to help them plant their feet and stand tall. And I've heard what it means to them to see Black leaders in elected office.

But in celebrating our history and our present, we must also consider the future. There is still work to do to address a resurgence of open racism, root out systemic discrimination and address inequities that hold many in our communities back. I remain committed to that work and am excited that our next provincial election will see a record number of Black candidates on the ballot. I encourage everyone who's able to get engaged and involved to support individuals who share their values and vision for the future of our communities and our province.

And I encourage everyone to take time this month to check out and support the many events, activities and performances taking place across Alberta as we remember and celebrate the full range of who we are and what we can be. Because Black history is Alberta history and we are an integral part of its future. I'll see you out there!

Happy Black History Month!

David Shepherd
MLA, Edmonton-City Centre





ALBERTA

SKILLED TRADES AND PROFESSIONS

*Deputy Premier
Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton – South West*



Message from Honourable Kaycee Madu, KC, ECA Deputy Premier and Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions

As Deputy Premier and Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions, 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 2023.

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.

**Honourable Kaycee Madu, KC, ECA
Deputy Premier and Minister of Skilled Trades and Professions**



Message from the Edmonton Police Service

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



This is a special time to celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians, and I want to thank the National Black Coalition of Canada for recognizing and sharing the culture and contributions of Edmonton's Black community with all of us.

EPS is also celebrating the unique stories and accomplishments of its Black employees, while noting challenges they have had to overcome. Last year, we launched the Chief's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee to support underrepresented groups within our organization and held our first Black History Month Symposium for employees to share their voices and experiences.

In support of building our relationship with the community, we introduced our Chief's Community Council and Black Community Communications Council – to better understand the concerns of racialized individuals, share experiences and learn from each other, focus on how we can address gaps in service, and provide updates on progress. These councils have helped us to connect and share information on important issues in ways we never did before.

We have made a commitment to ongoing communication and engagement, and forming and strengthening community partnerships, which will help our police service become more inclusive of the diverse communities we serve.

There is so much more work to be done together, but I want to thank members of the Black community for sharing their voices and helping create a safer and more vibrant city for everyone.

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

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, handwritten signature in white ink, likely belonging to Rachel Notley.

RACHEL NOTLEY
Alberta NDP Leader



Welcome to Black History Month 2023

VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Celebrating and learning about Black History Month and Black Culture matters now more than ever.

This commemorative month remains a necessity because elements of racism and systemic barriers continue to outline the lived experiences of black people in Canada.

We do not have adequate representation in corporations, media, government, and other institutions. While informal mentorship and sponsorship often exist within organizations, unconscious or conscious bias results in inequitable opportunities for Black employees to be mentored or sponsored by senior leaders with more experience and influence.

Although as a community we are better positioned in 2023, than we were during the inaugural years, we still need to talk about the silent structures of inequality, and barriers that still exist today. They block and discourage creating inclusive environments for us to experience full belonging. Belonging is difficult to achieve when we live and work in systems that are not designed with us in mind.

The existence of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies although good on paper, does not necessarily provide the “**true action**” needed to drive inclusive spaces for us and other marginalized groups within the Canadian context.

Our intelligence is often judged by our accents, our looks, our English language limitations, our heritage, and the biased stories circulating in history books and the media. Our personal stories have been eclipsed by a singular monochromatic narrative about us, as told by others.

Our passion for who we are, and our fire, has been deemed aggressive and dangerous, marking us as unapproachable. We can create change and be fruitful through collaboration. Partnership is important for us to be powerful. There is power in agreement. Black empowerment and achievement emerge from community.

Let our voices be heard for creating pathways toward equity for ourselves, to give more dignity to our lives.

Respectfully,
Joy Thomas (Vice President)
National Black Coalition of Canada Society-
Edmonton Chapter



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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, 1905	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

Ganiyat Sadiq is a leader in the Black and Muslim community as the co-president and co-founder of the Black Inclusion Association, a nonprofit created to address systemic inequality faced by Black Calgarians. Ganiyat also founded the @IAMXMovement, a social community that seeks to raise awareness of the injustices faced by Black, Indigenous and Racialized individuals, as well as providing a safe space to share their experiences.



Deborah Dobbins is a third generation African American Albertan and president and CEO of Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots, a not-for-profit society founded in 2010 that is grounded in a mosaic of rich, inclusive African-American Canadian heritage dating as far back as pre-1910 and whose mandate is to honour, educate and celebrate their community with the communities at large. Through her 50+ years of volunteering, Deborah has humbly and tirelessly advocated for the rights of Black people in Alberta and human rights for all.



2022 Human Rights Awards Recipients

Dicky Dikamba is affectionately known as: 'Monsieur le Député', Dicky Dikamba is well known in Edmonton. As the Executive Director of Canadian Volunteers United in Action (CANAVUA) since its birth in 2009, Dicky has been a strong and steadfast leader in Edmonton's Francophone community and beyond for the past 13 years. His commitment to build CANAVUA and to support those that are marginalized in our community is an inspiration to many. Dicky has done so much for the community with grace and without prejudice.



Patricia Paradis has a career that spans more than four decades as a teacher, lawyer, mediator, and recently retired Executive Director of the Centre for Constitutional Studies (CCS). Patricia has worked tirelessly and graciously to advance the human rights of women and members of other historically disadvantaged groups through her work as counsel and sessional lecturer in Human Rights Law for 23 years in the Faculty of Law, in her role with the CCS, and as board director on several boards.



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February 21, 2023	6:30- 8 pm
February 27, 2023	6:30- 8 pm



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A CARIBBEAN TIDE RISES IN EDMONTON

By: Taneya Rogers

COCKTAILS & JERK FESTIVAL

The City of Edmonton is dubbed Canada's Festival City. It consistently boasts a lineup of summer and winter festivals that are inclusive, family-friendly, and reflective of various cultures and interests. In recent years, the Edmonton community has demonstrated a growing appetite for events that share and honour the diversity of its residents. Opportunities for minority groups have grown in tandem. However, being a visible minority does not inherently permit access to the festival platform; this is still business. A planner or coordinator must compete for the attention of festival-goers who have a range of affordable options. The concept must be creative enough to pique curiosity and set it apart from other events yet, relatable enough that attendees feel welcomed and enlightened having shared in the experience.

