

BCRC Newsletter



Black Community Resource Centre

Volume 4, Issue 4

December 2005

Special points of interest:

PLEASE NOTE:
BCRC's office will be closed from
Dec. 23.05-Jan.9.06



“Bad politicians are [elected] by good people who don't vote”

-William E. Simon

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Executive Director's Message

As another year comes to a close, I would like to take this occasion to thank our readers for their continued support and constructive comments on our newsletters throughout 2005. The Newsletter has provided us with the opportunity to regularly let our friends and partners know what is happening at the Centre. It has also been a good source of information regarding upcoming initiatives and projects in the wider community that are benefiting Black youth and families and enriching all Montrealers.

The year has been an exciting one for the Centre. Due to the success of the Quebec Pluriel pilot project, the Centre's employability program has been extended into 2006. We are excited about the opportunities for advancement that this project can provide to motivated youth who are serious about preparing for their future. BCRC has also entered into a rewarding partnership with the Montreal Urban Police (Station 25) and Iona Elementary School in developing a project aimed at encouraging young people to become more actively involved in their school and community. This has been quite popular with students and will continue into the New Year.

The Centre also celebrated the screening of *Revolution Underground*, a documentary film about youth and social change; the film was written and filmed by BCRC youth who received training and direction from the National Film Board of Canada. We look forward to presenting this film in high schools in the New Year to help our youth engage in creative discussions about issues that are important to them and how they can be actively involved in building communities.

In 2005 we also witnessed the revitalization of the Black Advisory Committee. This committee, which includes representatives from four (4) organizations in the Black community serves as an important link between members of the Black community and Batshaw Youth and Family Services. While the 2005 year has been in large part one of evaluation and planning, we look forward to new initiatives in the New Year.

In closing, the BCRC team wishes our readers, partners and Funders all the best for the holiday season and the New Year.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sharon Springer
Executive Director

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

BCRC is proud to announce that the Quebec Pluriel program has been renewed until June 2006. This employment and mentoring program helps Black Anglophone youth ages 16-24 integrate into the job market.

During the first year that Quebec Pluriel was a pilot project, 77% of participants found jobs and/or returned to school.

The program will continue to operate through workshops and individual counseling as well as through school visits to provide secondary and adult education students with workshops on pre-employability skills (CV and Cover Letter, Interviewing Skills and Job Search Strategies) and career exploration.

Another aspect of the program is career mentorship; where participants are paired with mentors from the black or visible minority community in their career field of interest. For more information on the Quebec Pluriel program please contact Sharone Callendar or Suzanne Babb at 514.342.2247.

LIBERIA'S NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT



"The Iron Lady"
(AFP/File)

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected Liberia's 21st president; the first woman to be democratically elected in Africa in the 21st century.

The country gained its independence in 1848; at the time 11 countries, including Haiti were the first to recognize Liberia's independence.

Since the military coup in April 1980 and assassination of President William R. Tolbert Jr, Liberia has seen 8 interim Presidents and civil unrest.

Johnson-Sirleaf is a veteran politician and economist. In 1970, she became Finance Minister in William Tolbert's administration. However, in 1985 while running for Senate she spoke out against Liberia's Military regime and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Only after a short-period in prison was she released, then left Liberia in exile until 1997.

Known as the Iron Lady, she served as a United Nations Staffer in the Regional Bureau of Africa (RBA), Assistant Administrator and Director from 1992-1997.

Her political involvement in Liberia since the last 90s have paved the way for her victory election as President. Liberia's National Election Commission (NEC) reported a victory for Johnson-Sirleaf with a lead of 59.6% over her opponent George Weah with 40.6%.

Johnson-Sirleaf is a mother and grandmother.

STUDENT VOTE 



"get involved and make sure your voice is heard!"
www.elections.ca



REVOLUTION UNDERGROUND

"Regularly misrepresented by mainstream media, eleven disaffected youth from Montreal's Black community set out in search of stories that will set the record straight. Arming themselves with video equipment, this collective of first-time filmmakers tackles the question "What is revolution?". The answers are bold and nuanced and come from a variety of young social activists, artists and organizers. Revolution Underground is a portrayal of resistance, a challenge to apathy and a testament to the power of solidarity. Discover how the making of this film destroys any notion that Black youth are powerless to effect change in their lives" - <http://citizen.nfb.ca>

Photo: Jack Sanford



Photo: Kathryn Stein

KWANZAA

A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture

December 26-January 1

Theme-2005

KWANZAA: A Season of Celebration, Mediation and Recommitment

For more info: www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org



BCRC RECOMMENDED READING LIST

Po Bronson (2003) - [What Should I Do With My Life? The True Story of People Who Answered the Ultimate Question](#) (Random House; ISBN:0375759894).

Jamaica Kincaid (2003) - [Mr. Potter: A Novel](#) (Farrar, Straus and Giroux; ISBN: 0374528748).

Myrna Lashley, et al (2005) - [Student Success: The Identification of Strategies Used By Black Caribbean Youth To Achieve Academic Success](#) (FQRSC; No. ref: 2003-PRS-88151).

Dwight A. McBride (2005) - [Essays on Race and Sexuality: Why I Hate abercrombie & fitch](#) (New York University Press; ISBN: 0814756859).

