



Multicultural
Council of
Saskatchewan

From Many Peoples  *Strength*

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Learn the Legacy. Share the Pride. Celebrate our Heritage.

February 2, 2015 (Saskatchewan) - Every year, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of black Canadians, past and present. Canadians take this time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Canadians with African heritage who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today. It is also an opportunity for all of us to learn about the wide range of African-Canadian experiences, including dealing with racism and the vital role that this community has played throughout our shared history.¹ To that end, the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS) is working with members and partners who have collaborated on events, activities and content that creates awareness and education on Black History Month and raises its profile (See: organizations involved on pages 2 -3).

“The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan values creating welcoming communities that recognize and reject racism, explains Rhonda Rosenberg, Executive Director. “Supporting Black History Month in Saskatchewan aligns with this value.”

Often in Saskatchewan, we view people of African origin only as recent immigrants. In reality, people of African origin have been here and contributing for over a century. Saskatchewan is now home to many people of African descent who have come from the United States, the Caribbean, many African countries and other parts of Canada. They are involved in all aspects of life. We continue to work towards full and equal integration.

Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum Inc. (SACHM) conducted research, collecting and documenting information, the heritage and contribution of people of African descent in Saskatchewan over the last 100 plus years, that is now available. Once again, MCoS will distribute bilingual fact sheets on the history of people with African heritage in Saskatchewan to all schools in the province. The purpose is to educate and inform others of the unknown history and experiences of some of the original African-Canadian settlers and newer immigrants. This resource and the planned school visits by Communauté des Africains Francophones de la Saskatchewan (CAFS) will increase awareness in all students, pride in

¹ <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/multiculturalism/black/>

students of African ancestry and foster citizenship based on making our communities welcoming for all people ([View bilingual fact sheets](#)).

Saskatchewan is experiencing high levels of immigration. We welcomed 11,177 permanent residents and 5,076 temporary residents in 2012 as compared with 1,704 permanent residents and 1,369 temporary residents in 2001. Nigeria is among the top ten source countries for immigrants and six of the top ten source countries for refugees are in Africa. The First Nations and Métis populations have increased from 92,400 in 2001 to 157,740 in 2011. We expect these trends to continue into the future.²

Black History month events and activities are an opportunity to focus on ways all people contribute to our cultural, social, political and economic life. It is also important to foster connections with other ethnic groups in ways that recognize and celebrate differences, while building a cohesive shared Canadian society. Black History Month provides the opportunity to remember the negative impacts of racism in the past and present, so that we may move forward with respect and equity. (Please see appendix for a listing of Black History Month events and activities across Saskatchewan).

“The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan promotes recognition of the benefits of cultural diversity in Saskatchewan and assists in the development and acceptance of multiculturalism,” explains Rhonda Rosenberg, Executive Director. “Celebrating Black History Month fulfills our objective and demonstrates our provincial motto: *From Many Peoples Strength*.”

All organizations involved in this year’s Black History Month events, activities and resources would like to extend their gratitude to [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#) (CIC) for the generous support of Black History Month initiatives in Saskatchewan through InterAction event funding.

Organizations involved:

[Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum Inc.](#) (SACHM)

Based in Regina, they have developed provincial resources such as a virtual museum and bilingual fact sheets

- Media contact is Carol LaFayette-Boyd at (306) 545-8824 or clboyd1@myaccess.ca

[Communauté des Africains Francophones de la Saskatchewan](#) (CAFS)

Based in Saskatoon, they will coordinate movies and discussions in four communities, school visits and concerts and dances.

- Media contact is Denis Tassiako - (306) 381-4399 or cafs.presidence@yahoo.ca

[Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission](#) (SHRC)

² <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012/permanent/11.asp>

Provincial organization that is organizing an on-line scavenger hunt

- Media contact is Heather Monus - (306) 787-7105 or Heather.Monus@gov.sk.ca

[Saskatchewan Jamaican Association](#) (SJA)

Based in Regina, they are hosting a Black History Month Breakfast and Gospel Fest

- Media contact is Nadine Williams - (306) 596-9176 or nadinewilliams@sasktel.net

[Saskatchewan Caribbean Canadian Association](#) (SCCA)

Based in Regina, they will host a Black History Month Gala open to everyone

- Media contact is Stephen Warde - (306) 591-5267 or stephen.warde@saskcarib.ca

Each group will contribute volunteer and sometimes staff time, their networks and connections in the community and, in some cases, funding.

