

BCRC Newsletter



Black Community Resource Centre

Volume 6, Issue 1

April 2008

Special points of interest:

Save Emru

“Emru is desperately in need of a bone marrow transplant to help save his life.”

www.healemru.com

Join the international campaign to find a match and build a viable donor bank for people of African descent in Canada.

See info on page 5



**Oscar Peterson
Souvenir Sheet available
(subject to change)**

1.800.565.4362

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President's Message

Rejuvenation is the order of the day at BCRC. Since our last newsletter, there have been a host of changes at BCRC. Some changes have occurred, in retrospect, at a dizzying pace, while others appeared to move at a snail's pace. Over the Spring 2007 BCRC was notified that it had been chosen as the first and only organization to receive anti-gang funding with the National Crime Prevention Centre, Ottawa. This was an honour and a groundbreaking milestone.

Immediately following our entente with the Ministry of Public Safety, it was incumbent upon the Board to facilitate the program by hiring competent staff so that Fall planning could begin. The new team is headed by Akute Azu, Executive Director. Courtney Sewell, Eddy Tshisekedi, and Jason Selman were hired to run the NCPC program called P'tite Police-Mini-Poste (details pg. 3). Dr. Dorothy Williams (featured in our July 2006 issue) came on staff in September and she assists in re-enhancing our offices practices, preparing for grants, in expanding our presence in the greater Montreal community, and strategizing on our long-term activities.

In this issue we profile our Mini-Poste program, and share with you some of our concerns and hopes for the coming year. We bring to your attention the very real and immediate issue of the lack of bone marrow recipients from the African communities. On behalf of the staff and board of BCRC, I wish our readers and their families a safe and well summer season.

Bradley Dottin
(President)

BCRC's Revolution Underground

Beginning in January 2008, BCRC visited several of the city's English CEGEPs and universities to engage Black students in a thoughtful debate on how art can empower, move, and shape society. BCRC's video, *Revolution Underground*, was originally produced in collaboration with the NFB in 2005. Starring young, Black artists, this edgy video was the perfect vehicle to kick off discussions.

The students were challenged to think about how the creative process can be a political tool, and how they can channel art to make a difference in their own communities. Following these discussions, students filled out a quick survey and based upon their responses many of them were positively affected by the media and its message.

(Continued on page 2)

Visibility Grows...but Slowly in Quebec

Quebec is hosting a larger number of visible minorities than it did five years ago, but the province is predominantly "white" compared to Ontario or B.C., data from the latest federal census reveal. Only 8.8% of Quebecers and 16.5% of Montrealers are visible minorities, compared with 42% in Toronto and in Vancouver, Statistics Canada reports. But the number of Quebec minorities, South Asians, Chinese, Blacks, Filipinos, Latinos and Southeast Asians, about 655,000 in all, is growing rapidly. Thanks to rising immigration, there are one-third more than there were five years ago, seven times the growth rate of Quebec's population overall. In sheer numbers, the census shows Blacks are the largest group in Quebec. But the fastest-growing are Arabs and Latinos, each of whose population has swelled by about 50% since 2001. *The Gazette, 3/4/08*

ON THE HEELS OF THE SMASH 'BLOOD CLAAAT'! MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR BLACK THEATRE WORKSHOP'S 38TH SEASON

Poetry Jam and Season Launch

September 29th, 2008
Green Room, 5386 Blvd. St. Laurent

Discover Series

Fall Discovery • November 17, 2008 (TBC)
Spring Discovery • May 11, 2009 (TBC)

Vision Celebration

January 24th, 2009

Main Stage

The Code Noir by George Boyd
March 18 - April 5, 2009

School Tour

Skin by Denis Foon
February, 2009 – Black History Month

**Need more details? Contact: Nitha Karanja, Marketing and Development,
514-932-1104 ext.223 marketing@blacktheatreworkshop.ca**

Living With Another "ism": Linguicism

A published report out of the Concordia-UQAM Chair in Ethnic Studies determined that 25 per cent of Quebec respondents with English as their mother tongue reported being the victims of discrimination. That was double the 12 per cent among members of the French-speaking majority in the rest of Canada. Further, the report found that the situation was even more "problematic" among visible minorities because the double categorizations of "visible minority" and English mother tongue made individuals belonging to this double minority especially vulnerable. Yes, and the numbers affected soared when the individual had an accent.

