

[View this email in your browser](#)



SEMAJI

June 2022

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BCRC

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

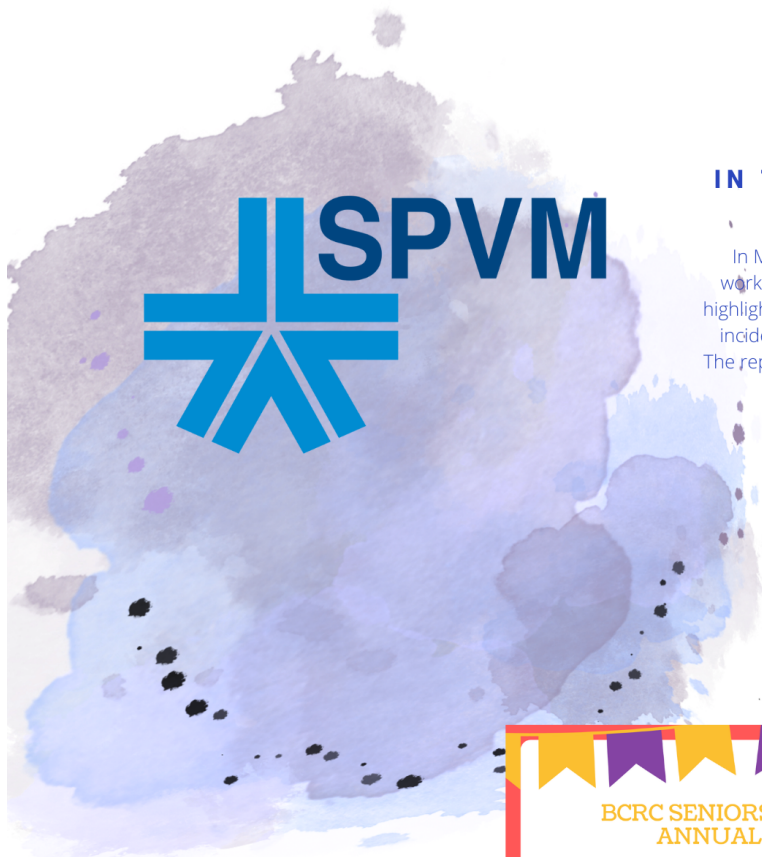
This month the BCRC held their annual Annual General Meeting and will be releasing the Annual Report on the weekend of the 26th. Keep an eye out for that and enjoy the monthly update of the BCRC team.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- What's Up at the BCRC
- In The Know SPVM Report
- Events
- Resources

WHAT'S UP at the BCRC



IN THE KNOW PROJECT SPVM Workshop

In May the In The Know Project hosted a workshop with the SPVM. The presentation highlighted the importance of reporting a "hate incident" to strengthen a "hate crime" case. The report can be found on the following page.

SENIORS PROGRAM Annual Picnic

In June the Seniors Program hosted their annual picnic in the park. It was a fun time full of food, music and games.

BCRC SENIORS PROGRAM
ANNUAL PICNIC

**You are invited to
our annual
Potluck Picnic!**

Join us for a fun day filled with food,
games, music and lots of fun

June 28th, 2022 • 11 to 2 PM at Kent Park
3220 Av. Appleton, Montréal, QC H3S 2T3
(WE'LL BE NEXT TO THE SPRINKLERS)

IN THE KNOW PROJECT

SPVM Police Check Conference Informative

Disclaimer

The views, information and opinions expressed in this informative abstract are solely those of the individuals/ presenters involved from SPVM and not necessarily reflect the view of public Quebecers. This informative abstract has been prepared by the BCRC legal team under the supervision of the Chair of Freedom Committee, Ms. Yvonne Sam. For more information, comments, or feedback kindly contact Ms. Yvonne Sam at: merleyvonne@hotmail.com

Opening Remarks & Mission Statement

On May 31st, 2022, Station 9 SPVM (NDG, Cote Saint-Luc, Hampstead) gave a presentation on their precinct's efforts to promote more ethical implementations of police checks (when a police officer stops a civilian for questioning). The main representative of the BCRC present was Ms. Yvonne Sam from the BCRC legal team under the Chair of BCRC Rights and Freedom Committee. The presentation was given by the Commander as well as 3 senior police officers who were selected based on their history of community outreach for this task force as police check "coaches". The main issue police have to grapple with when conducting police checks is finding the delicate balance between fighting crime and infringing upon civilian rights.

