

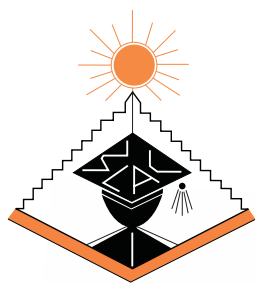
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Community Update – Spring 2015

20th Anniversary of the BLAC Report on Education



Reflecting on the Past, Charting the Future

A Provincial Education Conference

BLAC Report
on Education
*Redressing Inequity –
Empowering Black Learners*
DECEMBER 1994



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education



Keynote with Dr. Avis Glaze

Raising the Bar
and Closing the
Achievement Gaps:
*High Impact Strategies
that Work*

5539 Cornwallis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia
902-407-3200 • www.dbdli.ca

Ms. Sylvia Parris

CEO - The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute



The DBDLI Board of Directors warmly welcomes Ms. Sylvia Parris as the organization’s new CEO.

Ms. Parris’s work in education and the community is rooted in core Africentric Principles. She has a successful history of collaboration with the communities and stakeholders with whom she has worked making her an ideal fit with the DBDLI.

Through her extensive public sector involvement, Ms. Parris has gained a deep understanding and appreciation for what it takes to conduct policy analysis, oversee publishing projects, and develop and implement education, multicultural and diversity programs.

Known for getting things done in a thoughtful, respectful and engaging way, Ms. Parris has been actively involved across a broad range of community initiatives and organizations including the Akoma Family Centre, the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia, and the Black Business Initiative Community Investment Fund. She has worked with the Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia Department of Education, Nova Scotia Department of Justice, the Nova Scotia Community College and the Guysborough District School Board.

Ms. Parris holds a Masters of Arts in Life Long Learning - Africentricity, a Masters of Education - Curriculum and a Bachelor of Science, Home Economics / Education. When asked about her past experience, Ms. Parris’s passion for the African Nova Scotian community and her involvement shines through:

“Through my work, I have come to appreciate the positive impact collaboration has on society. Over the years I have worked with some incredible community groups, agencies and organizations vested in inclusiveness, diversity and equity. Without them, it would have been next to impossible to heighten awareness, build capacity and help strengthen our communities.”

Board Chair, Jocelyn Dorrington, says the organization is looking forward to Ms. Parris’s leadership as the DBDLI continues to identify opportunities and implement initiatives designed to improve the education system for African Nova Scotian learners, educators and communities.

“We look forward to working closely with Ms. Parris as we continue to collaborate with our communities, education-focused organizations, academic institutions, and the provincial government, as well as our colleagues in the public and private sector,” says Ms. Dorrington.

The Board is confident that Ms. Parris’s expertise and experience will support the organization to provide leadership in strengthening citizen engagement and to serve as a catalyst for improving the education environment for African Nova Scotian learners and educators.

Chair's Message



Jocelyn Dorrington

Welcome to our Spring edition of the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute Newsletter. Now that we have left winter behind, we can focus on all things renewed and reinvigorated.

Last Fall, we were proud to be part of an important undertaking - the 20th Anniversary of the BLAC Report on Education Conference. The two-day event created a unique opportunity to re-energize the momentum that was established 20 years ago when the Black Learners Advisory Committee issued the BLAC Report's 46 recommendations.

Africentric educators, government partners, our esteemed Africentric organizational peers, and young African Nova Scotian learners and parents, came together to learn from each other through conversations and workshops rooted in Africentric philosophies, practices and strategies. As a collective, we worked on designing some of the changes required to chart the future pathway on which African Nova Scotian learners will travel throughout their educational journey.

Message from the chair cont'd...

As you may be aware, for the past 10 months, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has been conducting reviews of the various organizations it supports, including the DBDLI, to enhance its understanding of the roles and responsibilities of those organizations. We look forward to continued progress with our mandate in partnership with our government partner, our organizational peers, and the community.

In January, we completed our collection of Africentric Resources including the Notable Nova Scotian Poster, Notable Nova Scotian Bookmarks and Vol. 1 of the *Times of African Nova Scotians (TANS)*.

