

Black Workers Initiative Council (BWIC) – Newsletter 2023

Mission Statement:

To educate CLASS regarding anti-Black racism. To empower and support Black employees, and to ensure equitable outcomes.

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Quiz Time!

1. Who is the journalist for The Skin we're in?
2. What is The Skin We're in documentary about
3. Who is Jean Augustine?

Celebrating Black History Month February 2023

ACKNOWLEDGE BLACK EXISTENCE, SUPPORT BLACK HEALING, LOVE AND SELF-DETERMINE

“Black Lives Matter means addressing discrimination, racism and systemic oppression in order to be seen as equals”. Many people choose to believe that racism in Canada does not exist.

The Skin We're In (on CBC-TV) is a procedural documentary/investigation from journalist Desmond Cole. Following celebrated journalist Desmond Cole as he researches hidden truth of the Canada we thought we knew. This documentary from acclaimed director Charles Officer pulls back the curtain on racism in Canada. (Please click on the links to watch the videos)

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/886591556002>



[The Skin We're In – Systemic Racism](#)

https://www.cbc.ca/firsthand/m_episodes/the-skin-were-in



4. Who is co-founder of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Toronto?

5. What month do we celebrate Black History?

6. Who is our new member at BWIC?

Email your responses to bwic@class.on.ca

Winner by draw will win a \$50 gift card

10 Powerful Quotes by Black Canadian Leaders by

www.surreyplace.ca/10-powerful-quotes-by-black-canadian-leaders/

1. Jean Augustine

“Black history is not just for black people. Black history is Canadian history”.

Jean Augustine was the first Black Canadian woman to serve as a federal Minister of the Crown and Member of Parliament. Her impactful words remind us that the stories of Black Canadians creating positive change in our society should be told to people of all backgrounds and recognized as our collective history as Canadians.

2. Rosemary Brown

“We must open the doors and we must see to it they remain open, so that others can pass through”.

Rosemary Brown was the first Black Canadian woman to become a member of a provincial legislature and the first woman to run for leadership of a federal political party.

3. Janaya Khan

“Privilege isn’t about what you’ve gone through; it’s about what you haven’t had to go through. And right now, we are in a time that is calling on us to learn the stories that we don’t know”.

As co-founder of Black Lives Matter (BLM) Toronto who also identifies as Black, queer, and gender nonconforming, Janaya Khan is a prime example of a leader who reminds us of the importance of listening to others’ stories and listening intently to accounts of racism or any other form of discrimination.

4. Sarah Jama

“If we want to create change in Canada – if we want to have more people from communities who aren’t only represented – the answer isn’t to move towards tokenization and propping people up. The answer is to give people the tools to prop themselves up”.

Sarah Jama is the co-founder of Disability Justice Network of Ontario. She said this during an engaging speech at an event held by the Broadbent Institute. It is truly

5. Cameron Davis

“The hardest thing about being Black in Canada is the prejudice I face and that’s where my fear comes from”.

Cameron is a 15-year-old YouTuber who uses the platform to make videos about what it’s like to be a Black teenager living in Canada.

6. Donovan Bailey

“Follow your passion, be prepared to work hard and sacrifice, and above all, don’t let anyone limit your dreams”.

Donovan Bailey is a retired Jamaican Canadian sprinter and the first man in history to be world champion, Olympic champion and world record holder at the same.

7. Dr. Chika Stacy Oriuwa

“I draw inspiration from my own personal adversity and triumphs and things that speak to my authentic truth and rawness and vulnerability”.

Dr. Oriuwa is a physician, spoken word artist, and advocate against systemic racism in health care. She was the only Black medical student in her graduating class at University of Toronto’s medical school in 2020, and she was also valedictorian when she graduated.

8. Aaron Parry

“As someone who is still kind of a youth, I think that it’s our responsibility to carry those stories. Sometimes people in my age group might forget to honour the people that have come before us ... but I think that it’s very important to honour... the people who are still here and honour our ancestors in any way and honour the history of our community”.

Aaron Parry is a university student from Hamilton, Ontario. Aaron’s research for the Afro-Canadian Caribbean Association of Hamilton (ACCA) and the Hamilton Black History Council last year led to the creation of the Hamilton Black History Database, which pays respect to the histories and stories the Black community in Hamilton

9. Laverne Jacobs

“We need to pay attention and understand the challenges faced by those who experience not only disability, but also a range of social identities and circumstances, such as being a woman, an older person, racialized, Indigenous, homeless, transgendered or a person from the LGBTQ2+ community”.

Laverne Jacobs is currently an associate law professor at the University of Windsor, as well as Canada's first nominee for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She's known for being the first editor and lead author of the first Canadian textbook on the law and disability and has first-hand experience with disability due to a spinal cord injury.

10. Andre De Grasse

"You (can be) physically tired... but at the same time, you've got to just tell yourself, 'I can do it. I can't give up.' You've got to go out there and perform. Just make magic, make it happen. I try to do that every single time I step on the track".

Andre De Grasse is a Canadian sprinter who's made headlines for his Olympic feats. He's best known for being the first Canadian to win three medals in a single Olympics.