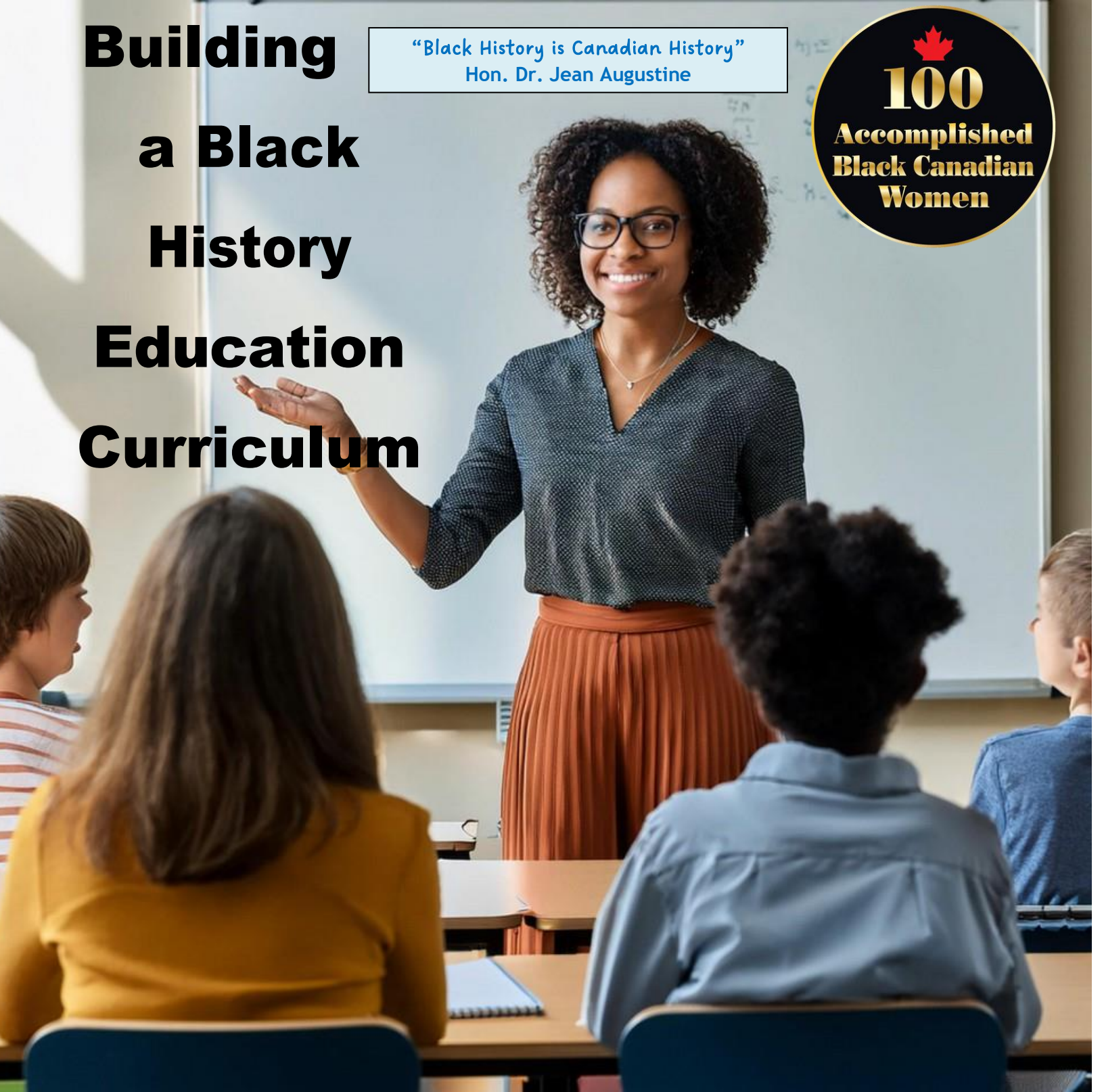


Building a Black History Education Curriculum

“Black History is Canadian History”
Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine



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Friday, September 27, 2024

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST

Woodbine Banquet Hall

30 Vice Regent Boulevard | Etobicoke, Ontario

2024 SYMPOSIUM



SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Meet & Greet with refreshments Hosted by

5:00 - 5:45 PM



Karen Bradshaw - Vice President, Branch Banking Delivery Excellence - TD -
“Investing in Canadian Black History Education”



Latanya Monteith Housen - Regional Manager, Black Community Business
Development - Toronto Dominion Bank



Welcome - Dauna Jones-Simmonds, Co-Founder, Co-Author & Architect - 100ABCWomen
6:00 PM

Land acknowledgment - Nkugwa Patrick Mukisa



6:15 PM



Today's Moderator

✨ Trailblazers and Trendsetters: Stories of Black Canadians (pre-1985)



Amah Harris



Dr. Camille Logan



Ginelle Skerritt

✨ Sheroes & Heroes Among Us: Tales of Communities, Courage and Resilience in Black
Canadian History (today)



Dr. Natasha Henry-Dixon



Lisa Skeete



Tiki Mercury-Clarke



Dr. June Francis

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Health Break

7:30 PM

7:45 PM

✦ Diversity in Narratives: Uncovering Untold Stories of Black Canadian Experiences



Sarah Onyango



Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson



Lisa Skeete

✦ Embracing Cultural Heritage and Identity in Black Canadian Communities



Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson



Amah Harris



Dr. Karen Hudson



Recognition and Thank You
Dr. Denise O'Neil Green

8:45 PM

Closing Remarks

2024 SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS



Dr. Camille Logan is an Associate Director, School Improvement and Equity in the Peel District school board. Camille is part of the leadership charged with system transformation designed to address systemic racism with a specific focus on dismantling anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism. She joined the Peel District School Board after a successful career at York Region District School Board where she led a wide range of initiatives in service of improved outcomes for racialized students and actively contributed to the work of a network of staff (the Alliance of Educators for Black Students) dedicated to the success of Black children. Her career also includes secondments to York University and the Ministry of Education and contributions to resource documents for educators including those specific to the integration of African Heritage and strategies to address Anti-Black racism. A founding member of ONABSE, Camille is a recipient of awards such as the Harmony Movement's National Leadership in Education award, the Ontario Public Supervisory Officer's Association Distinguished Leadership Award and a 2016 100ABC Women's honouree.



Ginelle Skerritt is an executive with over 30 years of leadership experience in the non-profit sector. She is the Chief Executive Officer of York Region Children's Aid Society and is also the co-owner of Adinkrafarm. Ginelle's previous leadership roles include Regional Director of UNICEF Ontario, United Way of Greater Toronto and Tropicana Community Services. She is a tutor, mentor, Rites Elder and a 2018 100ABC Women honouree.



Amah Harris is an Educator, Producer, Artistic Director, Playwright and Motivational Speaker. "Amah is a pioneer in the field of Black Theatre in Canada" - as quoted in the Hamilton Spectator by Evelyn Myrie, then Co-Chair of The John Holland Awards; one of the many awards won by Amah. Her work promotes positive imaging of Caribbean and African people towards the harmonious co-existence of all people. Amah was Co-Director of Black Theatre Canada in the '70s and was the Founder/Artistic Director of Theatre In The Rough in the '80s and '90s. She was documented in the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women (2018) book. As a freelancer, her services cover the spectrum of corporations, boards of education, clubs, institutions, professional performers and students. Amah's productions, educational experiential workshops and freelance work have been delivered across Canada, the U.S., the Caribbean and South Africa.

2024 SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS



Dr. Karen Hudson is from the community of Cherry Brook/ Lake Loon, Nova Scotia. She is an experienced and knowledgeable educator with over 28 years of educational training, currently she is the Principal of Auburn Drive High School with Halifax Regional Center for Education (HRCE). She is the creator and founder of the first Africentric Math cohort in the province of Nova Scotia. In 2019, she was recognized nationally as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for her work in embedding Africentric principles within the public school system by the Learning Partnership. She is featured in a publication authored by John Morrison, *IT Factor: Discover and Unleash Your Own Unique Leadership Potential*, focusing on transformative and what makes a great school leader. She chairs and volunteers on community boards such as the Black Educators Association of Nova Scotia (BEA), Connecting to Africa (CTA), Indigenous Black & Mi'kmaq Program (IBM), Africentric Learning Institute (ALI), African United Baptist Association Scholarship Committee (AUBA), Public School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia (PSAANS) and Freedom School. In 2024, Karen received an honorary doctorate, civil law from Saint Mary's University for her educational and community work. She is the proud mother of two boys.



Dr. Natasha Henry-Dixon is an assistant professor of African Canadian History at York University. The 2018 Vanier Scholar is currently researching the enslavement of Black people in colonial Ontario in her project, "One Too Many: the Enslavement of Black People in Upper Canada, 1760-1834." She has been an educator for 25 years, teaching kindergarten through to university. Natasha is an award-winning author and an award-winning curriculum developer, focusing on African Canadian experiences. Her publications include *Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom in Canada* (June 2010); *Talking about Freedom: Celebrating Freedom in Canada* (2012); several of youth-focused titles and entries for the Canadian Encyclopedia on African Canadian history. Through her various professional, academic, and community roles, Natasha's work is grounded in her commitment to research, collect, preserve and disseminate the histories of Black Canadians.

2024 SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS



While still in her pre-school years, under the wings of knowledgeable African-centred scholars, Tiki Mercury-Clarke was traditionally and strictly taught by wise Teacher-Elders committed to the healthy development of the minds and souls of our community's future generations. Her Africana studies continued post childhood as she matured into a serious, lifelong, autodidact. At 17, Mercury-Clarke became a full-time singer, eventually reaching her stated goal of being considered by her musical peers a consummate artist. By 1988, she was determined to combine her singer-pianist talents with the factual and spiritual deep thought she had acquired, but had disseminated solely through her articles, essays, and lectures. Thus, her musical documentary storytelling one-woman shows were birthed, covering a broad range of topics, including those African-centred.



A University of Ottawa graduate and professional translator, Sarah Onyango is a well-known fixture on Ottawa's community television and radio scene. She is the community producer and host of the monthly African cultural program "Fontonfrom" on Rogers Television Channel 22 in Ottawa (since 2002), as well as a host and producer at CHUO 89.1FM, the University of Ottawa's community radio station (since 1998). Fluent in both English and French, Sarah has for many years done public relations work for various African and Caribbean diplomatic missions as well as numerous community organizations. A long-time advocate for Black history, culture and causes, she has served on the Board of Directors of Black History Ottawa since 2002 and coordinates the organization's public relations and outreach activities. Additionally, Sarah is a volunteer presenter for the United Way Ontario East's Community Builder Awards program as well as co-chair of Welcoming Ottawa Week.

2024 SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS



Lisa Skeete started her journey as an African Heritage Instructor in 1993. Developing curriculum and teaching Toronto District School Board (TDSB) students African Canadian and African Diaspora history, Lisa realized there was a need for equity and inclusion with regards to curriculum, programming, and staffing of African Canadian educators. In 2007 Lisa, sat as co chair on a campaign demanding the TDSB hold to their mission statement of equity and inclusion. In a whirl wind campaign that took the grassroots organizing to Queens Park, for the first time in the history of the TDSB, a monetary award was granted by the Ministry of Education to fund the African Heritage Program. Lisa sits as a Toronto Education Worker CUPE Local 4400 Executive, CUPE Toronto District Council President, African Heritage Instructor TDSB, Member of AHEN, ONABSE, CBTU (Coalition of Black Trade Unionist), and member of the CUPE Ontario Executive Board, and Co Chair of CUPE National Literacy & Essential Skills Committee.



