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**Semaji Has Now Increased By 4 Issues!!! See Below
for The New Semaji Release Schedule**

Upcoming Schedule for Volume 13 (2017-2018)

- Issue 2: November -- Release Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2017
- Issue 3: December -- Release Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2018
- Issue 4: February -- Release Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- Issue 5: March -- Release Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2018
- Issue 6: May -- Release Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018
- Issue 7: June -- Release Date: Tuesday, July 3, 2018
- Issue 8: August -- Release Date: Tuesday, September 4, 2018

Opinion: Quebec Systemic Discrimination and Racism Hearings Should Be Open

By Yvonne Sam (Chairman of the Rights and Freedoms Committee)
Originally Published in The Montreal Gazette, September 18, 2017

Testimony has a greater impact if one can see and hear the person testifying. The hearings are an opportunity to heighten public awareness.

The Quebec inquiry on systemic discrimination and racism has yet to begin hearings, but what's already apparent is that the Couillard

government does not want the exercise to be transparent.

When the consultation was announced in July, all Quebecers were urged to participate, with the hearings being touted as an occasion to find tangible and permanent solutions to the issues at hand. Now we learn that Immigration Minister Kath-

leen Weil and the Quebec Human Rights Commission have indicated that local consultations will be held behind closed doors, hidden from the eyes of the media and the citizenry, away from the public setting that was expected by the public.

According to a spokesperson
Continued on Page 4...

A Word From The President



Black Community Forum

By Dr. Clarence S. Bayne
President of BCRC

The Network Coverage

Because the Forum is based on the network leadership framework, it is rich in information and covers the entire range of human needs and social programming and development across diverse ethnicities: parenting, health, mental health, education, employment and employability, human rights and freedoms, economic development, political representation at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels of the society, strengthening of families, strengthening of organization structures, literacy, crime prevention, anti-racism and anti-profiling, arts and culture, creative tourism, etc. Many of its organizations have been providing services to the community and contributing to the development of Montreal and Quebec societies for approximately fifty or more years. The Union United Church is like the spinal cord from which has sprung many interconnected agencies and relationships. It is celebrating its 110 anniversary. The UNIA is older than 50 years. The Quebec Board of Black Educators (QBBE), the Black Theatre Workshop (BTW) and the QBBE are with us for 45 years and counting. Each year for approximately 40 years the QBBE has tutored and provided accreditation opportunities for more than 150 youth each year in the English School system of Montreal. That is, between 6, 000 to 10, 000 youth over 40 years.

Resolution creating the Secretariat

It is resolved that the Forum may act through its secretariat to mobilize and activate the social and political legitimization of organizations serving the community. It does so with the support of key organizations and

leadership in the community, especially during crisis and on matters affecting the community as a whole (June 16 2016).

The Secretariat of the Black Community Forum

The Secretariat of the Black Community Forum is a permanent administrative structure created by the recommendation of the Val Morin Black Forum of 1992 and re-affirmed at the Forum of June 16 2016. It represents the members of the Forum, which are non-political, voluntary sector chartered organizations that provide services to the Black communities; that subscribe to the founding principles and protocols set out in the 1992 Val Morin Black Forum as modified by the June 16 2016 Forum of organizations; and whose missions and mandates are aligned to the priorities determined by consensus in the community and adopted at the General Forum.

The activities and responsibilities of the Black Community Forum are carried out by the Secretariat located in a designated community organization space and whose charter/ letters patent and mandate it is to engage in activities that develop and strengthen community based organizations. Currently, the BCRC provides the day to day administrative services and facilities. The BCRC, whose mission and mandate are based on a holistic community development approach, has been carrying out this function since 2000 through a sub-committee of the organization called the "BCRC Black Leadership Forum". This has been renamed (since June 16 2016, Black Community Forum) the "Secretariat of the Black Community Forum".

The Secretariat of the Black Commu-

Continued on Page 3...

Semaji

Volume 13, Issue 1 September 2017

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How do I submit articles to be submitted to our quarterly Semaji newsletter? *Articles for submission are accepted 30 days prior to publication. Issues are published September; December; March and June. Email editor@bcrmontreal.com. If you are submitting photos please send a jpeg with credit.*

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If you have any comments or requests please contact Ashlie Bienvenu at editor@bcrmontreal.com





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nity Forum is the administrative arm of the Black Community Forum. It is responsible for the day-to-day administration and carrying out of the directives and recommendations of the General Forum.

