

“Coming from an underrepresented immigrant community and taking a seat at the decision-making table in the council, in a time when inclusivity is much needed.”



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Folklarama is here again. Where would you be partying?

Culture
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“I had to drop out of school because I was always playing music, no homework” - 70 year-old Canadian who played 51 weeks in a year, only break for Christmas.



Music
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A conversation that started in a coffee shop continuing in Diaspora Cafe, wonderful.

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Brandon Gets Its First Black City Councillor



Sunday Frangi
(Councillor, Ward 5)

The name Sunday Frangi will be remembered for a very long time to come, particularly in the city of Brandon and Manitoba at large. Mr. Frangi made history, in May, as one of the ten ward councillors to seat with the mayor in their deliberations on how to make Brandon city better. We should also add that the newly elected Ward 5 council man is, probably, the first black person ever elected to serve as city councillor in the entire history of the city, at least, as far as records can show (CBC). Mr. Frangi, a healthcare worker, defeated Gordon McRae, at the just concluded by-election to fill in for former council man, John LoRegio, who stepped down on health grounds, after serving for over 7 years. McRae, a

sales associate, had lost the opportunity to represent Ward 5, in 2018, to Mr. LoRegio, in his first attempt, and May's by-election afforded him another opportunity to step up as councillor representing Meadows - Waverly but the Sudanese immigrant thwarted that chance. He, himself, having lost the chance to represent the Brandon West riding, in 2019, to the PC candidate, Reg Helwer. Councillor Sunday Frangi who flew the Liberal flag then was very grateful to the people of Meadows - Waverly who voted "strategically" for him. The Sudanese-born politician joins Mayor Rick Chrest on the board of the Brandon City Council, and we, at Prairie African, say congratulations to Mr. Sunday Frangi for achieving

Why The Hue And Cry About Bill 64?

One of the beauties of democracy is that participants and constituents are free to hold and air contrary opinions to that of the government without fear of reprisal or attack. It is against this backdrop that the current behemoth opposition to The Education Modernization Act otherwise known as Bill 64 can be better appreciated. One can hardly go anywhere these days without coming across a lawn sign denouncing Bill 64 and with all manner of innovation - some simple; others complex. The signs which now dot every single street like

a partisan campaign sign for votes is so overwhelming that one wonders if the government did consult with stakeholders before churning out a bill that is so detestable

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Folklorama

• August 6 - 8 2021

- The Importance Of Keeping Culture Alive



The Caraballo band in 1975

As Folklorama restarts this of Manitoba” August, after ending its running streak due to the Coronavirus pandemic that necessitated a cancellation of last year’s event, the annual festival actually relaunches with a new format this year. Like most other world events affected by the prevailing times, this year’s festival, which the organizers have christened “One Multi-Cultural Fusion Event” will be held online between August 6th - 8th and broadcast from the Burton Cumming’s Theatre. According to the Folklorama website, cultural performances have been grouped by continents of the world. Beginning August 6th, performances will showcase African and Asian cultures, and migrate to the Americas on August 7th before rounding off with European themed cultural performances on the 8th of August. Arrangements have also been made to stream these performances live on YouTube. You can see a complete schedule online on the organizer’s website. For a festival that began timidly, in 1970, the annual Folklorama festival has indeed come a long way. Even the organizers never saw that coming. it had no spine and no future at inception but went on to become the world’s longest-running multicultural festival (CIOFF). The Folklorama festival was started, in 1970, “as a Centennial Folk Festival sponsored jointly by the City of Winnipeg and the Folk Arts Council

and was to be a one-time event marking Manitoba’s 100 years, by bringing various cultures together to colour the event. Since then, immigrants who reside here in the city of Winnipeg come together, yearly, to put up displays showcasing their mastery of cultures where they emigrated from and better appreciate the diversity that is Canada, or, in this case, Manitoba. The two-week event, which usually takes place in August, provides festival goers with various colorful options as they sample both cuisine and arts in addition to being entertained by exotic dance forms from the participating countries. It has since grown to an annual festival with the longest-running streak - 50. The organizers say over 40 pavilions are set up each year with an average of 400,000 visits. Last year’s festival which should have been the 51st edition was cancelled and replaced by a community scavenger hunt. That was the first time in 50 years that festival goers were denied the opportunity to comingle in a festival setting - the same fate befell other notable Manitoba festivals like the Dauphin Countryfest and the Ukrainian Dance Festival. According to news monitored on the CBC, the executive director in charge of the festival, Teresa Cotroneo, blamed the current pandemic for taking this year’s event online with

a promise to return to the usual format by next year. The board was already looking at July 31st to August 13th, for next year’s event, and one hopes the pandemic would have become a thing of the past with normalcy taking root again. Meanwhile, the organizers have made sure to leave no stone unturned in their quest to entertain a growing number of festival goers who are becoming restive. Ms. Cotroneo, in a news release, said that they are “thrilled to be able to deliver a unique Folklorama experience to festival goers.” Folklorama is usually scheduled for two weeks in August every year to celebrate the cultural and ethnic heritage of all immigrants. As contained in the organizer’s vision statement, the idea is to promote “the ethno-cultural diversity of Manitoba through entertainment and public celebrations of culture and education.” The festival contributes to the city’s economy, each year, as the number of tourists who grace the performances continue to increase.



The Main Express band in 1978

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Richard Elendu is an advocate for racial equality and social change in the community.

Congratulations to the Canadian team currently at the Tokyo Olympic games – among them many of our brothers and sisters - doing us proud by showcasing their skills; some of them winning medals also. They have now joined a long list of black people who through generations have shown that they are talented just like anybody on the planet.