Dewayne Taylor identified a well-balanced niche that would secure success on the hectic festival lineup. His Jamaican heritage organically supplied connectivity; reggae music had long infiltrated the global market on the backs of the greats like Bob Marley and Peter Tosh. The music helped to propel the island as a top Caribbean tourist destination. However, as more Jamaican immigrants settled in Canada, the cultural exchange expanded beyond reggae music. The island's foods also grew in popularity, yet no singular platform focused on Jamaica's culinary arts; this became the launchpad for Cocktails & Jerk.

Taylor set out to curate a festival focused on one of Jamaica's most popular foods, *jerk chicken*. Beyond being a staple at the majority of Caribbean restaurants in the City, the cooking technique called 'jerk' carries a rich history that traces to the days of colonialism. The first installment of Cocktails & Jerk left attendees salivating for more; Pairing the iconic food with customized cocktails, an energetic music line up and a centralized outdoor location delivered big island energy. Held in September of 2021, the event was a superb farewell to Summer. *"I wanted it to be an event where everyone can come and feel comfortable; regardless of coming from the Caribbean or not, or ate jerk or not - there is something for everyone," said Taylor.*

Taylor responded to the interest and feedback, and the festival doubled in size the following year. In 2022, Cocktail & Jerk spanned two days, with three times as many food vendors and an upgraded location on Whyte Ave - well known for its lively pubs, festivals, and a gathering spot for creatives. For Taylor, this work is more than executing an event; he aims to build a brand that sponsors, artists, and chefs alike will seek out. Heritage Festival, Fringe Festival, Taste of Edmonton, and the Folk Music Festival are household names. Cocktails & Jerk is strategically building momentum to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with these giants. While the roots of the festival will remain grounded in Jamaican and Caribbean culture, the audience is an expanding melting pot - of all ages, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds. *"The mass appeal and*

inclusiveness," Taylor shares, will remain consistent with the brand. He says, "Delivering on authenticity is the most challenging part of the vision. A lot of the people who are a part of this may think the goal is to replicate what's already mainstream. My vision is for something very different."

With a formal education in engineering, a transition into a festival planner may seem like a leap. Systems thinking is a critical skill for an engineer. For Taylor, systems thinking framed his approach to planning this festival. *"Looking at everything in sectors and the components of each and breaking it down as I would with any other project. It's not looked at as a whole but as different pieces coming together. You can immediately see what is critical and what you can do without."*

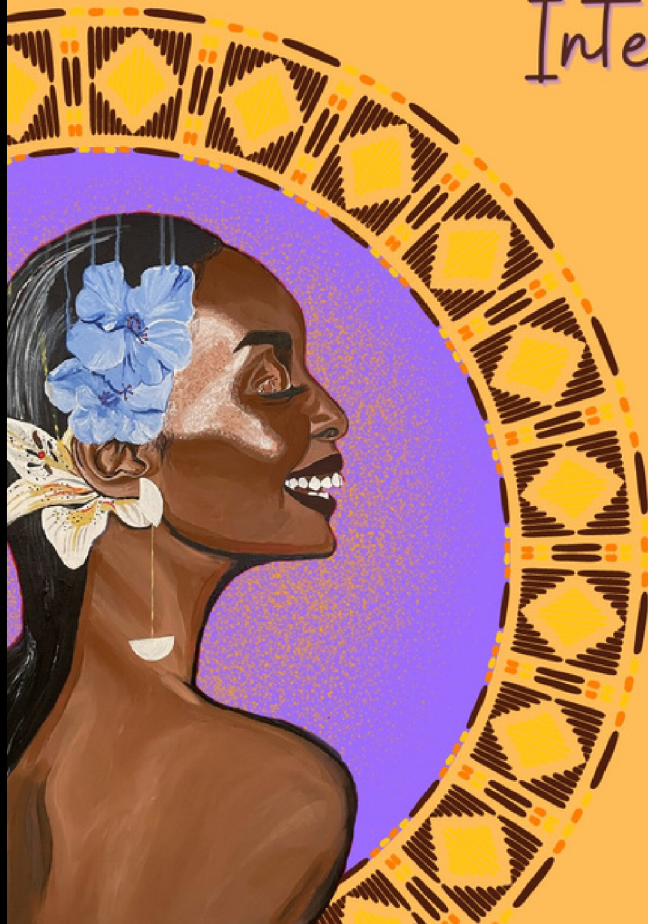
Taylor is exploring digging deeper into each segment of the festival and providing more variety for clothing and merchandise. He hopes that it becomes a platform to showcase aspects of Caribbean culture that remain underrepresented.

In reflecting on the progress thus far, Taylor says, *"It's easier to do something big versus something small."* He explains, *"Had I wanted to do something very basic, I don't think I would have gotten the backing that I have; A lot of the help that I get is because people believe in the vision. If you package and market a product properly, it will resonate with people."*

It is this connectivity with people that drives this festival and its curator. Cocktails & Jerk will continue to push the boundaries to deliver the quality Festival befitting Canada's Festival City.

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Police Reform in Alberta

A Note from former Special Adviser Temitope Oriola



This Police Act mandates the Government of Alberta to ensure that adequate and effective policing is maintained in Alberta. It mandates the Minister of Justice and Solicitor General to administer the act and provides that police services and peace officers shall act under, the direction of the Minister, in matters concerning the administration of justice and enforcement of the law.

Temitope Oriola is a Professor of Criminology and Sociology & an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta. He is an exemplary scholar and public intellectual known in many facets, (leadership, research, service, public debate), Internationally he is known for his work on terrorism studies. His work on policing of Black and other minority groups has earned him the reputation as one of Canada's leading experts on police reform. His perspective is highly sought by stakeholders around the world. Professor Oriola is a published author, a recipient of numerous awards and scholarships including the Governor General of Canada Academic Gold Medal.

