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OCTOBER 2021 | VOL. 39

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BCRC

BCRC is a growing, resource-based organization that strengthens community capacity by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need.



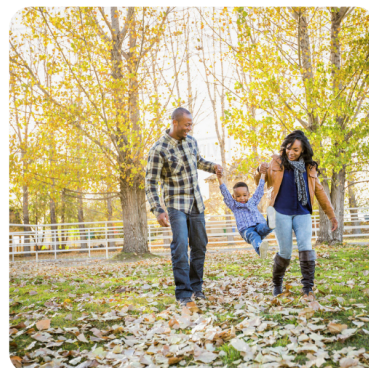
A Message From The Team

In this issue, the BCRC team takes a look back at the month of October, which was pretty eventful for the BCRC and for the Black Community. This issue celebrates, commemorates and highlights the community and it's work and we hope you enjoy it.

Look out for our Community News Updates that will present information on the status, needs and priorities of the English Speaking Black Communities of Montreal.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Message from the Team -1*
- Innovation to Immigration History Book Project Update -2*
- Black in Quebec : Launch of the E2E Survey -3*
- Noel Alexander Tribute -5*
- Community Focus : Jannai Dopwell-Bailey -9*
- Job Opportunities-13*
- Opportunities -14*
- Resources - 16*
- End - 17*



Innovation to Immigration History Book Project



The month of October has been eventful for the BCRC book project. We've had four successful workshops hosted by Concordia professors and community writers. The participants gained insight into the evolution of the Little Burgundy neighborhood, they also received creative and academic writing skills.

We've also met with a few art curators who have agreed to host workshops in the upcoming month. In addition, we've worked closely with Rachel McCrum and the Fonts project. We are extremely pleased with our participant's engagement as they all opted to participate in Fonts. They've each written amazing individual creative pieces to be published. The Fonts November issue will be entirely dedicated to the BCRC book project members which will, in turn, bring attention to our project.

This month we've also begun the writing and mentorship process. The participants all submitted an abstract for their chapter. We then met with each of them to provide feedback. They now have a clearer idea of the vision of the book and the content they should be researching. For the upcoming month, our focus will be on continuing the writing and mentorship process with the participants and searching for a fitting book publisher.





Black In Quebec : Launch of the E2E Survey

"We are very excited to announce a new community-based research project implemented by the BCRC in collaboration with the Provincial Employment Roundtable of Quebec (PERT). This new research initiative would like to conduct an in-depth quantitative and qualitative analysis of the educational experiences of individuals enrolled in Quebec's schooling system, and how their educational experiences have influenced and shaped their educational development and employment outcomes today.

This study is important because it offers participants a chance to reflect on their educational journey and it will also help the BCRC and our wider community network further our understanding of the diverse experiences each individual may have had in Quebec's society. You can take part in the study if you are above the age of 18 AND have been enrolled in the primary school or secondary school in Quebec.

All you have to do is visit bit.ly/e2esurvey or scan the QR Code in the poster.

If you would like to do the survey in French, you can visit bit.ly/e2esondage

If you know of someone who meets both of these criteria, please don't hesitate to share this information with them! Participants will have the chance to win one of ten \$25 gift cards!

Black In Quebec : Launch of the E2E Survey

EN




E2E

Education to Employability

Streaming: The Journey Through Life



Economic Outcomes

A survey on Educational Experiences

To participate:
Visit
bit.ly/e2esurvey

OR



SCAN ME




Calling For Participants!

You can take part in the survey if:

- you are above the age of 18
- AND**
- you attended primary or secondary school in Quebec

Participants have the chance to win one \$25 gift card for an online bookstore (out of 10).

FR




E2E

De l'éducation à l'employabilité

Streaming : le voyage à travers la vie



Résultats économiques

Un sondage sur Expériences éducatives

Pour participer :
Visitez
bit.ly/e2esondage

OU



SCAN ME



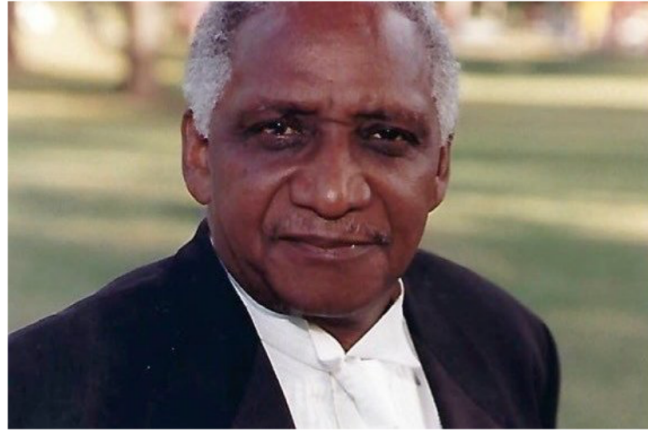

Appel aux participant.es!

