

P2-3 / Nelson Mandela /
Message from the Chair / New
Offices / Acknowledgements

P4-5 / Meet the Board / Our
Role / What You Can Expect
from Us / Our Future

P6-7 / Who is “Buddy”
Daye / Holiday Message

DELMORE “BUDDY” DAYE AFRICENTRIC LEARNING INSTITUTE



Community Update – Volume 1, Winter 2013



The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Africentric Learning Institute is dedicated to improving the educational experiences, opportunities and outcomes for African Nova Scotian learners and educators.

5539 Cornwallis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 1B3
902-407-3200 • www.dbdali.ca

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela



Nelson Mandela
(1918- 2013)

“Let us pause and give thanks for the fact that Nelson Mandela lived – a man who took history in his hands and bent the arc of the moral universe towards justice.” – President Barack Obama

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa on July 18, 1918. He was the fourth eldest of 13 children. Mandela was educated at the University of Fort Hare and later at the University of Witwatersrand, qualifying in law in 1942.

Arrested in 1962, he spent the next 27 years in prison, which brought international visibility to the anti-apartheid movement. He was finally released through international pressure in 1990. Once released from prison, Mandela continued his campaign to end apartheid.

As a result of his actions for peace in his country, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 with FW de Klerk, then president of South Africa.

His hard work and lifelong effort paid off when all races were allowed to vote in the 1994 election. Nelson Mandela won the election and became the first black president of South Africa in 1994, retiring in 1999.

Message from the Chair



Jocelyn Dorrington

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Africentric Learning Institute. We officially opened the doors in June with joy and celebration. We were delighted to be joined by members of the African Nova Scotia community for whom we will be providing our services as well as, the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister of African Nova Scotia Affairs, Mayor Mike Savage, HRM’s poet laureate El Jones, and members of the Daye family.

Delmore “Buddy” Daye, after whom the Institute is named, helped bring issues affecting African Nova Scotians to all levels of government. In 1990, when the African Nova Scotia community demanded that the government of Nova Scotia address the affects of inequality in the education system, the provincial government of the day consulted with Buddy Daye. He brought forward the names of key people in the African Nova Scotian community who later established the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC). He also insisted that the main educational partners, vested in addressing African Nova Scotian education issues be included. It is from the passionate commitment of these people and members of our Board that the DBDALI has been realized.

I am so proud of what we’ve accomplished thus far. As we find our way forward, we remain guided by our vision. Join us on this journey to build a better place for us and our children.

Newly opened DBDALI offices



June 29, 2013 marked an important milestone with the official opening of the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Africentric Learning Institute Office.

During a special ceremony, members from the DBDALI Board of Directors, Provincial and Municipal Government, African Nova Scotian Organizations, African Nova Scotian Community leaders and members along with the Daye family were all on hand to officially open the doors of the new offices located at 5539 Cornwallis Street. With more than one hundred people on hand, the event was a

celebration featuring a libation ceremony, spoken word, food and song that marked progress made by the African Nova Scotian Community to further the success of African Nova Scotian learners and educators.

Ramona Jennex, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, was on hand to commemorate the occasion, congratulate the Board and recognize Mr. Daye’s lifelong commitment to building unity and strength among African Nova Scotians and racial equality in Nova Scotia.

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the DBDALI, we offer congratulations to:

The Honourable Tony Ince, ECNS – newly elected MLA Cole Harbour – Portland Valley, and Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage / Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs - Cole Harbour-Portland Valley

Mr. Stephen Gough - newly elected MLA Sackville-Beaver Bank

Hope Blooms - recent success on both CBC’s Dragons’ Den and, more importantly, on showcasing what can happen when a community works together

The Mount Saint Vincent University Cohort Graduates - Masters of Education Degree in Graduate Studies - Lifelong Learning

Dr. Burnley Allan “Rocky” Jones (posthumously) – renaming of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Award “Individual” category to the “Dr. Burnley Allan “Rocky” Jones, Human Rights Award

What is our Role

Meet the DBDALI Board of Directors



The DBDALI Board of Directors is comprised of an accomplished group of men and women from across Nova Scotia, who are educators and leaders in their respective fields.