Professor Oriola was appointed Special Adviser on Police Act Review by the Government of Alberta in February 2021. He was tasked by Honorable Kaycee Madu, (former Minister of Justice), to work with a team of professionals from the Ministry to engage with the public. He participated in over a dozen of engagement sessions. Sessions were dedicated to Indigenous, Muslim, LGBTQIA2S+, Black and Arab Communities, Addictions and Mental Health Advocates, Rural Alberta, and Youth Services Communities among others.

He saw firsthand the enormity of reforming the police — the divisions and agreements, clashing worldviews and space for consensus. He made several written recommendations to the Government of Alberta on how to reform police services in our Province.

The Police Amendment Act (formerly known as Bill 6) seeks to **improve police accountability and enhances public confidence by reforming policing practices and strengthening ties to the community**, it received royal assent on December 15, 2022. The Act provides the legal framework to establish the Police Review Commission, expected to be an independent civilian-led oversight entity. It stipulates establishment of a civilian-led governing organizations in areas policed by the RCMP. Other provisions of this Act include that police services articulate plans in relation to diversity and inclusivity, and the development of community safety plans, with annual progress reports. It gives the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Services the power to craft policing priorities. The Act also provides eight “guiding principles” or set of values for police services in Alberta. For more on the Act, see: <https://www.alberta.ca/modernizing-albertas-police-act.aspx>

The Act is a step forward marking the first set of serious reforms in policing in Alberta in the **last 30 years**. He hopes for legislative changes including the need to raise the minimum requirement for recruitment into police services in Alberta. The current **grade 12 threshold is obsolete**. This is pertinent because most police officers accused of abuse of civilian rights and excessive use of force tend to have grade 12 level education or less. The length of training also requires enhancement.

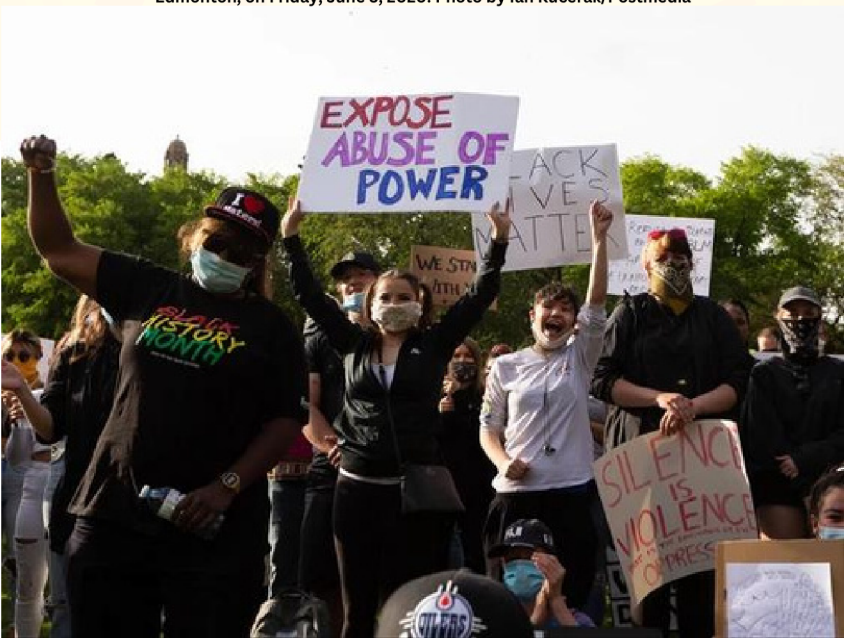
Professor Oriola noted in an *Edmonton Journal* column, that it takes about 16 months to 4 years to practice nursing in Alberta. Barbering and hairstyling take 1 to 2 years. Individuals need 4 years of training to become an electrician, plumbing apprenticeship also takes 4 years in Alberta. Police recruits in Alberta and across Canada currently receive 6 months and 2 weeks of training.

Consequently, some of the issues in policing are partly due to the short period of training and grade 12 level education requirement.

In addition, a police college model like the regulatory role of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the Law Society of Alberta, would be a great asset. These entities ensure that the integrity of their professions is maintained through clear guidelines about appropriate conduct and disciplinary architecture vis-à-vis misconduct of members.

Professor Oriola has indicated that while he would have loved to see the 2022 Police Amendment Act do far more, he does not believe that police reform is an all-or-nothing-affair. The current and future governments of our Province have an opportunity to improve the relationship between police services and the communities they serve, through several of the other recommendations that he offered.

Demonstrators cheer during the A Fight for Equity rally at the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton, on Friday, June 5, 2020. Photo by Ian Kucerak/Postmedia



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“Black Pharmacy Students Paving the Way”



As young Black children there are many instances where we are unable to see those who look like us in academic or professional positions. A group of students at the University of Alberta Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (BPSA) took a small step to increase representation and paved the way to create a space and an avenue to make change.

Founded in 2020, the University of Alberta's Black Pharmacy Students' Association strives to provide a safe space for black pharmacy students, to empower them, and to create a strong and extensive network for them. Specifically, to advocate for and support current and prospective black pharmacy students.

Representation is important at all levels. Over the last few years, we have worked to provide mentorship within the community, fellowship within the program, and advocacy for the inclusion of culturally diverse content in our curriculum. Since then, we have seen an increase in Black applicants to the program, and an increase in the Black community engagement in Pharmacy as a profession.

As one of the most accessible health care practitioners, our goal is to ensure the competency of all graduates to take care of diverse populations and recognize the unique experiences and backgrounds of our Black communities.

The BPSA offers a plethora of professional development events throughout the year and is actively working to increase community engagement and services for the public.

Our most anticipated annual events are *Pharmacy School 101*; a webinar in which we break down Pharmacy as a profession and the avenues one can take upon completion of the program as well as our *"Let's talk Black Health"* series in which we tackle relevant issues such as microaggressions or mental health.

Events and initiatives are centered around building a sense of community for Black pharmacy students, facilitation of a mentorship circle, anti-Black racism education, and calls to action to address systematic racism. Information on our initiatives is always available on the BPSA webpage (uabpsa.com).