A people are the sum total of their actions. As black or African peoples, what actions do we take on a daily basis to improve our lot? It is true that we all have to work but going to work alone will not make the white, Asian, or East Indian see you as an equal. I don't mean that you don't best them in the office, of course you do but lack the results to show for it. Black people are so loosely connected that other races can see. A prominent east Indian entrepreneur once told me, when I was gearing up for this project, that it wasn't going to work because African people are not united like them and even if they start now, can never catch up with them. I'll keep his name secret. We all need to up our game. We need to forgive, help, and appreciate each other going forward. True, we may never catch up with the east Indian, but we have nothing to lose by trying.

Brandon seems to have the spotlight in this issue, don't ask me "why?" Prairie African is

Our Mission

supposed to feature stories of black, African, and people of colour prominently across the prairies, first, and then the rest of Canada and the world. This is our own. In Brandon, we scored another first - the election of the first black city councillor to the board of the city council, in addition to the first black also elected to the school board trusteeship in the same city. Are things beginning to change over there? Why not hear from the horse's mouth on page 5?

Bill 64 should be the most popular bill out there today. What is it all about and why are people denouncing it? Some say the timing is very suspicious. We asked some experts for their opinion on page 7.

Folklorama is here again, thank God, we have something to look forward to in terms of socials and festivals unlike last year when it was cancelled outrightly. Where will you be partying? See page 2.

In light of the shattering news of discoveries of unmarked graves near sites of Indian Residential Schools, we tried to trace their history, at least in Manitoba. We know the victims but who are the real culprits? Page 8

Why is Frederick Douglass still an enigma

even in death? I know he led by example by teaching black people what they need to know. What do you know? Brother man, know thy roots. Page 6

And in sports, Cameroon's Francis Ngannou looks set to defend his UFC heavyweight belt, or is he? The forces that be in the organization seem to be pulling all the strings. See page 11

"In case you missed it" (below), is where we present various successful African and Black people who continue to do us proud in spite of the discrimination they face. Remember, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good (people) do nothing" (Edmund Burke). There must be something new that we can do to dissuade racists amongst us. Racism is not a fight that one person can fight alone. I need you and you need me. We need each other. Let's push each another.

Finally, my gratitude goes to the many Black and African entrepreneurs and philanthropists who continue to show their support for what we do. As usual, it is with much pleasure and pain that I salute your courage. Africans (Blacks) are a great people, and great people communicate in proverbs: "Even as the archer loves the arrow that flies, so too he loves the bow that remains in his hands." We salute you.

richardelendu@prairieafrican.com.

In case you missed it



Sunday Frangi became the first black city councillor to be elected to the board of the Brandon city council in, possibly, over a century. Mr Frangi achieved this feat in May's by-election by defeating all other contestants for Ward 5 councillorship position. He had served as a volunteer for his party and was campaign manager for the Liberal candidate in Brandon East. Frangi graduated from University of Manitoba and hails from South Sudan.



Mohammed Ahmed is a rising star in Canadian and world athletics. Mospeed, as the Somali-born athlete is called, moved to Canada at the age of 11 and has since represented Canada at the World Championships where he won Bronze in the 5000m, Silver (5000m & 10000m), at the Commonwealth Games in 2018, and Gold at the Pan Am Games in 2015. Ahmed is one of Canada's medal hopefuls at the Tokyo Olympics. He's 30.



Long before the Civil Rights Movement was born, and even before Morris, Greene, Pinnock and co thought of writing The Porter, Lee Williams fought for the right to work at the railway company. He was one of the first sleeping-car porters who looked after passengers in the 1930s and 40s. Williams fought CN Rail and his union for fair treatment and better wages culminating in an end to unfair practices by 1964.



Nigerian-born Tito Daodu is a Pediatric Surgeon at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. Tito is the first black woman pediatric surgeon practising in Canada (APSA). She attended University of Manitoba medical school and completed her residency and fellowship in Calgary. She co-developed a project in Tanzania focused on adolescent gender and reproductive health and researched childhood pneumonia in Nigeria.



North York, Ontario-born sprinter, Khamica Bingham, is one of the athletes representing Canada at the Tokyo Olympics. The former Canadian national-level gymnast has won medals for Canada at the Pan American Games, Commonwealth Games and the World Championships. Bingham won silver in the 4x100 m relay, in 2019, at the Pan American Games in Lima, and bronze in the same event at the 2015 games in Toronto. She's only 27



Paediatrician and community leader, Dr. June James, was the first Black woman admitted to the University of Manitoba School of Medicine. She also served as president of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba (2003-2004) and the Manitoba Allergy Society, as well as chairperson of the Allergy and Immunology Section of the Manitoba Medical Association. She is a member of the Order of Manitoba (2004).



Calistus Ekenna is, arguably, the first black person to be elected to the Brandon School Division Trustee board. An addiction co-ordinator for Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services, Calistus holds a masters in Social Works from the University of Manitoba and believes that "Good decisions are made when diverse voices that reflect the various communities within our city are represented at the decision-making table."



London, Ontario-born Abimbola Ajomale is a Canadian sprinter of Nigerian parentage. The California-based athlete won bronze in the 4x100m event, at the 2016 Olympics, in Rio de Janeiro, and is part of Canada's 4x100 meters relay team, at this year's Tokyo Olympics, which includes Jerome Blake, Gavin Smellie, and Andre de Grasse. He has also participated in the World Junior Championships. The Academy of Art University student is 25.



Barbadian-born Keith Sandiford who specialises in social history of the 19th and 20th centuries is an avowed Historian and Professor emeritus at the University of Manitoba where he taught for over 30 years. One of the pioneers of the historical sociology of sports, Sandiford chaired the Teaching Advisory Committee from 1986 to 1993, and received the Gold Crown of Merit from the Government of Barbados in 2004.

Community Centres Bring Immigrants Together.

- Sunday Frangi

The name Sunday Frangi will be remembered for a very long time to come, particularly in the city of Brandon and Manitoba at large. Mr. Frangi made history, in May, as one of the ten ward councillors to seat with the mayor in their deliberations on how to make Brandon city better. We should also add that the newly elected Ward 5 council man is, probably, the first black person ever elected to serve as city councillor in the entire history of the city, at least, as far as records can show (CBC). Mr. Frangi, a healthcare worker, defeated Gordon McRae, at the just concluded by-election to fill in for former council man, John LoRegio, who stepped down on health grounds, after serving for over 7 years. McRae, a sales associate, had lost the opportunity to represent Ward 5, in 2018, to Mr. LoRegio, in his first attempt, and May's by-election afforded him another opportunity to step up as councillor representing Meadows - Waverly but the Sudanese immigrant thwarted that chance. He, himself, having lost the chance to represent the Brandon West riding, in 2019, to the PC candidate, Reg Helwer. Councillor Sunday Frangi who flew the Liberal flag then was very grateful to the people of Meadows - Waverly who voted "strategically" for him. The Sudanese-born politician joins Mayor Rick Chrest on the board of the Brandon City Council, and we, at Prairie African, say congratulations to Mr. Sunday Frangi for achieving this great feat. Check out the full interview we conducted with the groundbreaking councillor on our website prairieafrican.com. Below, are excerpts of that interview.

Once again, thank you for accepting to come on our platform, Prairie African. We identify with you as, arguably, the first black person to be voted into the Brandon City Council for, possibly over a century now. For the benefit of our readers, can you please introduce yourself sir?

My name is Sunday Frangi. I'm originally from Sudan, I grew up in Sudan. I came to Canada about 17 years ago seeking

new life, and I lived mostly in Winnipeg. Brandon is my home now, I moved to Brandon about three years ago. Getting elected to city council was not my first involvement in Canadian politics. In 2019, I was a campaign manager for the Liberal candidate in Brandon East, and later ran as candidate for Brandon West under the Liberal party. Also, during my time at the University of Manitoba, I served as a volunteer for the Liberal party in the local branch. I started as a volunteer, then became a full party member, and, down the road, I decided to run.

What does it mean to you to be a councillor of the Brandon City Council, being an immigrant and a black man?

To be honest with you, it means more than one can imagine, coming from an underrepresented immigrant community and taking a seat at the decision-making table in the council, here in the city of Brandon, in a time when inclusivity is much needed to reflect the needs of our community. So, it really means a lot to me to be elected the first black councillor at this time.

Has it affected your life in anyway since you became a public figure?

Yes, my life has changed in that I see myself becoming a role model to many aspiring young immigrants out there. I see myself becoming a voice to many voiceless community members out there. Yes, this change has affected my life positively.

Have you had any regret since you joined City Hall?

Not really, I have no regrets at all, only that I got elected during the covid-19 lockdown and as a result have been working from home. Apart from that, no, I have no regrets whatsoever. I'm looking forward to serving our people, not only in Meadows-Waverly but the entire city of Brandon.

You mean you have been working from home since your election?

Yes, everything has been virtual since my election. In fact, my swearing-in was done virtually. It was just last week that we met in-person for the first time, and I claimed my seat in the council chamber. I got to meet with some councillors as



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well. We couldn't celebrate because of the pandemic.

That doesn't sound interesting at all, and that means only a limited amount of people can participate.

That's right.

And, we Africans, we like to support one another especially when we're succeeding like this, we like to come together, but the covid situation has not made that possible.

That's right. We couldn't celebrate. We couldn't do anything. Only two or three of

my friends were allowed to come around.

Oh my God. I can understand how you feel about that. Let's say you only put the celebration forward, hopefully we can celebrate when normalcy returns.

Things are beginning to look good now. Yes, hopefully.

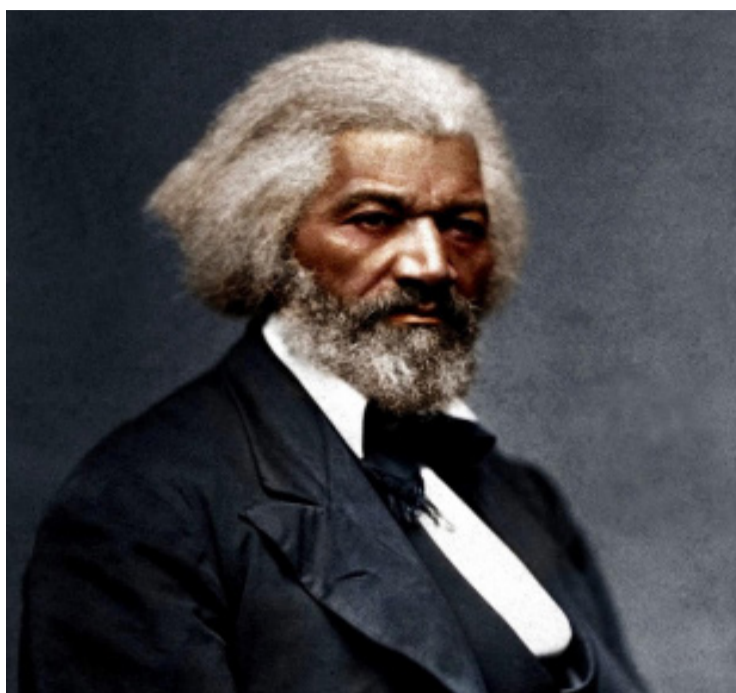
What will give you the greatest joy going into the council chamber? You know you're going to be in the minority when you guys meet.

I look forward to getting to know the rest of the councillors better. Meeting in-



Sunday Frangi

Frederick Douglass = Racial Equality



of leadership within the Black community, sacrifice for the cause of emancipating the Black man, and his approach to the whole issue of slavery and segregation, Douglass is the man. After escaping from slavery in Maryland (a 24 hour "walk" to freedom), Douglass became a national leader of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and in New York. He believed in racial equality, and unlike other activists, did not sideline the

women in his fight, and was also quick to mend fences with former slave owners as long as they crossed over to the other side. Douglass was quoted as saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong." He believed in forging alliances even with the enemy as long as they could reason in dialogue. A self-educated Douglass would go on to teach other slaves, in secret, because he believed that, "knowledge is the pathway from slavery to freedom." He wrote several books including three autobiographies, gave several speeches,

and established The North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper. His autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave (1845), received positive reviews, and circulated all over the US, and was translated into other European languages. He also authored My Bondage and My Freedom (1855) and followed that up with Life and Times of Frederick Douglass (1881). Following the Civil War, Douglass remained an active campaigner against slavery. However, the US Supreme Court decision on Scott v. Sanford (1857) in which the Supreme Court held that Dred Scott who had found himself, by providence, in the free state of Wisconsin after his owner, Sanford, had taken him there, was still a property of his owner angered abolitionists, and led Douglass to make a prophetic declaration that, "**This very attempt to blot out forever the hopes of an enslaved people may be one necessary link in the chain of events preparatory to the complete overthrow of the whole slave system.**" And four years later, the North and South would go to war, leading Abraham Lincoln to proclaim the Emancipation Act, in 1863, declaring all slaves in the South free. Douglass will go round the north canvassing for Black men to be enlisted to fight on the Union side. He even had his two sons join the 54th Infantry division,

an all-black division that fought on the Union side during the American civil war. Douglass also actively supported women's suffrage, and held several public offices.

Douglass was a firm believer in the equality of all peoples, be they white, black, female, Native American, or Chinese immigrants.

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Of all the stories of Black people in slavery and segregation, the story of Frederick Douglass, the first African-American nominated for Vice President of the United States (Equal Rights Party), an Intellectual, Abolitionist, Speaker, Writer, Journalist, Teacher, Social Reformer, and Statesman, is the most captivating for a number of reasons. Yes, there are other prominent Blacks like W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Carter G. Woodson, Malcom X, Martin Luther King senior and junior, and Sojourner Truth, but in terms

Sunday Frangi

person will help me relate better with each and everyone of my colleagues. It will allow me more space to address the issues facing the people that I represent in a broader perspective. Meeting virtually has its ups and downs, so, I really look forward to things getting back to normal. **What are your plans for the residents of Ward 5 which you represent?**

My plans, as a councillor for Ward 5, is to use my voice to defend the interest of the thousands of people that I represent. And also, being the voice, I intend to defend the interest of community-based organizations. I'm talking about immigrant communities that are based here in Brandon. I'll give you an example, during our first in-person meeting the issue of demolishing Park community center was tabled before the councillors. I used my voice to help abort that plan to demolish it because a community centre benefits immigrants. It is so important to immigrant communities. Community centres bring immigrants together. When it comes to celebrating our cultural diversity, these community centres help immigrants and I'm glad that my colleagues voted 8 out of 10 in favour of rehabilitating the community centre.

Was this community centre in Ward 5? No, it wasn't even in my ward. It was in Ward 1, but I have to support it regardless of what area of the city it is in because I know the importance of having community centres.

That is good. That means you're already firing on all cylinders then.

I mean you've started working very hard already. You're not just looking at your ward now. Instead, you're taking interest in matters that affect immigrants and you're speaking up and letting them know how it affects you as an immigrant as well. We really encourage that of our representatives.

Yes.

Having said that, do you have any plans to deal with racial inequalities in our province? If so, can you share them with us?

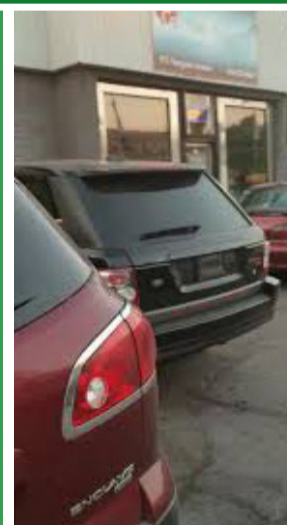
Yes. It is a very challenging problem. Racial inequality is the biggest challenge in our province, and it has been supported by many decades of failure to address it adequately. We are at cross roads today, therefore, to address racial inequality, mistakes of the past must be admitted and as well must be acknowledged. People have to really dialogue presently without prejudice. About a year ago when the issue of George Floyd arose in the US, for the first time, here in Brandon, people came out to support the protests against systemic racism. I was one of the speakers at both rallies organized by the Black Lives Matter, here in Brandon; that's my background. I am vocal against racial injustice. A lot of people ask me "Sunday, now that you've been elected to the city council is that the end of your voice being heard? I said no this will strengthen my voice even more. This is a very sensitive issue that needs to be addressed. Some people say it's a thing of the past; but that's not true. It's something

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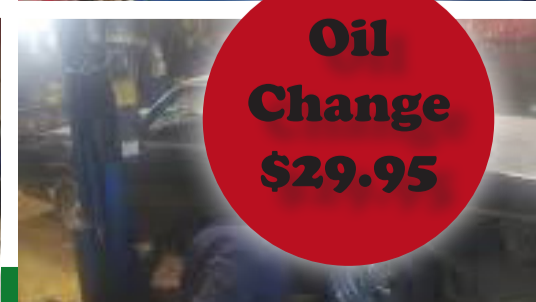
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Bill 64

are all opposed to it and suspicious of government's intentions at the same time. How do people band together, even across partisan lines, to denounce a government bill that promises to move our educational system forward, far beyond the dark recesses of where it currently sits? What is contained in the 16-part document that it elicits so much hue and cry to the extent that it has now assumed a personality of its own? Like I said earlier, if one didn't look carefully enough, there's the tendency to think that Bill 64 was a candidate standing for a federal or provincial election. That is how widely publicized the bill has become, albeit, negatively so. But let's look at the facts on ground regarding this polarizing bill: 1. Bill 64 is set to replace the The Public Schools Act, The Education Administration Act and The Community Schools Act. 2. The restructuring of the current 36 English school divisions into 15 regions. 3. The French Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine (DSFM) will remain as a separate board. 4. The possible sack of elected trustees in the other 36 school boards since it proposes to merge them into one single board to be run by the Provincial Education Authority (PEA). 5. The introduction of the School Community Council to be made up of parents and guardians to work with the school administrator in regards to the welfare of the school and its students; and many more. Having enumerated the above proposed changes to Manitoba's education system, one would think that a bill that saves the government so much money, in terms of administrative costs, might be a good thing but the concomitant effect of that restructuring might lie in the fact that some may lose their jobs or positions, for example, the current school board trustees who are likely to remain in their positions for another year. Since there is a provision in the bill for an executive comprised of parents and guardians, we might see some of them return but in another capacity. Mr. Calistus, a social worker who doubles as a school board trustee in the Brandon School Division argues that, "most community members do not really know what the bill entails because of the copious nature of the bill" and says the government is seeking to have total control over education, a form of "power grab." Also, a councillor in the city council of Brandon, Mr. Sunday Frangi, thinks that the bill is no good and advises Africans and all black immigrants to stand against it. He says "it will negatively affect immigrant people's lives." When



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asked to explain how, Mr Frangi said that "having a school board does help immigrant communities and as such immigrants should resist the bill, especially as it plans to eliminate the role of school board trustees. Even though the provincial government has since launched a website to try to clarify the imperatives of the bill and, by so doing, clear "misconceptions" arising there from, it does seem that the initial reaction to the bill has overshadowed the government's best efforts. Meanwhile, the government, through its education minister, claims the wide opposition to the bill is "politically motivated" (CTV News). Whatever the case, it is clear that the provincial government needs to do more in terms of carrying the people along, especially in matters that affect children. In another development, the discovery of a total of 966 unmarked graves of residential school victims on the grounds of former residential schools in Saskatchewan and British Columbia have continued to generate interest with the Manitoba government pledging \$2.5 million towards the search for unmarked residential school graves within the province (Canadian press).



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On Residential Schools

From 1831 when the Mohawk Indian Residential School, in Brantford, Ontario, opened its doors to 1997 when the Marieval Indian Residential School, in Saskatchewan, closed its doors is exactly one hundred and sixty-six years. In that time frame, it is believed that over 150,000 Indigenous children were admitted in those schools, against their free will, and recent events have shown that a great proportion of that number were likely abused either sexually or physically, not forgetting the emotional abuse they continue to face. It is hard to pinpoint the exact number of students who attended those schools against their will and even more difficult to count the number of those who lost their lives as a result of physical or sexual abuse. It is against this backdrop that the shattering discoveries of unmarked graves, belonging to Indigenous children becomes worrisome, especially as those graves have been located within the precincts of the schools, the latest being 751, on the grounds of the Marieval Indian Residential School, the last Indian Residential School to close its doors in modern times. Earlier, 215 unmarked graves were discovered at another school site belonging to a mission-operated Indian Residential School, in British Columbia, prompting the Manitoba government to pledged \$2.5 million towards the search for unmarked residential school graves in the province. Officially, there were 139 residential schools operating in the area now known as Canada (this is different from the schools operated in the United States) but unofficially, the number seems to be far more than that given that many were day schools, and some were clandestinely operated. Of this number, Manitoba had 14 residential schools. Here, we take a look at the 14 residential schools that were operated in Manitoba (including dates opened and closed), their locations, and the organizations that operated them.

Assiniboia Residential School, located on Academy Road, in Winnipeg, was opened in 1958 and closed in 1973 (a period of 15 years) and was operated by the Roman Catholic Church.

Birtle Residential School, located in Birtle, was opened in 1888 and closed in 1970 (82 years) and was operated by the

Presbyterian Church, and later, the United Church.

Brandon Residential School, located in Brandon, was opened in 1895 and closed in 1972 (77 years) and was operated by three organizations at different times: the Methodist Church, the United Church, and the Roman Catholic.

Churchill Residential School, located in Churchill, opened in 1964 and closed in 1973 (9 years) and was operated by the Canadian government.

Cross Lake Residential School, located in Norway House, Cross Lake was opened in 1912 and closed in 1969 (57 years) and was operated by the Roman Catholic Church, the Indian and Eskimo Welfare Commission, and the government at various times.

Elkhorn Residential School, located in Elkhorn, opened in 1889 and closed 1949 (60 years) and was operated by the Anglican Church.

You will recall that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission cast doubt as to the correct number of fatal victims of the Indian Residential School system as shady records have now confirmed.

(sources include the CBC and NCTR)



"Comrades-in-arms"

Surging ahead every now and then
Blazing your exploits is the common man
Your Don-Quixotic maneuvers
Have all been learned

Leaving our shores you've resurrected
The very words of our great legend
To fight and run away
So you can fight another day

Amandla! The masses echo
Those who listen say it's apartheid
But now, distortions
Nameless.

Surely, you've not deserted us
You have gone ahead to prepare
And on your coming tis true
We shall cry *uhuru*

Arise! Great compatriots
Hold your heads aloft
Even in the thick of battles
In a cleft stick you surged on.

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Sunday Frangi

that still exist till this day. In this country, unfortunately, you get profiled based on the colour of your skin, your religion and where you come from. Many of us have experienced that in one way or another. So, we have to acknowledge the mistakes of the past. We have to be willing to talk openly that it does exist, and it has to stop. **What advice will you give to the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau in bettering the lives of Canadians, especially immigrants?**

The Liberal government of Justin Trudeau has been trying to do the best they can for Canadians. But we need more from the government in terms of providing more resources for immigrants to be able to succeed, whether in business or any aspect of community building. More resources need to be made available to immigrants, especially, African and Black immigrants. When you look round the country today you see lots of communities have benefitted from Canada's resources, but you see the percentage of Black and African immigrants benefitting is very low. So we need this government to do more. We need this government to allocate more resources to black and African immigrants.

With your election as a city councillor, do you think black immigrants have now been accepted in Canadian politics?

Let me be honest with you Richard, I'll say not yet. Remember, we are working

hard and trying harder to fit into a system that was never meant for us. We must continue to do the best we can to get involved. Yes, change is coming to Brandon. A lot of people here in Brandon are open to change because they are tired of seeing the same faces every year. But also, change comes with a lot of work. We have to get involved and work hard to be accepted by the rest of Canadians in politics. So, getting elected to city council does not encourage me that people's values have changed. No, it has not changed. There's still more to do because I live here, and I can tell a lot of people are skeptical about putting someone like me into the city council. Recently, we worked hard to elect one of our own into the school board of trustees for the first time. He is probably the first black to be so elected.

How do you hope to tackle substance abuse which seems to be ravaging your city?

The reason I talk about substance abuse a lot is because I see the downtown as the face of every city. But when you drive through downtown Brandon, to have a coffee or to grab a bite, it is like a ghost town. Less fortunate community members involved in substance abuse dot the horizon, and it is widely agreed that substance abuse is the leading cause of crimes everywhere. In Brandon, it is an issue that requires the collaboration of all three levels of government, and it

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Music Is The Food Of The Soul

- Bobby Hobson

Bobby J, as he's generally called, has been into music for over five decades now. If there is someone who knows a thing or two about music, Bobby is arguably the right one. Born Robert James Hobson, in Aruba, about 70 years ago, Bobby moved to St. Kitts where he had his primary education at St. Kitts Nevis Grammar School. "By choice, I dropped out of school because I was more interested in playing music and never had time for my homework." Bobby said he was so encapsulated in music that he did neglect his schoolwork a lot to go watch a neighborhood band play, and, one day, the drummer let him play the drums after rehearsals and even taught him a few beats and "that was, basically, how my drumming career started," he said. Bobby ended up failing his GCE but would go on to play music full time joining his first band at 16. "I remember, Cromwell Bowry, an elder in the community, invited me to sing at a community event, I performed there and became an instant sensation on the island." Bobby said he then joined The Bertie Brothers Band, in 1967, playing the percussion and conga drums. He also played the drums and sang for The Group

Impressions between 1968-69; the name was later changed to the G.I. Brass in 1971. According to Bobby, the group would later merge with Ellie Matt to become Ellie Matt & the G.I. Brass, in 1972, and he remained with the band touring the island of St. Kitts and other islands in the Caribbean, spending most of the time in the US Virgin Islands until 1974 when he moved to Canada. "When I got back from touring, in 1973, my immigration papers arrived just when the band (Ellie Matt & the G.I. Brass) was getting popular." Bobby would arrive the shores of Canada, in April 1974, with his talent. "I got into my first band, here in Winnipeg, shortly after I arrived. It was called the Bridge band - they named it after the bridge at BDI on Jubilee. I got hired as a drummer, within months of my arrival, and we



Bobby Hobson

played at the St. Charles hotel which was a local hangout for musicians." It was there that Bobby said he met Mickey who played guitar with the Caraballo band. "He liked my performance on drums and invited me to join their band in the summer of 1975. That was where Bobby would thrive as a musician becoming, first, the lead singer for the band, and when the drummer left, he became both the drummer and the lead singer. The Caraballo band, one of the most popular bands in the 70's, played reggae, calypso, funk, soul, pop and top 40 music. Their popularity and demand for their stage performances gave them the opportunity to be booked for 51 weeks out of the year, only taking a break for Christmas. Some

of the venues we performed at include, the Grant Hotel, MontCalm Hotel on Pembina, Curtis Hotel, down Henderson Highway, Assiniboine Hotel, on west Portage Ave, Airliner Hotel on Ellice Ave and many other venues in the city." The Caraballo later changed its name to the Main Express band and Bobby said he remained the front man as the band also had some showing in town. "We played at two pavilions in Folklorama - the Afro-Caribbean and the Trinidadian pavilions until I strained my vocal cords. I had to go through speech therapy at the St. Boniface Hospital." I also remember, my sister made me a nice little stage outfit when I was to perform on the CKY TV station's weekly and local talent

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CODE 7



Coffee or Tea?

