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Two of our Elders sit down with one of our young griots as the Standing on Their Shoulders project began the filming of the much anticipated videos of Little Burgundy's history. *Continue Reading on Page 3.*

## ACCE

By Dr. Dorothy Williams

Our long-term partnership with CEDEC (Community Economic Development and Employability Corporation) has largely centered on the ACCE project. Within ACCE (African-Canadian Career Excellence) BCRC has been working with other Black organizations to find ways to assist Black graduates in university to find meaningful work and to begin the long arduous process of assisting and encouraging businesses within Montreal to diversify. We have been working on developing the students'

intercultural communications and helping them to understand the work environment within Québec. Thus far we have produced about four workshops over the past two years.

As we move into this year BCRC will be once again partnering with CEDEC to put on two workshops. We have been able to gain support from John Molson School of Business at Concordia University. JMSB has hosted our last two workshops and will continue to help us with logistics. We are quite

fortunate due to its prominence and proximity as so much of the students' life goes on in the downtown core.

We will be hosting our first workshop on November 3 and then again on March 15, 2016. BCRC and CEDEC work closely with ACSioN, the Black student umbrella association for the four universities on the island. Though most of the workshop participants come from Concordia or McGill University, ACSioN's invitation...

*Continued on Page 6*

## A Word From The Executive Director



As you'll see in this issue, BCRC has gotten off to a bang this fall with several activities that we are either leading or actively supporting. Typical of our fall Semaji, this issue will introduce you to several projects that we continue to support and build upon. Unusual of our usual programming cycle, BCRC is not working in any of public school schools this year. However thanks to our multi-year Standing on Their Shoulders project we consider our "territory" to be quite broad, encompassing the entire greater Montreal area. Since it began in late 2014, this project has attracted participants, interest, stories and memories from Blacks living everywhere, on and off the island.

Then there are two other projects: ACCE and REISA that continue to be front and center in our office. Both have a long history with BCRC as we work with multiple partners to try to move the needle. The third project that we are going to introduce in this issue actually started this

summer. Of course that is, for us, a very unusual time to kick-start any project as summer usually is the quietest part of our year. But this year due to the confluence of funding and the initial design of the project, we pulled it together just as our Standing on Their Shoulders project was revving up.

All of this is to say that at this point, lots of project activities are happening at BCRC. If you visit our office, feel free to do so, it may seem quiet here sometimes but be rest assured there is a lot of activity going on in the communities where BCRC is fomenting, encouraging, and even challenging others to think outside the box, to dream with us as we push for change and revival in our community.

Oh, and by the way you can do the same--GO OUT AND VOTE!



# Semaji

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*If you have any comments or requests please contact Dr. Dorothy Williams  
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## Lights, Camera...And Action!!

The Standing on Their Shoulders project begins filming



The last week of August marked the beginning of our filming sessions with 20 youth project participants. Three months ago, they signed up to be a part of BCRC's project in a special way; the Standing on Their Shoulders team has helped them to become new cultural interpreters (griots) through film.

The beginning of their journey began by each participant choosing a piece of Little Burgundy's history (a person, place, or institution) that they wanted to retell. Once each chose their topic, a series of history and filming workshops were set up. For those who chose a topic on an institution, for example, we paired them with elders in the community who could answer specific questions. This allowed our fledgling griots to tap into their topic in a very personal and direct way. The team also took great pains to find corroborating documents with lots of primary sources and the occasional artefact or memento.



As a bonus, some participants took part in Concordia's filming workshops given by our partners at CEREV, Concordia University. At this special workshop our participants learned about storyboarding, film techniques, and data storage.

Many months of preparatory work from lots of sources has lead us to this final filming stage. Thanks to Great Things Studio, our key community partner who has committed to make the raw footage, we are all inspired. Without a doubt, everything came together due to the wonderful once-in-a-lifetime support from our elders.

These 20 videos have become highly anticipated and will be launched during Black History Month 2016! Stay up-to-date with important project news by following us on Facebook at Standing on Their Shoulders or by subscribing to our monthly newsletter accessible at [www.brcrmontreal.com](http://www.brcrmontreal.com).



**Meet The Animators!!**  
**The Standing on Their Shoulders Team!!**

**YOUTH**



Jennifer Sinclair

I'm one of the animators on the Standing on Their Shoulders team along with Pharaoh Freeman. Since we began sharing Little Burgundy's Black history we have been met with such enthusiasm and passion from everyone we met. I have spent as much time educating youth as I have spent learning from them and from Little Burgundy's elders. I feel so fortunate to have been part of this wonderful project.



