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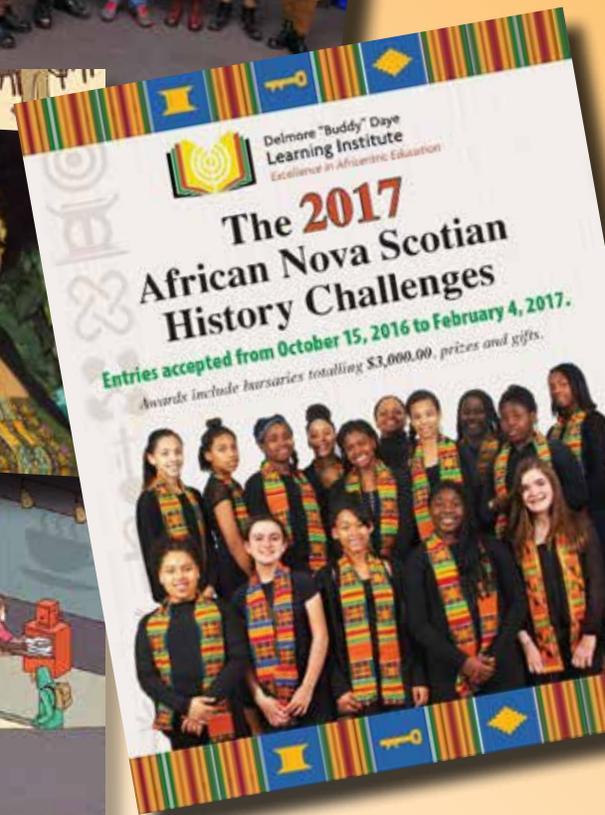
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Community Update – Summer/Fall 2016



Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute



Congratulations to Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard on being named to the Canadian Senate



Dr. Wanda Thomas Bernard, PhD, C.M., O.N.S. is a highly regarded social worker, educator, researcher, community activist and advocate of social change. She has worked in mental health at the provincial level, in rural community practice at the municipal level, and, since 1990, as a professor at the Dalhousie School of Social Work, where she also served as Director for a decade.

In 2016, she was appointed Special Advisor on Diversity and Inclusiveness at Dalhousie University. She is the first African Nova Scotian to hold a tenure track position at Dalhousie University and be promoted to full professorship.

Dr. Thomas Bernard's work with provincial organizations has brought much-needed diversity to the political processes in Nova Scotia while teaching community

members about Canada's legislative process and citizen engagement. She is a founding member of the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW) and currently chairs the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women where she has been instrumental in providing counsel to Ministers regarding frameworks for gender violence prevention and health equity.

At the national level, she has served as a member of the National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women. She has also served as an expert witness in human rights cases, presented at many local, national and international forums, and she has received many honours for her work and community leadership, most notably the Order of Nova Scotia and the Order of Canada.



Chair's Message: Jocelyn Dorrington

Welcome to this edition of the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute Newsletter. As an organization with a province-wide mandate, we were pleased to hold our 3rd annual Report to the Community in Truro over the summer, providing an opportunity to share our activities and accomplishments of the past year. Bringing our message to the wider African Nova Scotian Community reflects our commitment to our provincial responsibility.

An important part of our mandate is community education and outreach. We continue to initiate and participate in activities to that end including several community engagement sessions across the province led by The Provincial African Nova Scotian Education Partners (PANSEP) – a partnership between the DBDLI, Black Educators Association, the Council on African Canadian Education and the African Canadian Services Division.

Our focus on youth learners continues to be a priority. This year we supported *Helping Students "Pack for Learning"*. The need for students to enter the academic year well equipped with school supplies was identified as an area for which we could provide much needed support. This Nova Scotia-wide initiative reached approximately 70 African Nova Scotian learners.

We were pleased to add three new members to our Tyee (Board of Directors) - Gilbert Daye, along with youth members Amber Beals

and Mukisa Kakembo, who bring a vital youth perspective to help us chart our course. Please join me in welcoming them.

I am happy to report that we are down to the short list of candidates for the position of Director of Research, and anticipate an announcement in early 2017.

Happy Kwanzaa, Merry Christmas. May 2017 be fruitful.

OUR ROLE



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education

At the DBDLI, our goal is to help African Nova Scotian/African Canadian 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."



CEO’s Message: Sylvia Parris

Over these past few months, the DBDLI has been involved in several initiatives to improve the educational outcomes of our learners and educators across this province.

The proverb ***Sticks In A Bundle Are Unbreakable*** tells us that when we work together we have strength - strength in impact, strength in resource use, strength in capacity building, and strength in collaborative projects!