Edward McWhinney (2005) - [The Governor General and the Prime Ministers: The Making and Unmaking of Governments](#) (Ronsdale Press; ISBN: 1553800311).

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2006-VOTE!!!



POLLING STATIONS OPEN: 9H30-21H30 (MONTREAL LOCAL TIME)
ADVANCE POLLS: 12H-20H (JAN.13-14-16, 2006)
FOR MORE INFO: 1.800.463.6868



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS & ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT ENTERING
A CAREER TRAINING PROGRAM
AND HAVE QUESTIONS,
A COUNSELOR IS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP YOU GET ON TRACK TO
THE JOB MARKET

www.pearsonskills.com



THE 5TH ANNUAL CARIBBEAN XMAS DINNER & TOY GIVEAWAY

December 25 @ 1-6PM (FREE)

Keith&Karyn and Caribbean Paradise Restaurant will serve up a Caribbean Christmas dinner
Caribbean Paradise Restaurant, 8080 Newman-514.363.8080
Metro Angrignon (bus 106 to Thiery)

We need your help in the following areas in order to make this Christmas dinner a guaranteed success

Food Donations: Chicken, Meat, Ham, Hot Dogs, Rice, Macaroni, Bread
Cakes, Ice Cream, Vegetables, Fruits, Soft Drinks, Juice

Toys & Clothing Donations: New or used toys (in good condition), books & clothing
for children and adults

Financial: \$20 feeds a family of 4

Health & Beauty Care Products

Volunteers: To distribute toys, greet guest & serve meals

‘Together We Can Make A Difference!’

INFO: 514.486.4423 keithandkaryn@videotron.ca

Community Calendar

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

December 27-30th

Hosted by The Imani Family & Full Gospel Youth Ministry
Registration deadline: Monday December 12th - 514.608.7108

BOROUGH MEETINGS: Côte-des-Neiges / Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

A healthy community promotes healthy living. Be informed on what is going on in your community.
For information on date, time and location contact:

Bureau Accès Montréal NDG: 514.872.6731

Bureau Accès Montréal Côte-des-Neiges: 514.872.6403

COCO CAFÉ - SPOKEN WORD

With host **Jason Joseph**

Jello Bar: 151 Ontario E. (corner de Bullion)

Metro: St. Laurent or Berri UQAM

For more info: www.inobeproductions.com

EXPLORING CONFLICT AND ITS RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

A Series of Films: Winter Session

January 19 @ 6:45PM - 'In a Time of Violence' (South Africa-1994)

February 9 @ 6:45PM - 'Night Stop' (Mozambique-2002)

March 2 @ 8:30PM - 'Faat Kine' (Senegal-2001)

March 30 @ 6:45 - 'Quartier Mozart' (Rwanda/USA-2002)

For more info: www.peace.concordia.ca

THE COUNCIL FOR BLACK AGING COMMUNITY MONTREAL INC.

December 15 @ 18h (FREE) - Christmas Dinner at Union United Church Hall (3007 Delisle corner Atwater-Metro Lionel Groulx)

February 9, 2006 @ 18h - A Taste of Cultural Dishes

At Union United Church Hall - A donation would be greatly appreciated

THE COMMUNITY TABLE

Calling All Artist—The Community Table is developing its own logo!

“We want your ideas and input towards a CT Logo concept”

Deadline for submissions: Thursday December 22, 2005

For more info: info@communitytable.ca. Please write “Logo Concept” in subject heading of email

QUEBEC STEELPAN MUSIC ASSOCIATION presents:

The Voice Of The Panist In Harmony:

An evening of classical music and Christmas carols played on the steelpan instrument

Sunday December 18, 2005 (doors open @ 2PM-show starts @3PM)

General admission \$10 (\$12 at the door)

Westmount high school Auditorium-4350 Ste-Catherine St. West

Info: 514.336.9440; 450.445.3843; 514.983.3289

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*Supporting Youth, Building Communities
A "Holistic Approach"*

WWW.BLACKYOUTHPROJECT.ORG

The Centre takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of Black youth aged 0-30 and their families; this approach is called the "Holistic Project." Through a multi-intervention (holistic) approach, the Black Community Resource Centre helps young Black, English-speaking individuals fully participate in mainstream society.

The adoption of this approach recognizes that youth can have many needs (e.g., social cultural, health, education, economic, ect.) and that all these needs must be addressed in order for the youth to reach their maximum potential.

The Centre provides information and resources to both organizations and individuals within Montreal. In addition, we provide programming to Black youth in a manner which takes into account their many and complex needs.

PLEASE NOTE:

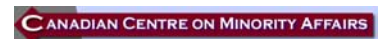
- We encourage our readers to visit BCRC's website for upcoming events in Montreal, BCRC publications, and much more.
- Please do not hesitate in letting the BCRC team know what events are taking place within your organization. You can email or fax us.
- Also check out our Black History web links and see what history holds.

OUR FUNDERS:

- Human Resource and Skills Development Canada; Multiculturalism; Official Languages Branch



- Emploi Québec; Fonds Jeunesse du Quebec; Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'immigration; Ministère de l'Emploi de la Solidarité Sociale et de la Famille; Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse

**Disclaimer:**

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