Along with the successes of our initiatives, the BPSA boasts an incredibly talented and admirable membership. In 2022, our founding member and past-president Dr. Oluwatobiloba (Tobi) Obatusin was the recipient of the Alberta College of Pharmacy Leadership Development Award.

The achievements of individuals in our group are successes for us all as.

We hope to be able to inspire the next generation of changemakers to challenge the systems and advocate for their needs.



À la française – by Chloe Legrand

Black Women Entrepreneurs



Chloe Legrand's mother was born in Martinique (French Caribbean Island near St. Lucia) and her father is from Guadeloupe, which is right next to Martinique.

Born and raised in France, Chloe cooked beside my mum as a child. As a family, they loved going to the bakery next door to get baguettes for breakfast. That love for baking and French cuisine travelled as they moved to England in 2008.

At school, Chloe was introduced to hospitality and catering which was second nature to her. This became a place of comfort, especially having just moved to England and having to learn a new language and culture.

In college, she studied professional cookery with work experience at high-end hotels, such as **The Savoy and The Ritz, where she decided that Pastry and Culinary Arts would be her specialty.** Chloe and her family moved to Winnipeg, Canada in 2020 and then to Edmonton in 2022.



Chloe and her mother participated in a program for women entrepreneurs (HER-CONOMY by Canadian Imperial Advantage) CIA. This program allowed them to introduce themselves and their business idea to the community. Most of the participants were black, so they felt included in the Black community. They also took part in the Scotia Bank Women Initiative event last year. They had the opportunity to present their products and educate themselves about Black Owned Businesses and black women in business.

In November of 2022, as part of the program, they participated in a pitch competition, by CIA. À la Française with a focus on traditional French patisserie, breads and custom cakes of all kinds was born.

They are very overwhelmed by the support they received and hoped to make a huge impact in the Black community as black entrepreneurs. They attended the Diversity Awards at the end of last year as a vendor and were promoted in the Diversity Magazine.

À la Française looking forward to serving the community. The power of making a Business Dream a reality.



Instagram: [alafraconaise_yeg](#)

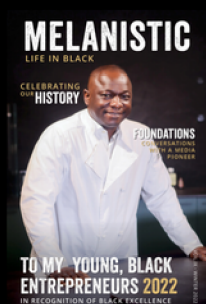
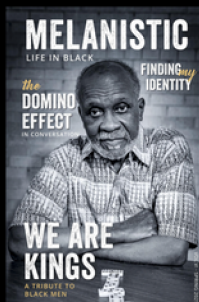
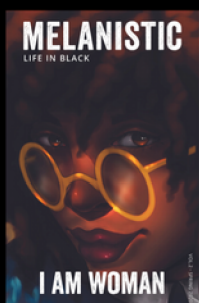
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Juno Award Winner – Garth Prince

Garth Prince is the stage name of Garth Prinsofsky, a Namibian-Canadian vocalist, drummer, educator, writer, and recording artist. Garth was born in Cape Town, South Africa and raised in Namibia.

He moved to Canada in 2008 and has made Alberta his home.



Garth is a professional vocal performer with years of experience in community building using the African experience through song, dance, and instruments. He teaches and performs interactive music concerts in schools across Canada and encourages cultural diversity in an environment of work and play, that appeals to students of all ages and abilities.

In earlier years (2013) Garth worked with the National Black Coalition of Canada Edmonton (NBCC) and other organizations in collaboration with Edmonton Public School and he created an Artist in Residence Program sharing his teachings in schools across Canada. This has been a great enhancement to his musical journey.

Garth has always had a passion for music and believed that he had the ability to produce music at a high level. Garth is the winner of the Edmonton Arts Council's Cultural Diversity Award in the Arts 2012, the National Black Coalition of Canada Edmonton (NBCC 2013) Fil Fraser Award for Outstanding Work in Literary Performing or Visual Arts. He was a Western Canadian Music Award nominee for Best Children's Entertainer in 2021.

Garth is now most noted for his 2021 album "Falling in Africa", which was nominated for Best Children's Album at the 17th Canadian Folk Music Award 2022.

At the **Juno Awards 2022**, Garth **won** the Juno for **Children's Album of the year**.

Garth's hard work and perseverance hold the key to his success. NBCC is very proud of his accomplishment and that they supported him with this project.

Garth is an inspiration to youths especially those who may see him as someone who looks like them. His accomplishment is a message to youth to take care of their own future, and not wait on someone else.

Garth continues to produce music that preserves the cultural heritage of Africa for future generations and helps non-Africans to discover languages, cultural insight, and stories from the Motherland making a positive impact - one concert at a time. Garth is married to Michelle and is the father of 2 lovely children.



Modern Marketing Mastery – Nyssa Cromwell

Promoting Engineered Sunlight

Nyssa Cromwell, of Trinidadian descent, is a first-generation Canadian, born in Ontario.

Growing up, she played a myriad of sports and often was involved in coed teams where she excelled. These early coed and competitive experiences would be mirrored throughout her corporate career.

After graduating from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) Computer Systems Technology program with honours, she began her career as a software developer, moving up to a position in Enterprise Architecture for a large corporation.

Annually, she volunteered with the grade 9 girls Women in Technology (WIT) conference at the University of Alberta, looking to provide a model of diversity and hope.

Still, in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) field, Nyssa pivoted her career to focus on digital and technical marketing.

She now holds a position as the Vice President of Marketing at a burgeoning scientific scale-up in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada where her work has attracted Fortune 500 technology firms, leading research institutes, and even NASA as a customer.



She was recently recognized by a global organization and won the 2021 SAMPS (Sales and Marketing Professionals within the life sciences and applied research industry) Marketing

Professional of the Year award which celebrates brilliance in marketing, recognizing the impact the individual has made to business objectives and highlights the work going on within marketing in the industry.

Nominated by her CEO, who wrote, "Nyssa has built a comprehensive digital marketing strategy that attracted, educated, and converted top-tier customers in 35+ countries, generating an exceptional pipeline and over 70% of our revenue from her inbound marketing strategy. Through positioning and exceptional content, Nyssa has brought the company to top visibility for all aspects of solar research."