With that in mind, our PANSEP community consultations brought education partners to communities across Nova Scotia. A true collaborative effort, the partners took the opportunity to introduce themselves and their mandates, while receiving crucial, first hand input from each community on what is needed to best support our learners.

Produced by the DBDLI to help bring awareness to, and create a network of, researchers of African descent in a range of fields, the African Nova Scotian Research Directory is expected to be THE “go to” place for researchers looking to work collaboratively. Preliminary discussions have taken place with researchers and groups that will ultimately undertake research projects.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s commitment to collaborative (community) research supports sustained positive change for African Nova Scotian learners. The research, “*The Achievement and Experiences of African Nova Scotian Learners*”, led by Dr. Clem Marshall (under the direction of the DBDLI) and supported by the department and school boards is foundational to improving academic success and engagement.

Another example of collaboration was clearly reflected in the 2016 African Nova Scotian History Challenges. Since then, the DBDLI produced the Challenges magazine, the circulation of which was arranged by the Nova Scotia School Board Association which delivered some 2000 copies to each of their respective schools.

We are looking forward to evaluating the diverse array of Challenge submissions from all grade levels and I look forward to greeting you at the DBDLI Awards ceremony in February 2017.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Congratulations to our newly elected HRSB representative Suzy Hansen!

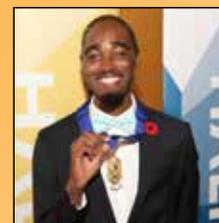
Ms. Hansen was elected to the Halifax Regional School Board- Peninsula North/Fairview.

The Delmore “Buddy Daye” Learning Institute joins the Atlantic Publishers and Marketing Association as an Associate member.

The **Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association** is an industry-supported organization representing book publishers across Atlantic Canada. Atlantic Canadian publishers believe a vigorous Atlantic-owned-and-controlled book publishing industry is essential to the economic, cultural, educational and social life of Atlantic Canada. We agree.



This year, the APMA provided its membership with the opportunity to advertise in “The Book Lovers Holiday Guide”. 500,000 copies were circulated in Atlantic Canada, which included *The Times of African Nova Scotians Vol.2* – a 2016 Atlantic Book Award Finalist, also profiled in Atlantic Books Today. These two publications have provided the DBDLI with an excellent platform to promote the *Times of African Nova Scotians Vol.2*.



Congratulations to our newly elected HRM Councillor Lindell Smith!

Mr. Smith was elected to represent Halifax Regional Municipality District 8.

Meet Our New Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute Tye Members

Amberlina Beals is currently a 3rd year Communications and Public Relations student at Mount Saint Vincent University. She is passionate about being involved in changing the dynamics of African Nova Scotians and she feels compelled to have our youth voices heard. Amberlina recently completed a summer internship with the DBDLI as our Researcher/Writer.

Gilbert Daye has worked for close to 25 years in the field of multicultural engagement specializing in program and service delivery primarily to the African Nova Scotian communities and First Nation organizations. His experience is broad and includes the facilitation of conferences, training events and strategic planning sessions relating to community issues. He is passionate about human rights as it relates to community development, literacy and cultural differences. He is the Chair of the Buddy Daye Scholarship Advisory Committee, member of the Black Loyalist Heritage Society, and Past Chair of the Dalhousie Legal Aid Society.

Mukisa Kakembo is currently in her 3rd year of Psychology at Dalhousie University. As an African Nova Scotian youth, she brings an important first-hand perspective of the education system to the DBDLI. For the past two years, she has participated in the DalConnects Worldwide Committee, where she has helped shape service learning programs and organized local fundraisers in support of aid for developing countries. Through the program she has travelled abroad and gained an appreciation for what it takes to affect real change. She has been engaged in her local community as a volunteer at Ronald McDonald House and Feed Nova Scotia.

Amberlina Beals

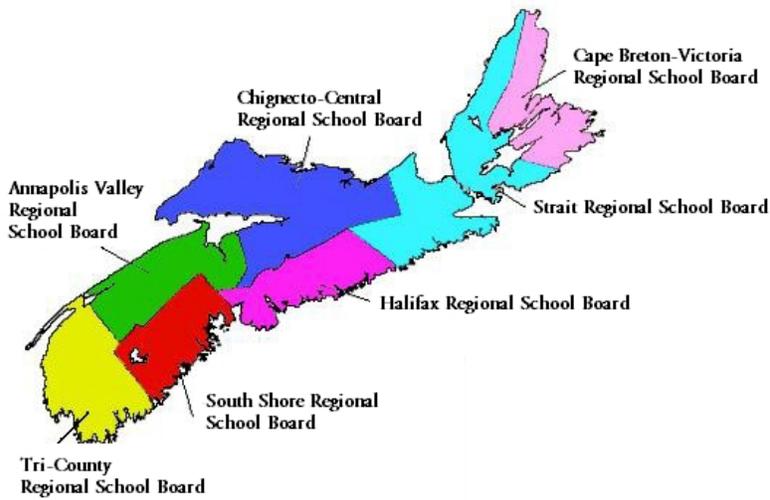


Gilbert Daye



Mukisa Kakembo





African Nova Scotian School Board Representatives

The African Nova Scotian School Board Representative is a vital seat and voice at the Board table enabling another opportunity to have a real and tangible impact on learners and educators.

Meet your African Nova Scotian School Board Representatives:



Archie Beals
Halifax Regional School Board
bealsa@hrsbc.ca
902-483-7941



Glenda Talbot-Richards
Chignecto Central Regional School Board
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Lorne Green
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Vernon Simms
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Peter Cromwell
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902-765-4542



Michael Fells
Tri-County Regional School Board
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The DBDLI Report to the Community 2015-16

On June 17, 2016 the DBDLI held its 3rd annual Report to the Community (RTC) in Truro. Having a province-wide mandate means bringing our message and engagement to the broader range of communities across Nova Scotia. The event in Truro was the first time the report had been taken out of HRM and it was very well attended.

We remain strongly committed to demonstrating accountability and responsibility to our community. We do that in part by sharing what we're doing and how we are doing it, what challenges we are facing and how we can work collectively to advance our mandate.

The collective/collaborative work theme that underscored this past year was a direct outcome of the collaborative approach taken by our Board and staff in terms of how initiatives are developed and delivered.

Our Chief Executive Officer, Sylvia Parris, continues to be a sage and instrumental member of our team. Her focus and foundation in the practice of Africentric Principles has had a positive and measurable impact towards helping the DBDLI strengthen engagement at all levels. She is a catalyst towards improving the education environment for African Nova Scotian learners and educators.

Since last year's Report to the Community, the DBDLI has reached numerous important milestones, the details of which were provided by the various committee updates. This included our experience formally launching *The Times of African Nova Scotians Volume 2*, and the second edition of *Notable Nova Scotians*, as well as the very successful African Nova Scotia History Challenges and award ceremony.

The advancement of our Publishing and Knowledge Management activities have been leveraged in the development of the online African Nova Scotian History Quiz.

We also heard from Vanessa Fells and Mukisa Kakembo - 2 young ladies who approached the DBDLI for support. Vanessa presented to the group a recount of her trip to Geneva Switzerland where she participated in the United Nations Youth exchange program while Mukisa delivered an equally inspiring presentation on her experience in Nicaragua, where she helped to build a school. Having these ladies share their experiences with our Board, staff and community members was compelling and inspiring.

As we move to our next phase of progression, the DBDLI will continue to develop initiatives that support this collaborative approach and reflect the foundational mandate of who we are, what we do and why we do it.



Provincial African Nova Scotian Education Partners (PANSEP)

In response to the 2010 Reality Check report, the Government established the Tripartite Monitoring Committee in 2011, which included BEA, CACE and ACSD. The Committee was expanded with the establishment of DBDLI and renamed the Provincial African Nova Scotian Education Partners (PANSEP).

All the partners are passionately committed to a forward-looking action plan in support of African Nova Scotian learners. This year's PANSEP meetings began in May 2016 and concluded in November. During that time, 18 community consultations were held across the province.

Designed as a reciprocal platform, these sessions provided members with the opportunity to meet local African Nova Scotian community members, hear their voices, first-hand, on topics that they chose to discuss as it relates to African Nova Scotian education. We also took the opportunity to share the collaborative role that each PANSEP member plays towards improving the outcomes of African Nova Scotian Learners.



Partner Profile - Council on African Canadian Education (CACE)



Irvine Carvery
CACE Chairman

CACE was established in 1996, when the Nova Scotia Legislature formalized the recommendation of the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) that the status of CACE be modified to a provincial advisory council.

The mandate of CACE is to provide advice and guidance to the Minister of Education with respect to the development, implementation, evaluation and funding of educational programs and services for African Nova Scotian learners at all levels of education.

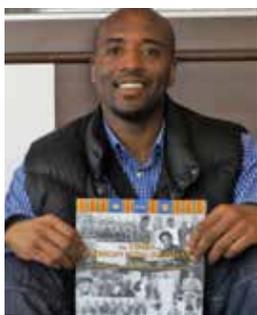
In its advisory role, CACE provides guidance to other divisions of the Branch and the department of Education Early Childhood Development, to ensure African Canadian students have greater access to post-secondary institutions.

Governed by a Board of 17 individuals, CACE is comprised of 7 Regional Representatives, 4 Organizational Representatives, and 6 Ministerial / Members at large.

To contact CACE: **Council on African Canadian Education**

2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2S9 | www.cace.ns.ca

Youth Profiles



Babatunde Balogun

Babatunde Balogun participated in the 2016 Cultural Exchange trip to Beijing, China and South Korea, as part of his studies at Saint Mary's University. This 4th year business student took the initiative to promote the DBDLI.

First, he took with him 20 copies of the Times of African Nova Scotians and shared them with fellow participants and professors. He also set up a blog called *Black in Asia*, through which he provided insights to the places he visited, the people he met along the way, and the cultural subtleties that are practiced there.

In 2017, Babatunde will be conducting a youth presentation in Nova Scotia to share the value of these kinds of experiences. Stay tuned for more details.

Babatunde is currently studying and working part-time for the Saint Mary's Alumni office.



Leandra Bowman

Our First Publishing Internship Program (PIP) participant

When asked about our new PIP, Leandra Bowman - the first student to complete this Program – said: “This was both a learning experience as well as a work experience. I thought there was a healthy balance between being guided and being pushed into the deeper end of publishing.” The

PIP is designed to give African Nova Scotian students hands-on experience in all facets of periodical publishing. For five weeks, students are engaged in editorial layout, pagination and design, writing, proofing and editing as well as project financing.

Currently a student at McGill University, where she is majoring in chemistry, Leandra is a talented student. Besides her multiple Academic honours, she has garnered Awards for her entries to the African Nova Scotian History Challenges in every year that she has entered. Leandra also served as a peer reviewer on *The Times of African Nova Scotians, Volume 2*.



Backpack Project

This past September we partnered with the Black Educators Association and provincial school board Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights Coordinators on a project called **Helping Students “Pack” for Learning**. Seventy backpacks were filled and distributed throughout the province to African Nova Scotian students who needed help.



HONOURING THE COLORED HOCKEY LEAGUE OF THE MARITIMES (1895-1930)

The Black Ice Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame Society (BIS) invites African Nova Scotian hockey players from across Nova Scotia to participate in the upcoming Memorial hockey game to honour those who played in the Colored Hockey League of the Maritimes (1895-1930).

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2017 @ 8:00pm

Place: Cole Harbour Place, Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia

To register, please contact Lee Francis @ 902-452-3497 or Dean Smith @ 902-401-7554.



A Fond Farewell to Martin Morrison

Martin Morrison – DBDLI Board member 2012-2016

Martin is the Race Relations, Cross Cultural Understanding and Human Rights (RCH) Coordinator for the Tri-County Regional School Board (TCRSB). He has worked in the education sector for his entire career, which he began as a teacher at Graham Creighton Junior High School (HRSB). Upon relocating back to Digby County, he taught at Digby Regional High School (TCRSB) for five years where he piloted the English 12: African Heritage course.

Over the past six years as RCH Coordinator, Martin has taken advantage of opportunities to work for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as the provincial African Nova Scotian Regional Education Officer (ANSREO) and more recently as the African Nova Scotian Corporate Strategist with the African Canadian Services Division, before being recalled to his RCH Coordinator role at TCRSB.

These opportunities evolved from both Martin’s educational accomplishments as a graduate of the inaugural Graduate Studies in Lifelong Learning with a focus on Africentricity and his ongoing commitment to ensuring equitable access and opportunities for the African Nova Scotian community.

A member of the Black Educators Association, Martin is currently working on his PhD, where he plans to research effective culturally responsive teachers of African Nova Scotian learners. Additionally, Martin has taught “Foundations of Inclusive Education” at Acadia University.

Originally from the community of Danvers, he continues to play a critical role in his community through his connections and interactions with members of the Jordantown, Acaciaville, Conway Betterment Association (JACBA), Digby Education Committee (DEC), and the Weymouth Falls, Southville, Danvers, Hassett (WSDH) Parent Support Group.

Martin’s time on the DBDLI board was invaluable at a pivotal time of our development as an Institute. As a member of the Research Committee, Martin helped in the development of the Graduate Research Fellowship Grant program, and the Masters in Education Counselling Cohort, now in its 2nd year at Acadia University.

