



PRESS RELEASE

**LAUREATE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE
25TH EDITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Montreal, January 19th, 2016 – A quarter-century is something to celebrate! And not something to celebrate alone! For a non-profit organisation, passing the 25-year mark is a sign of its commitment to its cause, dedication of its volunteers – and above all – its impact within its community.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Round Table on Black History Month would like to share this special moment by paying tribute to 12 organisations which are making a difference within Black communities, and which have endured over time, despite the pitfalls along the way. The selected laureate organisations are featured in the annual Black History Month calendar – copies of which are distributed at the Month's office, as a symbolic tradition.

“Solid and lasting, our earliest organisations thrust themselves into the roles of protectors of our heritage, ambassadors of our culture, narrators of our continued journey in this land, and providers of solutions derived from their experience as well as their positive outlook,” remarked Michael P. Farkas, the president of the Round Table on Black History Month. “During this 25th edition, it's on these foundations that we must continue to build bridges to the solutions of the issues that face us.”

Jean Doré – Behind the Founding of the Round Table on Black History Month

Jean Doré opened the doors of City Hall to all minorities, by inviting them to take part in a democratic decision-making process. He took the bold decision of naming February as the month in which all Montrealers could contemplate and celebrate both Black history, as well as the contributions and presence of Blacks in Montreal and Quebec.

Goodbye to the Greats We Lost

The Round Table on Black History Month particularly salutes the journeys of Quebec's first Black MLA Jean Alfred, and of Haitian crooner Joe Trouillot, who made their mark on Quebec society through their accomplishments.

The Round Table on Black History Month would also like to highlight the role that Fred Christie played in fighting for human rights. 60 years ago, this Verduner waged a legal battle after being refused access to the Montreal Forum's York Tavern, during a boxing match.

The Organisations of Honour

Black Coalition of Quebec (1969)

The Ligue serves all cultural communities, as well as those who stand up for their individual rights to unfettered justice. Through this constant involvement among those who have no platform from which to speak, the Coalition steps up to denounce the system's injustices and discrimination.

The Jamaica Association (1962)

This organisation was founded shortly after Jamaica received its independence. Their mission statement calls for the Association "to assist in improving and enhancing the quality of life for the Jamaican Community" through economic, educational, cultural, and social activities.

Black Theatre Workshop (1972)

Canada's oldest Black theatre company, which seeks to promote Black theatre that educates, entertains, and delights its audiences. The company strives to create greater cross-cultural understanding by its presence and the value of its work.

Quebec Board of Black Educators (1968)

The Quebec Board of Black Educators' mission is to promote the development of educational services for Black youth and other young people between the ages of 5 and 25 who reside in the Greater Montreal area.

Association des enseignants et enseignantes haïtiens du Québec (1983)

More than 200 Haitian teachers share the objective of helping members of the community at large – and more specifically, of the Haitian community – to flourish by gradually eliminating the difficulties they face within their respective environments: work or school.

Coloured Women's Club of Montreal (1902)

Inspired by the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC), which was founded in Washington, D.C. on July 21st, 1896, the CWC was the most prominent organisation formed during the Black women's movement. Their mission: To assist and support Black people in the Montreal area, and to promote education.

La Maison d'Haïti (1972)

A community organisation devoted to the education and integration of immigrants to Montreal, be they individuals or families. As much of a model within the Haitian community as it is within Quebec society at large, the organisation's approach is founded on the idea of guiding those that it helps towards autonomy.

Vues d'Afrique (1985)

On one hand, the Festival international de cinéma Vues d'Afrique depicts a part of the reality of the continent, as seen by African filmmakers themselves; and on the other, juxtaposes these depictions against a selection of international films dealing with the same themes, including a Regards d'ici section devoted to the work of directors from Quebec and Canada.

Productions Nuits d'Afrique (1987)

Its mission: spreading, developing, and growing world music – both on the local and national, as well as global, levels. In addition to presenting the Festival International Nuits d'Afrique and promoting concerts through the year, Productions Nuits d'Afrique has also created a number of unique awards aimed at world-music artists who call Canada home.

Caribbean Cultural Festivities Association (1975)

The organisers of the annual Carifesta parade, a colourful, artistic representation of the various islands of the Caribbean. Its objectives include: initiating the general public to the many facets of West Indian culture, and promoting harmony.

Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (1914)

Among the objectives of the association were to: “promote the spirit of race pride and love”, “administer to and assist the needy”, “reclaim the fallen of the race”, “establish [...] schools for the further education and culture of the boys and girls of the race”, and “conduct a world-wide commercial and industrial intercourse”.

The Council for Black Aging Community of Montreal (1987)

It has a mandate to improve the quality of life of Black elders across the Greater Montreal area. A group of citizens of gathered because they were very much concerned with the problems and needs faced by culturally Black elders who were in mainstream health and social-service institutions.

The laureates' complete biographies are available at moishistoiredesnoirs.com/laureats

Black History Month will take place all across Quebec from February 1st to 29th, 2016. To find out all about the complete schedule for Black History Month, visit moishistoiredesnoirs.com today.

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Source: The Round Table on Black History Month

Source: Groupe Style Communications

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