The Secretariat acts in strict accordance with the purposes, protocols, and recommendations set down in the Val Morin July 1992 modified by the June 16 2016 General Forum. These are described in part under sections 6.5 of the Black Forum Report (1992) and under the section with sub-heading, "Plenary Recommendations" in the document "Summary of the June 2016 Proceedings of the Forum". According to the recommendation approved at the 1992 and 2016 General Forums the powers of the Secretariat to act is limited by the following regulation which states that:

"the Forum will facilitate the review, description and formulation of the Community's agenda, but ... the community organizational structures remain the fundamental units that carry out the agenda".

The message conveyed is that "the community is only as strong as the sum of its parts" knit together by the operating principles of "collaborative unity and existential responsibility."

Responsibilities and functions of the Secretariat

The secretariat is required to carry out certain specific functions on behalf of the Forum. The following are function carried out by the Secretariat for the Forum:

1. The Forum agrees that during crisis within the Black community, a special issues meeting, involving a cross section of community groups will be called to determine a policy direction, to develop a public position, and to mandate its spokespeople.
2. The Forum will create a permanent sub-committee of the Forum for researching, identifying and preparing a list of those significant historic persons whose contributions to Black arts and culture, Black advancement, world peace, and order and sustainable development merit recognition in a manner consistent with best Canadian practices in toponymy.
3. It is proposed that this permanent sub-committee consist of experts and representatives named from organizations whose mission and mandates involve them in research in social

history and biographical studies.

4. That the Forum undertake a detailed review of the current status of Black employment and employability in the Black communities to measure the changes, if any, that have taken place since 1992. That is, according to recommendation 6.2.1.9 of the Val Morin Black Community Forum, that "A FORUM BE HELD TO INFORM AND INVOLVE THE WIDER BLACK COMMUNITY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT" planning. This is expected to include an investigation of the measured impact of the initiatives of all levels of government, private and public institutions, and social and private entrepreneurs on advancing the objectives of the Yolande James Task Force to bring about a full participation of the Black Communities in Québec Society. In particular, given Bill 101, the Secretariat is required to pay special attention to representing the needs, status and future of the English-speaking Black Communities.

The Next Black Community Forum will be held at the end of October. Updates will follow in the next issue of Semaji (November).

Tiffany Callender: City Councillor Candidate

We recently received news that the Director General of the Côte-des-Neiges Black Community Association, Tiffany Callender, will be running for the position of City Councillor for the Côte-des-Neiges electoral district. Ms. Callender has a long history of engagement with the Black Community of Montreal, going back approximately a decade. She has worked with the BCA since 2010, worked with

youth groups, and became the laureate for the Black History Month Round Table. We are very happy to see a woman from the Black community representing her community in politics. As we've seen in the past, politics tend to center around White males. Therefore, the fact

that we are starting to see a higher representation of Blacks and women in politics is a step in the right direction.

If you would like to discover more about Ms. Callender and her campaign go to: <http://www.equipedeniscode.com/candidate/tiffany-callender/>

Voting for the Montreal elections will happen on November 5, 2017. For more information go to: <http://election-montreal.qc.ca/index.en.html>



...Continued from Cover

for Weil, "The people who wish to be heard will be heard."

But by whom?

Weil herself has proffered the defence that privacy will ensure that those testifying will feel open to relaying their experience.

No way! Poor say!

Systemic racism concerns the denial of political, economic and social opportunities to individuals on account of their race or ethnic background. Marginalized groups who regularly deal with discrimination, mistreatment and unfair treatment are used to not being heard and, above all, not being taken seriously, and may view testifying behind closed doors as an extension of that attitude.

Let us not forget that there are many who already have little faith in the government and its previous handling of racism and discrimination, and now are called upon to sit behind closed doors to discuss their sufferings and injustices. This is similar to the fox declaring that he is now a vegan so that he can oversee the hen house. The history of the beleaguered Human Rights Commission, mandated to oversee the hearings but currently embroiled in its own issues, speaks volumes in itself; if it had, over the years, done a better job of carrying out its functions, this public consultation may have not been needed. It seems as plain as falling rain that

hearings behind closed doors must be for the benefit of the rights commission, as they are not helpful to the victims.

The decision to hold closed-door hearings may additionally be because the province is unwilling to stir up debate as was evoked by the Bouchard-Taylor hearings on reasonable accommodation a decade ago.

Certainly, testimony has a greater impact if one can see and hear the person testifying. For those who do not feel the impact of systemic discrimination and racism, and may not even know it exists, hearing testimony as relayed by media could be educational. It is challenging to see a problem or barrier if it is not within our lived experience, or to comprehend its urgency. The hearings are a good opportunity to heighten public awareness of these issues.

The second phase of the inquiry, open to the public, begins in November and features the testimony of experts and transmission of some of the issues raised by working groups that are to focus on specific areas, like education and employment. Why would only some of the issues be given priority, rather than have them all addressed?

Of further concern is the fact that the government intends to release the findings along with an action plan in the spring, just months shy of the general election scheduled



for October 2018. That does not leave much time for implementation of any recommendations.

It is not too late for the government to clean the slate, for at the end of the day the objective is to have a better Quebec, where racism and discrimination would be sent into remission.

The closed doors should be opened wide, so there is nothing to hide.





We are pleased to announce that, as of September 11th, 2017, the Queen Elizabeth Health Complex (QEHC), which predominantly serves the Anglophone community in NDG, has been given the status of "super-clinic." (CBC News) "Ensuring ready access to both medical and alternative health services, the QEHC is an attractive option to avoid the overcrowding, delays and other inconveniences so often experienced in hospitals and CLSCs." (QEHC)

The QEHC has a long history of service to the community, since "1894 when it used to be the Montreal Homeopathic Hospital," (QEHC) situated on McGill College Avenue. The hospital was later moved to Marlowe Avenue, its current NDG location, in 1927, when there was a demand for more beds and space. This hospital became renowned for their cutting edge medical practices and attentive staff, so much so that they were honored with the name of King George VI's wife, Queen Elizabeth. However, the hospital's very existence was put in jeopardy when there was a government directive, in 1995, to cut health care costs through the closure of "Montreal-area acute-care hospitals." (QEHC) In the year

Queen Elizabeth Health Complex: New Status as "Super-Clinic"

By Ashlie Bienvenu

after this directive, "the QEH Board of Directors, the QEH Foundation and other bodies and individuals in the community joined forces and decided to take matters into their own hands by forming the Centre-West Community Health Corporation (CWCHC)." (QEHC) This new not-for-profit organization allowed for the continuation of acute care services in the community.

"The Queen Elizabeth Health Complex, under the management of the CWCHC, is therefore a reincarnation and a new legal form for a century-old community institution. Its mission is to provide efficient, readily accessible medical services, complementary and alternative therapy, as well as emotional and mental health services that will contribute to improving the health of our community in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the Government of Quebec." (QEHC)

The QEHC offers services such as:

- A walk-in clinic, open 365 days a year
- A medical specialist clinic: cardiology, internal medicine, neurology, urology, otolaryngology, endocrinology, ophthalmology, and a special educational diabetes program.
- Imaging centre: radiology, ultrasound, digital mammography, bone density, and fluoroscopy services.

- The MUHC Department of Family Medicine.
- A dental clinic affiliated with the McGill University Faculty of Dentistry.
- Health services, such as chiropractic, nutrition, dietetics, physiotherapy, osteopathy, audiology and aesthetic medicine.
- Provides in-home nursing services.
- Mental health services.
- Complementary and alternative health care services: acupuncture, massotherapy, homeopathy, etc. (QEHC)

Please visit the QEHC website (<http://www.qehc.org/>) for more information.

Also, within the next month, stay on the lookout for a new page on the BCRC website (<http://bcrcmontreal.com>) which will feature links and information to health care resources in the community.

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NDG's Queen Elizabeth Health Complex to become 'super-clinic'. (August 25, 2017). CBC News. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-health-care--super-clinic-1.4262321>.

QEHC. Queen Elizabeth Health Complex. Retrieved from <http://www.qehc.org/>.



Community Events and Information




BCRC
BCRC INVITES YOU TO
SENIORS

Knitting Group



Friday's - 10 a.m - 12 p.m
6767 Cote-des-neiges- Room 497
514-342-2247 info@bcrcmontreal.com



BCRC
SENIORS
COME JOIN
US FOR
SCRAPBOOKING

6767 Cote-des-Neiges, Suite 497
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

EVERY
THURSDAY



OPEN GYM:
TONS OF FUN FOR
GIRLS ONLY!



EVERY TUESDAY 7:30PM - 10PM
COME AND GO AS YOU WANT

ST-PASCAL-BAYLON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM
RING THE BELL ON PLAMONDON STREET

FOR ALL GIRLS!


FREE!

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FANNY-PRÉVENTION CDN-NDG
514-915-3996
OR THE ACTIVITIES OFFIC EAT LA VOIE


PRÉVENTION
CDN-NDG



MONTRÉAL, A NEW BEGINNING
Resources to facilitate my integration into life in Montréal
montreal.ca/anewbeginning



Bureau
d'intégration des
nouveaux arrivants
Montréal





...Continued From Page 6

FASHION FOR A CAUSE MONTREAL PRESENTS
RIP THE RUNWAY MONTREAL
 6TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER
**THANKSGIVING SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 7TH 2017**
The Butterfly Effect
 IN HONOR OF THOSE LIVING WITH LUPUS
LUPUS
 BENEFITTING LUPUS CANADA
 HOSTED BY: BREAKFAST TV'S CATHERINE VERDON DIAMOND
 & THE MALIK SHAHEED SHOW MALIK SHAHEED
@TMR SCHOFIELD RECEPTION HALL
 90 ROOSEVELT AVE, H3R 1Z5 | DOORS OPEN: 7:45 PM | SHOWTIME: 8:30 PM
 TICKETS: ADV: \$30 / DOOR: \$40 ONLINE TICKETS: RIPHERUNWAYMONTREAL2017@EVENTBRITE.CA
 TICKETS OUTLETS: PRINCESSA/LASALLE (514) 895-4894, MARCHÉ COLONNADE/WEST ISLAND
 (514) 624-7689, SALON AMY/ CDN (514) 222-8708 | FOR MORE INFO OR A MINIMUM
 OF (3) TICKETS DELIVERY CONTACT: (514) 890-0836, (514) 951-3194, (514) 232-1947
A CHANCE TO WIN A GRAND PRIZE FOR ADVANCED TICKET HOLDER

Word Find Answers from Last Issue

**LOOKING FOR A JOB?
 DON'T LET INEXPERIENCE
 STAND IN YOUR WAY**
**SKILLS
 LINK YOU TO SUCCESS**

N	D	O	N	Y	P	X	J	F	T	Z	E	S	C	W	V	Z	P	W	M	H	D	K	S
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A	H	Q	C	X	U	L	C	X	K	I	Q	R	X	I	G	H	B	F	S	Z	Z	V	D
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LOOKING FOR A FAMILY DOCTOR?
gamf.gouv.qc.ca

ENSEMBLE on fait avancer le Québec

Canada's Black Walk Of Fame: Oliver Jones

By Ashlie Bienvenu

It seems appropriate to dedicate this article to Oliver Jones, as he recently performed in Little Burgundy at the renaming of Sainte-Cunegonde Social Centre, into the Oliver-Jones Centre. The renaming was to honour a talented and renowned musician; however, the honour was also due to his dedication and commitment to his hometown, Little Burgundy. Oliver Jones has led a very amazing life, from his childhood as a prodigy, to his performing and recording points in his career, to the growing fame and subsequent world tours, and to his recent retirement. However, throughout all of these milestones, Jones has stayed true to his roots and remained a prominent influential figure in his community.



Born on September 11, 1934, in Little Burgundy, Montreal, to Barbadian parents, Jones had an early affinity for music. Considered a child prodigy, Jones was playing the piano in the Union United Church at the age of five, and playing in Café St-Michel at the age of nine. He later went on to play at clubs, one of which was the famous Rockhead's Paradise. During his childhood Jones was tutored in classical piano by Madame Bonner, and later by Daisy Peterson Sweeney, the sister of Oscar Peterson. Jones later went on to tour the United States with a show called the Bandwagon. (Ware & Gagnon, 2016)

Jones worked in Montreal until approximately 1963, until he moved to Puerto Rico with his family to become the music director for the Kenny Hamilton Show Band. Jones returned to Montreal in 1980 and began to collaborate with Charles Biddle. They performed around Montreal, in bars and clubs, before opening a club of their own, the Biddle's Jazz and Ribs, now called the House of Jazz, for which Jones was the in-house pianist. In 1985 Jones

and Biddle recorded an album that caught the interest of Jim West, a record producer for the Jazz label, Justin Time. Jones, in a trio with Biddle and Bernard Primeau, recorded numerous songs. However, as Jones' solo career took off, he was unable to devote his time to Biddle's club. He played in Jazz festivals, went on tour around the world, and recorded over 15 albums. (Ware & Gagnon, 2016)

Jones also taught at Laurentian University, in 1987, and McGill University, in 1988, until his retirement in 1995. He was given many honours and awards, such as the PROCAN award, for his contributions to the world of Jazz, the Oscar Peterson Award, the Golden Ducat, Knight of the Ordre national du Québec, Officer of the Order of Canada, Governor General's Performing Arts Award, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Award, for his contributions to the Black community in Canada, especially Montreal. Jones announced his retirement, originally, in 2000. He decided to continue touring in 2002 and continued with his music career until 2016, where, at the tenth annual International Jazz Festival, he announced his retirement due to health issues. Jones hoped that there would be young Jazz musicians to pick up the torch after him. (Ware & Gagnon, 2016)

One such young musician, who was inspired and supported by Jones, is the seventeen year old Montrealer, Daniel Clarke Bouchard. This young piano prodigy credits Jones as being his mentor and says that "It's really changed [his] whole career, being able to be around [Jones] and have [his] career progress with his watchful eye." (CBC News) Jones has made an impact on many young musicians from the Montreal Black Community. In fact, at his performance this past month, at the renaming of the Sainte-



Cunegonde Social Centre, Jones gave a speech in which he declared he was "passing the baton to the next generations." (CBC News) He also used this speech to give hope to the children who come from less influential homes and neighbourhoods. He uses himself as an example that, if you work hard enough, it does not matter which walk of life you come from. (CBC News)

Therefore, even though Jones is set to retire, his memory, legend, and good works will live on in Little Burgundy and, more generally, Montreal. Indeed, his name will live on in Little Burgundy, through the newly named Oliver-Jones Centre, which provides services to the St. Henri/Little Burgundy community. His hard work and dedication will always serve as an example to children to follow their dreams, no matter their circumstances.

Bibliography

Jazz legend Oliver Jones gives another 'last' performance after community centre renamed in his honour. (September 17, 2017). CBC News. Retrieved from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/oliver-jones-little-burgundy-1.4293790>.

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Test Your Knowledge With This Historical WordFind Puzzle!!

WordFind Words

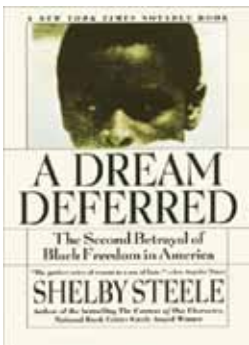
- Union United Church
- Oscar Peterson
- Oliver Jones
- Jazz
- Daisy Sweeney
- Piano



O	R	C	H	N	X	Y	G	C	O	X	B	B	V	L	Z	N
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B	J	I	R	S	Y	I	E	B	W	O	K	M	Y	D	Q	G
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B	Q	G	U	Y	Y	C	U	S	N	V	I	T	S	U	H	B

Cozy Up with This Book!!!

A Dream Deferred: The Second Betrayal of Black Freedom in America, By Shelby Steele.



In *A Dream Deferred* Shelby Steele argues that a second betrayal of black freedom in the United States--the first one being segregation--emerged from the civil rights era when the country was overtaken by a powerful impulse to redeem itself from racial shame. According to Steele, 1960s liberalism had as its first and all-consuming goal the expiation of America's guilt rather than the careful development of true equality between the races. In four densely argued essays, Steele takes on the familiar questions of affirmative action, multiculturalism, diversity,

Afro-centrism, group preferences, victimization--and what he deems to be the atavistic powers of race, ethnicity, and gender, the original causes of oppression.

--Excerpt from amazon.ca

This book can be found at the Atwater Library's Black Collection.

Stay Tuned!!!

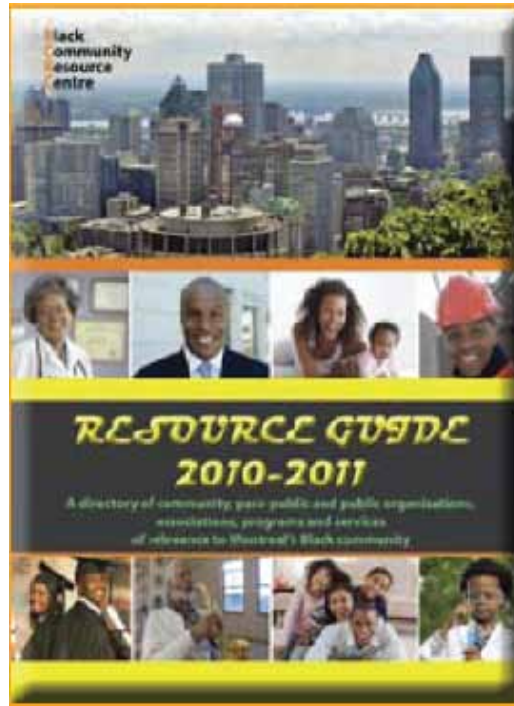


The Dark Tower (2017).
Cast: Idris Elba, Matthew McConaughey, Tom Taylor.

The last Gunslinger, Roland Deschain, has been locked in an eternal battle with Walter O'Dim, also known as the Man in

Black, determined to prevent him from toppling the Dark Tower, which holds the universe together. With the fate of the worlds at stake, good and evil will collide in the ultimate battle as only Roland can defend the Tower from the Man in Black.

--Excerpt from IMDb



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.

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