In September, Martin resigned from the Tye (DBDLI board) due to work commitments and to focus on his professional development.

Martin continues to be a valuable member of our community with an extensive record of working for the best interest of our African Nova Scotian communities.

He is most proud and appreciative of the love and support from his family.

Thank you Martin. We wish you all the best.

The African Nova Scotian Community in Halifax: A Retrospective Photo Exhibit

In September, the DBDLI, in partnership with the Halifax Regional Library, held a photo exhibit called *The African Nova Scotian Community in Halifax: A Retrospective Photo Exhibit*.



This exhibit was a celebration of Halifax’s vibrant African Nova Scotian community from the 1940s and 1950s. The event was held at the Central Library.

With more than 25 unique historical photos, the event was designed to connect our African Nova Scotian past to the present.

About 60 people attended the event and took part in “putting names to faces and faces to names”. The photos came mostly from the private collections of community members and various public and University Archives.

Those who attended enjoyed a nostalgic journey spurred by the images and stoked by friends and acquaintances in the room.



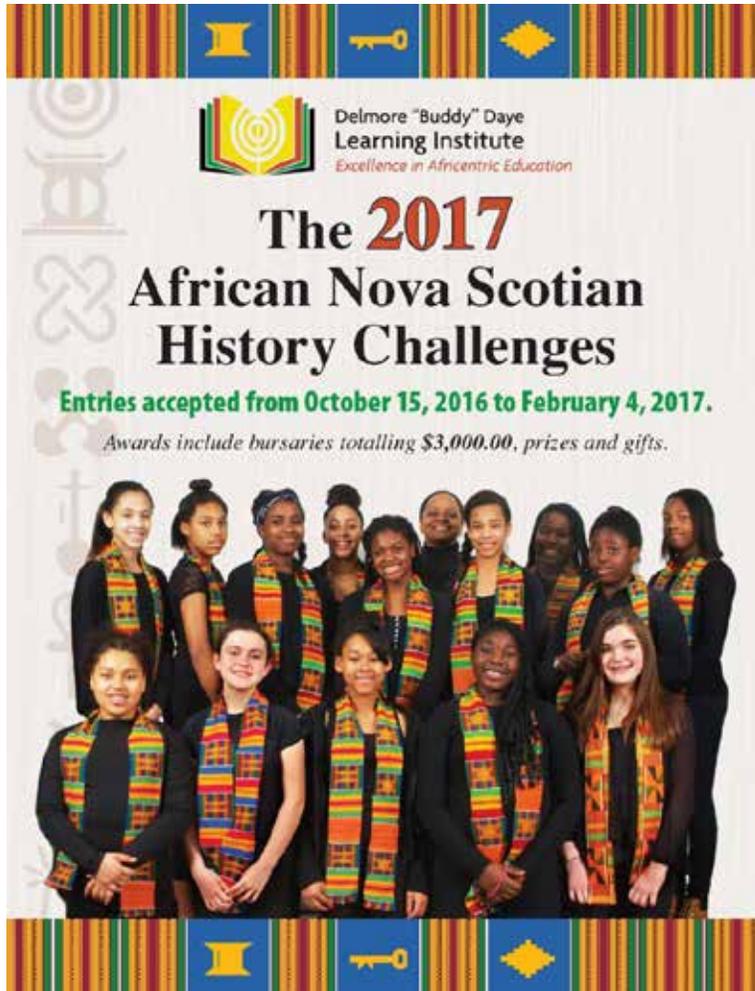


From the Board & Staff



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education



(Pictured: KTS Stompers)

African Nova Scotian History Challenges

The African Nova Scotian History Challenges and Awards is a collaborative initiative of the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) and various partners in education from across the province. The goal of these Challenges is to encourage discussion about African Nova Scotian history in all our schools.

All students and teachers are invited to participate in the African Nova Scotian History Challenges. Submissions will be accepted until February 4, 2017. We look forward to greeting you at the DBDLI Awards ceremony on February 24, 2017 after which we encourage you to celebrate and educate year round.

African Words drawn from the 7 principles of Kwanzaa

Imani (ee-MAH-nee) Faith focuses on honoring the best of our traditions, draws upon the best in ourselves, and helps us strive for a higher level of life for humankind, by affirming our self-worth and confidence in our ability to succeed and triumph in righteous struggle.

Umoja (oo-MO-jah) Unity stresses the importance of togetherness for the family and the community, which is reflected in the African saying, “I am We,” or “I am because We are.”

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**