



## PRESS RELEASE

### LAUREATES WITH AMAZING JOURNEYS FOR THE 24<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Montreal, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015** – We all need role models – people that inspire us to outdo ourselves. The Round Table on Black History Month shares profiles of people within Black communities who, through their accomplishments, have had a remarkable impact on Quebec society.

Often working in the shadows, these women and men have avoided potential pitfalls – through their uncommon devotion, determination and passion – until they finally reached their dreams. The Round Table on Black History Month is keen to pay tribute to such individuals by letting others know about their varied accomplishments.

Those selected as laureates have been presented in the Black History Month calendar – available free of charge at the Month's offices – a symbolic and important tradition for Michael P. Farkas, president of The Round Table on Black History Month:

"The calendar is the heart of Black History Month. Each laureate profile contains within it a lifetime of effort. Their journeys lend confidence to every generation, particularly young people who are visible minorities and whose sense of identity is still forming. These 12 positive figures contribute to the common good of Quebec and are deserving of this spotlight."

#### **Skipper Dean**

Born in Nova Scotia, singer Skipper Dean has shared the stage with many well-known artists like Don Ho, Quincy Jones, Oliver Jones, Michael Bolton, Paul Anka, Charles Aznavour, etc. His very eclectic repertoire ranges from jazz to country, rock, standards and of course, the R&B and soul of the 60s; Skipper Dean excels at every genre. On stage, he wowed audiences with his presence and his connection to them.

#### **Lydie Olga Ntap**

Originally from Senegal, Lydie Olga Ntap is a lawyer and museum specialist who has been active in women's causes for 20 years now. She founded Canada's first Musée de la Femme (Women's Museum), which opened its doors to the public in 2008, in Longueuil. This space's mission is to emancipate and improve the status of women. She is a doctoral candidate in Museology at UQAM, and is also involved with a number of boards of directors.

### **Ricardo Daley**

Ricardo Daley fully embodies the principles of perseverance and hard work. In a career that has spanned 30 years, he's been one of Canada's most prolific independent concert promoters, with the goal of offering Montrealers the best-possible shows. After working with legendary rap group Run DMC, other internationally known A-list acts would follow, such as the Fugees, Wu-Tang Clan, A Tribe Called Quest and Eminem. He has also married together his two great passions: DJing and hosting.

### **Edouard Rousseau**

Édouard Rousseau is a model of courage and social involvement. He went blind in 1977 after suffering from a detached retina, but chose to reintegrate himself into society and studied at UdeM, where he received two master's degrees, in Sociology and Political Science. Concerned about others, he got involved in the Association des Aveugles et Amblyopes Haïtiens du Québec and the great Gala Interculturel d'Excellence.

### **Adelle Blackett**

Professor Adelle Blackett is a William Dawson Scholar and Director of the Labour Law and Development Research Laboratory at the Faculty of Law at McGill University. She has devoted her research to finding social justice for historically excluded communities. Named to the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, she has also worked with the United Nations. She is a recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, and of the Christine Tourigny Award of Merit from the Barreau du Québec.

### **Steve Jecrois and Anna Domond**

Steve Jecrois and his sister, Anna Domond, are the founders of the cultural and community meeting place on Rue Bélanger in Montreal, known by all as "Le Marché Steve-Anna". Steve and Anna are from a Haitian family of established traders, and have a bond as great as their ambition. Their "West Indian" business has served as a place where the Quebecois community could discover the Haitian culinary arts, and in that respect, is one of the first establishments of its kind.

### **Madwa-Nika Cadet**

Madwa-Nika Cadet is passionate about collective action, youth involvement and social issues in general. A graduate of Université de Sherbrooke's joint Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) and Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program, she has been a part of the Quebec Liberal Party Youth Wing, and at the age of 22, she ran in the provincial elections in the Rosemont riding. Madwa-Nika has received several prizes related to her social and civic activism.

### **Ben Marc Diendéré**

Ben Marc Diendéré holds a second cycle diploma from HEC Montréal. He also has a Masters in Management & Marketing from the Sorbonne, and a Masters in Sociology in Information & Communications from the Université de Ouagadougou. He is known among the African diaspora for his support of various initiatives for young immigrants. Today, Ben Marc Diendéré is Vice-president, Communications & Public Affairs at La Coop fédérée, the largest agri-food enterprise in Quebec.

### **Dominique Anglade**

Dominique Anglade is President and CEO of Montréal International, whose mandate is to attract foreign direct investment and international organizations to Greater Montréal. She is also the co-founder of the Kanpe Foundation, which seeks to put an end to the cycle of poverty by encouraging financial independence in Haiti. In 2014, The World Economic Forum named Dominique Anglade a “Young Global Leader”.

### **Lawrence Kitoko-Lubula**

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lawrence Kitoko-Lubula is the director of the Porte d'Or des Îles residence, whose mission is to meet the needs of elderly people of various backgrounds. He is also the founder of the Chambre de commerce congolaise du Canada (Congolese Chamber of Commerce of Canada) and of entrepreneurial contest Ébène INC., as well as being a member of the working committee on Black communities within the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal.

### **Alix Rey**

A Quebecker of Haitian origin, Alix Rey practiced medicine in the United States. He fought to raise awareness of the realities of Black people within the fields of medical research and academia. He became a member of a number of Black medical associations and was awarded the title of professor emeritus. Upon retiring and arriving in Quebec, he began his second career, in the visual arts, by taking greater interest in Haitian painting. This led him to found and run the Artists of Reminiscences association.

### **Bebeto Ulrich Lonsili**

Bebeto Ulrich Lonsili is originally from Burkina Faso, in West Africa. He co-founded Troupe Lamogoya which presents dance, music and traditional-storytelling events to promote African culture. Bebeto Lonsili has taken part in the artistic direction behind a number of events and multicultural festivals, but his work doesn't stop there, because he also speaks at schools and libraries as part of the À l'Ombre du Baobab project and is involved in a number of social events.

The laureates' complete biographies are available at [moishistoiredesnoirs.com/laureats](http://moishistoiredesnoirs.com/laureats)

Black History Month will take place across Quebec from February 1<sup>st</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015. To find out about the complete programming, visit the [www.moishistoiredesnoirs.com](http://www.moishistoiredesnoirs.com) website today and social media platforms



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**Source : The Round Table on Black History Month**

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