

NATIONAL BLACK CANADIANS SUMMIT

2025
4th
Edition

ORGANIZED BY THE MICHAËLLE JEAN FOUNDATION



JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 2 • PALAIS DES CONGRES





TAKING ACTION TOGETHER

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS OF THE MICHAËLLE JEAN FOUNDATION

To all of you, now passionately gathered here in Montréal for this 4th National Black Canadians Summit at the dawn of a new year, Black History Month, and an International Decade of action: Bravo—here we are!

In our struggle against racism, we remain relentless. Wherever it festers and strikes to hurt us, in whatever form it appears, we denounce it and its insidious violence. We take action to stop its devastating impacts. We address the crimes it perpetuates. We press forward, undeterred, on this long and demanding journey.

After our first Summit in Toronto in 2017, a second one in Ottawa in 2019, followed by a series of six virtual conferences in 2020-2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, over 1,200 of us attended the vigorous, vibrant third Summit held in Halifax in 2022.

Now, Montreal proudly takes its turn to host the 4th National Black Canadians Summit “Taking Action Together” for the eradication of racial discrimination.

For the first time in Canada’s history, Black communities across the nation have access to a dynamic platform—constantly evolving as it moves from one city and province to the next. This space amplifies our voices, allowing us to be heard, exchange ideas, unite our efforts, and take strategic action together.

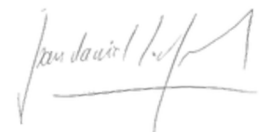
Our collective efforts produced the Manifesto for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination: The Halifax Declaration, a powerful testament to our shared leadership. In its pages, we have captured the often-daunting challenges we must face and overcome. We lay them bare in our own words—honestly and authentically. Our testimonies, experiences, pain, resistance, expertise, and bold proposals are reflected in this vital document. It is an invaluable reference and a rallying call, one that the Michaëlle Jean Foundation has worked tirelessly to disseminate widely. The Manifesto for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination: The Halifax Declaration offers a rigorous statement of facts, a compelling analysis, and a bold, necessary program of action shaped by the extraordinary mobilization of our people, organizations, associations, and initiatives—including those led by our youth—throughout the UN-declared International Decade for People of African Descent (2014-2024) under the theme “Recognition, Justice, Development.”

As we come together in Montréal, we will once again celebrate the unstoppable movement we have built. We will continue to deepen our reflections and push forward with the Summit’s ambitious agenda, as this program clearly demonstrates. In the same spirit, we will launch the second UN-declared Decade (2025-2035): “Consideration, Justice, Development.” Consideration demands action—and that action must include reparations.

These will be days of profound and inspiring exchange. Thank you for standing with us in this moment. Thank you for standing with us in this movement.



TRH Michaëlle Jean
Co-Founder



Jean-Daniel Lafond
Co-Founder

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE 4TH NATIONAL BLACK CANADIANS SUMMIT

Welcome to the 2025 National Black Canadians Summit, hosted in the vibrant heart of Montreal. This crucial gathering marks an important milestone in our collective quest for recognition, justice, and development. This city, with its rich tapestry of cultures and languages, reflects the authenticity, resilience, and boldness of our shared journey. Here, linguistic diversity is not a challenge but an opportunity—a bridge to reach further, connect deeper, and build stronger.

We have a unique opportunity to forge connections, exchange innovative ideas, and build lasting partnerships. We stand whole together, not by erasing our individual roots and stories, but by embracing them. Our collective fight for equity is enriched by the essence of who we are—unapologetically ourselves, rooted in history, and driven by possibility.

This summit is more than a gathering; it is a declaration of what we can achieve together. Let it be a space where ideas spark action, where our stories fuel innovation, and where our unity becomes the foundation for transformative change.

Your presence and contribution are essential to make this Summit a springboard for positive and lasting change. Our diversity is our strength, and our unity will be our success. Together, let's honor our past, celebrate our present, and mobilize for a future that reflects the power and potential of Black communities across Canada.



Nicole Antoine
Co-Chair



Louis-Edgar Jean-François
Co-Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We are gathered here to celebrate the strength of Montreal's and Canada's Black communities. This National Summit is a precious opportunity to highlight the vitality, dynamism and resilience of these communities, as well as their exceptional contribution to our metropolis and our country. We are therefore proud to have supported the organization of this summit, a privilege that underscores the importance of Montreal as a place for exchange and reflection.

