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Community Update – Winter 2015/2016



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education

2014-15 **Report to the
Community**



Our
People,
Our
Passion



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

“Out of The Shadows: Creating Awareness About Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Gambling, in the African Canadian Community”

Talk Show Series



Out of The Shadows

Rajeane Boudreau and the ABSW

The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute is proud to recognize Graduate Research Fellowship Grant recipient Rajeane Boudreau, for her engagement of Africentric principles and practices in her Master’s thesis: “Exploring the Impacts of Culturally Specific ‘Community-Driven’ Programs on the Life Journey of African Nova Scotians.”

The Graduate Research Fellowship Grant assists graduate students of African ancestry to complete post-secondary education at the graduate level while providing an opportunity for the DBDLI to strengthen its relationship with ‘up and coming’ researchers in the African Nova Scotian community.

Rajeane is currently a Mental Health, Addictions & Gambling Project Coordinator with the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW). The ABSW developed an 8-Week Talk Show Series, produced by Eastlink TV, to help increase awareness about mental health, substance abuse and gambling in African Nova Scotian communities. Hosted by Rajeane, the series showcases interviews with community members living with mental illness, substance abuse and gambling-related problems as well as professionals working in these respective fields, and spiritual leaders whom often serve as first responders to these issues. This mini-series also features youth spoken word and other artistic expressions and airs Thursday nights at 8:30 p.m. on Eastlink Channels 10 and 610.





Chair's Message: Jocelyn Dorrington

We kept the momentum going this Fall with two launch events for the *Times of African Nova Scotians Volume 2 (TANS Vol.2)*. Our first launch in Whitney Pier introduced *TANS Vol.2* to Cape Breton. The event provided us with the opportunity to engage with the community on our broader activities and initiatives.

As an organization that is provincial in scope, these events help demonstrate our commitment to connecting with our communities as we advance our mandate of Excellence in Africentric Education.

We are passionate about the work we are doing and remain committed to supporting our educators, learners and our communities to improve educational outcomes of African Nova Scotian students.

Welcome to this edition of the Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute Newsletter. I hope that this past year has been rewarding and enriching.

The second launch event was held in Birchtown at the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, we also provided the community with an update on the DBDLI activities and initiatives that impact their region.

With our CEO, Sylvia Parris, now officially in place, the DBDLI is strengthening its position as a centre of Africentric excellence.

Our second annual Report to the Community was held on June 23, 2015. It was an opportunity to provide the community with insights to our activities and initiatives and gather input from the community on important aspects of how we function as an organization.

We successfully launched the Master in Education Counselling Program Cohort for 2015. This inaugural Cohort is made up of 19 candidates who, upon completion of this 3 year program, will provide educators and our learners with additional skills rooted in Africentric principles and relevance.



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."



Report to the Community: 2014-2015

Since our first annual Report to the Community in 2014, we have realized many important milestones and affirmed our resolve and passionate commitment to improving the educational opportunities and outcomes for African Nova Scotian / African Canadian learners.



In collaboration with our community, and education and government partners, we have continued to build on our goal of establishing “Excellence in Africentric Education” with direct and positive impacts on our educators and learners.

At our second annual Report to the Community in June, our Financial Statements were presented by the audit firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP and were deemed to be in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.



Our various committee reports were also presented, which provided a thorough recap of our activities and accomplishments for 2014-2015. ***(Check out our website for the detailed reports at - www.dbdli.ca)***

Resource materials that capture the African Nova Scotian experience can have a huge impact on not just our learners but all Nova Scotians. Through our partnership with Effective Publishing, we produced a series of Africentric works that have been tailored to Grade 4 learners and up. These works have been widely distributed and are currently being utilized in the classroom environment.



We were proud to officially introduce our new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), after a long and detailed search. Ms. Sylvia Parris is ideally suited for this position, bringing over 25 years of experience in education at both the academic and practical levels, as well as extensive public sector experience.