- Meet the proprietors of Diaspora Cafe

Coffee or tea? That was the question my parents popped whenever a visiting neighbour or relative came by our house back home in Africa. This was long before I came to know the words inflation and market. I came from a middle-class family, and we always had the finest of coffee and tea at home - I sometimes experimented by adding both. Brands like Horlicks and Nescafe or Lipton and Tetley are still fresh on my mind and sometimes when I came back from school, and it was raining, I helped myself to a cup of *coftea* - if there was such a word - but I mean one of my numerous experiments as a child growing up. My siblings can recall almost all my experiments and they sometimes taunt me by telling my children some of them. I literally tried everything - trust me - I made my own chocolates and lattes by freezing powdered milk and Milo or Bournvita in our high freezer. I made sure to put them away, out of reach of my mom, who was want to go to the refrigerator at any time. Funny enough, she never saw any of my fridge experiments - she heard of them but never found one; I guess I must've been very discreet. Long before I came to know Nestea, I had made my own iced tea by pouring water into

was so nostalgic, it quickly reminded me of home - clean, middle-classy type environment with the attendant art that reminds you of the tropics. I immediately fell in love and wanted to know how Keisha and Jason achieved this urban

in the middle of the pandemic. "Initially, the idea came out of nowhere," continues Jason, "Keisha and I both love coffee very much. We often frequented coffee shops and cafes for years on end (laughs)." The couple narrated how they

Diaspora Cafe - how wonderful. On how they were able to come up with the finances for the cafe, the couple said "when we started looking at financing, we got some pushbacks from the banks" who told them that a cafe was an unpredictable business. Finally, they were able to secure financing and Keisha stumbled on their current location, on Marion Street, which used to be an ice cream shop; and the rest is history. It took them about six months from conception to setup, from Spring 2020 to early Winter of the same year. On the name and how it came about, the couple said the name "Diaspora" came up as encompassing African people and the whole diaspora - whether it be Caribbean, American, African, or Black Canadian - the idea is to provide an umbrella for all black people to



coftea melting pot they call Diaspora Cafe. They have a wide *varietaea* (no pun intended) of coffee and, of course, tea to choose from - the spiced mocha, milo frappe, cocoa tea, hibiscus tea lemonade, lattes, cappuccinos, drip coffee, french presses, & pour-overs made exclusively from a Diaspora Blend. They also have some patties to go with it. Curious as to how an immigrant couple from the Caribbean discovered a cool spot in the heart of St. Boniface to situate a cafe, I decided to engage Keisha and Jason to share their dream with me. "It all began with an idea" they said, "a simple idea"

discovered Negash coffee, in Niverville, an African coffee roaster and supplier, and came up with the idea. They said they were "actually wishing" they could "go to a place, have a latte or cappuccino but also have some Jamaican patties or samosas or some Caribbean desert to go with it." If only wishes were horses. "If you go to Starbucks or go to all these other places, they don't have that right?" Jason asked rhetorically. So, Keisha and Jason became magicians, they somehow turned their wishes into horses and ran with their vision - a conversation that started in a coffee shop continuing in

unite and have a space that they can go to. "Our space is open to all people, but we want Black people to feel at home when they come here. We don't just have an inviting atmosphere for Black people but the actual businesses that we work with - our coffee comes from Ethiopia, Negash coffee, our rum cakes are from K&S Grill, our mini-Jamaican patties from Pretty Baked, another Barbadian enterprise here in Canada. You can really see that we're in sync with other black-owned businesses and we follow all health and safety guidelines." Diaspora Cafe is open 7 days a week.



Will Francis Ngannou Be Allowed To Defend His UFC Belt?



Reigning UFC heavyweight champion of the world, Cameroonian Francis Ngannou looks set to take on the world's best and stake a claim to the pound for pound title, stuff that legends are made of. Ngannou, a rising star in the UFC, is believed to be the future of the organization. The Cameroonian only became a mixed martial artist a little over 7 years ago and made his UFC debut about 2 years later, after a harrowing ordeal from Batié, Cameroon to France. The current UFC heavyweight champion who hitch-hiked his way to Paris, France spent two months in a Spanish jail (for illegally crossing the border) and had to sleep in the gym in Paris, an upgrade of the Parisian streets which he converted to his home for a period. The Batié-born Cameroonian knocked out his opponent in his first fight in the UFC octagon and since then has become a household name in the organization and among the fans. Ngannou who has since defeated the likes of Alistair Overeem, Curtis Blaydes, Andrei Arlovski, Cain Velasquez, Junior dos Santos, Jairzinho Rozenstruik, Anthony Hamilton, Bojan Mihajlović, and Stipe Miocic, all via finishes, had gone back home with gym equipment to negotiate for a property where he intended to set up a