Front row left to right - Sheila Lucas-Cole, Treasurer; Yvonne Atwell Vice-Chair; Jocelyn Dorrington, Chairperson. Back row left to right - Paul Ash, Director; Ed Matwawana, Director; Martin Morrison, Director; Travis Toussaint, Director (Resigned); Susan M. Brigham, Director; W. Dean Smith, Director



Board Member Profile Sheila Lucas-Cole

Sheila has extensive involvement with the three major African Nova Scotian educational organizations. She is a long-time member of the Black Educators Association (BEA) having provided 35 years of service to the Association. She has served in several executive positions in the BEA including several terms as President and is still active sitting on the Executive as the Chairperson of the Operations Committee.

Sheila was a founding member of the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) and Board member for the entirety of its mandate. She was also an original member of the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE) serving on its Executive for a number of years as the Chair of Finance. In 2010, she retired from Parks Canada after almost 30 years of service. Sheila is a recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Award in 2012 for outstanding service to the community.

At the DBDALI, we are dedicated to Africentric-educational research and practices.

We are driven by our mission to advance the academic success of African Nova Scotian learners and educators with improved graduation rates and educational excellence.

By working in collaboration with Communities, government partners and educational institutions, the DBDALI will develop policies and implement educational programs and services that assist in the elimination of institutional barriers to the educational achievements of African Nova Scotian learners.



We take a research-based approach in the development of initiatives that will advance academic achievements of the Community in the short and long term. This will take into account the historical and cultural experience of African Canadians.

By supporting and promoting emerging research that is Africentric in focus, the DBDALI strives to be the premier resource centre for Africentric learning. We are passionate about creating positive and meaningful educational change for African Nova Scotian learners and educators.



A Fond Farewell to Travis Toussaint

Travis is the Regional Educator with the Black Educators Association (BEA) for the Strait Region. Prior to joining the BEA, Mr. Toussaint worked for the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) and the South Shore Regional School Board (SSRSB) as a Substitute Elementary School Teacher.

Having worked for the Ottawa Catholic School Board as a Developmental Specialist, Travis has extensive experience working with students with Multiple Challenges, on the Autistic Spectrum, and in the area of Special Education. Travis originally hails from Sydney – Whitney Pier and now resides in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Toussaint recently resigned from the DBDALI Board to further pursue his professional development. As a valued member of the community, we were pleased to have had him as part of our Board of Directors team. His hard work in the establishment of the DBDALI and his contribution as the BEA Representative was invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Thank you Travis and we wish you all the best.

What can you expect from us

We have several areas of focus that will help us, in collaboration with our government, community and regional partners, provide African Nova Scotia learners and educators with the tools they need to reach their full potential.

These areas of focus, as outlined below, will be housed in an Africentric Centre of Excellence, developed and led by the DBDALI.

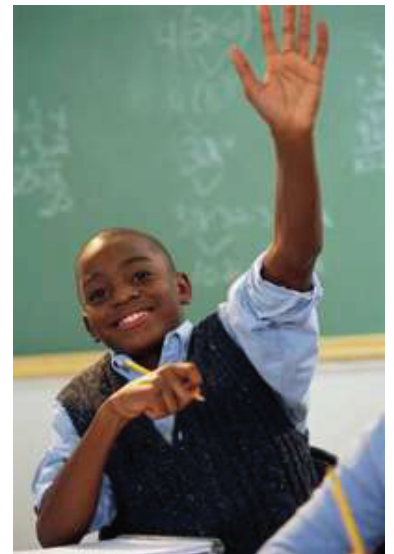
RESEARCH:

Our job is to support existing scholars and researchers on African Nova Scotian educational issues. We will undertake research on key topics such as determining the academic performance and opportunities to learn for ANS students, Individual Program Plans (IPPs), statistics on college and University Completion and ANS adult educational models.

Our purpose is to identify and support the implementation of educational models and practices that will advance the academic achievement of African Nova Scotia learners throughout their entire educational experience.

We will also support and promote emerging research and researchers, emerging scholars and develop scholarships on topics that contribute to the success of African Nova Scotia students.

cont'd p.6



Our Future

Though we have started some of the work that must be done, we recognize that the following items are important to our long term success and sustainability. Here are some of the objectives we plan to achieve in 2014:

- The hiring of key staff, primarily the Executive Director, Research Director and the position of Program Director.
- To begin research in support of the BLAC Report and its 46 recommendations
- Conduct the search for additional members for the DBDALI Board
- Establishment of the DBDALI Governance Document
- Begin the Community Consultation Process



What you can expect...