Vous pouvez participer à ce sondage si :

- vous êtes âgé(e) de plus de 18 ans, **et**
- vous avez fréquenté l'école primaire ou secondaire au Québec

Les participants ont la possibilité de gagner une carte cadeau de 25 \$ pour une librairie en ligne (sur 10).

PRESENTATION AT NOEL FUNERAL : Tribute By Clarence Bayne



Noel Alexander

I have known Noel for more than 40 years as a fellow activist from the Black Caribbean diaspora reshaping the societies of Montreal and Canada. That goes way back, when those that seek to assimilate and deny our existence today were mere children. He fought for us as a Jamaican of self-identified African ancestry and died fighting for our rights, freedoms, and recognition of our contributions as a people. Noel was one of the most critically important Black and Caribbean community leaders in Quebec. He was a social entrepreneur who engaged in creating new spaces for Blacks in the 1980s through to the time of his death, September 2021. Noel like many of us today came here, not as a slave or refugee, but as a skilled person of significance. Noel came to Canada via the UK as an industrialist and social entrepreneur.

PRESENTATION AT NOEL FUNERAL : Tribute By Clarence Bayne

It was after world war II, and the immigration laws that for a hundred years (1863 to 1963) kept Canada White, were made more liberal in response to world economic change, and the activism of Blacks in Canada, the Caribbean and African diasporas. On his arrival, It did not take Noel long to notice that Blacks were neglected and made the subjects of systemic discrimination and anti-Black racist practices; a situation denied then and continues to be denied by Quebec Governments.

I remember us discussing how best to overcome the disadvantages to Black socio-economic advancement, partly made possible by our being fragmented voices in an emerging Canadian Black Power struggle against racism and exclusion. The Jamaica Association which under he Presidency of Ivan Morrison and the emerging Trinidad and Tobago Association had been experimenting with a collaborative Caribbean strategy against this inequality opened its doors to Noel. This provided him with the opportunity to lend his voice as a Jamaican to the struggle for equality of all Blacks.

He was a leading voice against any attempt to exclude Black organizations from the Community table because of loyalties expressed as part of their mission to country of origin, religious belief, gender. He was persistent in raising awareness of police profiling and brutality. He decried police shootings of young Black men (the Anthony Griffin shooting a case in point); he pushed the demands for the hiring of minorities in the police force. He tirelessly engaged Black Community organizations in working together to create a business incubation center to promote Black business, and provide employment for Blacks. He created programs to educate Black youth, just emerged from prison sentences, to acquire skills that would earn them a job.

PRESENTATION AT NOEL FUNERAL : Tribute By Clarence Bayne

He entered collective arrangements with other Black organizations to address the problem of literacy among domestic workers and other immigrant Blacks. He represented Blacks at public consultations with significant effect: the naming of February as Black History Month a holiday to be celebrated by all Montrealers. He was one of the principal persons among that delegation lead by the Black Studies Center (BSC0 and the Black Community Council of Quebec (BCCQ) in 1991. He was consequently a member of the Black History Month round table for years. Noel was a key person in negotiating the Provincial Government creation of the Table de Concertation of the early nineties that lead in government circles and the community to a heightened awareness of the needs of the Black Community; and the subsequent creation of the Black Community Resource Center (BCRC), and the Black Community Forum, an alliance of some fourteen key Black community organizations. It also caused a review of membership in the Black Community Council of Quebec (BCCQ).

On May 19 1992 he headed a group of Black leaders (Dr. Clarence Bayne (BSC, and Minority Arts and Culture), Dr Leo Bertly (Historian), Mr. Glen Gunning (President MABBP), Mr. Dan Phillip (President, La Ligue des Noirs) to deliver briefs and discuss with Premier Robert Bourassa ways that his Provincial Liberal party could help improve the socio-economic development of Blacks in Montreal. The issues discussed were employment, justice, and education. This direction continues to influence the Provincial Government interest in Black entrepreneurship in Quebec.



PRESENTATION AT NOEL FUNERAL : Tribute By Clarence Bayne

Noel was the creator of Jamaica Day, which replaced the Black Community Council and NCC family day picnic. This triggered similar responses among other West Indian Island Associations (the Trinidad and Tobago Day; and the Spice Island Cultural Day). He was a friend and staunch supporter and promoter of the Black Theatre Workshop of Montreal. He played a quiet but significant role in the early funding and recognition of the cultural agency by facilitating interventions on its behalf through agents of the Mulroney Conservative Party Government. Noel's work in the Communities of Montreal won him many National and International awards, one such award is the Black Community Service Award presented to him by the Community at the BTW Martin Luther King Vision Celebration Gala in 2015.

On behalf of the community and those that take a stand for human rights, justice, and the happiness of all citizens, I express our heart felt condolences. Today (October 2 2021) his body returns to matter but high spirit has risen and will live on with his family and the community he cared for over the years.

Mourning the Loss of Jannai Dopwell-Bailey : How the Community Can Support One Another

Monday October 18th was a sad day in the Cote-des-neiges borough as it was announced that 16 year old Jannai Dopwell-Bailey was fatally stabbed outside of his high school. This is the city's 25th homicide this year.

It has recently been announced that the main suspect of the stabbing, also aged 16, has been arrested by the police. The police came under criticism for the time it took to arrest the youth, as he was quickly identified by witnesses and seen with friends celebrating Dopwell-Bailey's death on social media, but the SPVM maintains that the procedure to arrest the youth was harder and longer as it involves minors.

The tragedy started as a fight in front of a recreational centre and ended in Dopwell-Bailey's high school parking lot. Community leaders have been noticing the escalating violence as stabbings were reported this summer, yet, the difference is they weren't fatal.

A candle vigil took place on Friday October 22nd to commemorate Jannai and to call for an end to violence. Although we are not fully ready to take a step-back and analyze its effect, many social workers and mental health professionals believe that this rise of social violence, and even domestic violence in the city is a result of the pandemic. Indeed, historically social crises have been linked to the rise of violence and instability in societies and individuals from minority groups are usually the most impacted.

Mourning the Loss of Jannai Dopwell-Bailey : How the Community Can Support One Another

As it is extremely important to support and look out for each other in the community, the BCRC wants to provide key resources to prevent this from happening again and to help anyone affected by this tragedy.

If you or someone you know are directly affected by this tragedy, the **CIUSSS West Central** has psychological helplines to assist:

- Community workers can dial : **514 484-7878 ext. 61420** (psychosocial option)
- Anyone impacted directly or indirectly by this tragedy and that needs support can contact : **811, option #2 (info social), and once again, option #2 (crisis situation)** or present themselves to the **psychosocial reception**.
- You are invited to mention that your call is in link with the tragedy to be placed in priority.

CDN's **Head and Hands** provides social, medical, legal and social services to the youth. As a staple of the community for 50 years now, they provide support through multiple free services. For more information you can call them, **(514) 481-0277** and/or visit their website, **www.headandhands.ca**

The Black Healing Fund is a volunteer based initiative that provides a list of therapists and alternative healers to black people in Montreal. These mental health professionals are specifically chosen as they provide a safe and understanding environment for BIPOC to heal. Visit their website at **www.blackhealingfund.com** for more information and/or to donate.

Mourning the Loss of Jannai Dopwell-Bailey : How the Community Can Support One Another

Wellness Together Canada is a government program that assists Canadians with free resources for mental health and substance use support. These resources include self-guided assessments and educational material, peer-to-peer support, and free one-on-one counseling with certified professionals. You can visit their website, **www.wellnesstogether.ca**, for more information. If you are in distress, you can speak with a counsellor by calling **1-866-585-0445** or text a counsellor to **741741**.

There are also multiple community organisations catered to the youth and the black community of Montreal. If you are looking for additional resources, extracurricular and family activities/programs, here is a list of great resources :

Black Community Organisations

- **Black Theater Workshop / www.blacktheatreworkshop.ca**
 - Theater that reflects works of black community.
- **The Council for Black Aging Montreal Community / www.cbam.org**
 - Educational, exercise/fitness, and social/recreational activities for black elders.
- **Côte-Des-Neige Community Association / www.cdnbca.org**
 - Supports the development of the Black community.

Mourning the Loss of Jannai Dopwell-Bailey : How the Community Can Support One Another

Youth and Family Programs

- **Baobab Familial / www.baobabfamilial.org**
 - Organisation of family-oriented activities for the community.
- **Community Cares Montreal / www.montrealcommunitycares.com**
 - Empowers youth through programs, workshops and events that develop the youth's leadership skills.
- **LOVE / www.loveorganization.ca**
 - Engages the youth in a process of self-discovery, & leadership through photography, & writing.
- **Mosaik Family Resource Centre / www.maisonmosaik.com**
 - Provides services that promote good parenting practices, familial bonding, & community networking.
- **Westhaven / www.westhavencreation.org**
 - After school programs, summer Camps, teen drop in center.

The BCRC extends it's deepest condolences to the Dopwell-Bailey family.



A fundraiser has been created to financially support the Dopwell-Bailey family. Click on the picture to access the page and donate.

Job Opportunities



INVITING

JOB SEEKERS & EMPLOYERS

Register on our EmployESBC website

<https://www.employesbc.com>

Employers: Visit our website to post your job openings

Jobseekers: Visit our website to find Job opportunities

Employ English Speaking Black Communities (ESBC) is an initiative by the Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) and Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation (CEDEC). EmployESBC's goal is to match English-speaking Black Quebecers with employers needing to fill forward-looking quality positions.

Click Here To Register

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Opportunities



BCRC SENIOR PROGRAM

AGEING IS A NEW STAGE OF UNDEFINED OPPORTUNITIES AND STRENGTHS

Join us!!!

You will learn new skills, remain
active, build new friendships and
connect with your community!

FALL WORKSHOPS BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER

For more information please contact via email at
outreach67@bcrctmontreal.com or call us at (514) 342-2247
ext: 101

This program is sponsored by:



BCRC Senior Program is an initiative by the Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) that aims to build a stronger and tight-knit community, especially in the midst of the pandemic, through a series of resourceful online workshops created specifically for seniors.

Click on the picture to sign up!

JOIN OUR LOVELY TEAM TODAY!

BCRC YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

For more information email us at: advisor@bcrcmontreal.com



THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS ON WHO CAN BE A VOLUNTEER! THE BCRC WELCOMES ALL!

YOU CAN GAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- Exposure to Organizations and Individuals that can expand your network and horizons
- The development of hands on experience and exposure to the inner workings of a community organization
- A great understanding and appreciation of the History and Culture of the ESBC
- Opportunities to gain leadership, oratory, creative, and several more distinguishable skills

MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR A MINIMUM OF 2 HOURS PER WEEK



BCRC is looking for youth volunteers!

We believe that this is an amazing opportunity for BCRC and the youth to share ideas, brainstorm and create projects that can benefit the community!

Click on the picture to sign up!

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Resources



Not sure where to start or which resources will help you? Speak to a Program Navigator: 1-866-585-0445

Struggling With Your Mental Health Or Substance Use?

Wellness Together Canada offers **FREE** and confidential supports to all Canadians

Take the first step

Resources Available

- Self-directed Resources
- Group Coaching
- Community of Support
- Peer Support Substance Use Group
- internet-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (iCBT)
- Access to Self-Assessment
- Counselling

Not ready for a tailored support or to create your own account?

No problem! Get direct access to educational resources, e-courses, free text support, and free counselling with a mental health professional.

WELLNESS TOGETHER Canada Mental Health and Substance Use Support

Wellness Together Canada is a partnership among Stepped Care Solutions, Kids Help Phone, & Homewood Health. WTC is funded by Health Canada and was created as a response to the mental health needs of Canadians in the wake of COVID-19.

wellessttogether.ca

Wellness Together Canada is a portal that provides various resources and supports to advance mental health recovery and mental wellness. These resources include self-guided assessments and educational material, peer-to-peer support, and free one-on-one counseling with certified professionals.

How do I submit articles to the Semaji newsletter?

How do I submit articles to the Semaji newsletter?
Articles for submission are accepted 7 days prior to publication. Issues are published every first of the month.
Send articles to communications@bcrcmontreal.com.
If you are submitting photos please send a jpeg with credit.

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EDITOR:

Raeanne Francis

CONTRIBUTOR:

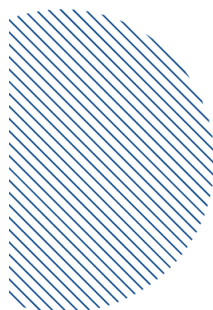
John Davis

Xiaoyan Fang

Ayana Monuma

Sara DeMelo-Zare

Sherrise Ettienne



LAYOUT AND DESIGN:

Jennifer Pierre-Pluviose

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