Pharaoh Freeman (aka Robin)

I'm the co-animator on the Standing on Their Shoulder Team alongside Jennifer Sinclair (aka Batman). I'm really excited to be on this project because it gave me an opportunity to work with youth and learn about the rich history of Little Burgundy. I thank the BCRC for giving me this amazing opportunity.



## COMMUNITY

For several years BCRC has been closely aligned with the activities of the umbrella group called REISA. In fact, BCRC is considered one of REISA's founding members. While REISA is the French acronym everyone uses, in English it stands for the East Island Network for English Language Services. For readers not in the know, the east-end of the island is generally seen as starting at St. Laurent Street and going eastward to Pointe-aux-Trembles. With BCRC situated in Côte-des-Neiges, it seems unlikely that we would have many of our projects in the east end, since most of our English-speaking Black community that we offer our services to, live on the West side of Saint Laurent Boulevard. But this belies the reality of the English-speaking Black community as it has dispersed over the last several decades. Moreover where there are English-speaking Blacks, we can surmise that their needs are similar regardless of their street address.

Like their Francophone members, English speaking blacks have taken advantage of the relatively lower housing costs of the East End, and for many English-speaking blacks living there it is an opportunity as well to immerse their children in the French culture. For these and other reasons BCRC has never shied away from mounting projects, particularly our school projects, in the East end. These projects, under the auspices of the English Montréal School Board (EMSB) are just one part of the story. Several years ago, when BCRC was asked to join this fledgling group of English-speaking associations in the East it was clear then that our common interest was to find ways to increase the level of English language services in the health and social service network of the East End-- for all English speakers living there. To that end, BCRC and other English language, east-end

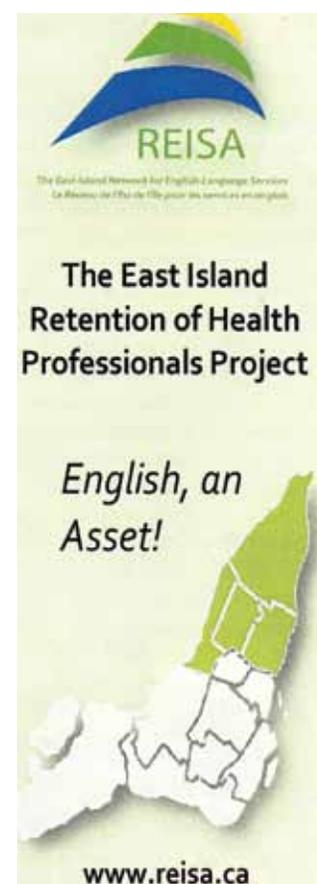
## REISA

organizations has been quietly, and not so quietly at times, engaging with CLSCs, the CSSS, various borough and city administrations, and local community organizations serving the population of the East. For years it seemed to be an uphill battle to even get the occasional acknowledgment that there were English speakers living there. Reisa persisted, partnered, and continued to work with Francophones to show that their common wisdom also needed to be revised.

Today we can measure some success in the efforts of BCRC in this partnership. REISA has developed a partnership with McGill University's health and social services sector and now acts as a bridge to many Francophone East End institutions. We now have a project titled the East Island Retention of Health Professionals. Its mission of course is to increase access to health and social services in English in collaboration with the public/private and community stakeholders while at the same time promoting and supporting the training and retention of health and social service professionals in the East End. Through this method we can ensure that English-speaking minority communities such as Blacks have access to services in their own language without having to travel downtown.

This has been a long time coming and we are very excited to say the project is a go. Therefore, BCRC is now pleased to promote internships for black students currently in school interested in working in the East end with Anglophones. REISA, in hand with the French institutions, have now identified a dozen or so disciplines where there is a need for bilingual support.

These range from communication sciences, policy studies, creative arts therapies, nursing, psychology, social work, special care, substance abuse, etc. etc. I would encourage you to visit [www.reisa.ca](http://www.reisa.ca) to check out the complete listing. The hope is that with the rush to the East end, qualified blacks in our community will find good career opportunities later while serving Blacks living on the other end of our island.



