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Community Update – Summer 2017

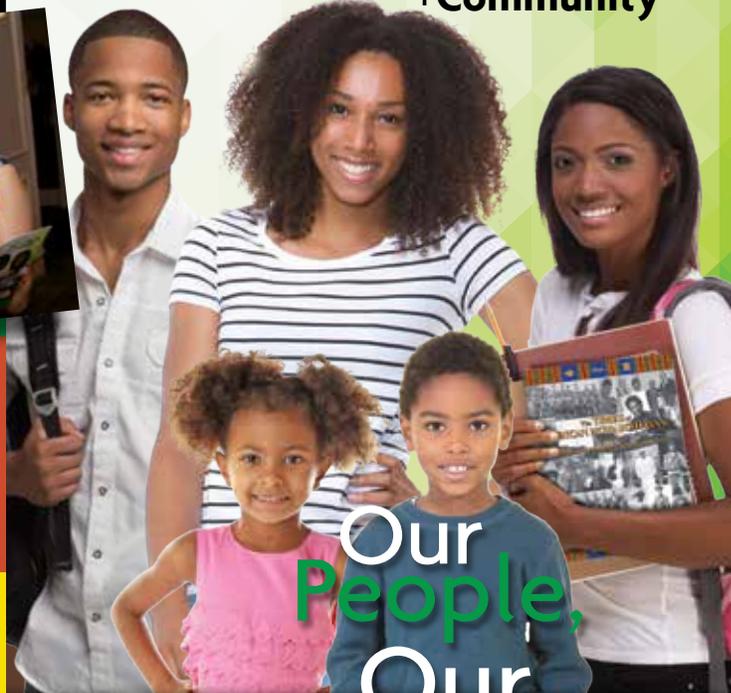


Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute



 Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute
Excellence in Africentric Education

**2016-17
Report to the
Community**



**Our
People,
Our
Passion**



Carrie Best



As a poet, author, journalist, publisher, broadcaster and tenacious crusader, Carrie Mae Best was a passionate and vocal advocate for racial equality and social justice. Born March 4, 1903 in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, she married Albert Best in 1925 with whom she had a son Calbert and welcomed several foster children into their family.

In 1941, Carrie and Calbert sat in the whites-only section at the Roseland Theatre where they were brusquely removed by police. She filed a civil law suit and though she lost the case, she was not defeated.

In 1946, Carrie founded *The Clarion*, the first black-owned, black-published newspaper in Nova Scotia that provided a powerful channel to address the persistent problems of racism and segregation, while advocating for Black rights. She also used the newspaper to bring important attention to the case of Viola Desmond, another black woman arrested and fined for sitting in the whites-only seats at Roseland.

When Desmond appealed the ruling, Carrie travelled to Halifax to be in the courtroom to hear the case. Viola Desmond lost her first appeal, but continued to fight, and Carrie continued to follow the case both in person and through *The Clarion*.

The Clarion continued to be published under that name until 1956, when it changed its name to *The Negro Citizen* and began national circulation. During that period, Carrie filled a void in radio and began broadcasting her own radio show called *The Quiet Corner*, which remained on air for 12 years and was broadcast on four radio stations across the Maritimes.

In 1968, she was hired as a Human Rights columnist for the *Pictou Advocate*. For seven years, she used that platform to fight for better conditions on Native Reserves, to end discrimination against Black property owners, and to end racism in Canadian legal and political institutions.

Over the course of her life, she was awarded numerous honorary doctorates, as well as the Queen Elizabeth Medal.

In 1975, Carrie Best's contributions to our country would be formally recognized when she was made a Member of the Order of Canada (in 1979, she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada).

Carrie Best died in her hometown of New Glasgow on July 24, 2001 after which she was posthumously awarded the Order of Nova Scotia.



Chair’s Message: Jocelyn Dorrington

I am pleased to report that our publishing activities have continued to flourish. “The ABC’s of Viola Desmond” continues its successful run not only across the province but beyond, with interest coming in from Ontario for its use in its elementary schools. We have developed support materials that promote our publication pieces and showcase our expanding selection of resource materials.

improvement opportunities through research, policy and resource material initiatives that are centered in Africentricity.

On a personal note, I want to take this opportunity to share some exciting news. After more than 30 years of working in the educational system, I have decided to retire from the Colchester County Regional School Board (CCRSB), which will be official on June 30, 2018. I want to thank the many staff members who have consistently provided support to me as an administrator with the CCRSB over the years.

Welcome to this edition of the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute Community Update Newsletter. It’s hard to believe that summer is behind us; I hope it provided you with some time to slow down, explore and re-energize with family and friends.

As the start of a new school year is well underway, we are looking forward to building on partnerships with our organizational peers, the provincial government, educators, learners and members of the African Nova Scotian community to drive a balanced, collaborative and relevant approach to Africentric education.

As I open a new chapter, I am truly excited by what lies ahead and the art of the possible. I am looking forward to having more time to direct my energy and focus on the DBDLI and the work that we have yet to accomplish

The support and development of our youth continues to be central to our mandate. Coming off an extremely successful African Nova Scotian History Awards event earlier this year, we continued that focus with the development of two programs: the Africentric Leadership Mentoring Project and the Africentric Career Exploration Initiative, both developed with youth at their core.

We will continue to create educational experience and outcome

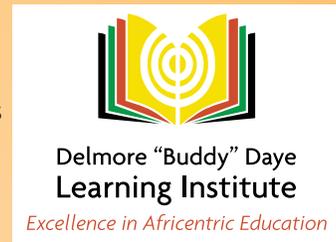
We also began the search for a Coordinator of Youth Initiatives and Projects, a position designed to help develop and lead the execution of youth-centric projects, as identified in our strategic and operational plans. The coordinator will support the board in the formation and servicing of the Yuri Baraza (Youth Council).

In June, we held our 4th annual “Report to The Community” in Halifax. We shared our activities and accomplishments of the past year, while taking the opportunity to feature several of our youth who have made notable achievements and important contributions to their community.



OUR ROLE

As an Africentric Institute, the DBDLI creates educational change and genuine opportunities for learners and communities of African ancestry to reach their full potential.



Educational research is vital to achieving our vision. We conduct and disseminate learnings from that research providing policy analysis that informs policymakers, educators, parents and the general public on how to best improve educational opportunities and outcomes for Nova Scotian learners of African descent.

The Institute works directly with African Nova Scotian / Canadian organizations, communities, government partners, and educational institutions to identify, develop and implement educational and community capacity enhancement policies, programs and services.

11th Anniversary REP Provincial Spelling BEE



The 11th Anniversary of the REP Provincial Spelling BEE was held at Mount Saint Vincent University in May. The annual competition is open to African Nova Scotian students, ages eight to 15, from public and private schools as well as home-schoolers and any student enrolled in the BEA's Cultural Academic Enrichment Programs (CAEPs).

The REP Provincial Spelling BEE focuses on English language basics, fosters learning for African Nova Scotian students studying the English language, and introduces

and encourages students to compete at the regional, national and international levels.

The event draws up to 100 participants annually from across the province. This year's competition was no exception. Competition Day was tense with a packed audience of families and friends, school board members, teaching staff, staff representing this year's GOLD Sponsor - Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) staff - and BEA members and staff.

Eleven rounds were required for the winner to emerge; Cobequid Education Centre's Tobi Oshikoya (15) captured first place. Niah Bernard-Colley (11) who attends Humber Park Elementary & Caledonia Road CAEP (BEA's after-school program) took home second place honours while eight-year-old Ali Khan who attends IHSAN Academy and is enrolled at the Bayers-Westwood CAEP came in third place.

The winners took home BEA Education Awards of \$500, \$300 and \$200 respectively, along with trophies, a Samsung Galaxy Tab A tablet computer each, and gift cards and prizes from local businesses for

all three winners. This is the eighth time a student in the CCRSB has taken home first place honors. Additionally, Abisola Oshikoya and Michael X. Paris (both students in CCRSB & the Northern Region) were recognized as 2017's Queen BEAtrice & King Bumble respectively in the President's 2017 HoneyPOT CAEPs & Home Reading Challenge for reading the most books.

Congratulations to all of this year's participants.





Marlene Ruck Simmonds, the new Director of African Canadian Services Division

Congratulations to Dr. Marlene Ruck Simmonds who assumed the position of the new Director African Canadian Services Division on August 1, 2017.

Hailing from the community of Whitney Pier in Sydney, Nova Scotia, she is the daughter of Hazel (Roett) and the late Winston Ruck. Marlene has cultivated an impressive educational career including roles as classroom teacher, school psychologist, resource/learning centre teacher, school administrator, lead for SchoolsPlus and post-secondary instructor.

As a woman of Caribbean and African Nova Scotian ancestry, her convictions and pathways for living, learning and leading are grounded in spiritual and communal understandings.

Marlene recognizes that education is “unfinished” and believes that we are always presented with opportunities to positively impact our systems at all levels (national, provincial, and local) enabling all learners and their families to realize the right to education.

Board Member Profile: Darrin Talbot (2017 - Present)

Darrin Talbot is a Tax Associate Partner in EY’s Halifax office and is the Tax Account Leader for many of Atlantic Canada’s largest public companies. From his 20 years of tax experience in both public practice and private industry, he provides a full range of taxation services to public and private companies. His client base includes real estate and consumer products companies with national and global operations.

Darrin graduated from Mount Saint Vincent University with a Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting in 1995. He obtained his CA designation in 1998.

Darrin is originally from Truro and has called Nova Scotia his home his entire life. He is a volunteer basketball coach and sits on several voluntary boards including the Board of Governors at Mount St. Vincent University. He is a past Board member and treasurer of the Youth Alternative Society and was co-founder, board member and treasurer of the Progressive Roots Network.





Graduate Research Fellowship Grant Recipient, K-Lee Fraser, Obtains her Masters of Information Studies from McGill University

K-Lee Fraser started her studies at McGill University in 2015 and graduated last spring. She successfully completed all the courses required for the Master of Information Studies program with an impressive 3.94 cumulative grade point average. Her courses included the completion of her research study entitled, “Library Anxiety, Race and Nova Scotia”, which was approved by the McGill University Research Ethics Board.

Her research study explored African Nova Scotian undergraduate students’ experiences while interacting with the academic library in comparison to their Caucasian peers. Specifically, this study examined the racial differences in library anxiety, the aspects of the academic library that cause anxiety, and students’ coping methods to alleviate library anxiety.

While a Student Librarian at Concordia University, K-Lee gained experience in social science collection development, providing in-depth research/reference services online and in-person, delivering information literacy sessions, and advanced searching techniques in multidisciplinary resources.

Moving forward, K-Lee aims to continue building her career as an Academic Librarian and will continue to advocate for and support African Nova Scotian students’ academic success through user-focused reference services and research.

Congratulations K-Lee.

Now Recruiting: Black Youth Ice Hockey

The Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame Society (BIS) are pleased to be supporting the 9th Annual Black Youth Ice Hockey Initiative. The BIS believes that Hockey is Canada’s Game and should be available to all youth.

The initiative for 4 to 10 years old boys and girls is designed to provide an introductory skating/hockey program that is essential to an early entry into Minor Hockey. From October 21 (2017) to March 17 (2018), the program will provide 50 minutes of ice time every Saturday at the BMO Centre in Bedford.

A partnership of Hockey Nova Scotia and BIS, Black Youth Ice Hockey is supported by Sport Nova Scotia (Support 4 Sport) and the NHL Players Association.

For more information, visit www.blackicesociety.ca



BEA's Kamp Kujichagulia Introduces African Nova Scotian Youth to Post -Secondary Education Option

The Black Educators Association (BEA), in partnership with Acadia University, held another successful Kamp Kujichagulia* this past July at Acadia's campus in Wolfville where the camp welcomed African Nova Scotian students from grades 9, 10 and 11.