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT:

Our work will involve the development and integration of Africentric academic and intellectual history and culture materials into school curriculum. The Institute will identify resources and best practices and work with educational partners to ensure that this work is reflected in the education system.

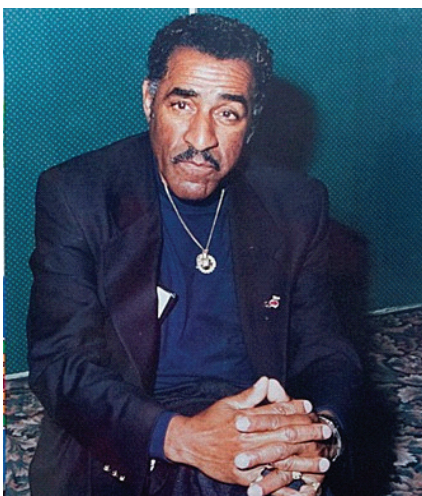
POLICY: We will examine current education policy and provide relevant critiques and recommended policies and policy changes to government in collaboration with policy leaders in education.



Taken at the Grand Opening of the DBDALI offices. Mrs. Delmore “Buddy” Daye far right.

Who is Delmore “Buddy” Daye

Delmore William “Buddy” Daye was born in 1926 in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia and moved to Halifax at an early age. Perhaps most widely known for his boxing career, Buddy Daye raised nine children with his wife Laura Barton and was an active and passionate advocate for his community.



During the 1960s, Daye was inspired by leaders of the civil rights movement and resolved to do whatever he could to create racial dignity and equality in Nova Scotia. He was honoured by the Privy Council of Canada for outstanding community service, awarded the Confederation of Canada's Centennial Medal, received a Saint Mary's University Honorary “M”, and was named the First African Canadian Sergeant-at-Arms in a Canadian Legislative House of Assembly.

Buddy Daye helped bring issues affecting African Nova Scotians to all levels of government, especially the provincial government. He was instrumental in the hiring of the first African Nova Scotians to the Halifax Police Force and the city's bus service. In 1990, when the African Nova Scotian community demanded that the government of Nova Scotia address systemic racism and the affects of inequality in the education system, the provincial government of the day consulted with Buddy Daye.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

We will develop and implement skills development programs and continuing education on topics and educational issues that relate to the historical and contemporary experiences of African Nova Scotia learners and educators.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

The involvement of community and parents is vital to the education of African Nova Scotian students and improvement of their academic achievements. Our goal is to engage and work collaboratively with parents and communities.

A graphic illustration of seven lit candles in the colors of the Kwanzaa flag: three red, one black, and three green. The candles are set against a background of red, black, and green horizontal stripes. The word "KWANZAA" is written in large, white, stylized block letters with a black outline across the middle of the candles.

KWANZAA

The Board and Staff at the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Africentric Learning Institute wish you and your loved ones a safe and prosperous holiday season.

What We Do

At the DBDALI, our primary goal is simple:

We're working to enable African Nova Scotian learners reach their full potential by ensuring our education system meets their needs and those of the province's educators.

We are passionate about putting more Africentric resources into the hands of African Nova Scotian learners and educators.

"The DBDALI has a deep commitment to improve educational outcomes for African Nova Scotian students from pre-school to adult hood," says Yvonne Atwell, DBDALI Director.

"To do that, we need to improve education for African Nova Scotia lifelong learners through educational research, informed policies and practices."

This requires a balanced, collaborative and relevant approach to Africentric education which involves working with our regional partners, the provincial government, educators, learners and the African

Nova Scotian community to build more Africentric content into the school curriculum.

It means engaging in research and best practices, and developing policies and programs that can be put into practice.



If you have a passionate interest in knowing more about the DBDALI and what role you play in helping to improve the academic achievement of African Nova Scotia students and educators, let us know.

Call us at **902.407.3200** or visit us at **5539 Cornwallis Street, Halifax, B3K 1B3.**

Check out our website at www.dbdali.ca