We look forward to Sylvia’s leadership in further advancing the organization’s mandate of helping African Nova Scotian learners achieve academic excellence and ensuring our education system meets the needs of our communities.



As we enter this next phase of our journey, we will continue to strengthen our role by implementing relevant and meaningful activities and initiatives that reflect our organization and mandate. We will continue to demonstrate how truly invested we are in realizing Excellence in Africentric Education.



TANS Launch Events: Sydney and Birchtown

As part of the DBDLI mandate to engage our communities, we took to the road this Fall, visiting Whitney Pier, Cape Breton and the Black Loyalist Heritage Centre in Birchtown. The purpose was to introduce TANS Volume 2 and to provide an update of our activities to these communities.



photo credit: Lisa Buchanan Photography

Volume Two of The Times of African Nova Scotians explores the history of Black communities in Nova Scotia. Where were they located? Who were the founding families? What happened to these communities? The publication features contributions from some of Nova Scotia's preeminent writers including Dr. George Elliott Clarke, Dr. Sylvia Hamilton, Dr. Walter Borden and Dr. Geraldine Browning, all of whom are descendants of founding families.

We were very fortunate to have Notable Nova Scotians attend each event. At Melenik Hall in Whitney Pier, Wanda Robson, sister of Viola Desmond, was in attendance and shared some of her thoughts with the audience. We also had Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Famer and former Olympian, Majorie Turner-Bailey in attendance at the Birchtown event.

Times of African Nova Scotians Launch Whitney Pier, Cape Breton, October 16, 2015



Times of African Nova Scotians Launch Black Loyalist Heritage Centre, Birchtown, October 23, 2015



(L-R) Elizabeth Cromwell, Marjorie Turner-Bailey, Beverly Cox and Tony Colaiacovo

photo credit: Lisa Buchanan Photography

Board Member Profile

Yvonne Atwell (2012-Present)



Yvonne Atwell is the Executive Director of the Community Justice Society. Owner of Atwell & Atwell Human Resource Consultants, she has worked as a Policy Officer and Diversity Programs Officer at the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health. Yvonne won a Provincial seat in the Nova Scotia Legislative Assembly in 1997 representing the riding of Preston, making her the first Black woman in Atlantic Canada to sit as an MLA. She worked as Managing Director of the African Canadian Employment Clinic from 1993 to 1997. As a community researcher, Yvonne has produced several reports including the report for the Preston Area Housing Fund, the Black Men's Health Network and the Health Canada Research Program "Community Dialogue". She is one of the founding members of the Health Association for African Canadians. Presently, she is a Board member of the Criminal Justice Association and a Member of the Minister's Advisory committee on Citizen Engagement. Yvonne resides in East Preston.

DBDLI's Master of Education in Counselling: Class of 2018

As part of the mandate of the Institute to help develop educators that can meet the needs of the African Nova Scotian community, the DBDLI has partnered with Acadia University for The Master of Education in Counselling program with a focus on Africentricity. The 2015 Cohort is a 3 year part-time program designed for teachers pursuing a career in school counselling and for others pursuing careers through various agencies. The application process began late last year with a series of information sessions that introduced potential participants to this part-time cohort. Nineteen students of African descent were admitted into this program on full scholarship from the DBDLI. This is a nationally-accredited program for students who intend to do counselling work in schools or agencies. The Master of Education in Counselling program is dedicated to the preparation of leaders in the counselling profession. The Africentric focus provides the foundation for these trained professionals to apply their skills in a culturally-competent manner.



Programs and Partnerships

◆ Black Business Initiative

The DBDLI is proud to have been a partner with the BBI and their BIJ Summer Youth Coordinators Program. Through the program, six youth were hired and trained to coordinate and deliver the Black Business Initiative’s Entrepreneurial Development Model in Kentville, Yarmouth, New Glasgow, Halifax and Dartmouth.