Vol. 2 of TANS is currently in production and we are looking forward to its 2015 release.

We continue to build on our commitment to transparency and accountability and as such, we are preparing for our 2nd annual Report to the Community on June 23. We hope to see you there.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of our newest program, The Master of Education in Counselling Cohort with a focus on Africentricity, in partnership with Acadia University. The 3-year, part time program will begin in July of this year.

Excellence in Africentric Education is our destination. The DBDLI is focused on supporting our learners, educators and the community on the journey to get there.

OUR ROLE



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education

At the DBDLI, our goal is to help African Nova Scotian learners achieve academic excellence. We are committed to ensuring our education system meets the needs of our communities. An important part of making that happen is getting more Africentric resources into the hands of our African Nova Scotian educators and learners.

"We have a deep commitment to improve educational outcomes for African Nova Scotian students from pre-school to adulthood," says Yvonne Atwell, DBDLI Director. "To do that, we need to improve education for African Nova Scotian lifelong learners through educational research, informed policies and practices."

Introducing DBDLI Resource Materials



The Times of African Nova Scotians



Times Series

Volume One



The DBDLI is pleased to make Africentric learning resources available. We are dedicated to helping African Nova Scotian learners and educators achieve academic excellence and proud to make these classroom resources available as a means of supporting efforts to engage and educate in our rich African Nova Scotian history and heritage. As part of our mandate to develop culture-based Africentric materials, we are pleased to present the following classroom resources, produced specifically for African Nova Scotian learners and educators.

• The Times of African Nova Scotians Vol.1:

This historical journal has been developed specifically to address the need for teaching materials pertaining to African Nova Scotian history and was written in consultation with community groups from across the province and with input from distinguished educators, teachers, historians and writers. The content is peer reviewed and written to support the African Canadian Curriculum Outcomes.

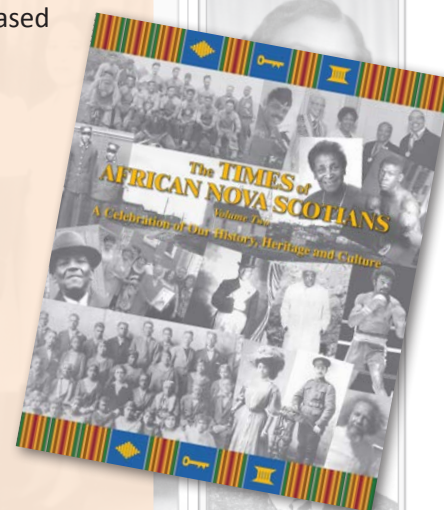
The Times of African Nova Scotians Vol.2 coming July 2015.

• Notable Nova Scotian Poster:

Recognizing 48 African Nova Scotians that have made notable contributions to the political, social and cultural life of this province and the country.

• Set of 23 Bookmarks:

Each illustrated with a short biography of an African Nova Scotian that has been awarded either our country's most prestigious civilian honour, The Order of Canada, or the highest honour awarded by our Province, The Order of Nova Scotia.



Rosa Parks at the Black Cultural Centre in 1998.

20th Anniversary of the BLAC Report on Education: Reflecting on the Past, Charting the Future