Over the next few days, a wide range of themes will be addressed. These conversations are essential to reaffirming that the fight against racism and the promotion of inclusion must be carried out in a comprehensive manner, and requires the commitment of each and every one of us.

I would like to pay tribute to the important contributions and achievements of Black communities, which enrich the unique character of our city. This moment reminds us of the richness of a history marked by courage and struggle.

Thank you to the organizers and volunteers for their dedication and hard work in making this event possible.

I wish us a fruitful exchange and a great summit!



Valérie Plante
Mayor of Montréal

Montréal 



ATTENTION BLACK YOUTH (16-30)

THE *POWER OF YOUTH* ROUND TWO IS COMING!

**THE MOVEMENT OF THE SUMMIT AND THE
HALIFAX DECLARATION NEEDS YOUR SPIRIT AND
ENGAGEMENT.**

**FUEL YOUR CREATIVITY,
CONNECT WITH CHANGEMAKERS,
BRING YOUR BOLDEST IDEAS TO LIFE.**

STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS ON THE NEXT ROUND!

**JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
NEVER MISS AN UPDATE.**

TOGETHER, WE'RE SHAPING THE FUTURE.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS GRANT,
[VISIT FMJF.CA](http://FMJF.CA)**

PROGRAMME

DAY 1—FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

REGISTRATION

Starting at 8:30 a.m.

YOUTH DAY KICK-OFF

10:00 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Room 520

Reflecting the creativity, diversity, and enthusiasm of the new generation, the 2025 Youth Day Kick-Off features captivating live performances by talented individuals.

- Marina Mathieu, Host
- Misé Johns, Artistic Director & Spoken Word Performer
- Maliciouz, Live Painter
- Montreal Steppers, Dancers
- Mukoma Nshinga, Black Spirit Dancer
- Elena Stoodley, Sound Designer

BREAK

10:45 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

THE POWER OF YOUTH

The Power of Youth initiative is now one of the flagship programs of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. The idea grew out of calls from young people at the 3rd National Black Canadians Summit, held in Halifax in 2022. The initiative features 35 youth-led projects that bring the *Halifax Declaration* to life, highlighting it as a dynamic and actionable blueprint for advancing racial equity. The *Halifax Declaration* calls for a national mobilization against racial discrimination. It builds on the results of previous editions of the National Black Canadians Summit, organized by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation as part of the first International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). Five workshops offer the opportunity to speak directly with the young people who have spearheaded the projects of the first cohort to emerge from the Power of Youth initiative.

1. COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Room 524a

Come explore five youth-led initiatives that enhance community bonds, celebrate cultural heritage, and foster a sense of belonging.

- *Autour de la table, Héritage des saveurs* — Sirima Noubissie-Nzefa
Blending elegance and authenticity to celebrate the rich flavours of African and Caribbean cuisine, creating an important cultural bridge.
- *Afrocréatif, Magazine Négritude*—Carmelle Freudlyne Amoussou
Afro Vibes is the arts and culture edition of Magazine Négritude, highlighting Afro music, art and culture in Canada and around the world.
- *SSYC Community in Conversations, “Adulthood 101”* — Dedi Nyjong
This initiative addresses pressing issues within the South Sudanese community through structured weekly online workshops.
- *Dans le ventre de la diaspora* — Ama Ouattara
This immersive exhibition highlights Afro-Francophone culinary traditions and their cultural significance within the Ottawa community.

MODERATORS

Emmanuel Antonin and Bets Joseph

2. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND ANTI-RACISM

Room 525

This session highlights five projects focused on promoting civic participation, fighting racism, and fostering inclusive environments through education and activism.

- *Racialized Youth Research Committee: Navigating Institutions as a Black individual*—Bridget Andam
By integrating Black Canadian history into the curriculum for grades 6-12 in London and Woodstock, Ontario, this project fosters pride, empathy, and cultural awareness.
- *Voices of Tomorrow*—Benazir Tom Erdimi
A platform offering Black Canadians aged 14 to 30 the opportunity to share their stories and experiences in a documentary highlighting the importance of community in Black spaces.
- *Sommet sur l’Antiracisme* — Christina Monabeka
Through workshops and discussions, racialized youth receive the education that can empower them to promote inclusivity and shape anti-racism initiatives.
- *A Future of Us*—Joelle Alexandria Weir
Through long-form journalism and audio storytelling, this initiative offers in-depth analysis of social and environmental issues.
- *Med Melanin*—Yvonne Osagie
A project to design a questionnaire on anxiety and mental health to help patients communicate their symptoms effectively and reduce the risk of being dismissed and gravely isolated.

MODERATORS

Dave D’Oyen and Clèche Kokolo

3. JUSTICE & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Room 518ab

Join us as we focus on providing support, raising awareness, and creating safe spaces for marginalized groups to address mental health and justice.

- *Healing Through Poetry Workshop for Black Women: Exploring Shared Experiences, Celebrating Resilience, and Envisioning a Liberated Future*—Asiah Sparks.

While celebrating self-healing and the ability to draw on our strengths to resist, this initiative offers Black women a space to discuss their experiences with racism, violence, and exploitation.

- *Potomitan'm ap boule: Obstetrical and Gynecological Racism Affecting Black People*—Aurélie Milord

This educational tool enhances medical literacy, raises awareness about reproductive health rights, and provides resources.

- *Renaissance: From Healing to Blooming*—Marina Mathieu

Offers healing and reflective spaces for young Black women and members of the 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

- *Black Queen Collective: "Setting Intentions & Holding Boundaries" workshop*—Eden-Belle O'Neill

Provides Black teen girls a supportive space to learn about mental health, setting personal boundaries, and connecting with Black female therapists.

- *Thoughtful Therapist: ACB Vloggers*—Myriam Georges-Estigène

Raises awareness of culturally appropriate mental health services available to Black communities.

MODERATORS

Mamadou Oury Diallo and Wendy Bell

4. EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Room 524b

This session focuses on addressing systemic barriers and promoting equity by improving educational outcomes and employment opportunities for marginalized groups.

- *The Black Canadian Scholar Census*—Naïka Edouard

This national census gathers critical data on the intersection of universities and Black communities in Canada.

- *Through our eyes*—Andre Anderson

This initiative explores the Black learning experience in Halifax schools by comparing the perspectives of community elders and modern-day youth.

- *Learning loop*—Taïna Mueth

This innovative community residency is designed for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) youth.

- *Causons Discutons*—Franck-Maleek Djamat-Dubois

With the guidance of a skilled moderator, youth of African descent discuss challenges and solutions for the continent of Africa.

MODERATORS

Léandre Nawej and Templeton Sawyer

5. TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Room 524c

Join us as we showcase projects that leverage technology and innovative approaches to solve problems, enhance learning, and foster creativity within communities.

- *Building a digital Presence for Weymouth Falls Community Land Trust*—Shekara Grant

This initiative established a digital presence by creating a website to share history and provide the community with updates and information.

- *Beecoders*—Martin Luther Belporo

An initiative focused on empowering underserved youth and orphans by exposing them to technology.

- *Steal Masta Studios Inc. Prototyping citizens & thieves*—Joseph Akangbe

This creative studio focuses on novel ways of enhancing social and economic opportunities for Black communities.

- *Bridging Horizons: Empowering Black Youth Through Agri-Tech Innovation*—Bintu Adama

Black youth are empowered through this transformative initiative, combining sustainable agriculture and technology.

MODERATORS

Drayton Mulindabigwi and Stephanie Jecrois

LUNCH PLENARY

1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE

Orlando Bowen, Board Member, Canadian Race Relations Foundation, Founder of One Voice One Team Youth Leadership Organization

HISTORICAL TOUR

(MEET AT PLACE D'ARMES, IN FRONT OF THE MAISONNEUVE MONUMENT)

1:30 p.m.

Explore with Rito Joseph the Afro-descendant history of Old Montreal.

BREAK

2:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.

INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

1. BLACK FUTURES

Room 524a

This gathering will ignite your imagination about the future of Black people and communities. This is an opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions with those at the forefront of technology, innovation and community development. Come and share your vision of the Black futures you want to help create.

FACILITATOR

Alfred Burgesson, CEO of Tribe Network

2. BLACK AND WEALTHY

Room 524b

Are you seeking a practical conversation about Black leadership and business excellence. Join us for an engaging discussion on reshaping Black leadership, fostering innovation, and understanding the impacts of Black businesses on domestic and global economies. We will also explore the journey of a remarkable entrepreneur, and debate trending business topics.

With Frantz Saintelley, Chancellor of the University of Montréal

FACILITATOR

Drayton Mulindabigwi, CEO of Novas Group

3. BLACK MENTAL HEALTH AND BATTLING STIGMA

Room 518ab

This exciting three-part session will help participants identify three components for mental health. The first component “My Identity” aims to increase participants’ knowledge of the determinants of mental health among Black youth in Canada and to foster self-awareness. The second component, “Who Am I? Qui suis-je ?” is an artistic activity derived from photo therapy, allowing individuals to view themselves with kindness through introspective work. The third component will be a panel discussion on the importance of self-care within the Black community.

FACILITATORS

Wendy Bell, Psychosocial Worker
Sanni Ayinin, Research assistant in mental health and suicide prevention

4. ON THE ROAD TO HEALING

Room 525

This session looks at innovative ideas and best practices for fostering safe and inclusive environments. It addresses systemic challenges such as state-sponsored violence, exploring ways to rebuild support systems and protect communities. The session aims to foster resilience, solidarity and prosperity for all.

FACILITATOR

Stephanie Germain, Executive Director of Educonnexion (CJS)

BREAK

4:00—4:30 p.m.

YOUTH DAY

4:30—5:00 p.m.

CLOSING PLENARY

Room 520

Youth Day will draw to a close with an opportunity to reflect on the ideas and questions raised throughout the day. This is an excellent opportunity to strategize around shaping the conversations during the rest of the 4th National Black Canadians Summit 2025, as well as to exchange contacts and build relations to maintain among participants.

OPENING CEREMONY*HOSTED BY FABIENNE COLAS***COMMUNITY NETWORKING**

5:30 pm.—6:30 p.m.

OPENING CEROMONY

Starts at 7:00p.m.

PERFORMANCE

West-Can Folk

**HONOURING INDIGENOUS LAND
AND ITS HISTORIC
RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN DESCENT**

- On Which We Stand, a Land Acknowledgment Play by Misé Johns
- Remarks by Ellen Gabriel

WELCOME TO MONTREAL

Mayor Valérie Plante

KEYNOTEThe Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean,
27th Governor General of Canada**DINNER**

8:00 P.M

PERFORMANCE

Sajaa

REMARKS

- Nadia Rousseau, Table ronde du Mois de l'histoire des Noirs
- Adelle Blackett, McGill Professor of Law & Canada Research Chair in Transnational Labour Law

PERFORMANCE

El Jones, Poet, Journalist, Activist

REMARKS

- Christian Bassong, Regional Manager, Black Community Business Development, TD Bank Group
- The Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth

PERFORMANCE

Vox Sambou

REGISTRATION

Starting at 8:30 a.m.

PLENARY SESSION

9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Room 517

Following the opening remarks by amanuel melles, a critical roundtable discussion will explore the impact of funding on Black communities. The dialogue will focus on key investments and progress made to foster sustainable human and economic development, progress and social equity. Additionally, the discussion will examine ongoing government investments in Black communities to ensure a lasting and meaningful impact.

REMARKS

amanuel melles, Executive Director of the Network for the Advancement of Black Communities

ROUNDTABLE: FUNDING IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES**MODERATOR**

Addy Marken, Vice-President of the External Reference Group for the special program established by the Government of Canada under the acronym SBCCI, the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative

PANELISTS

- Samuel Juru, Executive Director, Africa Centre
- Louis-Edgar Jean-François, President and Executive Director, Groupe 3737
- Chiedza Jones, Chief Operating Officer, Black Business Initiative
- Anthony Grey, President & Chair, Board of Directors Tropicana Community Services
- Liban Abokor, Co-founder, Foundation for Black Communities

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

1. ADVANCING BLACK WORKERS THROUGH STRATEGIC LITIGATION AND ADVOCACY (INTERACTIVE SESSION)*Room 525*

The mission of the Black Class Action Secretariat is to relentlessly combat systemic racism in public and private sector employment across Canada. This session will focus on achieving this mandate through education and awareness programs, as well as direct action.

FACILITATORS

- Bernadeth Betchi, Director of Outreach and Education, Black Class Action Secretariat
- Nicolas Marcus Thompson, President and CEO, Black Class Action Secretariat

2. POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR ADDRESSING BLACK PEOPLE'S HEALTH: TOWARDS A NATIONAL STRATEGY

Room 524a

Presented by *Black Opportunity Fund* in collaboration with Black organizations/communities with that specific expertise, this session seeks to find strategies for addressing all issues related to Black people's health, along with key considerations and factors. Led by researchers and policy makers followed by discussion, the session will include 15-minute presentations.

MODERATOR Dr. Bukola Salami, Professor of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

PANELISTS

- Dr. Kwame McKenzie, Director of Health Equity at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Dr. Na-Koshie Lamptey, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto
- Dr. Akwatu Khenti, Assistant Professor, at Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
- Malgorzata Miskurka, Manager—Equity Analysis and Policy Research; Social Determinants of Health Division at Public Health Authority of Canada

3. CANADIAN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Room 524b

With the conclusion of the International Decade for People of African Descent on "Recognition, Justice, Development" (2014–2024) and the launch of a second Decade focused on "Consideration, Justice, Development" (2025–2035), this session will explore the significance of these initiatives for youth and their role in advancing global equality. It is inspiring to witness how young people in Canada are engaging with the world—not only through sharing and communication but also through their active participation in human rights advocacy and their commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

MODERATOR Candies Kotchapaw, Founder & Executive Director of Developing Youth Leaders of Tomorrow Today

PANELISTS

- Angelica Johnson Baptista, Black Diplomats Academy Program Assistant
- Raphaëlla Ayina, L. L. M. Candidate, University of Toronto
- Mamadou Oury Diallo, President of the New Brunswick Provincial Council for People of African Descent

4. FRACTURED RITUALS: MULTI-DISCIPLINE ROUNDTABLE ON THE FUNCTION OF ARTS WITHIN CULTURE

Room 524c

Beyond the idea of “seeing ourselves reflected on national stages,” Black Arts communities in Canada are shifting towards stories that go beyond the usual stereotypes. This session, presented by *Canada Council for the Arts*, explores the links between contemporary artistic practices, the function of narrative, musicality and movement, and the impact of artworks on the collective consciousness. The discussion revolves around excerpts from selected works, performed by professional artists from the Black Theatre Workshop.

MODERATOR Dian Marie Bridge, Artist Director, Black Theatre Workshop

PANELISTS

- Diane Roberts, Theatre Director, Founder of The Arrivals Project
- Vox Sambou, MC, Poet and Multilingual Performer
- Rito Joseph, Curator and Cultural Historian
- M. Guy Mushagalusa Chigoho, Executive Director of Afromusée
- Adjani Poirier, Assistant Artistic Director, Black Theatre Workshop
- Quincy Armorer, Actor
- Briauna James, Actor

5. BLACK WOMEN: LEADERSHIP AND POWER

Room 518ab

This session explores the dynamics related to Black women in positions of leadership and power. Panelists will discuss their successes, accomplishments, challenges, struggles and systemic racism and sexism. What are the implications and how do we move forward?

MODERATOR Tamara Thermitus, Ad.E Boulton Senior Fellow Law, McGill Faculty, human rights lawyer who negotiated the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

PANELISTS

- The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada
- Cassandra Dorington, President & CEO of Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council
- Rhonda McEwen, President of Victoria University, University of Toronto
- Ellen Gabriel, Katsi'tsakwas, Mohawk activist and artist from Kanehsatà:ke—Turtle Clan

6. NAVIGATING THE EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION LANDSCAPE IN ONTARIO: ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES

Room 518c

Following a brief presentation by Kerline Joseph the founder of Toro Empowerment Method, this panel brings together diverse voices in the field of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) to examine the evolving landscape of EDI efforts across Ontario's educational systems. Panelists will share strategies for helping EDI professionals and students navigate academic spaces, ensuring EDI initiatives are genuine and non-performative. The conversation will address the challenges faced by EDI professionals in their respective roles, exploring actionable ways to combat resistance and create sustainable, positive change for Black students. The session will highlight key research insights, empower attendees with new tools and perspectives to advocate for equity, foster belonging, and pave the way for thriving educational environments.

MODERATOR Jennifer Slay, Director of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization at King's University College, Western University

PANELISTS

- Zakara Stamp, Project Coordinator, Robbins Olivier Research Team, Western University
- Nicole Kaniki, Director of Senomi Solutions Inc.
- Awad Ibrahim, Professor, Vice-Provost of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusive Excellence, University of Ottawa

7. ROUNDTABLE ON HOUSING

Room 519ab

Presented by *CMHC*, this session seeks to mobilize action for justice and equity in housing. A dynamic discussion will explore the impact of historical injustices, the urgent need for sustainable solutions through meaningful housing policies, support for exemplary community initiatives, and efforts to address housing disparities. Emphasis will be placed on fostering genuine collaboration between community leaders and policymakers to develop dignified, human-centred plans that transform and elevate housing.

MODERATOR ammanuel melles, Executive Director of Network for the Advancement of Black Communities

PANELISTS

- Kizito Musabimana, Founder and Executive Director of the Rwandan Canadian Healing Centre
- Ray Williams, Board Chair of Black Opportunity Fund
- Sunday Miller, Property Consultant of Akoma Holdings
- Issac Olowolafe, Co-Founder and General Partner of BKR Capital
- Clotilde Tarditi, Director of Service de l'Habitation, City of Montréal
- Siobhan Barker, Director of Community Care for the Hogan's Alley Society

LUNCH 12:30 p.m.—1:15 p.m.

REMARKS Frantz Saintellemy, Chancellor and Chairman of the Board, Université de Montréal

PLENARY SESSION 1:15 p.m.—2 p.m.

THE MANIFESTO FOR THE ERADICATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, HALIFAX DECLARATION: A TESTAMENT TO COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Room 517

More than just a text, the *Manifesto for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination*, known as the *Halifax Declaration*, is enriched by the vision, experiences, perspectives, and demands vigorously expressed by hundreds of women, men, and youth from Black communities across the country. Our ability and determination to come together to speak with one voice and with such power are unprecedented in Canadian history.

Through the first Summit in Toronto in 2017, the second Summit in Ottawa in 2019, and a series of six virtual conferences in 2020–2021 due to Covid-19 lockdowns, we reunited in 2022 in Halifax with over 1,200 participants for a monumental third Summit. In 2023, in New York, we officially submitted the *Manifesto for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination, Halifax Declaration* to the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. In 2024, in Ottawa, we brought the Manifesto to the attention of the judges of the Supreme Court of Canada.

In 2025, we are undeniably a *MOVEMENT*. With this fourth Summit, in Montreal, we will proudly assert our collective leadership as we launch the terms of the *Second International Decade for People of African Descent: Consideration, Justice, and Development (2025–2035)*.

MODERATOR Antoni Nerestant, CBC Journalist

PANELISTS

- The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada
- Robert Wright, Director Emeritus at People's Counselling Clinic and Special Advisor at Nova Scotia Justice Institute
- Myrlande Pierre, Vice-President of the Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission
- Nicolas Marcus Thompson, President and CEO, Black Class Action Secretariat

BREAK 2:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

1. THE JOURNEY TO EQUITY: DEVELOPING A NATIONAL BLACK HEALTH LEARNING COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

Room 524a

Short brief on Sickle Cell disease by Biba Tinga – President/Executive director of Sickle cell disease Association of Canada

In Canada, anti-Black racism negatively impacts the health outcomes of Black individuals through biases present in healthcare education. This session examines the impact of racism on health and presents a project focused on anti-racist training for medical and public health professionals. Participants will learn how to integrate anti-racist and anti-colonial practices into medical education.

MODERATOR

Dr. OmiSoore Dryden, Associate Professor, James R. Johnston Endowed Research Chair in Black Canadian Studies, Faculty of Medicine; Interim Director, Black Studies (in STEMM) Research Institute, Dalhousie University

PANELISTS

- Sume Ndumbe-Eyoh, Executive Director of the Black Health Education Collaborative, and Assistant Professor in the Clinical Public Health Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
- Raha Mahmoudi, MPH, Program Specialist, Black Health and Anti-Black Racism Education and Research, Black Health Education Collaborative

2. RAISING CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE: A BLACK AFFAIR

Room 524b

In this session, attendees will gain insights into effective strategies for building capital and infrastructure for Black communities. The session will examine unique challenges, celebrate successes, and share pathways to strengthening financial resources and organizational frameworks within Black-led enterprises and cultural initiatives across Canada.

MODERATOR

a. Infrastructure

M. Guy Pascal Zambou, founder, Foire africaine

PANELIST

- Allen Alexandre, Montreal Afro-Canadian Cultural Centre

MODERATOR

b. Raising Capital

Mme Henriette Kandula, Director, Chantiers d’Afrique du Canada – CHAFRIC

PANELISTS

- Issac Olowolafe, Co-Founder and General Partner of BKR Capital
- Craig Wellington, CEO of Black Opportunity Fund

3. CONTEMPORARY REALITIES AND SYSTEMIC STRUGGLES: INTERSECTING PERSPECTIVES ON RACISM AND THE EXPERIENCES OF BLACK COMMUNITIES IN QUEBEC (INTERACTIVE SESSION)

Room 519ab

This session delves into systemic racism impacting Black communities in Quebec by examining contemporary and historical perspectives. Topics for discussion include institutional racism in Quebec today; historic roots of systemic racism/segregation; and the resilience of Afro-Quebecers/Canadians.

- FACILITATORS**
- Ricardo Lamour, Alumnus of the Fellowship Program, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - Aly Ndiaye aka Webster, Hip-hop artist, Historian

4. EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND BLACK PEOPLE

Room 524c

This roundtable explores the impact of emerging technologies on the lives of Black populations in North America and the Global South. In Canada, Africa, and the Caribbean, the fusion of media and access to new communication tools are shaping narratives and public discourse. Media literacy has become essential, as has equitable access to digital resources. Invited experts will discuss how emerging technologies generate both tensions and opportunities in areas such as research, linguistic diversity, digital security, the use of artificial intelligence, and widespread engagement with social media.

MODERATOR Rhonda McEwan, President of Victoria University, University of Toronto

- PANELISTS**
- Alexie Tcheuyap, Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost, International Student Experience, University of Toronto
 - Hervé Saint-Louis, Associate professor, emerging media at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, Cartoonist
 - Samantha Jackson, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Migration Studies, University of British Columbia.

5. FILM SCREENING: TROPIC NORTH BY JEAN-DANIEL LAFOND

Room 518c

Produced in 1994 by the National Film Board of Canada, this film by Jean-Daniel Lafond, featuring Michaëlle Jean—a journalist of Haitian origin—addresses a sensitive issue: being Black in Quebec society. It explores the challenges of identity-based nationalism, which, while promoting a sense of belonging, can easily lead to exclusion, rejection of others, and, consequently, racism. At the same time, the film highlights a benevolent attitude and a desire for openness to the world. In this film, the filmmaker explores all of these paradoxes.

MODERATORS Jean-Daniel Lafond and The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada

6. TRANSFORMING VISIONS INTO REALITY: INSIGHTS FROM BLACK ENTREPRENEURS

Room 525

Futurpreneur and other organizations specialize in supporting women, men, and youth from Black communities who aspire to start a business. This panel brings together some of those who have achieved great success to share the challenges they have overcome, the impact of the support they have received, and their vision for the future.

MODERATORS

Nicole Antoine, CEO of N/A&CO and Four Brown Girls
Tamara Chanoine, Director, Black Entrepreneurs, Futurpreneur

PANELISTS

- Jean-Hamilton Philippe, President, Goodshop Canada, Co-Founder, Charlie2go Inc., Delegate G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance for Futurpreneur, Brazil 2024
- Alexandra Sabin, Founder, Siaana Tech
- Michele Pouani, Founder and Owner of KAMALI

7. THE SHIFTING FEDERAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE AND BLACK COMMUNITIES - IMPLICATIONS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Room 518ab

This panel will explore the implications, challenges and opportunities of the shifting federal political landscape for Black communities. It will identify concrete actions Black community leaders can take to advance the interests of People of African Descent in Canada

MODERATOR

Kema Joseph, GR Consultant

PANELISTS

- Agapi Gessesse, Executive Director, CEE Centre for Young Black Professionals
- Liban Abokor, Co-founder, Foundation for Black Communities
- Louis Edgar Jean-François, Montreal Summit Co-chair
- Velma Morgan, Chair, Operation Black Vote Canada

VIP RECEPTION (BY INVITATION)

5:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

FESTIVE NIGHT

8:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

Room 517

We love to party, to let our joy explode, to revel in the rhythms of percussion and drums, and to celebrate the extraordinary richness of Black heritage in the beautiful diversity of our roots and cultural expressions. With the exhilarating power of words chanted freely and the vibrant energy that defines us, this festive night is a true celebration of our reunion.

- Union Urbaine

REGISTRATION

Starting at 8:30 a.m.

JUSTICE ROUNDTABLE

9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Room 517

This roundtable of activists, policymakers, and community leaders will engage in a discussion on the pressing issues Black Canadians face within the justice system. Participants will analyze systemic barriers, how to advocate for equitable practices, and explore innovative solutions to promoting justice and inclusion within communities.

2.1.1. The history of Indigenous and Black peoples in the Americas and around the world is marked by violence. For centuries, slavery, dehumanization, degradation, loss of land, and the immoral, rampant exploitation of these conquered peoples have underpinned the economy and prosperity of European colonial, racist, and segregated empires.

2.1.2. Indigenous and Black people have been contained, demeaned, sanctioned, controlled, brutalized, criminalized, and decimated. We urgently demand justice, for there can be no true liberation from these shackles if we continue to be subjected to racial profiling, malevolent police surveillance, unjust incarceration, impoverishment, and exclusion.

2.1.3. Inspired by the mythical West African symbol of the Sankofa bird, we must forge ahead to secure the future while diligently and courageously examining the past. Justice necessitates fearless truth-telling. We must be willing to confront past injustices and abuses, demonstrating an exemplary commitment to healing and reparations, regardless of their magnitude.

Manifesto for the Eradication of Racial Discrimination: The Halifax Declaration

OPENING REMARKS

The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

MODERATOR

Emilie Nicolas, Anthropologist, Consultant and Columnist

PANELISTS

- Zilla Jones, Report co-author of the Black Justice Strategy
- Fady Dagher, Chief of the Service de Police de la Ville de Montréal
- Farrah Auguste, lawyer who secured the arrest of Stéphanie Borel, who is accused of pouring boiling water on a Black child, 10-year-old Péniel, causing second-degree burns in an act of extreme racist cruelty
- El Jones, Poet, Journalist, Professor and Activist
- Mike Siméon, Lawyer

CLOSING CEREMONY	10:45 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
PERFORMANCE	Dominique Fils-Aimé
POWER OF YOUTH RECOGNITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edward Matwawana, Executive Director, Fondation Michaëlle Jean Foundation • Mohammed Hashim, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Canadian Race Relations Foundation • Yves-Gérard Méhou-Loko, Secretary General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO
PERFORMANCE	Hands of Steel
CLOSING REMARKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honourable Greg Fergus, 38th Speaker of the House of Commons • Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa, Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
PERFORMANCE	Rhodnie Désir
CLOSING REMARKS	The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada
PASSING THE BATON TO WINNIPEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honourable Uzoma Asagwara, Deputy Premier of Manitoba • Honourable Jamie Moses, Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade and Minister of Natural Resources, Government of Manitoba • Councillor Markus Chambers, City of Winnipeg • Angela Cassie, Winnipeg Summit Chair • Louis-Edgar Jean François and Nicole Antoine, Montreal Summit Co-chairs • The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada
MUSICAL SEND-OFF	Hands of Steel

SPONSORS

Make the Summit possible

PRESENTING SPONSOR



BUILDERS



Canadian
Race Relations
Foundation

Fondation
canadienne des
relations raciales

Funded in part by the Government
of Canada's Supporting Black
Canadian Communities Initiative

Canada

CHAMPIONS



Black
Opportunity
Fund

Montréal



John Beck
Youth Delegate
Champion

ENBRIDGE

ADVOCATES

canada **vie** MC

unesco
Canadian Commission
Commission canadienne

FOUNDATION
FOR BLACK
COMMUNITIES



Network for the Advancement
of Black Communities

GROUPE
33

CAFACAN
Caribbean African Canadian
Social Services

TROPICANA
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Black Business Initiative
BBI

AFRICA
CENTRE

CONTRIBUTORS

MARILYN SIGNATURE

encore
EVENTS THAT TRANSFORM

CMHC SCHL



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



MEDIA PARTNERS

CBC

SAYASPORA