Dr. June Francis is Co-Director of the Institute for Black and African Diaspora Research and Engagement, Professor in the Beedie School of Business at Simon Fraser University and was the Special Advisor to the President of Simon Fraser University on Anti-Racism. She served on the Steering committee for the Beedie School EMBA in Indigenous Business Leadership program and has taught in the program since its inception. June is also Board Chair of The Hogan's Alley Society, an organization whose mission is to advance the economic and cultural well-being of people of African Descent. She was appointed Chair of the Anti-Racism Data Committee, which is mandated to collaborate with the province of British Columbia on initiatives to help identify and eliminate systemic racism in the public sector. She has been recognized by the Province of British Columbia, the National Congress of Black Women and was named to Vancouver Magazine's 2022 and 2023 Power 50 lists. June is the recipient of the 2021 Rosemary Brown Award for her exemplary work to bring equality for girls and women; the Service Award from the Beedie School of Business for her contributions to the community; and the 2023 SFU Chancellor's Distinguished Service Award for co-founding the SFU Black Caucus. In 2024 she was awarded the King Charles coronation medal for championing Anti-Racism initiatives and Leadership.

2024 SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS



Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jackson (she/her/hers) is a global citizen born in Germany, raised in Sierra Leone, and educated in Canada and the U.S. She is a multi-award-winning scholar-practitioner in human and organization development. Her awards have included International African Woman of the Year by UK-based Women4Africa, Organization Development Practitioner Award from US-based Organization development Network and the prestigious Harry Jerome Professional Excellence Award given in recognition of Black-Canadian achievements. She is a 2024 YWCA Woman of Distinction nominee, a 100 Black Women to Watch and a 100ABC Women honouree. Yabome is an avid advocate, engaging in committees and as a speaker to support reforms in public service, immigration, community and civil society organizing to influence reforms to better support Canadian newcomers of all backgrounds. She has published academic peer-reviewed articles and several [books](#). Yabome is Founder and Principal at SLD consulting and Simon Fraser University's first Vice-President, People, Equity and Inclusion.



Dr. Denise O'Neil Green is a visionary and internationally recognized expert in equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), organizational change and transformational leadership. She is the President and Principal Consultant of Denise O'Neil Green Consulting, an EDI consulting company, empowering leaders and organizations to go beyond the performative and be authentic in developing and implementing EDI strategies. With over 30 years of experience, she has worked across various sectors, including municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals, as a keynote speaker, strategist, educator and changemaker. She founded the Division of Equity and Community Inclusion at Toronto Metropolitan University (2017-2022) and was the inaugural Assistant Vice President/Vice Provost, EDI at TMU in 2012, the year she immigrated to Canada from the USA. She is an Associate Professor, Graduate Faculty, in the Department of Leadership, Adult and Higher Education, OISE (Status-Only Professor), University of Toronto. She has authored/co-authored over 90 journal articles, book chapters, reports, conference papers and lectures. Denise is also the Creator and Executive Editor of [Institutional Diversity Blog](#), a comprehensive EDI resource that has reached over 100 countries and has been listed as a leading reference source. Her scholarship has focused on race-conscious policies in higher education, student access, qualitative research methodologies and EDI.



Moderator - Floydeen Charles-Fridal is a change agent who, for the

last 30 years, has demonstrated her commitment to improving the lives of others through her work in the community. Floydeen’s executive leadership skills in strategic planning, financial management, stakeholder engagement, and program evaluation for non-profits and registered charities have resulted in developing social and health services programs, strategic business and

operational planning, program implementation, and operations.

She leverages evidence-based Africentric interventions and strategies to foster an Afrikan-centered praxis within organizations and the broader community. Floydeen is committed to empowering, educating, and advocating for the program and service needs of diverse Black communities in Canada and globally. Through her work, Floydeen aims to make a positive and lasting impact on the lives of persons of Afrikan ancestry. Floydeen’s unique and captivating communication style positions her as an emerging sought-after speaker, facilitator, moderator, and speaker.

2024 SYMPOSIUM SPECIAL THANKS

We want to extend our deepest appreciation to the dedicated members of the Planning Committee for their hard work and unwavering commitment to making this symposium happen. Their collaboration and tireless efforts have enabled us to create a meaningful, impactful event that will lead to transforming the Black History education curriculum. We are grateful for your contributions, extraordinary efforts and dedication.

Dr. Anna Jarvis, Dauna Jones-Simmonds, Jennifer Singh, Dr. Camille Logan & Dauren Simmonds



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