She wants to see more women of colour in the STEM field and is currently volunteering with the Black Kids Code organization to teach young girls to program using the python language. Nyssa believes in mentoring the younger generation and knows there is so much wisdom in our community that we can all tap into.

Having built the capacity for resilience, Nyssa has demonstrated agility to deftly transform obstacles she may have faced into opportunities to learn, develop, and ultimately exceed expectations. Nyssa had a CEO that was willing to recognize, invest and develop her strengths and talent. This support is a major transformational change that is needed in cultivating meaningful change for Black people in the workplace.

Nyssa has been an extraordinary volunteer for the National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) for numerous years.

NBCC values her dedication to community and culture. Nyssa is a strong mentor for Black women.





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Revée is a registered nurse specialized in neonatal intensive care and pediatric hematology. She currently works in a children's hospital as the sickle cell disease nurse.

She had an allogenic stem cell transplant to cure Sickle Cell Anemia on November 09, 2017 at the Tom Baker Cancer Center. After 25 years of hospital admissions and countless treatments Revée became the first adult in Alberta to receive a stem cell transplant to cure Sickle Cell Anemia (Among the first adults in Canada).

In 2018 the National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) presented her with the Dr. John Akabutu award for resilience against extraordinary odds. She is a member of the Not Just You Sickle Support Organization, Sickle Cell Transplant Advocacy for Research and the Canadian Hemoglobinopathy Nurses Group.

She is passionate about inspiring, encouraging, supporting and advocating for the sickle cell and stem cell transplant community.

Revée recently started a handmade product line named Rêve Naturals. Revée published her first book called 'My Sickled Cells' in 2022. This book is based on life growing up with sickle cells and getting a life altering stem cell transplant.

She attributes all of her success to the grace of God and a scripture that keeps her going through tough times is 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' Philippians 4:13. Revée is looking forward to enjoying life post stem cell transplant and doing all of the things she's never thought possible.

YVESON PHILOGENE
“A Journey Haiti to Canada”

BLACK LAWYER – IMMIGRATION AND FAMILY LAW – CANADA



Yveson Philogene is a dual-qualified lawyer. He is licensed to practice law in Haiti and Canada. He obtained a civil law degree from the State University of Haiti in 1996. He practiced law in Haiti for nearly 10 years. His areas of expertise were family law, criminal law, civil litigation, and negotiation. He had a great career in public service. At the Ministry of Justice, he held the position of Head of Service for the control and inspection of Clerks and Prosecutors' Offices. He was also the Chief Coordinator of a monitoring and Judicial Management Program sponsored by ACDI-USAID.

He entered Canada with his family in 2004 and settled in Ottawa, Ontario. When he arrived in Canada, contrary to his expectations, he *could neither work as a lawyer nor enter* the common law system in Ontario. He worked for several years as a French Instructor at colleges and language schools in Ottawa. Then in 2009, summoning up his courage, he enrolled at the University of Ottawa to study common law. He did his best to adapt to the system he was not used to and continued to teach French in college to make ends meet.

In 2012, he obtained the title of Juris Doctor. After that, it was not easy to find an articling position. He offered his services free of charge for approximately 12 months while he prepared for the Ontario Bar exams in French. After unsuccessfully attempting the Ontario Bar exams in French, he accepted a position as a Compliance Officer at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) from 2014 to 2015. He continued to teach French at the Cité collégiale and to work in property management.

In 2018, he founded his own language school “Crimson Language Academy”, an institution that prepared training plans and taught French as a second language to federal government officials and other clients. Despite failing the Ontario Bar exam and distancing himself from the legal field, Yveson did not give up his dream to become a lawyer in Canada. In 2019, he joined his family who had previously settled in Edmonton, Alberta. He redoubled his efforts and enrolled in the Alberta Law Society courses. Once again,

he faced the challenge of finding an articling position in Edmonton, Alberta. Although he offered his services for free, it was difficult and almost impossible for him to find an articling position.

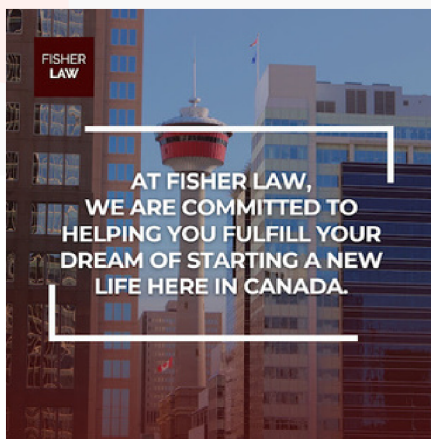
Eventually, he had to travel to Calgary, Alberta to do an unpaid articling for about 10 months. He stayed in Calgary during weekdays and returned to Edmonton on weekends to visit his family. He was called to the Bar of Alberta in November 2020. He joined "Quantz Law", a law firm where he practiced family law, civil litigation, immigration law, estates, and notary public.

In January 2022, he founded his own firm "Philogene Law" where he practices family law, immigration law, estates law and notary public. Yveson also likes family mediation, in which he has attended several seminars and holds certificates. In July 2022, he joined Fisher Law, a dynamic and multicultural immigration law firm where he works as a consulting attorney while continuing to practice family law, estate law and notary public at Philogene Law.

Yveson volunteers with the Association des Juristes d'Expression Française de l'Alberta (AJEFA), which serves Francophones in Alberta. He is also a member of the Board of Directors. He gives legal workshops, radio presentations and publishes articles in newspapers on immigration and family law. He is very involved in Alberta's Francophone Community. He enjoys helping the Black community and immigrants settle in the community.

He takes time to assist black people and others. He is always ready to hear their problems. He attaches great importance to volunteering. He made it his duty to assist low-income people and work as a Roster Lawyer at Legal Aid Alberta. Yveson believes in the contribution of the Black community to the development of Canada. He encourages Black People to be courageous and determined, not to give up or back down when they encounter problems in life, to have a goal and adopt a plan to achieve that goal, and to seek help.

PHILOGENE LAW www.philogenelaw.com
FISHER LAW www.fisher-law.ca



“A Journey of Perseverance”

Janet James



I immigrated to Canada on August 27, 1980. This day was the first of many changes and a pivotal point in my life. There are no regrets about leaving my family in the UK to live with my father in Canada, at the age of 15 years. Each day of my journey over the past 42 years feels like a fresh start.

I am very blessed with the path I am on, both spiritually and mentally. Looking back at my accomplishments, it is not by title but by strength. My belief and trust in God has helped me to endure life's challenges.

Business and Corporations has been my passion.

I started my own home service business doing Esthetics on the go at a young age. Within 2 years my clientele had grown immensely, and I had to find a place to locate my business. This gave birth to Serenity Total Body Clinic. I advanced to owning the building and ran this business for 25 years. I eventually owned and operated two Spa businesses in milestones.

My passion for motivational speaking enabled me to complete training and mentorship from world-renowned experts in the field whilst running my business. Imagine finding yourself as a black woman on this platform in Edmonton - with no welcoming space, no sense of belonging, no voice, and no inclusion.

I pondered about speaking to the corporate and business crowds of lawyers, educators, bankers, government representatives and others.

Would they actively participate with a headlined black women speaker?

Deep in my heart, I knew it was my destiny and that I must overcome any challenges. It proved to be very successful. I spoke in the UK, British Columbia, and Canada. I felt that I had paved the way and created a path for other black women.

Being in the esthetic and spa world, I had observed the lack of black women in the cosmetic world, so I entered this corporate sector as a Business Development Coordinator. There was no one who looked like me that could be a mentor to me. I was the only visible black person working for this giant cosmetic company, which, by the way, had no makeup for black or people of colour.

I recall asking *what about us?*

There are many firsts in my life including my journey with Shoppers Drug Mart. I commenced a career as a Cosmetics Beauty Advisor and proved my capability to be promoted to the roles of Cosmetic Manager, Beauty Operations Specialist, District Manager Operations and most recently **Vice President of Operations Manitoba & Saskatchewan.**

Becoming the **first black woman in this role** has been a very humbling experience in my career. Currently, I am the Lead for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Champions for the last 2 years.

Of importance is that this company **made it a priority** to support my growth and allowed me to demonstrate my capability in an inclusive space regardless of my age or colour. There is a good representation of women in executive and leadership roles, from different backgrounds. This provides a model that enhances and promotes the dreams of other women.

I have three nieces, one grandniece and three granddaughters and other family members that I do not want to stifle in environments where they develop repressed feelings for lack of belonging, feeling inadequate and not being valued, because of their blackness.

I am paving the way for their greatness in inclusive spaces where they are respected because of who they are.

Diversity and inclusion for our race is significant. **We must continue to be proud and lift each other up without judgment. We must mentor our black youths to dream, be agile and strive to be the best version of themselves.**

My biggest accomplishment is raising four sons who now live their lives with purpose. My mother, my father, my sisters, and my brothers have inspired and encouraged me to stay focused and be me. Family is everything to me!



On the front lines of the Canadian workforce as a Black Woman

By

Miriam N. Sekandi, PhD, M.A, B.Ed, Dip.Ed



Towards the end of 2023, I was invited by a group of black women leaders to facilitate a half-day retreat event on self-leadership. The women in this group originated from various black communities and held powerful positions in various organizations across Edmonton.

These women had been on a leadership journey together for one year and this retreat was to close out that year-long experience. When we got deep into the conversation, **I noticed a thread that strongly held them together: despite holding leadership positions, they did not feel seen and recognized for how powerful they knew they could be in the workplace.** They seemed to be both frustrated by this, and drew comfort from the fact that they were not alone.

Spending half a day with these women leaders got me thinking of the ongoing struggles that black women go through to constantly try and prove themselves worthy of the positions they hold. **They constantly have to prove that they belong in the rooms they walk into.**

When they mentioned that sometimes they felt like a token, I felt that deeply. **They expressed that it was as if they had been placed in these positions to demonstrate diversity within organizations but, their diverse contributions to discussions were not welcome.** They were simply a black body to meet organizational requirements, without the brains to go with it. They felt used.

This is not new. Being black is tough. Being a black woman means striving to overcome an even steeper hill. The stories that have been inherited around the world about black folks permeate every social and institutional fabric and reverberate in the workplace.

Every time a black person appears to dominate an area, their excellence comes under fire. Again, if it is a black woman, that fire is almost an inferno. What is thrown at them in the form of microaggressions sears so hot it is intended to smother them into retreat.

As I listened to these women's stories, I had to remember my role; to help them with self-leadership. Having been raised in a collectivist culture where we move in packs, I debated whether to approach the group with a collectivist stance or an individualistic stance. I chose a combination.

You have to build yourself up and take your place, I told them.

Claim your space with strength and power.

Own it.

If someone takes your idea which has been dismissed by others, take it back. That person for articulating your idea. "Thank them?" They asked me. "Yes," I said. Thank them and reclaim your idea, "That's exactly what I was saying a few minutes ago, thank you."

I know. It's hard and complicated for non-black people to believe that we are actually brilliant. Many struggle with accepting that the stories they have heard about black people are synonymous with mediocrity. Nothing is further from the truth! We exude excellence! We are actually smart! But our excellence cannot shine through when we choose to be in shadowy spaces where we cower away and give in to subservience.

We need to dominate spaces the spaces we are blessed to occupy. We have a lot to contribute and holding back is what keeps us unhappy in the workplace. Even at the expense of being referred to as "the angry black woman."

I took these extraordinary women leaders through an exercise that shocked them and I was surprised at their response. **I asked them to brag about their experiences and accomplishments.**

When I introduced the exercise, I watched with shock as none of them wanted to brag about themselves. I saw great women leaders retreat and shrink away, not wanting to be at the front of the line. No one wanted to tout their accomplishments in public. I was able to get a couple of volunteers to share their achievements. So many subscribe to the notion of being humble and so choose to be dominated. When you are in a subservient position, you play into the hands of the dominant ideologists. You are exactly where they want you!

Well, one way to really gain more confidence and stand up tall is to get used to talking about one's accomplishments. If asked about how your weekend went, don't just say "great" or "okay." **If you had a powerful event or recognition, talk about it.** Share powerful experiences and moments with your colleagues and demystify who you are.