See appendix for Black History Month event listings in Saskatchewan.

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About the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS)

The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan is a provincial, charitable, non-profit organization committed to promoting, fostering, improving and developing multiculturalism in the cultural, economic, social and political life of Saskatchewan while working to achieve equality of all residents. We support member organizations in a variety of ways, including workshops, investments in their activities that implement our mission, aims and objectives, networking and information, and being the lead voice on multiculturalism in the province. We also support anti-racism and multicultural education activities in schools. We celebrate significant dates, such as Saskatchewan Multicultural Week in November, Black History Month in February, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21st, Hispanic Heritage Month in April, Asian Heritage Month in May, National Aboriginal History Month in June, and Celebrate Canada from June 21st to July 1st. For more information, please visit www.mcos.ca and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Media contact:

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2015 Saskatchewan Black History Month Events and Activities supported by:



APPENDIX

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Saskatchewan Jamaican Association (SJA) Events:

Black History Month Breakfast

Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Shiloh Assembly, 1600 Broadway Ave, Regina, SK ([map](#))

Gospelfest

Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Shiloh Assembly, 1600 Broadway Ave, Regina, SK ([map](#))

>> For more information, visit the SJA Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/saskjamaica>

La Communauté des Africains Francophones de Saskatchewan Inc. (CAFS) Events:

REGINA

Concert Wesli (In collaboration with ACFR)

Friday, February 6, 2015 at 8 p.m. at Carrefour plains, 3850 Hillsdale St., Regina, SK ([map](#))

Debate Conference - Theme: Colonization of Africa

Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 7 p.m. at La Rotonde - Institut français Université de Regina ([map](#))

SASKATOON

School Visit

Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. at Ecole Canadienne pavillon Gustave Dubois: 2320 Louise Ave, Saskatoon, SK ([map](#))

Concert by Wesli

Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at The Bassment: 202 - 4th Ave N., Saskatoon, SK ([map](#))

APPENDIX CONT'D

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

African Dance

Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. African Dance at The Bassment: 202 - 4th Ave N., Saskatoon, SK ([map](#))

Film with Francophone Seniors

Saturday, February 28- 2015 at 3 p.m. at Relais: 308 -4th Ave N., Saskatoon, SK ([map](#))

Note: Event information is forthcoming for Moose Jaw and Prince Albert. Please check back.

>>For more information, visit the CAFS web site: <http://www.cafs-sask.org/>

Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum (SACHM) Events:

SACHM Virtual Museum

Available anytime - SACHM operates a virtual museum that features the contribution of African and African descent persons in Saskatchewan. This year, they will add six Saskatchewan Roughriders who occupy a monumental place in Saskatchewan culture. Saskatchewan Roughrider Alumni will assist SACHM to tell the stories for the web site. Information on the current anti-bullying campaign will also be on the web site <http://www.sachm.org/virtual-museum.html>

>> For more information, visit the SACHM web site: <http://www.sachm.org/>

Saskatchewan Caribbean-Canadian Association (SCCA) Events:

Black History Month Gala

Saturday, February 28th, 2015 at the Orr Centre, 4400 - 4th Avenue, Regina, SK ([map](#))

Cocktails: 6:00 p.m.; Supper: 7:00 p.m.; Keynote Speaker: Carol LaFayette-Boyd (SACHM)
Admission: \$35.00 (Adults) OR \$65.00 (Couples). Dress to Impress
Entertainment & Dance to Follow. *Music by Popular D.J.*

>> For more information, visit the SCCA web site: <http://saskcarib.ca/>

APPENDIX CONT'D

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Other Events & Activities:

Scavenger Hunt

The [Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission](#) (SHRC) will create and coordinate an on-line scavenger hunt that utilizes information on the [SACHM](#) and [CIC](#) web sites.

School Visits

[La Communauté des Africains Francophones de la Saskatchewan \(CAFS\)](#) will coordinate school visits from February 10 to 14, 2015 to Conseil des écoles fransaskoises. These visits will raise awareness of the history of people of African origin in Saskatchewan, perseverance in the face of challenges and contributions of the past and present.

NOTE: This listing is subject to changes and updates.

Please visit mcos.ca/bhm-events for up to date details.

2015 Saskatchewan Black History Month Events and Activities supported by:

