

The Moji Taiwo Learning Foundation Newsletter: Summer 2025



The Movement is Growing — You Helped Build It!

What started as a spark just two years ago has grown into a thriving movement — and you've been part of that journey. We're excited to share what we've been up to and where we're headed next!

Did You Know?

- Our Early Learner Reading Program, launched in 2019, is thriving in schools and daycares across Calgary
- We're reviving our Life Skills & Alumni Mentorship programs
- Career information sessions for youth and parents are coming soon
- We're working with Dr. Igabalajobi of the Education and Scholarships Hub to create a youth resource platform

Behind the Scenes: Building the Blueprint — Winter 2025

In early 2025, our team huddled up for a 3-day strategic planning retreat, resulting in:

- A bold new 5-year strategic plan
- Updated bylaws, policies, and clear roles
- Board training in conflict resolution & fundraising
- Mentorship with Mount Royal University students

Grants & Funding Wins — 2025

Thanks to your support, we: - Secured \$8,000 from Calgary Foundation via Action Dignity
- Won a \$30,000 capacity building grant from SBCCI via Africa Centre
- Raised \$2,448 in community donations through the TIE Show!

The Immigrant Experience Show, the TIE show, is a vibrant social enterprise dedicated to supporting TMTLF. Through creativity, community, and culture, TIE show fuels impactful initiatives that empower youth and strengthen communities by telling powerful stories of the immigrant journey in Canada.

SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN IN TRADES SUMMER 2024

In partnership with Ladies in the Family Foundation and Women Building Futures, our 3-day "Future of Work: Women in Trades" program empowered 15 young girls to explore careers in trades. The program featured a diverse panel of trailblazers who inspired participants to dream big and build boldly:

Dan Olesen – Future of Trades

A visionary in technology and trades, Dan shared what the future holds for young people entering technical industries and how innovation is transforming traditional career paths.

Nat Bak – Female Welder Extraordinaire

One of Alberta's few women in welding, Nat's hands-on stories and live demonstrations left sparks—literally and figuratively!—in the eyes of our attendees.

Bri Drury – Youth Educator

Bri encouraged the girls to explore non-traditional fields and underscored the importance of representation in trade careers.

Shakira Lamidi – Entrepreneur, Glass & Window Cutting

Shakira's journey from learning glass-cutting to building a thriving business taught participants the beauty of resilience and craftsmanship.

Amina Popoola – Engineer & Amazon Logistics Specialist

With her background in engineering and logistics, Amina opened minds to careers in both infrastructure and innovation.

Gladys Afolayan – Founder, Alberta's First Black Beauty School

Gladys inspired with her story of launching a historic beauty school, emphasizing cultural pride, perseverance, and community investment.

Temitope Olukunle & Njide Harris Eze – Financial Literacy Champions

Together, they equipped the girls with practical money management skills to help them build a solid foundation for whatever future they pursue.

Participants also enjoyed a creamery field trip and a hands-on cooking class—because every builder needs good fuel!



Co-Ed Trades Program - Summer 2024

We hosted a one-day co-ed version, bringing 20 eager learners into the world of HVAC, carpentry, and AI. They heard from:

Jasmine Enaibe – HVAC Troubleshooting & Tech Support

Jasmine broke down the basics of HVAC systems and shared how she solves real-world technical challenges with confidence and skill.

Nedum Ogboruche – Real Estate Agent & Journeyman Carpenter

Nedum showcased how a passion for homes turned into dual careers. He offered insight on navigating both property markets and power tools.

Adetona Fatigun – Electrical Engineer

Adetona's session lit up the room—literally and figuratively—with stories about the energy industry and the importance of Black representation in STEM.

Amaka Adindu – History of AI

With infectious enthusiasm, Amaka unpacked the evolution of artificial intelligence and what it means for youth exploring tech-based careers. Larry Adeyemo – HVAC Business Owner
Larry shared his journey of building a successful HVAC business, highlighting the intersection of trade skills and entrepreneurship.

Nat Bak – Female Welder Extraordinaire

Back by popular demand, Nat inspired attendees with her fearless attitude and tips on breaking barriers in male-dominated industries.

Dan Olesen – Future of Trades in Technology

Dan closed the day with a forward-looking talk on how trades and tech are merging to shape tomorrow's workforce. Participants left motivated, informed, and fired up to pursue careers where creativity and craftsmanship collide.

Mental Health & Community Care - Fall 2024

In Fall 2024, our "Checking In" mental health program welcomed 50 participants and brought together:

Dr. Florence Obianyor & Tina Ashiofu – Mindful Mental Wellness

Dr. Florence (board-certified physician and founder of El-Roi Wellspring Inc) and Tina (psychologist at Ilera Psychological Services) led powerful discussions on the importance of self-awareness and mindful practices. Their insights reminded us that true wellness starts with paying attention to our own needs.

Mercedes & Anastasia Korngut – Owning Your Happiness

The dynamic teen duo behind the "Hack Your Happiness" podcast shared creative self-care tools and inspired attendees to take charge of their joy. Their message? Happiness is a daily practice—one small bit at a time.

Lister Nzeza – Autism Advocacy & Lived Experience

As a dedicated caregiver at Above and Beyond Care, Lister offered a moving perspective on life with autism. He shared stories from his work supporting over 50 clients, highlighting both the challenges and triumphs of neurodiversity.

With 50 participants and support from volunteers at the Nigerian Canadian Muslims Congregation, this series left everyone with practical tools and renewed inspiration.





Coming up

We're preparing for our biggest summer yet! With 30 of 50 spots already filled, this year's program is backed by strong partnerships with:

- Immigrant Champions of Canada, The Nigerian Canadian Association of Calgary, Dechosen African Markets
- Huchmell Global Foods, Temitope Olukunle (Mobile Mortgage Specialist)
- 10 dynamic facilitators bringing decades of experience

This program is powered by over 1,500 volunteer hours and collaborations with Calgary's best and brightest: MRU Black History Program, Youth Centers of Calgary, Action Dignity, Calgary Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and more.

Let's Keep the Momentum Going

Your continued support changes lives. Whether you're a donor, alum, or new supporter — we'd love to have you in our corner again.

Donate. Partner with us. Spread the word,

We've come so far, but we are just getting started!

Thank you for reading!

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