

BCRC Newsletter



Black Community Resource Centre

Volume 3, Issue 3

June 2004

Special points of interest:

- Check out Elections Canada website; www.elections.ca

or call toll free

1.800.463.6868

Election day: Monday, June 28, 2004

Advance vote takes place on:

Friday, June 18, 2004

Saturday, June 19, 2004

Monday, June 21, 2004

Local returning officer for the riding of Outremont:

Yelka Acimovic

Toll free: 1.866.218.9573

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Executive Director's Message

This issue of the B.C.R.C. newsletter could accurately be termed the "Summer Issue." Ideally, the summer is a season of relative calm within the community sector, as staff and administrators leave for much-deserved vacations in anticipation of the flurry of activity that comes with the advent of fall.

However, the spectre of activity report deadlines and preparations for annual general meetings often precede the period of respite and self-rejuvenation that hopefully many of us will be able to take advantage of in the coming summer months. In fact, B.C.R.C. will be holding its annual general meeting on Monday, June 28.

For those who are less familiar with the

Centre, this meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the work that we do within the community. Of course, we welcome our time-honoured partners and friends, as well. This past fiscal year has been characterized by significant change and growth, and we are anxious to share our successes and new challenges with you.

In closing, on behalf of the Centre, I would like to wish our readership an enjoyable summer in the "City of Festivals" (or wherever you might find yourself in the warm months to come!).

Sharon Springer
Executive Director
June 2004

The Black Youth Vote

"Build Your Castles In The Sky - Then Give Them Foundation"
Kofi Annan - Secretary General of the United Nations

There are few visible minorities in government, especially in the political arena in the province of Quebec. In spite of this disturbing reality, more Black youth must get involve in politics.

We, as a people, need to move beyond the socio-cultural conditioning that our votes and civic participation do not count, for the risk of non-involvement and indifference to socio-political issues is too great to ignore.

We need to make an effort to be informed of the issues that can impact our daily

lives. In leaving the decision making process in the hands of the elite few, we will cause visible minority concerns to remain invisible.

The Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, Jean-Pierre Kingsley argues, "Democracy is based on the right of citizens to participate in making the decisions that affect them and in determining the rules by which they agree to live together"*

(cont. on pg 2)

The Black Youth Vote cont...

Remember, many of us already work part-time, and paying taxes to the provincial and federal governments. And if the system does not meet your needs, we must speak up and be heard.



These folks didn't risk their lives voting for us to slack off. (Flip Schulke/Corbis)
Source: Africana.com

Young voters across Canada have the power to make significant changes in foreign and domestic issues; and most often, all it takes is one letter to a City Councillor, provincial or federal representative demanding answers and requesting change.

Therefore, if you are 18 years or older, and not registered to vote, call Elections Canada at their toll free number, 1.800.463.6868, contact BCRC, or drop by our office, and we will gladly provide you with voter information.

* Youth Participation in Elections, Electoral Insight Vol. 5, No.2, July 2003, pg.1.

Political Parties in the 38th General Election

Bloc Québécois

Party Leader: Gilles Duceppe;
www.blocquebecois.org

Green Party of Canada

Party Leader: Jim Harris;
www.greenparty.ca

Liberal Party of Canada

Party Leader: Paul Martin;
www.liberal.ca

Conservative Party of Canada

Party Leader: Stephan Harper; www.conservative.ca

New Democratic Party

Party Leader: Jack Layton; www.ndp.ca

Also visit the Elections Canada website: www.elections.ca

Youth Solidarity Update

Youth Solidarity Project for the Montreal Black Community began in September 2001, at B.C.R.C. The Project is destined to help Black English-speaking youth between the ages of 18 and 24 reintegrate into their community by either finding meaningful employment or returning to school.

The project is restricted to youth who are unemployed with maximum of a High School education. If you know of any youth who might be interested in this Project, please contact project coordinator Courtney Sewell at B.C.R.C.

Health & Social Services Update



The Government of Quebec is charging full speed ahead in the reform of the health care system. The reform, know as Bill 25, is a plan to divide Montreal's health care system into "12 territorially-based networks".

Each base network will include CLSCs, long-term care and residential institutions, and hospitals with "a single administration". The Bill has caused a lot of health care workers to feel that the merger will lead to the privatization of the health care system in Québec, and less health services in the English language.

The Agence de développement de réseaux locaux de service de santé et service sociaux de Montréal is responsible for the merger of the health institutions in the Montreal region; and sector 05 of the "territorially-based networks" will merge CLSC's, long-term and residential institutions in Côte-des-Neiges, Métro area and Park Extension.

BCRC will continue to monitor Bill 25, and provide the community with updates.

Bill C-524: An Act to establish Mathieu Da Costa Day

On Wednesday, May 5, 2004, MP Marlene Jennings (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine) introduced a private members Bill C-524, An Act to establish Mathieu Da Costa Day. If the Bill is adopted, February 1st will become Mathieu Da Costa Day.

Da Costa was the first Black interpreter and navigator to have traveled to North America - a recognized historic figure who bridged the linguistic and cultural divide between Aboriginal Peoples and European explorers.

Due to the election call, the Bill 'died on the order paper' and will be reintroduced when Parliament resumes in the Fall. However, BCRC will be monitoring the progress of this important Bill, once reintroduced in the Commons.

When Parliament resumes in the Fall, BCRC will be there to show support, and we encourage all Canadians to pledge their support by writing to their political representatives.