gym to enable young Cameroonians actualize their dreams when the UFC announced an interim title bout between his former team mate, Ciryrl Gane (another rising star) and Derrick Lewis. Ngannou's team had questioned the rationale of arranging such a fight when the current UFC heavyweight champion is arguably the most active among all heavyweights on the organization's roster. Among his accomplishments include 7 knockout of the year awards and 6 performance of the night awards. Ngannou who was looking towards a fight against the legendary Jon Jones, who recently moved up to heavyweight vacating his light-heavyweight title in the process, appears to have gotten the short end of the stick, his team had argued. No other UFC champion (whether active or retired) had been treated that way, they claimed. This was the first time two fighters (champion to champion) had agreed to square up in the octagon and the UFC was attempting to pull the plug off it. Ngannou called his proposed fight with Jon Jones "the real deal" and Jones, himself, perhaps, the most decorated fighter in UFC history, and number one (numero uno) pound-for-pound on the list has been training hard to deliver an experience which he promises to be unforgettable (Heavy.com). The former light-heavyweight champion has been training for 17 months now and has put all other possible match ups on hold. The fans are also rooting for this megafight match up, but the UFC is still grappling with the fighters' purse. For Ngannou, such a match up should produce a favourable pay day and he is not alone in his thinking. Ngannou had questioned, just after the Logan Paul and Mayweather fight, the amount that professional fighters were being paid compared to exhibition fighters and had asked, "what are we doing wrong?" Bones, on his part, has continued to demand a better pay to fight The Predator, and this could be the singular reason why the fight has not been announced, leaving the UFC in a precarious state. Since then, it appears many more fighters have waded into the pay issue, some even threatening to abandon the organization. Since the breakdown in negotiations between the Jones team - Jones even hired a professional negotiator in the person of Richard Schaefer - the UFC had toyed with the idea of matching their new champion with Derek Lewis, a less glamorous encounter, and even suggested Houston as the venue for the event (MMA News). One thing is sure, fight fans would not be looking forward to seeing that fight, any day, given the nature and outcome of the first encounter between the two. It was a drab affair, to say the least. Even though the Black Beast handed Ngannou his last loss, via decision, there was really less activity (by both fighters) during that fight, and fight

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Players from the Brandon Renegades Cricket Team jubilate after a successful outing last season.

Manitoba Cricketers Consolidate On The Gains Of Last Season.

You would not expect growth in the middle of a pandemic, but that was exactly what happened to Manitoba Cricket last season. The league grew from 36 teams, in 2019, to 41 teams in 2020. In fact, eight teams were added to the Manitoba Cricket league last season, both in the youth and adult divisions. Matches had to be scheduled closer and in a compact format to accommodate for the number of games that had to be played. The cricket traffic at the parks grew in leaps and bounds, probably because many active people wanted to get outside again. The Assiniboine Park saw a record 12 matches being played on a given weekend, doubling the normal 6 that was played before the pandemic hit. The city of Gimli got a new Cricket pitch too, and new clubs sprang up all around the province of Manitoba,

bringing with them a positive attitude, love and passion, recipes for a good cricket season. The Cricket association had to think outside the box, and make some spur-of-the-moment decisions to accomodate the growth. "Issues like, do we exclude the new teams because of the pandemic or ride along with the waves became a constant vacillating point. Thankfully, we decided for the latter, which is a good thing for the sport of Cricket," says Ray Ramrattan, president of Cosmos Cricket Club. But despite the uncertainty of a disruption to the 2020 season, occasioned by the then never-ending novel-coronavirus pandemic, it was decided that the season be a one-off season, that is, a special season for a stand alone championship. The decision meant that no teams would be relegated or promoted based on the league

standings, rather all teams will be playing for the glory of the game. They had to reduce the Premier Division from 50-overs to 30-overs, the Division One from 45-overs to 30-overs, and the Division Two from 40-overs to 25-overs, all in a bid to accommodate all who turned out to play. This abridged version of the league helped to complete the season in record time. Though there were disruptions, like when the Brandon teams had to forfeit their games after an initial health scare in the Prarie Mountain Health Region. However, one of the surprises of the league, last year, was a Premier Division game which ended in a tie, a very rare occurence in the game of Cricket. The compact schedule and shortened format of the game must have contributed to this as all games were highly competitive. Two games had to be played on each pitch everyday from June - August, after the province had reeled out guidelines for a return to play. Meanwhile,

for the first time in 8 years, a new team was crowned champions in Manitoba - Sher E Maples Cricket Club of Winnipeg emerged winners of the 30-overs Premier Division, overtaking Cosmos Cricket Club who have been at the top of the division for seven consecutive years. Also, new clubs like the Brandon Renegades Cricket Club, formed in 2019, now have two teams in Division 2. This typifies growth in the game of cricket in Manitoba, exemplifying the love and passion Cricketers bring to the game. In an interview with the president of the Cosmos Cricket Club, Mr. Ramrattan says cricket can be used to stamp out racism and ethnic bigotry in the province, since players come from all over the continents of the world and are from varied backgrounds. Manitoba Cricket has existed for 8 years now, and has organized the league every season.

Contributions from Ray Ramrattan and Naman Patel.

Canadian Player Profile



Atiba Hutchinson

Age:	38
Club:	Besiktas
Number:	13
Position:	D. Midfielder
Height:	1.87m (6ft 2)
Birthplace:	Brampton ON
Youth Clubs	
Brampton Braves	
North Scarborough SC	
Senior Career	
York Region Shooters	2002
Toronto Lynx	2002/3
Öster	2003/4
Helsingborg	2004-6
Copenhagen	2006-10
PSV	2010-13
Beşiktaş	2013-21
National Team	
Canada U20	2001-2003
Canada U23	2002-2004
Canada Men	2003-Pres