The Camps ran for five days in each location and youth participants received an intensive introduction to entrepreneurship, coaching them on what would be required to operate a business for a day. The program successfully reached 187 youth from across the province providing:

- Increased levels of business literacy and career-related skills
- Increased number of youth who can make a more informed decision about an entrepreneurial career
- An investment in building a stronger entrepreneurial culture in Nova Scotia

The program was beneficial to participants as they came to appreciate what it takes to be an entrepreneur while arming them with possible summer business opportunities. Based on evaluations received from the participants, most agreed that they acquired new, important and relevant skills to assist them in future endeavours.



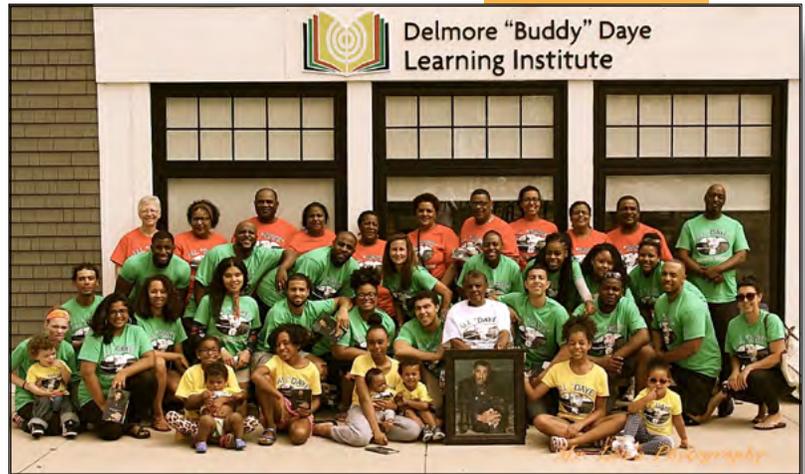
Empowering Black youth through Entrepreneurship



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Daye” Family Celebration

In late August of this year, four generations of the Daye family made a stop at the DBDLI offices on their way to their family reunion celebration. Family members were given tours of the facility and brief recounts of the name sake were shared by both members of the DBDLI Board and the Daye family. It was a special and meaningful gathering.



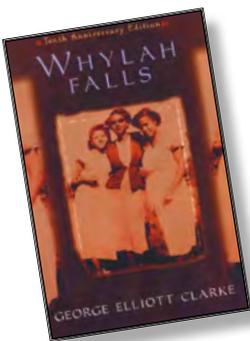
L-R Brian Parris-Clinical Therapist, Dr. Joy DeGruy & Sylvia Parris

Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC)

The Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC) is a not-for-profit health association based in Nova Scotia. The group was founded in 1999 initially as a lunch and learn group looking at women’s health. Since 2000, the organization has evolved to encompass the health of all those of African descent living in Nova Scotia. At this year’s October conference, Dr. Joy DeGruy was the keynote speaker. Dr. DeGruy is a specialist in racial trauma and author of Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America’s Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing.

George Elliott Clarke

At this year’s Annual Fundraiser for the Save Our Sons / Sisters (S.O.S.), event, author and Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke read from his works, engaged in dialogue with the audience, signed books and mingled at an evening reception. Held at the Halifax Central Library in Paul O’Regan Hall, Mr. Clarke gave a compelling recount of history that had the audience captivated.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS CONTINUED



Congratulations

Congratulations to Craig Smith on his appointment as the new President of the Black Cultural Centre. Established in 1983, to Protect, Preserve and Promote the history and culture of African Nova Scotians, the Black Cultural Centre is a museum and cultural gathering place, where the rich history of Nova Scotians of African descent can be discovered and explored.

Decade for the People of African Descent - Speakers Series

In October, in recognition of the Decade for People of African Descent, ANSA, the Black Loyalist Society and the Africville Heritage Trust presented James Early as part of the Speaker Series to create awareness about the "Decade" for all Nova Scotians. As the Past Director of Cultural Heritage Police, Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian Institute, Mr. Early is a long-time advocate for cultural diversity and equity issues in cultural and educational institutions.