Watch the mystery of who you are get resolved. Is it scary, yes. Does it make you feel vulnerable, absolutely. Might you become a target, maybe, but if you are also giving praise where it is due, to the other parties, your power will be received. Initially, it may be a shock to others that you are good. Keep your head high.

I personally have been subjected to microaggressions in workplaces. A terseness in an email, a slighting that I am vague and unclear, and sometimes a scolding just like you would give to a little child. This is the reality of black women. My open and tolerant nature has been mistaken for being a pushover. My soft and non-confrontational attitude is seen as weak and unserious. Well, the strength of a chain lies in its flexibility. Sometimes to get what I want, I had to make my superiors think they had power over me. Other times I have had to be direct and demand the respect I deserve. You must be mindful of your approach because you will not be easily understood. And remember, you don't have to be. Just be matter of fact.

In the end, as black women, we must know where our power lies. Inside of us. Let us not for one moment doubt the flame that burns in us, lit within us by a power bigger than us.

The most important is not to dim your light because others cannot stand how bright you are.

Don't let others' failure to see your excellence stop you from seeing it.

Don't let their inability to see your power prevent you from being powerful.

Don't abandon your dreams just because others were unable to dream or go for their own dreams.

Don't fail to accept challenges for fear that you will not succeed.

You are exactly where you are meant to be.

**Wholistic Lifestyle Coach
Parenting Whisperer
Inner Game Ninja**



Miriam Sekandi, PhD

Judge Olugbenga A. Shoyele



Olugbenga Shoyele has climbed higher in the Canadian Justice system to become a Judge. He was appointed to the role of a Provincial Court Judge, in the Provincial Court, Criminal Division in Edmonton Alberta effective July 12, 2021.

Judge Olugbenga A. Shoyele was born in Nigeria, where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B. Honours) degree, received a Master of Laws (LL. M) degree, and obtained a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Law from various Universities in Nigeria. He was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1981. He received his Master of Laws (LL. M) degree from the University of Alberta in 2003.

He has accomplished many milestones in the legal profession. He became a member of the Alberta Bar in 2004. He was an Associate lawyer at Sharek & Company and Brownlee LLP prior to his career as Legal Counsel at the Court of Queen's (now King's) Bench and, briefly, at the Alberta Court of Appeal.

He has worked with approximately 45 Justices of the Alberta Courts of Queen's (King's) Bench, where he provided research, editorial and writing support. He has participated in recruiting and mentoring numerous articling students. He was appointed Queen (King's) Counsel for the Province of Alberta in March 2020.

Judge Olugbenga Shoyele is a published author, a former law professor, and was a Sessional Instructor in Legal Research and Writing (LRW) at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law.

Judge Shoyele and his wife (Mary) are the parents of three children. His judicial and community volunteer work demonstrates his commitment to building community. Judge Shoyele indicates that he stands on the strong foundations and shoulder of his parents and those hard-working pioneers who had a vision of possibilities for future generations.

The proportion of black Judges across Canada is truly minuscule. **Judge Olugbenga Shoyele is paving the way and creating a legacy that he hopes will inspire the next generations of black youth and black lawyers.**

Medical House Calls – Dr. Jennifer Njenga

Canada Homecare Group (CHG)



Dr. Jennifer Njenga is one of the Albertans who is a recipient of our late Sovereign Head of State, Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal Award, in December 2022, for her service in healthcare and improving the health and well-being of Albertans. Dr. Njenga is also the recipient of the National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC) Rosalind Smith Excellence in a Profession Award 2022.

In September 2022, Honorable Jason Copping, Minister of Health appointed Dr. Njenga as the Co-Chair of Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System to provide advice on ways to strengthen, improve and address challenges relating to primary healthcare in Alberta.

Dr. Njenga is the CEO and Founder of Canada Homecare Group, (CHG), a clinic that provides medical house calls to people in the comfort of their homes, private homes, seniors facilities, homeless shelters, community centres, and others.

The multidisciplinary team at CHG consists of Family Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, nurses, and administrative support staff. They provide a suite of services including prescription refills, diabetes education, blood pressure checks and referrals to specialist care, blood draws, ear syringing, flu and covid vaccination. This team is diverse in clinical skills and is multilingual. Staff speaks multiple languages (French, Arabic, Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Swahili, Somali) and others.

Since its establishment in 2020, CHG has been taking care of Albertans, especially vulnerable populations through multiple collaborations and partnerships, established by Dr. Njenga, including Alberta Health Service, Primary Care Network and others. CHG also takes care of refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Iraq, and other war-torn countries.

Dr. Njenga is also the CEO and Founder of Engage Healthcare Limited. She is currently working with Montana First Nations, to assist them to re-orient their health services to improve the health and well-being of their communities.

Dr. Njenga serves on several committees, including HIV Edmonton, the Interim Leadership Group of the Edmonton Seniors Council, the Refugee Health Coalition and more recently became a board member of the New Canadians Health Centre.

Dr. Njenga is the last of 6 children, and 3 other siblings who are doctors, she was born in Kampala, Uganda. She obtained her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in Pretoria, South Africa. She then moved to Namibia and then to New Zealand where she is known as a 'Kiwi'. She married her best friend and classmate in medical school. He is a Kenyan family Physician practicing in Edmonton.

While working in New Zealand, Dr. Njenga's interest in the vulnerable populations and the social determinants of health piqued her to obtain her Master of Public Health at the University of Auckland. She worked as a General Practitioner Liaison for Women and Children's Health and was involved in several initiatives, locally, regionally, and nationally, both in leadership and clinically.

After several years of living in New Zealand, Dr. Njenga and her family moved to Australia where she obtained a Doctor of Public Health. Two years later in 2017, the family relocated to Alberta Canada. In Alberta, she worked as one of the 2 Clinical Design Leads on the Provincial Referral Program. She later moved to Primary Care, where she worked as a Manager of Integrated Care.

Grounded and mentored into Leadership and Management.