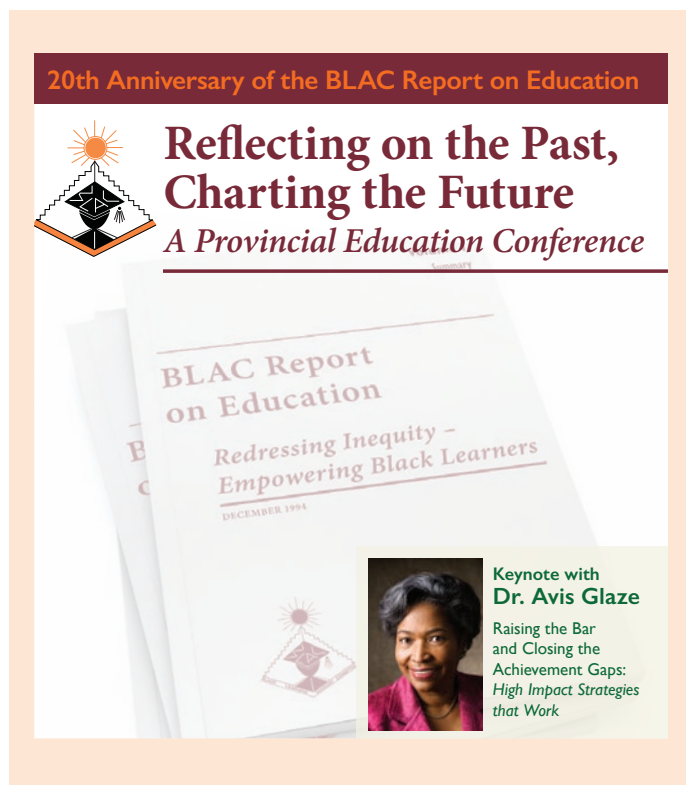
The 20th Anniversary of the BLAC Report Conference on Education was held last fall at the Holiday Inn Harbour View Hotel, in Dartmouth Nova Scotia. Themed “Reflecting on the Past, Charting the Future”, the conference brought together influential people from all parts of our community including educators, government, Africentric organizations and parents to exchange ideas and information about the current state of our education system, including policies and practices.

Over the two days, participants learned from and collaborated with others who are on the same journey to help African Nova Scotian learners reach their full potential. With conversations rooted in Africentric philosophies, practices and strategies, the conference provided valuable insight on how to influence and design the changes required to chart the future pathway on which African Nova Scotian learners will travel throughout their educational journey.

The event re-energized the momentum that was established 20 years ago when the Black Learners Advisory Committee issued the BLAC Report’s 46 recommendations. Today, there are many compelling voices from the community determined to further improve the situation and outcomes for learners and educators. The conference provided an ideal opportunity for participants and organizers to:

- Reflect on and celebrate educational progress since the publication of the BLAC Report on Education, and chart a new future for African Canadian Education.
- Re-engage all stakeholders and partners in education, to improve educational opportunities and achievements of African Nova Scotian learners.
- Review the status of African Canadian Education, with a renewed focus on strategies designed to close the gaps in student achievement.

Working in partnership with the African Canadian Services Division (ACSD), the Black Educators Association (BEA), the Council on African Canadian Education (CACE), we have opened a new chapter to tackle the work still to be done to bring about positive and enduring change.



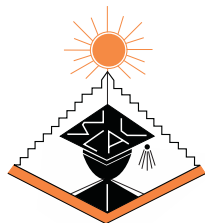


20th Anniversary Conference Identifies Strategies to Engage Students

- Connect students with role models with similar backgrounds
- Provide relevant curricular content
- Connect to the student's community
- Provide extra-curricular activities that appeal to a diverse student population
- Provide an environment free from stereotypes, harassment and racial slurs
- Celebrate accomplishments from various cultures
- Ensure school libraries have resources that reflect the school's diversity (Breaking Barriers)



Youth Recognition Award Recipients



As part of the BLAC Conference the following youth were recognized at the Youth Recognition Awards ceremony that was held to celebrate our youth for their achievements.

Karissa Izzard-Wells, Leah Jones, Ifunanya S. Kammelu, Ibimina KoKo, Dumebraye Kpolugbo, Sonya Smith, Pascaline Ngweniform, Imhokhai Ogah, Justin Michael Pyne, Cinera Jane States, Celeste L. Williams, Karissa Izzard-Wells, Kristine Yarney, Brian H. Fells, Marcus Marsman, Michelle Talbot, Emmanuel Simmonds, Kassondra Tench, Desiree Jones, Dominique Oliver, Henry Annan, Bernard Burgessson, Philippa Ovonji-Odida, Rania Fashir and Wamorena Chite. Presenters Jocelyn Dorrington (DBDLI Chair) & Dr. Patrick Kakembo (Director of ACSD).



Board Member Profile Ed Matwawana, Director (2012-Present)

Ed Matwawana currently lives in Ottawa where he runs his company “Pyramid Development Consulting Group” specializing in Entrepreneurship education, community re-integration and youth programs.