## We are Pleased to Present our New Seniors Project!



With funding from Canadian Heritage, BCRC has been able to mount a seniors' pilot project which will run between June and December 2015. The goal is to identify the needs of a group of seniors who frequent the Cote-des-Neiges Plaza. Our motivation is to find ways to get to know who they are, to offer them both constructive and social activities, as well as to share our knowledge of the range of the services of which they could take advantage. Two part-time animators have been our 'boots on the ground'. Shimmon and Felicia have conducted face-to-face interviews with many

of the seniors asking themselves "what are the needs that exist?" They have also put together a survey and did some preliminary research about groups and social services in Côte-des-Neiges that currently exist for all local elderly.

Armed with this plethora of information, Felicia and Shimmon are now hoping to address topics that can resonate with the seniors. The two have now become a resource and, over the course of the next few months, they pull together some workshops to educate our seniors on issues that directly affect the quality of their life. They are planning to invite groups and knowledgeable individuals to talk about social housing, ageism, isolation, finances, mental health, and family.

Having made some strong connections while engaging with other organizations, there is a strong desire to work in tandem to create a strong support network that focuses on a holistic approach for our seniors.

Certainly, there will be more challenges ahead but BCRC is proud to say that Shimmon and Felicia have shown dedication to improving the lives of this segment of our senior population. If you would like to contribute your knowledge or expertise with seniors or you would like to give the team a hand, call Shimmon at: 514-342-2247.

### *Continued From Cover.....*

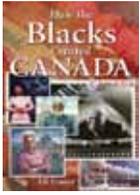
...to these ACCE workshops goes out to Blacks attending UofM as well as UQAM.

Of course, this takes a lot of work and planning, so BCRC can always use some volunteer support. However, you can also make a difference by encouraging your children and grandchildren to sign up for our workshops. They only cost five dollars and run for about 3 ½ hours in the evening.

From our previous feedback we know that the students gained a lot of information and awareness of what to expect when they graduate and the job market here in Québec. It is to everyone's benefit to help these students, our best and brightest, to stay in the province and help them find meaningful careers. We ALL win when they stay as they can best give a boost economically, socially and intellectually to our community at large.

## LEISURE CLUB

# Fall into these Autumn Reads!!!



### How the Blacks Created Canada *By Fil Fraser.*

Across the country and throughout time, Blacks have played pivotal roles in the unfolding of Canadian history. Woven into the fabric of the country itself, they have made serious contributions to this great nation. From Mathieu De Costa, to Sir James Douglas, and Josiah Henson, and, more currently, Blacks have made great strides in Canadian sports, entertainment and politics, as well as business, academia, the judiciary and a broad range of public service. So take a seat and discover the surprising and satisfying history that is finally making it in the mainstream.

--Excerpt from Lone Pine Publishing



### The world is Moving Around Me: A Memoir of the Haiti Earthquake *By Dany Laferriere.*

On January 12, 2010, novelist Dany Laferrière had just ordered dinner at a Port-au-Prince restaurant with a friend when the earthquake struck. He survived; some 300,000 others did not. The quake caused widespread destruction and left over 1 million homeless; it also revealed flaws in the impoverished nation's infrastructure that will take a generation from which to recover. This moving and revelatory book is an eyewitness account of the quake and its aftermath.

--Excerpt from Amazon.ca



### Moving Beyond Borders: A History of Black Canadian and Caribbean Women in the Diaspora *By Karen C. Flynn.*

The first book-length history of Black health care workers in Canada, this book delves into the experiences of thirty-five postwar-era nurses who were born in Canada or who immigrated from the Caribbean either through Britain or directly to Canada. Karen Flynn examines the shaping of these women's stories from their childhoods through to their roles as professionals and community activists.

--Excerpt from University of Toronto Press

These books can be found at the Atwater Library's Black Collection.

## Stay Tuned For These Movies!!!



### The Perfect Guy (2015). *Cast: Sanaa Lathan, Michael Ealy, Morris Chestnut.*

After breaking up with her boyfriend, a professional woman gets involved with a man who seems almost too good to be true.

--Excerpt from IMDb



### Straight Outta Compton (2015). *Cast: O'Shea Jackson Jr., Corey Hawkins, Jason Mitchell.*

The group NWA emerges from the mean streets of Compton in Los Angeles, California, in the mid-1980s and revolutionizes Hip Hop culture with their music and tales about life in the hood.

--Excerpt from IMDb



### Remember the Titans (2000). *Cast: Denzel Washington, Will Patton, Wood Harris.*

The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit.

--Excerpt from IMDb

# Have your ID ready

Show:

- your **driver's licence**, **OR**
- your **provincial or territorial ID card**, **OR**
- any other government card with your photo, name and current address, **OR**
- **two pieces of ID**. Both pieces must have your name, and one must also have your address.



## Pieces with your name:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health card</li> <li>• Canadian passport</li> <li>• birth certificate</li> <li>• certificate of Canadian citizenship</li> <li>• citizenship card</li> <li>• social insurance number card</li> <li>• Indian status card</li> <li>• Canadian Forces identity card</li> <li>• Veterans Affairs health card</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• old age security card</li> <li>• hospital card</li> <li>• medical clinic card</li> <li>• label on a prescription container</li> <li>• identity bracelet issued by a hospital or long-term care facility</li> <li>• blood donor card</li> <li>• CNIB card</li> <li>• credit card</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• debit card</li> <li>• employee card</li> <li>• student identity card</li> <li>• public transportation card</li> <li>• library card</li> <li>• liquor identity card</li> <li>• parolee card</li> <li>• firearms licence</li> <li>• licence or card issued for fishing, trapping or hunting</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|

## Pieces with your name and address:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• utility bill (e.g. electricity; water; telecommunications services including telephone, cable or satellite)</li> <li>• bank statement</li> <li>• credit union statement</li> <li>• credit card statement</li> <li>• personal cheque</li> <li>• government statement of benefits</li> <li>• government cheque or cheque stub</li> <li>• pension plan statement</li> <li>• residential lease or sub-lease</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mortgage contract or statement</li> <li>• income tax assessment</li> <li>• property tax assessment or evaluation</li> <li>• vehicle ownership</li> <li>• insurance certificate, policy or statement</li> <li>• correspondence issued by a school, college or university</li> <li>• letter from a public curator, public guardian or public trustee</li> <li>• targeted revision form from Elections Canada to residents of long-term care facilities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• letter of confirmation of residence from a First Nations band or reserve or an Inuit local authority</li> <li>• letter of confirmation of residence, letter of stay, admission form or statement of benefits from one of the following designated establishments:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>student residence</i></li> <li>- <i>seniors' residence</i></li> <li>- <i>long-term care facility</i></li> <li>- <i>shelter</i></li> <li>- <i>soup kitchen</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

*We accept ID cards and documents issued in their original formats. For documents issued electronically (such as e-statements or e-invoices), we accept printouts or you may show them on a mobile device.*

You have ID but can't prove your address?

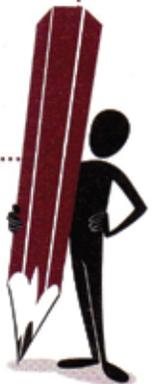
**Take an oath:** Show two pieces of ID with your name and have someone who knows you attest to your address. This person must show proof of identity and address, and be registered in the same polling division. This person can attest for only one person.

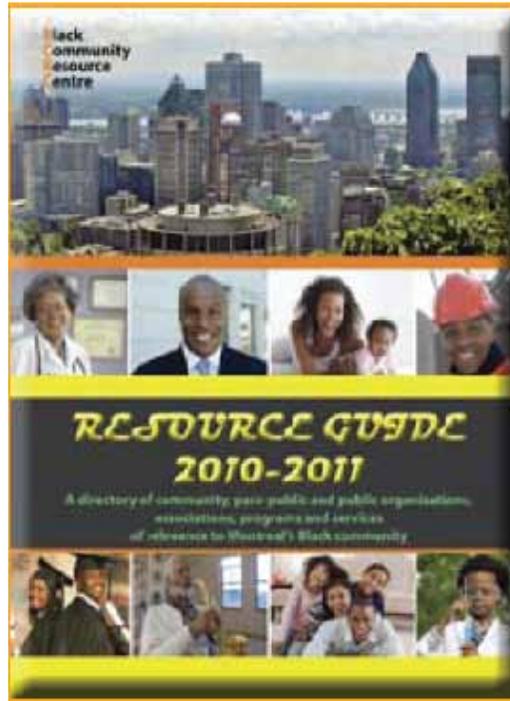
This information is available in other languages and formats.

**elections.ca**

**1-800-463-6868 | TTY 1-800-361-8935**

**Ready  
to vote**





Our Resource Guide highlights a variety of non-profit, public and para-public organizations serving the English-speaking Black community

The Black Community Resource Centre (BCRC) is an organization that strengthens community capacity by providing professional support to organizations and individuals in need. Our team is committed to assisting visible-minority youth rekindle their dreams and achieve their full potential.

Our Funders:

- ◆ Patrimoine canadien /Canadian Heritage, Official Languages
- ◆ Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal

Québec 

Canada 