Our First Nations People of Québec

As National Aboriginal Day approaches on June 21st, let us remember the sacrifices, struggles and strength of our First Nations People.

According to Heritage Canada, "Aboriginal Canadians suffer more poverty, poorer health, higher death and suicide rates and far greater unemployment than their fellow citizens do."*



Source: Office of the Treaty Commissioner - www.otc.ca

The province of Quebec has 11 First Nations and current issues range from police practices, perceived racism, and the Kanesatake conflict.

It is important to bring awareness of the injustices taking place within Canada against Aboriginal People to all

Canadians, and in the words of Dr. Martin L. King Jr., "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."**

*What is Multiculturalism, Canadian Diversity: Respecting our Differences. www.pch.gc.ca/progs.multi/what_multi_e.cfm

**source: <http://home.satx.rr.com/brookins/mlkquote.htm>

For more information on our First Nations People visit the website of **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**; www.ainc-inac.gc.ca, and the **Office of the Treaty Commission**; www.otc.ca

Multiculturalism and St. Jean Baptist Day

June 24th is St. Jean Baptist Day, and June 27th is Canadian Multicultural Day, and "multiculturalism ensures that all citizens can keep their identities, can take pride in their ancestry and have a sense of belonging."*

So take pride in celebrating our differences, while remembering the history of this vibrant province. Step out of your comfort zone, and embrace the changing cultural landscape of Québec, Canada.

*www.pch.gc.ca

** The latest population figures from Statistics Canada show that the total visible minority population in Canada is 3,983,845. (Statistics Canada, Census of Population, www.statca.ca/english/Pgdb/demo40a.htm)

Poet's Corner...Howard Parchment

A man on a mission leaves the Old World.
 He heads into the future.
 Images of grand conquests, hardship follows.
 Like his father, his future is predestined.
 A chiseled mold, great hurdles await his landing;
 elements that are waged on sacrifices.
 He tallies up his victories. The yellow doors are opening.
 He is a diligent thinker who is subject to envious love.
 His bold heart accepts the realities of life.
 A conscious man, he toils to maintain respectability.

His legacy lives in his children.
 Our eyes are filled with noble fantasies.
 An optimist, lately more reserved, he is a divine believer.
 A patient man, young in vitality, a motivator,
 he sees the good in everyone.
 He is strict, faithful to his beliefs.
 My father reflects intelligently smiling.
 A rocky path, he learns that;
 the magic of chasing dreams is working towards them.

Your School Taxes

The month of May 2004 swept in with a 22% increase of school taxes for property owners living on the island of Montreal.

According to Pierre Reid, Education Minister for Quebec, the money will create much needed programs to help disadvantaged children within the educational system.

For more information on school taxes we urge parents and guardians to contact the Comité de gestion de la taxe scolaire de l'île de Montréal, 514.384.5034 or visit their website: cgtsim.qc.ca.

Other websites of interest are: **Ministère de l'éducation du Québec** - www.meq.gouv.qc.ca; **Fédération des comités de parents du Québec** - www.fcppq.qc.ca; **Conseil supérieur de l'éducation** - www.cse.gouv.qc.ca; **Commission Scolaire de Laval** - www.cslaval.qc.ca; **Commission Scolaire Marie-Victorin** - www.csmv.qc.ca

Update on Québec Pluriel Project

Quebec Pluriel is a six month employment and mentoring program for young adults from visible minorities funded by Emploi Quebec. BCRC is working in partnership with Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi-NDG to provide participants with workshops and skills to improve their employability.

Participants must be between the ages of 16-24 and be unemployed.

We are also looking for young professionals and businesspersons in the Black community to act as mentors to the participants. Mentors will communicate with the young adults on a weekly basis to offer guidance and support.

If you would like to participate in the project or be a mentor contact Sharone Callender at BCRC.

Recommended Readings...available on our website

- [Crisis, Conflict and Accountability: the Impact and Implications of Police Racial Profiling](#) - Charles C. Smith
- [Diversity in the Québec Public Service](#) - Government of Quebec; Secretariat du Conseil du trésor
- [Racial Profiling Fact Sheet Series](#) - African Canadian Community Coalition on Racial Profiling
- [Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia And All Forms of Discrimination](#) - Mr. Doudou Diène, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Olympiades Corporative 2004



Congratulations to the B.C.R.C. team who participated at the 2004 Corporate Olympics, held at the West Island Club in Beaconsfield, Saturday June 5th.

This year's Olympics raised over \$70,000 and will be donated to four charitable organizations: Generations Foundation, Sun Youth, Quebec Special Olympics, and West Island Community Shares.

Photo: sitting - Courtney Sowell, Suzanne Babb, Sharone Callender
Standing - Julie Banâtre, Penny Jean-Louis, Tania C. Best

PLEASE NOTE

B.C.R.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 28TH, 6PM

6767 COTE-DES-NEIGES, SUITE 440
MTL, QC. H3S 2T6

514.342.2247
FAX:514.342.2283

THE TEAM AT B.C.R.C. WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER



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

WWW.BLACKYOUTHPROJECT.ORG

The Centre undertook 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:

- BCRC is donating a **CANON Multifunction system fax machine**; first come - first serve - please contact BCRC for further details.
- Please do not hesitate in letting the BCRC team know what events are taking place within your organization. You can email or fax us.

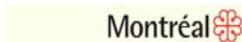
OUR FUNDERS:



- 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



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