When looking for work in Quebec, this combination of characteristics: an English mother tongue, visible minority status, and an accent, "present an extreme disadvantage that can't be explained..." *The Gazette, 12/05*

Continued from page 1

BCRC capped off each viewing of *Revolution Underground*, with an open appeal to any teacher interested in showing the CD in their classes. This offer came with a FREE bonus: [A Resource Film Study Guide](#), specifically written to accompany the film. It is full of ideas for class activities, essays, web sites and a reference list. If you are interested or know a teacher willing to use both the CD and the [Study Guide](#), give BCRC a call: 514-342-2247. We also take requests by fax: 514-342-2283 or even by email: bcrc@qc.aira.com.

Mini-Poste: After-school with the Police

"Because I want to learn things about the police"

"The sporting activities"

"The Tim Horton bus"

"The activities are interesting"

**What do you like
about Mini-Poste?**

"All the activities on Fridays"

"When the police officers come"

"Walking to Judo"

BCRC's Mini-Poste Project has been run out of three local schools: École Des Nations, Simonne-Monet and Petite Chapiteau. Our children, mainly English-speakers, participate in our French After-school programming. It is a challenge for them and for us!

Our program is supplemented in the schools by a leadership program and by parental support. These children participate in sports, martial arts, play educational games, and explore their community. We also encourage these children to take pride in their neighbourhood. So you may see a few of them volunteering to clean out a lot or, a park area this Spring.

BCRC's partner, the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM), also animates After-School activities with us once a week. They animate either in the schools or at the Shidokan Judo School in the Snowdon area.

Our "Friday Club" has been a big hit and its has allowed us to

offer more personal intervention and provide small group activities. The children have gone to movies, shot each other up at Laser Quest, donned skates and twirled at the Bell Centre. And to round out these events, a trip to McDonald's always brings a roar of approval.



Our workshops have a serious side. We work to broaden their horizons, educate them about possibilities in their future lives and support them today. We introduce them to visible minority businesspersons and professionals, firemen, tradesmen, and mentors. Reformed gang members and others who can demonstrate the consequences of illegal gang activity will also be asked to participate.

Our Project Animators are dedicated and highly experienced with youth. Batshaw Youth and Family Centres actively lends its expertise to this program as we look for effective ways to support the parents of each Mini-Poste child. As the school-year winds down, and our summer activities kick in, expect to hear more about the Mini-Poste Project at BCRC.

Funding for Your Great Business Idea

Filaction, the Fonds pour l'investissement local et l'approvisionnement des fonds communautaires (fund for local investment and support of community funds, has teamed up with the Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade (MDEIE) to create The FONDS AFRO-ENTREPRENEURS. It was created in response to a 2006 government study on entrepreneurship within Québec's Black communities. That task force report clearly demonstrated the extent to which access to sources of funding is more difficult for "Afro-enterprises," which have little or no credit history. Support for this project in the English-speaking Black Community is through The UJamaa Black Entrepreneurship Project at the Côte-Des-Neiges Black Community Association (CDN BCA). Montreal's Haitian and African communities are served by other community organizations: Jeune Chambre de Commerce Haïtienne, Chantier d'Afrique du Canada.

If you need a business loan to launch or grow your business, consider funding through the FONDS AFRO-ENTREPRENEURS. While the interest rates are similar to the banks', the program's guidelines for repayment are far more flexible. This fund is not hampered by age, or location restrictions. And if your business is a winner, it does not matter what type of business you are promoting.

Your first step is to put together a business plan and then submit it to Filaction (see below). Should you not have a business plan, or just want to bounce around your idea with a knowledgeable person contact Michael Smith at CDN BCA: 514-737-8321.

Jaël Elysée
 Coordonnatrice des fonds spécialisés
 FILACTION
 2175, boul. de Maisonneuve E., bur. 235
 Montréal (Québec) H2K 4S3
 514 525-2076 or 1 888 525-2075

www.afroentrepreneurs.com
info@afroentrepreneur.com



Do Something Cool: Give Back

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MENTOR?

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY BY HELPING OUT THE YOUNGER GENERATION?

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!!!!!!



THE BLACK COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE IS PUTTING TOGETHER A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN MENTORING YOUTH AT VARIOUS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

*PLEASE CONTACT
 JASON SELMAN :*

*(514) – 342-2247
 BLACKBJRD@HOTMAIL.COM*

Make a Difference: Save a Life

Emru Townsend a well-known technology writer, blogger and good friend of BCRC has been diagnosed with leukemia and a condition called monosomy 7. Due to the monosomy 7, he has an increased risk of the leukemia coming back, no matter how successful chemotherapy is.

This is where you can help save his life.

His best chance for a match comes from a donor who shares his ethnic background. As the son of two African Caribbean parents, his chances are further diminished as Blacks are underrepresented in bone marrow registries worldwide.

You can help by registering in your country's bone marrow registry and spreading the word about the need to diversify its database. Registering can help save not only Emru's life, but perhaps one of the many other patients waiting for a bone marrow transplant in the country.

It's easy for healthy, eligible adults to join:

In Québec visit: Hema-Québec.qc.ca

Click: [Stem Cell](#)> [Stem Cell Donor Registry](#)> [How to Join the Stem Cell Donor Registry](#)

**Print out your form and fax to 514-832-0266
You MUST complete this on-line form consenting
to be added to the registry.**

You will be contacted and asked to provide a mouth swab or a blood sample.

That's it!

Emru, his family, and everyone else waiting for a compatible donor thanks you for taking action.

(More details next page...)

IN DIALOGUE WITH POLICE

Over a two month period, BCRC went into several boroughs to develop a series of meetings on the issue of police relations and English-speaking Black youth. BCRC collaborated with three local community organizations: Youth in Motion, Pearson Adult & Career Centre & Riverdale Highschool to engage the local police stations in these meetings. The stations, situated in: Little Burgundy, Lasalle, and Pierrefonds responded to our offer and sent a representative to join in a frank discussion with Black youth. Despite their differing locales these youth often raised the same issues. They expressed frustration that many police refuse to speak to them in English, which often leads to heightened tensions during encounters. They also showed concern over the multiple fines often levied for seemingly trivial matters.

The three officers acknowledged these concerns, and brought a message of change and progress in the police department. They stated that cultural sensitivity training is now mandatory, that functional bilingualism is also the norm and that there is a program in place to recruit from visible minority communities, increasing the visibility of police on the streets. Their message: Change is occurring—who would have imagined even 15 years ago that Montreal would now have its first Black Police Commander—Jean-Ernest Celestin of Station 15?

LOOKING for a JOB or Need a SCHOLARSHIP?

BCRC has put together a booklet titled: Scholarship and Employment Services Guide: A Guide to Educational Funding and Employment Resources available to Montreal's Black community. You can come by our offices 9-5 weekdays and pick up a copy. Check out the latest info on vocational and trade training as well. Take advantage of the information on the shelves in our Resource Library. Come and browse. Simone will be happy to assist you: 514-342-2247

BCRC RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Afua Cooper (2006). The Hanging of Angélique: The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montreal (Harper Collins Canada, ISBN:00020005530).

Daniel Gay (2005). Les Noirs du Québec, 1629-1900 (Éditions Septentrion).

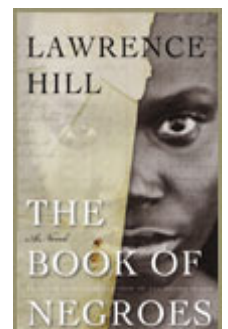
Lawrence Hill (2007). The Book of Negroes (Harper Collins Canada, ISBN-10: 1-55468-156-1).

Mary Pat Mackinnon & Judy Watling (2006). Connecting Young People, Policy and Active Citizenship (Research Report, National Dialogue and Summit, Engaging Young Canadians).

Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MICC) (2006). Taskforce on the Full Participation of Black Communities in Québec Society (Gouvernement du Québec; MICC, Direction des affaires publiques et des communications, ISBN: 2-550-46499-0).

Barack Obama (2007). The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream (Crown, ISBN-13: 978-0307237699).

David M. Tanovich (2006). The Colour Of Justice: Policing Race in Canada (Irwin Law, ISBN:1552211150).



www.healemru.com

YOU CAN BE A HERO!

JOIN THE BONE MARROW REGISTRY
AND YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE!



WHEN SOMEONE NEEDS A BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT, THE REGISTRY SEARCHES FOR A DONOR WHOSE TISSUES ARE A MATCH.

IF YOU'RE AN ELIGIBLE HEALTHY ADULT, YOU CAN JOIN THE REGISTRY AND INCREASE THE CHANCES OF FINDING A COMPATIBLE DONOR. YOU MIGHT BE THE MATCH NEEDED TO SAVE A LIFE.

IT'S EASY TO JOIN!

YOU'LL ONLY NEED TO PROVIDE A MOUTH SWAB OR A TINY BLOOD SAMPLE – DEPENDING ON WHAT COUNTRY YOU LIVE IN.

IN QUEBEC, CONTACT:
HEMA QUEBEC STEM CELL REGISTRY
HEMA-QUEBEC-QC.CA

IN CANADA (EXCEPT QUEBEC), CONTACT:
CANADA BLOOD SERVICES
ONEMATCH.CA

IN THE UNITED STATES, CONTACT:
THE NATIONAL MARROW DONOR PROGRAM
MARROW.ORG

IN THE UK, CONTACT:
THE NATIONAL BLOOD SERVICE
BLOOD.CO.UK
OR CALL 0845 7 711 711.

THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF EMRU TOWNSEND.
TO CONFIRM REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR LOCAL
DONOR REGISTRY, VISIT:
HEALEMRU.COM

THANK YOU!

CONSIDER A CAMP..OR A SCHOOL

BANA SUMMER SCHOOL CAMP: July 2-August 1, 3 locations, Offering: English, French, Mathematics, Music, Arts& Crafts, Sports, Cultural Activities QBBE 514-481-9400

DACOSTA HALL SUMMER SCHOOL: July 2-August 1, Dawson College, Offering: English, French, Mathematics, Black and Canadian History, Physical Sciences QBBE 514-481-9400

PATRICE LUMUMBA CULTURAL DAY CAMP June 25-August 8, NDG BCA 514-481-3598

ST.PAUL'S SUMMER CAMP 2008: June 23-August 22, St. Paul's Anglican Church, Offering: trips, Bible studies, computers, Arts & Crafts, lunch and snacks 514-733-2908

SALAH'S STEELPAN ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP: July 7-August 22, 3740 de Coutrai, Music and Steelpan 514-518-7726 or 514-739-5608

TREVOR WILLIAMS BASKETBALL ACADEMY:7 Sessions between June 3– 7 August 11. 514-484-7696 or 514-932-4340

WALKLEY UNITED FAMILIES ASSOCIATION SUMMER DAY CAMP: June 30-August 8, 6640 Cote-St-Luc Rd., WUFA 514-369-9449

YOUTHWORKS 2008: July 7-July 31, 3680 Jeanne-Mance, All levels of experience welcomed, ages 12-20. Offering: Performing arts, Dance, Music, Storytelling, Theatre Black Theatre Workshop 514-932-1104 #224

QBBE SUMMER PROGRAM FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

If you have ever dreamed of one day owning your own business then this summer's offering may be just for you. QBBE has set up a program to encourage young high school students (aged 15 to 18 years) to explore entrepreneurship as a career option. Participants will learn about the options, opportunities, and processes of entrepreneurship. They will review the characteristics of an entrepreneur, learn the necessary steps to set up and run their own business. In addition, they will have the special opportunity to meet and interact with successful entrepreneurs.

The program runs three days per week: (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) beginning July 2, 2008 and will end July 31, 2008.

The program will be conducted by the Institute for Community Entrepreneurship and Community Development, John Molson School of Business, Concordia University.

For information and to register please call the Quebec Board of Black Educators at: (514) 481-9400.

Explore Entrepreneurship as a Career Option

Community Calendar

BOROUGH MEETINGS: Côte-des-Neiges /Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

A healthy community promotes healthy living. Be informed on what is going on in your community. For information on date, time and location contact: **Bureau Accès Montréal NDG: 514.872.6731**
Bureau Accès Montréal Côte-des-Neiges: 514.872.6403

UNION UNITED CHURCH: LIFT EVERY VOICE

June 26 - July 6

MONTREAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

June 26 - July 6, 2008 For more info: http://montrealjazzfest.com/jal2007_2008/splash.aspx

COUNCIL FOR BLACK AGING COMMUNITY OF MONTREAL, INC.

- May 30 - Trip to Montebello
- June 27 - Trip to Arundel
- July 18 - Trip to Plattsburgh

All dates are subject to change • For more information on times & locations 514.935.4951

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE DAYS: Divers/Cité Festival

July 30 to August 3

MONTREAL REGGAE FESTIVAL

July 11, 12, 13, 2008

FESTIBLUES

August 7-10, 2008

NDG 2020 PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

“Bringing the active forces of the community together to organize for change”

For more info: 514.484.1471 / email:ndg2020@ndg.ca

PLEASE NOTE :: Do not hesitate in letting the BCRC team know what events are taking place within your organization. You can email or fax us.

THE ACHIEV-HERS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

A LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG WOMEN

Get together with other girls
 Talk about what's important to you
 Gain leadership skills
 Go on Field Trips
 More importantly, HAVE FUN!

Girls 11-14
 Thursdays
 5pm—8pm

Walkley Community Centre • 6650 Côte-St-Luc Rd.

Girls 15-18
 Fridays
 5pm—8pm

Karima 514-489-6567 • June 514-369-9449 • Terri 514-736-2732

BLACK COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

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*Supporting Youth, Building Communities
A "Holistic Approach"*

WWW.BLACKYOUTHPROJECT.ORG

The Centre takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of Black youth aged 0-30 and their families; this approach is called the "Holistic Project." Through a multi-intervention (holistic) approach, the Black Community Resource Centre helps young Black, English-speaking individuals fully participate in mainstream society.

The adoption of this approach recognizes that youth can have many needs (e.g., social cultural, health, education, economic, etc.) and that all these needs must be addressed in order for the youth to reach their maximum potential.

The Centre provides information and resources to both organizations and individuals within Montreal. In addition, we provide programming to Black youth in a manner which takes into account their many and complex needs.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **We encourage our readers to visit BCRC's website for upcoming events in Montreal, BCRC publications, and much more.**
- **Please do not hesitate to let the BCRC team know what events are taking place within your organization. You can email or fax us.**

OUR FUNDERS:

- Human Resource and Skills Development Canada; Multiculturalism, Official Languages Branch; Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, National Crime Prevention Centre



- Emploi Québec; Fonds Jeunesse du Québec; Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'immigration; Ministère de l'Emploi de la Solidarité Sociale et de la Famille

Montréal 

**Disclaimer:**

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Editor: Dr. D. W. Williams