The camp reflects the second of the seven principles of Kwanzaa; Kujichagulia means self-determination.

The majority of camp participants come to Kamp Kughichagulia with limited knowledge of their own culturally identity. This experience provides students from across the region with the opportunity to connect with one another in a week of structured cultural enrichment and recreational activities while providing a snapshot of the University experience. This includes staying in residence, participating in classes, and interacting with a diverse range of professors. The presence of instructors and facilitators of African descent provides important role modelling.

Kamp Kujichagulia is designed to:

- Motivate African Nova Scotian learners to attend university/college through positive exposure and participation in university campus life
- Provide a meaningful, relevant and educational opportunity from an Africentric perspective
- Demonstrate the possibility of combining sports, technology, culture and academics in one's life
- Stimulate consideration of future employment/career options
- Provide opportunities to interact with other African Nova Scotian learners and role models.

Kamp Kujichagulia has been held for more than 20 years at Acadia and has inspired hundreds of participants to consider and follow a post-secondary education path.

*KUJICHAGULIA (pronounced koo-gee-cha-goo-LEE-ah)



Report to the Community 2016- 2017

On June 22, the DBDLI held its 4th Annual Report to the Community (RTC) in Halifax. Well attended by the African Nova Scotian community, the youth-themed event was held in Halifax this year.

Connecting with community and community education is an important part of what we do. To that end, we highlighted our continued collaboration with existing partners and talked about what we're doing to seek out meaningful new partnerships that will help us reach more communities and segments of our population. These partnerships are integral to helping increase awareness of our activities and initiatives.

But the event belonged to our youth as we showcased their inspiring initiatives, leadership, talent and success.

The event was headlined by the Preston Primos, a band supported by the DBDLI for the past two years, who entertained with its 10-piece ensemble made up of youth that wowed the audience with their soulful, Caribbean and Latin sound.

This year's youth presentation was equally impressive led by Kyle Fraser and Tunde Balogun.

Kyle Fraser is a 4th year nursing student at Dalhousie who is also the longest performing member in the Preston Primos. Kyle shared his story about what led him to enroll in the nursing program at Dalhousie and how being a member of the Preston Primos has helped prepare him for school and life.

Our other youth presenter, Tunde Balogun, shared his experience with the Saint Mary's University Cultural Exchange trip to Asia. He was chosen to participate in this program from his combined experience in real estate and banking, and knowledge of politics and sociology. He also created a blog of his Asian experiences entitled "Black In Asia". Tunde is currently attending the Journalism program at Kings College.

Also highlighted were several youth events that took place during African Heritage Month including the return of Coach Carter, made possible with the help of multiple community partners. Attracting more than 250 youth from across the province, Coach Carter brought his inspirational message into the community with visits to the Black Cultural Centre, the Baptist Church and the North Branch Library where he shared his message of education and athletics.

The African Nova Scotian History Challenges were once again an overwhelming success. The quality and quantity of the submissions exceeded our expectations. The Awards ceremony was attended by students from every region of the province. Congratulations to all of this year's award participants and recipients; the submissions were truly inspiring.

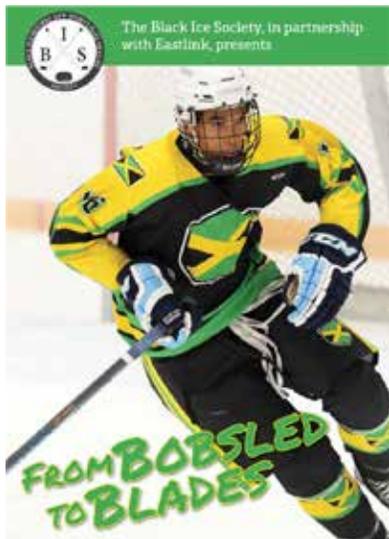
These annual Challenges have not only raised the bar on educating and engaging our youth and educators on African Nova Scotian history, but they are producing incredibly special results. Our publishing team recognized the opportunity to more broadly share last year's submission from the Grade 2/3 class at William King Elementary School called the "ABC's of Viola Desmond". Written by elementary school students for elementary school students, the "ABC's of Viola Desmond" illustrates the basic history of Canadian icon and courageous civil rights advocate, Viola Desmond.

In partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, we have officially published this wonderful and important resource, which is now in all grade 3 classrooms across Nova Scotia.

Finally, we were pleased to officially welcome Dr. George Frempong, our new Director of Research. Dr. Frempong leads our research activities with a view of facilitating a deeper dive into data that relates directly to African Nova Scotian learners, the results of which will inform actions designed to positively impact the outcomes of our learners.



The Jamaican Olympic Hockey Federation Comes to Nova Scotia



Celebrating Diversity Through Sport is an initiative designed to highlight all that is positive about cultural diversity and inclusion through sport. A weekend-long event held in May featured a cultural exchange and a series of exhibition hockey games between the Jamaican Olympic Hockey Federation (JOIHF) and some members of the Halifax Mooseheads, local Junior A players and midget hockey players. As we celebrated the positive impacts and rich history marginalized communities have in sport, the Jamaican delegation was exposed to our rich African Nova Scotian history with visits to the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame and the Black Cultural Center for Nova Scotia.

Mr. Damon Kwame Mason, was in attendance, at the Sport Hall of Fame, for a screening of his documentary film *Soul on Ice, Past, Present and Future*, celebrating Black contributions to hockey. *Soul on Ice* was shot, in part, here in Nova Scotia and recounts the Coloured Hockey League of the Maritimes (1895-1930). After the screening, an open dialogue with director Mason was held generating some lively discussion.

The first game of the weekend saw the JOIHF play a friendly game against a Nova Scotia Celebrity Team for Charity. This was a very special event because we invited youth from the Immigrant Service Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS), Dartmouth High School and youth participating in a Youth Leadership Conference hosted by the DBDLI.

The Dartmouth Sportsplex hosted a small community welcome reception after the Charity game, with food provided by local Caribbean caterer, Gina Mae's Catering. The reception provided an opportunity for players, staff and executives from both teams along with local community members to meet and greet. Music was provided by djSoulcial.



The second game showcased the JOIHF U20 team who faced off against some of Nova Scotia's best U20 players. The ceremonial puck drop was shared by a culturally diverse group, including Commissioner Janice Miller, MP Darren Fisher (Dartmouth-Cole Harbour) Don Anderson (JOIHF) Kendrick H. Douglas (Co-Chair *Celebrating Diversity Through Sport*) and Wilfred Jackson (President of the Black Ice Society (BIS)). These events were made possible by the collective support of the Province of Nova Scotia, the Canada 150 Forward Fund, and our co-presenting sponsors, the Black Ice Society (BIS), Eastlink and Hockey Nova Scotia. Additionally, the weekend also managed to raise some funds for Nova Scotia Charities and Non-profit organizations.



DBDLI African Nova Scotian Youth Initiatives

Earlier this year, the DBDLI began looking at program opportunities for African Nova Scotian youth, a segment that has always been an important part of the DBDLI's mandate. In 2017, we began the roll out of our African Nova Scotian Youth Initiatives, which included Africentric Leadership Mentoring and Africentric Career Exploration Events, both held in May.

These activities built on the momentum of another successful African Nova Scotian History Challenges. Here's a snapshot of what these events were all about:

Africentric Leadership Mentoring - Localizing Youth

Leadership: Held at the Community YMCA North branch, this program was delivered in partnership with the Nova Scotia School Board RCH office and focused on the development of a youth leadership network and the enhancement of Africentric leadership skills for African Nova Scotian junior and senior high school students.

The RCH Coordinator office identified 48 youth from grades 9-11 across the province to attend the program. A Project Coordinator was engaged to organize, support and work at this module-based event.

The program's intent was to develop leadership skills from an Africentric perspective with mind, body and spirit as its central approach. The importance of self determination and the intergenerational transmission of knowledge were also incorporated into the teachings.

Africentric Career Exploration: This tradeshow-styled event was designed to develop and enhance African Nova Scotian youth support networks for career and personal development in the 18-30 year old youth segment. Participants benefitted from opportunities to connect with employers, acquire tools to explore careers, participate in internship and job shadowing placements, have access to real job placements, and exposure to Africentric learning.

Sixteen companies, group/organizations took part at the Black Cultural Center provided the perfect backdrop, offering 2 floors of meaningful and relevant space for the organizations to set up. Participants were able to enjoy an interactive experience headlined by the Dexter Construction VR Simulator (heavy equipment operation trailer) and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency (masonry station), which offered hands on learning for the participants, as well as face-to-face sessions, and an Africentric personal development component, all surrounded by African Nova Scotian history.

The Africentric presentation component was delivered by Dr. Omri Broadnax. His interactive session on African Spirituality was one of the highlights of the day, along with the drumming of Dr. Henry Bishop.



VANSDA

Partner Profile - Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association (VANSDA)

As part of the Nova Scotia Works Employment Services system, the Valley African Nova Scotian Development Agency (VANSDA), is a not-for-profit community development organization with a wide-ranging mission and mandate. In existence for 18 years, the organization has initiated and engaged community members in a number of areas including Justice, Health, Education, Employment, Community Development and Tourism/Heritage.



Driven by its motto of “Joining Hands to Build Better Partnerships”, the organization strives to impact the lives of all community members by building upon individual strengths while reducing barriers.

Between 2003 and 2016, 649 marginalized community members gained access to full time, meaningful employment while countless others have been assisted with part-time, seasonal or casual jobs due to the efforts of VANSDA.

VANSDA is guided by a representative community volunteer group that make up its Board of Directors and a secondary group of Associate/Resource members representing community partners. The members come from various parts of the Valley with an interest in the continued integration of African Nova Scotians within the community.

As a leading community voice on numerous agencies and committees, VANSDA influences policies across the province and initiates community development and employment opportunities. The organization has assisted in the development of some of the most visible advances in employment opportunities for African Canadians across Nova Scotia and has been a driving force for the implementation of ground-breaking initiatives affecting all of Nova Scotia.



Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education

DBDLI Vision

The DBDLI, an Africentric institute, creates educational change for learners and communities of African ancestry to have genuine opportunities to reach their full potential.

DBDLI Mission

Improving educational experiences, opportunities and outcomes for Nova Scotian learners of African ancestry.

DBDLI Values

DBDLI is guided by the following values:

Integrity: We are committed to demonstrate integrity through being ethical, honest and transparent in all that we do.

Community: We hold the interest of the African (Black) community at the forefront of our vision and mission.

Africentricity: We are committed to reclaiming and delivering African-derived world views and values.

Social Responsibility: We are committed to ensuring our research and activities effectively support and benefit community. We promote engagement & empowerment that leads to societal transformation.

Access & Equity: We are committed to advancing our vision/mission by creating pathways towards opportunities that strive to ensure inclusiveness and equity.

Anti-Oppression: We are committed to challenging, educating and raising awareness about oppression in all its forms.

Excellence in Africentric Education & Lifelong Learning: We are committed to supporting and advancing the highest qualities and standards in academic achievement and ongoing learning and development for the community utilizing an Africentric orientation.

Excellence in Africentric Research: We are committed to providing research that is informed by data (quantitative and qualitative), understands the community as central, and is grounded in the values and traditions of the African (Black) community. ☺

African word meaning

Nyansa bun mu ne mate masie - "Deep wisdom comes out of listening and keeping what is heard"

Indaba - From the Zulu language meaning 'a matter for discussion'

Umoja (Unity) - To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

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**, or check out our website at **www.dbdli.ca**