Sylvia Parris and James Early



Congress of Black Women of Canada Evening Reading

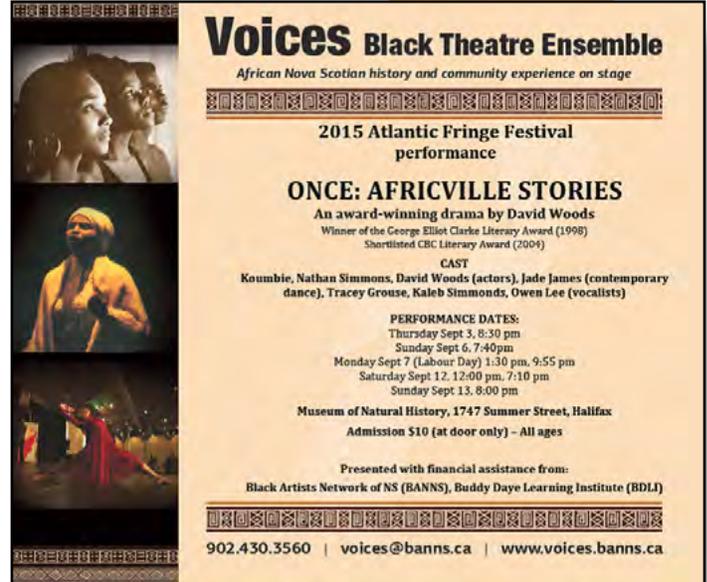
The "Reading Our Sisters Stories" event was an intimate gathering that brought together a group of African Nova Scotian women to share readings and experiences that have impacted their lives. Held at Hope Blooms in late October, the event was a partnership between the local chapter of the Congress of Black Women of Canada and the DBDLI.

(L-R) Bridgette Williams (Daughter of Dolly), Dolly Williams (seated) and Sylvia Parris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS CONTINUED

Once: Africville Stories Wins Fringe Festival Awards

In September, *Once: Africville Stories* was performed as part of this year's Fringe Festival. The play was a dramatization of the lives, adventures and events of the community of Africville - the African Nova Scotian community destroyed by the City of Halifax in the 1960's after over 100 years of existence. Told through poetry, storytelling, dramatic scenes, contemporary dance and music, playwright David Woods moved the audience through the emotional landscape of the people of Africville to paint a poetic and moving portrait of a contemporary African Nova Scotian community.



Vanessa Fells - UN Youth participant

Congratulations to Vanessa Fells on being selected to participate in the 2015 Fellowship Program for People of African Decent that was held in Geneva, Switzerland October 5-23, 2015. The Fellowship program provides fellows from different parts of the world with a learning opportunity to deepen their understanding of the United Nations human rights system, instruments and mechanisms, while focusing on issues of particular relevance to people of African decent. The fellowship program equips participants with the necessary tools to better contribute to the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of Afro-descendants in their respective countries.





Merry Christmas



From the Board & Staff of the



Delmore "Buddy" Daye
Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education



The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute Awards
for
Excellence in African Nova Scotian History



DBDLI Awards of Excellence in African Nova Scotia History

The DBDLI Awards of Excellence are presented to students whose submissions to the African Nova Scotian History Challenges best exemplify the contributions that African Nova Scotians have made to the history, heritage and culture of our province.

This province-wide initiative encourages students and teachers to discuss African Nova Scotian history and share that knowledge through various written and creative platforms.

The African Nova Scotian History Challenges are open to all students and classes from schools across Nova Scotia. Bursaries, gifts and prizes will be presented to Award recipients at a special ceremony on February 26, 2016.

The deadline for submissions is February 5, 2016. For more information about The Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute Awards for Excellence in African Nova Scotian History please visit www.dbdli.ca.

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.

Kujichagulia (koo-gee-cha-goo-LEE-yah) Self-Determination requires that we define our common interests and make decisions that are in the best interest of our family and 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**