The Commander stated that public security is a joint venture between the police and the community and thus stressed the importance of the SPVM becoming more transparent, working with the community, and earning trust.

History of Police Check Policy

The new "Politiques D'Interpolation" program started in 2017 based on the need to address racial and social profiling issues regarding police checks. This program, which was devised in consultation with local community groups and other SPVM districts resulted in a "Listen, Understand, and Act" plan. This plan is meant to be an evolving policy that would continue to grow based on communal and internal feedback. As part of this policy a team of coaches specialising in ethical police checking would be established and its members would go to visit each station's morning, evening, and during briefing sessions in order to advise the officers regarding proper police checking techniques.

Additionally, the manner in which police catalogue their police check data has been updated. Prior to 2017, police check data was logged without any associated context. Now police check data is categorized with more precise information (whether it was related to a 9-11 call, a complaint on the street, based on observable facts by the officer, etc.). This way data can be analyzed in depth and lead to ongoing dialogues between coaches and officers. Additionally, supervisors must approve their officers police check reports, thereby fostering increased accountability on both ends.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Key Definitions

At this juncture, the presentations proceeded with providing definitions for key terms.

Social Interaction differs greatly from police checks in that social interaction is a “reciprocal

exchange between an officer and a person”, and essentially does not involve the officer asking for any information. Increased positive social interactions between police and civilians is important in building communal ties and improving trust.

A **Police Check** is an interaction in which an officer “tries” to collect information about that person as well as their identity. A police officer must explain to the individual why they are doing a police check (we have had reports of graffiti in the area). Because an individual is under no legal obligation to answer these questions or stay with the officer it is important for an officer to exercise diligence when deciding to conduct a police check (hence balancing fighting crime and civilian rights). The contexts which call for police checks include 911 calls, a person comes to see an officer while they are on patrol, an officer is asked by an investigator, and/or an officer’s personal judgement. In each case the officer must be presented with observable facts before conducting the police check.

Observable Facts must be objective and must go beyond just race/appearance. Officers should not add personal subjectivity when determining whether an individual warrants a police check (a man with a cart cannot assumed to be homeless). Moreover, police officers have issues regarding “bias by proxy”, meaning the person calling 9-11 or complaining to an officer on

patrol may be doing so from a prejudiced perspective, which an officer may then carry over into their policing. Thus, it is important for coaches to discuss issues of bias by proxy with dispatchers and officers in order for them to analyze the complaints and calls they receive as well as to ask more questions to ensure the objectivity of the information they are receiving (an officer gave an example of receiving a call that four black males were robbing a Subway restaurant and when he arrived the four men were simply sitting at a table eating).

An Interception is when an individual is stopped by an officer while in transit (whether on foot, skateboard, bike, car, etc.) for breaking the law. Because the law has been broken this goes beyond a police check, and the individual must identify themselves. They may be detained upon refusal.

If an individual is Under Arrest, they must immediately be told their rights (be told why they are arrested, and that they have the right to a lawyer and to remain silent). The individual must give their identity but is not obligated to answer further questions. They are likely to be detained by the officers.

In closing, the coaches advised their officers to conduct themselves based on the following 3 principles: respect, communication, and a professional attitude. Through forums such as this the SPVM intends to have ongoing open discussions with the community to further inform the community of their policies and to encourage feedback on how they can better implement them.

Assorted Statements

- There is no stop and frisk in Canada
- Unless under arrest you have the right to film was stopped or that person's name)
- You can ask police specific crime related questions (as long as they do not involve specific names), for example about issues prostitution around the Amazon or graffiti in a tunnel.
- Each citizen has the right to anonymity (officers cannot tell citizens why another person
- You can ask a police officer questions at any time, as long as it is not amidst an event in which public security is at risk (if they have their guns out, if two individuals are fighting with knives, during a stakeout, etc.)



EVENTS

**Projection
du film**

**NOUS
TOUS**

Entrée gratuite
Popcorn gratuit

Suivie d'une
discussion avec
Schneider
Augustin
AKA Bouki

Jeudi 7 juillet 19h
6767 Ch. de la
Côte-des-Neiges

UN FILM DE
PIERRE PIRARD

Logos: Corporation de développement communautaire de Côte-des-Neiges, MC CDN, COUTRINGS, 24h, PREVENTION COMMUNAUTAIRE, Raabour amilié, Celor, SPVM

Le comité du vivre-ensemble will hold a screening of the film **Nous Tous Thursday, July 7 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 6767 Chemin de la Côte-des-Neiges (RC)**

The objective is to open a space for citizen discussion to address the challenges and obstacles faced by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. The discussion will be moderated by Schneider Augustin, a wonderful community organizer at CELO. The film will be in French, with English subtitles.

Facebook event can be found [here](#).

Facebook event [here](#).

EVENTS

Join Black Health Matters COVID-19 and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, for this webinar on the Black Health Matters COVID-19 research project's preliminary findings followed by a Q&A session.

**Wednesday July 13,
2022 11:00AM -
12:30PM**

Register [here](#).



Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Black Health Matters

**BLACK HEALTH MATTERS COVID-19:
A DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY
FINDINGS**

Wednesday July 13th, 2022 11:00AM - 12:30PM EDT



Dr. Roberta Timothy B.A., M.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.
Principal Investigator
Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream
Black Health Lead, Program Director in Black Health
Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

<https://bhmcv19webinar.eventbrite.ca>

The data from this research is being used to create an intersectional, anti-racist, anti-oppression, Black community health data base that will be used by Black led researchers and community members to share and develop empowerment-centred interventions and strategies to support African/Black communities during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Webinar registration [here](#).

RESEARCH



Research Project to Identify Barriers Faced by Hard-to-Reach Youth in Engaging with Employment Services Across Canada

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to conduct a research project which will explore the multifaceted challenges diverse youth face when seeking and obtaining employment in Canada.

They are looking for individuals between the ages of 17 and 29 who would be interested in attending 4 one-hour virtual discussions (i.e., on Zoom) about the research project.

Participants will be provided with a \$50 e-transfer after each session they attend (up to a total of \$200).

Interested participants can fill out the application form [here](#).

Employment Equity Act Review

The Employment Equity Act Review is looking for Canadians of African descent to participate in one of their focus groups to help them improve employment equity legislation. If you are of African descent, live and work in Canada and have a strong interest in employment equity, diversity and inclusion, they want to hear from you.

Participants will receive \$40.

For more info and registration visit ear.ca



Employment Equity Act Review Focus Group Registration

ESDC application form [here](#).
ear.ca

RESOURCES

WATCH THE REPLAY!

ENTREPRENEURSHIP *is for me too.*

Watch as our panel of leading thinkers, dreamers and makers discuss entrepreneurship and answer questions about entrepreneurship!



ALESHA ROBINSON
PHARAOH FREEMAN
TAMARA MEDFORD-WILLIAMS

HOSTED BY
TENSIRA
VALLIANT

BCRC afro

Entrepreneurship is for me too: Q+A for aspiring and new Entrepreneurs Recording

This recording is valuable for anyone interested in starting a business or who is looking to build their new business. Link to recording [here](#).

NHCF Funding

Funding through the National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCF) will support Black-led organizations to build housing, as well as more affordable housing for Black renter households in Canada.

Applications for the grant can be found [here](#).

Link to recording [here](#).
NHCF grant application [here](#).



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

