



For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Saskatchewan Communities Celebrate Black History Month in February

Throughout Saskatchewan, during the month of February, individuals, families and communities will come together to celebrate Black History Month.

“Since the late 1800s, people of African ancestry have made a rich and vibrant contribution to Saskatchewan’s history,” explained Muna DeCiman, Chair of the Saskatchewan African Canadian History Museum (SACHM). “Farmers, athletes, health professionals, social workers, business people, musicians, artists, people of many faiths, elected representatives, as well as people in a wide range of occupations and professions, who are descendants of people of African ancestry, have called Saskatchewan their home. All have settled throughout the province, and have joined their fellow citizens in building thriving communities.”

People of African ancestry have come to Saskatchewan from all parts of the world – the United States, many African countries, many countries of the Caribbean, from Britain and other European countries, and elsewhere. Some are descendants of people of African ancestry who have been Canadian citizens for many generations. Thus, the range of activities planned to celebrate Black History Month reflect some of the diversity of the people of African ancestry in the province.

Some of the activities include presentations to school and university students, church services including a gospel fest, a community presentation, a Caribbean banquet, and a play commemorating the life of Maurice Ruddick, a miner who rescued fellow miners in Springhill, Nova Scotia. Many of the events are free and many are open to the public (see attached events list). As well, members of SACHM are available to share their own history and discuss the history of people of African ancestry with community organizations and workplaces.

“We are looking forward to sharing and learning about the cultures, contributions and achievements of people of African ancestry in our home province and Canada, as well as celebrating with the wider community the multicultural character of the province,” said DeCiman.

Black History Month is observed annually in Canada and the United States during the month of February. The Canadian government officially recognized this month in February 1995 in response to a motion put forward in the House of Commons by Jean Augustine. Each year Canada Post issues a stamp in February to commemorate Black history Month. For more information on Black History Month, visit <http://mcos.ca/black-history-month/>.

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For more information contact:

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2016 EVENTS

SASKATCHEWAN JAMAICAN ASSOCIATION (SJA) EVENTS:

Black History Month Breakfast

Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Shiloh Assembly, 1600 Broadway Ave, Regina, SK

Black History Month Inter-Faith Service

Sunday, February 7, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at Shiloh Assembly, 1600 Broadway Ave, Regina, SK

Gospelfest – Honouring Dr. Alfred S. Shadd

Sunday, February 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at Shiloh Assembly, 1600 Broadway Ave, Regina, SK

Media contact for all events: Nadine Williams – 306-352-0990

SASKATCHEWAN CARIBBEAN-CANADIAN ASSOCIATION EVENTS:

Dare To Dream – Black History Month Banquet

Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. at the Orr Centre, 4400 – 4 Ave, Regina, SK

Guest Speaker is Ted Jaleta. Black Tie Affair.

Media contact: Lisa Creightney – 306-581-1081

SASKATCHEWAN AFRICAN CANADIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM (SACHM) EVENTS:

Beneath Springhill: The Maurice Ruddick Story – A Dramatic Reading by Beau Dixon

Monday, February 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Regina Public Central Library, 2311 – 12th Avenue, Regina, SK

Media contact: Blair Dixon – 306-522-9088

CALLING LAKES INTERFAITH FORUM (CLIFF) EVENTS:

The Roots and History of Canadians of African Ancestry

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church Hall, 194 Bay Ave. S., Fort Qu'Appelle, SK

Speakers – Ignace and Lynn Minja, Members of SACHM

Media contact: Lynn Minja – kwelikwetu@gmail.com

➤ BHM Events listed and updated at: <http://mcos.ca/bhm-events-activities/>

Black History Month in Saskatchewan Supported by:

