

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



RIBBON ROUGE FOUNDATION



# A Message From the President



I am truly thankful for, honored and blessed by my journey within the Ribbon Rouge Foundation and all that it has contained and will continue to contain in impact and positive social change in African, Caribbean and Black communities in Alberta.

Today is my last day as the Chair of the Foundation and I am brimming with gratitude and hope for the future.

**To Zero Discrimination,**

**Moréniké Oláòşebìkan**

# What is Ribbon Rouge Foundation?

The Ribbon Rouge Foundation is a grassroots organization registered as a, not for profit corporation under the Societies Act that focuses on health equity and facilitates social justice through the Arts. The Ribbon Rouge Foundation facilitates storytelling, community-engaged arts and intentional meaningful community conversations to change perceptions, stir social conscience, educate the public and create positive social change. We remain committed to raising the voices of people who experience poorer health outcomes as a result of racialized health disparities.

**Our Vision is to Achieve Health Equity between African, Caribbean, Black people and those who are not African, Caribbean, Black.**

The Ribbon Rouge Foundation continues to serve African, Caribbean and Black people globally, by facilitating systems change, in structural and social determinants that lead to poorer health outcomes, including HIV related health outcomes in African, Caribbean, Black communities. The foundation is now registered in three countries: Botswana, Canada and Nigeria to move its agenda for health equity forward.

Our foundation's work is a response to have a meaningful impact on the health (gender & racial) disparities represented by these statistics recognizing that these statistics barely scratch the surface of very complex social-economic-political-cultural drivers of the identified problems. In particular, we focus our social justice lens on issues related to gender and issues related to race. We believe in the liberating power of the arts to promote self-expression, build community and facilitate positive social change.

# RRF at a glance...

**181 volunteer members** who form a community of inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary teams contributing to the work and impact of our foundation. These members mainly serve in two self organized groups that advise and work with our board of directors.

**The African Caribbean Black Leadership Caucus**  
(an informal coalition) which Advises >>

**The Board of Directors**, Ribbon Rouge Foundation which provides guidance to the work of an >>

**Artist Collective** which is a multidisciplinary group of artists who serve as community animators to listen in diverse African, Caribbean, Black communities in Alberta and feedback that information to both the Board of the Ribbon Rouge Foundation and the African Caribbean Black Leadership Caucus.

**A network of organizations** around the Ribbon Rouge Foundation currently in loose informal and formal relationships with the Ribbon Rouge Foundation from organizations who are co-existing, to those who are cooperating, to those who are collaborating on various initiatives with the Ribbon Rouge Foundation.



# Board Of Directors

## **IMA ANUGOM - *Interim Chair***

Ima's personal and professional journey includes working in health and public health on local, national and global levels. Her unique experiences working with community organizations, not-for-profit organizations, international NGOs, Indigenous organizations and the government has afforded her the opportunity to witness the consequences of social inequity on people's health in her community and around the world; and through her experiences she has come to understand the need to close the inequity gap in Canada and across the world. Using her knowledge, voices from her past, her current public health networks and evidence-based practice, she is committed to advocating for and influencing policies and practices that promote and ensure equitable access for diverse communities, especially vulnerable and marginalized populations, to achieve healthy lives.



## **CELESTE HAYWARD - *Vice Chair***

Celeste has an extensive history working with diverse non-profit organizations throughout Canada and involving a wide range of communities. She has advocated for and was involved with establishing a Master of Social Work with a specialization in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency with the University of Toronto. She is highly skilled in development and delivery of training for variety of topics, including board governance, lateral violence, STBBIs, grief and loss, strategic planning, suicide intervention, trauma-informed approaches, program management. Her experience in management roles of non-profit organizations has provided her with significant experience with human resources, negotiation, finance, program management, and has a solid foundation and experience with research, proposal writing, logic models, policy and procedure development, and program reporting, making Celeste an invaluable asset to the foundation.



**KIM TEICHROEB - *Treasurer***

Kim's personal and professional journey includes having a long list of skills involving project management, financial planning, and risk management. She has significant experience as a leader in the business sector with extensive subject matter expertise and success in Procurement, Supply Chain, Operations and Facilities. Kim has a track record of exceeding expectations in service, while reducing costs, in a variety of sectors including food service, facilities, manufacturing, hospitality, and retail in Canada and the US. Kim will be a key member in the board with her ability to be a team player and strong business skills.



**THOMAS BANKOLE - *Director for Stakeholder engagement***

Thomas is a retired Engineer who is a passionate social advocate and a community organizer. He is an avid advocate in matters of socio-economic inequities, disparities in health care accessibility and social justice. Mr Bankole worked for various international companies in Canada and the United States, among which are Coca-Cola, Nestle USA and SlimFast Foods. He is an active Volunteer with Canadian Red Cross, Catholic Missions In Canada and Rhema Chapel Kids Club.



## **KHADIJA OTHMAN**

Khadija has over 8 years working in the healthcare field and brings skills and knowledge in Home Healthcare Management, Refugee Health, and Rehab Case Management. Khadija graduated from York University in Toronto where she completed her bachelor's in health studies. Currently, Khadija is in her last year completing her master's in health management at the University of Lethbridge, Calgary. Khadija's passion is to volunteer in non-profit to promote the rights of Black women and their social determinants of health such as gender bias and discrimination in the community.



## **CARISSA GRAVELLE**

Over 10 years combined experience working with stakeholders across sectors (For-profit, Non-profit, and charitable) from an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion lens to better serve BIPOC and marginalized people's needs in a greater capacity. Leadership experience in developing specialized programming and facilitating several councils and committees on ED&I, focused on addressing complex needs of racialized individuals in Toronto, Ontario and Calgary, Alberta. Carissa is passionate about equity, diversity and inclusion and strives to help organizations maximize their impacts by utilizing powerful strategies that embed diversity, inclusion and cultural competencies with the organizations she supports.



## **JACKIE FOORD**

Jackie has spent much of her life pursuing social justice and advocating for the equitable application of human rights. Currently the Branch Manager of Social Development at the City of Edmonton, Jackie has served her community through a career in the non profit sector that included senior leadership roles with YWCA Edmonton, Covenant Health, the Kidney Foundation, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. She received her Bachelor degree in Political Science from the University of Regina and her MBA from Athabasca University. Jackie devotes considerable time to volunteerism. She is a member of the International Women's Forum and was the inaugural Chair of the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE) which is the committee that advises city council on issues related to gender. Jackie is also the President of the Good Hearts Transplant Foundation. In 2013 Jackie was named one of Edmonton's Top 100 Women in Business and in 2014 she received the Lifetime Achievement.



# The Past Year

## Internal Restructuring

The Foundation has experienced growth in going from an organization that was powered by many volunteers and founder funds to one that now has 3 full time employees funded for 3 years and funds for up to 13 fellows over the next three years.

We are transitioning the founder out and will stabilize over the next 6 months as a new Chair will be appointed alongside a new Executive Director.

## Collaborations

The Board of Directors has been working to increase visibility and build connections with collaborations with other organizations, such as:

### **Edmonton Men's Health Collective**

The vision is for Edmonton queer and trans community members to have equitable opportunity to experience positive health and wellbeing with initiatives such as PrEP

PrEP Alberta

Ribbon Rouge Foundation PrEP

### **HIV Edmonton and Community Based Research Centre**

Partnership to support RRF in building capacity (SCUBA Project)

## Audited Financial Statement

Review RRF's financial statement [HERE](#)

# Initiatives

## Photovoice Project

The Ribbon Rouge Foundation's Photovoice Project [about lived experiences of African, Caribbean, Black Women living with HIV and AIDS in Alberta Strategies, Strengths, Barriers, and Facilitators] focused on gathering stories in Edmonton between 2019 and 2020.

*Read the report [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)*

## Black History Month Event

The Ribbon Rouge Foundation Black History Creation Project is a co-curricular activity designed to engage learners and staff in learning opportunities designed to develop 'inclusive engagement competence' through storytelling, dialogue and the arts.

*Read the report [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)*

## Systems Capacity Building Approach (SCuBA)

The primary goal of the SCuBA project is to increase knowledge of effective HIV, hepatitis C, and related STBBI interventions and prevention in ACB communities.

*Read the report [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)*

## Black Equity in Alberta Rain Forest (B.E.A.R.)

The B.E.A.R is a holistic socially-innovative community initiative designed to mobilize data and research to bring meaningful change in Black health equity. The vision is to create a collaborative environment where knowledge, resources and connections are shared to close racial gaps.

*Read the report [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)*

# 2020/2021 in Pictures



## THE BLACK EQUITY IN ALBERTA RAINFOREST (THE BEAR)

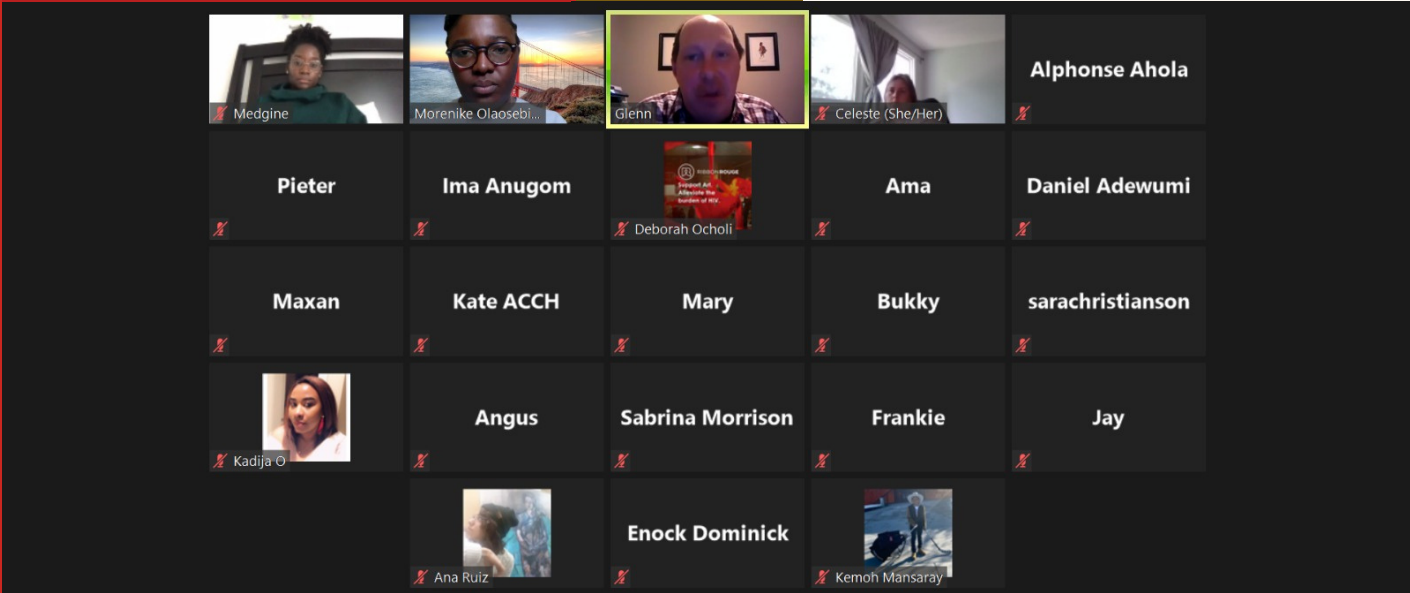
What do we do?

- Black Data Governance.
- Raise Awareness for those living with HIV.
- Create awareness and provide information on sexual health.
- Justice for Black Youth as it relates to mental health and interacting health/justice systems navigation.

**B.E.A.R**

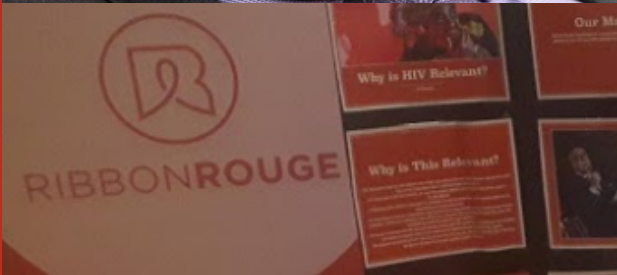


## 5 WAYS TO RECIEVE A NO





# Throwback Photos







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# WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



To support our work,

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