Born in Angola (Southwestern Africa) and raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ed moved to Canada at the age of 20. He attended Crandall University (formerly known as the Atlantic Baptist College) and Acadia University earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology & Psychology, with a concentration in Community Movement and Advocacy.

Ed moved to Halifax in 1988 and began working in the field of people development and training through the Regional Residential Services Society, Black United Front of Nova Scotia, and the African Nova Scotian Training Centre. He worked with youth in transition through the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education & Development (CEED) and has become a Community Transformation Agent involved in working with communities and institutions in Canada and overseas in the areas of youth entrepreneurship education, program development, business and community economic development and coaching, and transition and reintegration programming.

Ed has served on many community boards and committees including Music Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Talent Trust and was a founding member and past-president of the African Nova Scotian Music Association (ANSMA). He is a multi-award winner with ANSMA and the Urban Music Association of Canada (UMAC). Ed is fluent in French, English and two Bantu languages (Kikongo and Lingala) with a working knowledge of Portuguese.

PEER PROFILE:

The Black Educators Association (BEA) was founded in 1969 and is a non-profit organization that has been building educational and cultural capacity within the African Nova Scotia community for over 45 years. Its mission is to monitor and ensure the development of an equitable education system so that African Nova Scotia learners are able to achieve their maximum potential. Through initiatives like the Regional Educators Program (REP), the Cultural Academic Enrichment Programs (CAEPs), the BEA Math camp and the REP Spelling Bee, the BEA provides access to programs of excellence that continuously evolve to meet the ongoing needs of its membership, learners and the community at large.



The REP Provincial Spelling Bee



The REP Provincial Spelling Bee provides African Nova Scotian students with an educational program focused on English language basics outside the regular school curriculum. The REP Provincial Spelling Bee is designed to be fun and interactive in an atmosphere that encourages students to participate with an opportunity to go on to compete in the regional, national and international finals. 100 students from across the province gather to compete for the title of “Champion Speller”.

The DBDLI is a proud sponsor of the 9th Annual REP Provincial Spelling Bee held at Mount Saint Vincent University. We applaud the courage and hard work put in by participants, teachers and parents.

Congratulations to the 2015 BEA Spelling Bee Winners

Champion Speller – Ashton MacRae – Antigonish CAEP
with WINNING WORD: Hypothesize
2nd Place Speller – Kayley Dixon – Dartmouth North CAEP
3rd Place Speller – Teshae Fraser – North Preston CAEP



BEA Math Camp:

For the 25th year, the Black Educators Association and Dalhousie University have teamed up to develop an exciting Math and Science camp for African Nova Scotian students. The program is designed to engage African Nova Scotian students in a fun and practical way that shows math and science can be fun. The goal is to grow the number of African Nova Scotian learners that will pursue math and/or the sciences at the university level. A total of 30 girls and boys, ages 13 to 15 that show promise in Math will be invited to attend this 5 day camp.

The program is designed to emphasize problem-solving skills and applications of mathematics to common, everyday living. The Camp is held in July at Dalhousie University and participants live on campus during the week.

For further information on these programs, please contact the BEA at (902) 424-7036 or by email at info@theblackeducators.ca or visit the website at theblackeducators.ca.

Black Halifax – Stories From Here *An Innovative Partnership*



“Black Halifax” is an innovative, interactive initiative that celebrates Halifax’s vibrant Black community. Captured as a collection of stories, in the form of 14 short videos, Black Halifax illustrates the rich cultural history that shapes our African Nova Scotian community.

DBDLI, in partnership with Canadian Maritime Heritage Foundation, Dr. Afua Cooper; the James R. Johnston Chair at Dalhousie University and Valerie Mason-John, Co - Chair of Black Halifax, developed the website <http://www.blackhalifax.com> that showcases videos of personalities, sites and events of historic significance to the African Nova Scotian community. They are presented/performed by local poets, artists and professional actors combining storytelling with archival photographs and film.

The website also includes historical information relating to the African Nova Scotian community including timelines, learning tools and web resources that support the videos.

John Hennigar-Shuh, President of the Canadian Maritime Heritage Foundation hosted the official launch of the website and videos at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Live performances were given by Dr. Afua Cooper, James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies at Dalhousie University and Dr. Valerie Mason-John, author and co-editor of *Great Black North: Contemporary African Canadian Poetry* to an audience of more than 120 people; many of the key contributors were in attendance. The event was live streamed via www.haligoniac.ca. As part of Eastlink’s sponsorship, the videos will be broadcast via Eastlink TV’s OnDemand platform.

Programs and Partnerships Update



DBDLI's Master of Education in Counselling



As part of our mandate to develop educators that can meet the needs of the African Nova Scotian community, the DBDLI has partnered with Acadia University in the Master of Education in Counselling program with a focus on Africentricity. The 2015 Cohort is a 3 year, part-time, nationally accredited program that is designed for teachers pursuing a career in school counselling and for individuals pursuing counselling careers in the agency environment.

The application process began late last year with a series of information sessions that introduced potential participants to this part-time cohort. Scheduled to begin this July, 20 students of African descent have been offered scholarships by the DBDLI for admission into the program.

The Master of Education in Counselling program exposes participants to a diverse range of counselling approaches as they prepare to become leaders in the counselling profession.

DBDLI and Teens Now Talk Impacts Sydney Cape Breton



This past April TNT was in Sydney, Cape Breton to connect with 18 youth and introduce them to the Youth in Production Program.

This past, April TNT hit the road and headed to Sydney, Cape Breton. The theme of the two and a half day session was Youth Entrepreneurship - Creating Our Own Destiny. The 18 teens that participated in the program connected with entrepreneurs in the community and conducted a weekend of learning, development and creativity. The program was an overwhelming success and key learnings will be applied to future programs in other parts of the province.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Congratulations to **Dr. Walter Borden** and **Dr. Wanda Thomas-Bernard** on their induction to the Order of Nova Scotia. This honour is a fitting recognition of their passionate dedication to the Province, particularly as mentors to African Nova Scotians. It reflects the commitment, dedication and profound impact that they have had on our community and the province as a whole.

ANSMA Lifetime Achievement Award

At the 17th Annual ANSMA Awards held this past March The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute was proud to present the ANSMA Lifetime Achievement Award to Brent Williams. Mr. Williams career has spanned over 55 years and he is renowned for being one of Canada’s pioneers in country music. Pictured L-R: Ed Matwawana, Brent Williams and Jeremiah Sparks



Congratulations to **Melinda Daye** on her appointment as the Chair of the Halifax Regional School Board. As a retired teacher and administrator, her experience will bring a meaningful, valuable and relevant perspective to the Halifax Regional School Board. We could not be happier with this news and are extremely proud of this appointment.



Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education



2015 Report to the Community *Our People, Our Passion*

June 23, 2015 - 5pm-8pm

Delta Halifax Hotel
Bluenose Ballroom, 8th Floor
1990 Barrington St., Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dedicated to improving the educational experiences, opportunities and outcomes for African Nova Scotian learners and educators.

Board Recruitment

The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute is run by a volunteer board of directors that are dedicated and passionate community members from various backgrounds. We welcome community members who are interested in guiding our vision and mandate to be a part of our board. Please contact Sheila Lucas-Cole for more information about the application process and to discuss this exciting opportunity further.

We have added new content to our website that you can visit at

www.dbdli.ca

- Our Journey - the facts
- Baseline Data on African Nova Scotian Learners
- The Graduate Research Fellowship Recipients

African Words drawn from the 7 principles of Kwanzaa

Nia (NEE-yah) Purpose encourages us to look within ourselves and to set personal goals that are beneficial to the community.

Kuumba (koo-OOM-bah) Creativity makes use of our creative energies to build and maintain a strong and vibrant community.

If you have an interest in knowing more about the DBDLI and what role you can play in helping to improve the academic achievement of African Nova Scotia learners and educators, contact us.

Call us at **902.407.3200**, visit us at **5539 Cornwallis Street, Halifax**, or check out our website at **www.dbdli.ca**