Dr. Njenga attributes her perspectives and drive to the '***strong shoulders on which she stands***'. Dr. Njenga's mother was the Executive Director of the YWCA in Uganda, and later the Vice President of the World YWCA. Her father was a civil servant who worked in various roles, including representing Uganda on various missions abroad. Dr. Njenga's late sister served as the President of the Uganda Medical Association for several terms and became the first black woman President of the World Medical Association. Her family has worked with former Presidents and first ladies of the world including (Namibia HE Sam Nujoma, Uganda His Excellency Yoweri Museveni and South Africa, HE Nelson Mandela).

With such prominent figures in her life, Dr. Njenga was groomed and mentored into Leadership and Advocacy. Her mother always said, "the worst thing they can say is no!" Her late sister, an avid Rotarian, believed in and demonstrated the ideal of service in her life and community and always spoke about "others before self". **Some of her late father's words to her were, "lead, preach, make a difference, and do not hold back because you have everything it takes and much more!"**

Dr. Njenga is truly an outside-of-the-box thinker. Her biggest critique of health systems is trying to use the "one size fits all" policy! **She is passionate about equity and access to quality and timely health care, especially for the most vulnerable.** She goes over and above to ensure that plans are being put in place to make it happen. "She would not be able to do this, without her 3!" and is grateful and mindful of the support from her husband and their 2 children. "They allow her to dream, create and think big!" Dr. Njenga is exemplary, especially for people of black and visible minority origins. **It takes a good education, dedication, determination, being focused and working on your goals to make dreams into reality.**

The University of Alberta and the Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub (BEKH)



In late 2022, representatives from the University of Alberta, Carleton University and the Dream Legacy Foundation finalized plans for the Central Regional Hub of the [Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub \(BEKH\)](#). Announced in December 2021 by the Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, the purpose of the Hub is to produce academic knowledge on the Black Canadian entrepreneurial

experience to better understand the systemic barriers that Black entrepreneurs face and identify tools to support Black entrepreneurs and their businesses. As part of the larger [Black Entrepreneurship Program](#), over a four-year period, the Hub will receive \$5 million in funding from Innovation Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada.

The University of Alberta is leading the Central Regional Hub of the BEKH managed by [Dr. André McDonald](#) and [Dr. Philomina Okeke-Ihejirika](#) while [Carleton University](#), through their [Sprott School of Business](#), and the DLF, a Toronto-based nonprofit, will lead the Hub nationally.

At the University of Alberta, the BEKH will develop innovative research projects in collaboration with community partners and other academic institutions in the Prairie region. On the national level, the goals of the hub include developing partnership capacity, producing large-scale quantitative and qualitative research projects, and fostering tangible research outputs to build project sustainability.

The BEKH is an inherently interdisciplinary undertaking with a strong focus on community-led and community-driven research. Researchers at the University of Alberta from a diverse range of disciplines are proposing project ideas for the hub including the [Alberta School of Business](#), the [Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry](#), the [Faculty of Education](#), the [Faculty of Arts](#), and the [Faculty of Engineering](#). Francophone engagement is also being prioritized through the involvement of Dr. Sedami Gnidehou from [Campus Saint-Jean](#). With these projects, the Central Regional Hub hopes to develop a research ecosystem that engages in knowledge transition, reinvests funds directly into Black entrepreneurship through scholarships and pilot programs, and conducts research meaningful to community partners.

The concept of community is a central tenet of the BEKH and an area of expertise for the Dream Legacy Foundation which will collaborate with regional hubs across Canada to ensure that research projects have strong footholds in the community.

Together the regional hubs, with support from Carleton and the DLF, aim to fill a gap in research on Black entrepreneurship in Canada.

From a policy and development perspective, this deep and nuanced knowledge of the Black entrepreneurial experience is integral to developing programs and initiatives to support Black businesses and entrepreneurs.

Through deep and comprehensive collaborations with community organizations, the University of Alberta and its academic partners look forward to advancing novel, creative, and thought-provoking research projects that will produce essential, actionable knowledge under the banner of the BEKH.

Important Links

- <https://www.bekh.org/>
- <https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/black-entrepreneurship-program/en>
 - <https://sites.ualberta.ca/~andre2/>
- <https://pace.ualberta.ca/people/dr-philomina-okeke-ihejirika/>
 - <https://sprott.carleton.ca/>
 - <https://www.ualberta.ca/business/index.html>
 - <https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/index.html>
 - <https://www.ualberta.ca/education/index.html>
 - <https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/index.html>
 - <https://www.ualberta.ca/engineering/index.html>
 - <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-saint-jean/index.html>

BEKH



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS - 2020

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. Learn more: nbccedmonton.ca/awards



MARY BURLIE AWARD WINNERS:

Dr. A. Robert Turner & the Somali Canadian Women and Children Association (SCWCA)

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

FIL FRASER AWARD WINNERS:

Ms. Alison Clark & Ms. Amal Mohamud

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



CLARENCE "BIG" MILLER AWARD WINNER:

Mr. Jerome K-Riz Henry

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



YOUTH (NBCC) AWARD WINNER:

Ms. Sara N. Mwamba

The **NBCC Youth Award**, for academic excellence and/or the delivery of exceptional program/service



ROSALIND SMITH PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNER:

Dr. Habiba Mohamud

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



ROSALIND SMITH BUSINESS AWARD WINNER:

Ms. Debbie Gurley-Rivers

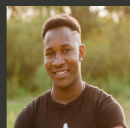
The **Rosalind Smith Business Award** for Exceptional Service in a Business from individual or group from the Black Community owning/running a business



NOEL CHEN TRADE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS:

Mr. Kymani Richards & Mr. Najori Rhoden

The **Noel Chen Award** for black individuals who are attending a college or vocational training program in the trades/or be registered as an Alberta Apprentice in a trade



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At TD, we believe that embracing change today can help create pathways to more inclusive and equitable tomorrows. For many individuals from Black communities, a shifting socioeconomic reality introduces new barriers to access and inclusion. That's why we're proud to celebrate the everyday change makers who have stepped up to create platforms for boundless Black creativity, challenge limitations, and drive progress forward.

**During Black History Month
and every month, TD stands
with Black communities.**

**TD READY
COMMITMENT**



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