

2016-17 Annual Report



Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (CAAC) operating as
Africa Centre



Early Learning program, Summer Camp 2016

The Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta (CAAC), operating as Africa Centre, welcomes African immigrants and refugees whether newcomers or long-settled residents of Edmonton, to a Pan-African setting unlike any other.

There they will find:

- ✿ Programs that empower participants of all ages to integrate successfully into this country they now call home
- ✿ Growing capacity-building support for the city's African cultural communities.
- ✿ Cultural and intercultural events to celebrate the vitality of Edmonton's African communities
- ✿ Many committed volunteers who give generously of their precious time to support Edmonton's African community.

THIS YEAR

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COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN ALBERTA

Vision

An African Centre that serves as the hub of the community, provides an atmosphere that is welcoming, shows respect for diversity, and supports members of all interests and abilities.

Mission

This organization strives to create opportunities for full access and participation of members of the African community in all aspects of society including economic, social, cultural and educational endeavours and contributes to the holistic development and wellness of the African individual, family and community.

Motto

A Community Engaged. A Community Unified.

Values

The Council is committed to diversity, accessibility and social justice. All policies, rules and regulations respect people of all races, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status and ability. As an organization and individuals, we value:

- ✿ **Integrity & Honesty:** We practise honest, ethical behaviours in all transactions
- ✿ **Openness and Respectfulness:** We believe that all people should be treated with consideration and dignity
- ✿ **Responsiveness:** We strive to be accessible, flexible, and transparent and to demonstrate a sense of urgency in all our resolves and decision-making processes.
- ✿ **Accountability:** We are committed to donors, funders, members, partners and employees for commitments, results, quality and responsible use of funds.
- ✿ **Team work:** We are committed to effective partnerships between volunteers and staff members, and we also seek opportunities to form alliances with others. Together we make every effort to achieve continual improvement as an organization, and personal renewal, constructive self-criticism, self-improvement and personal excellence as individuals.
- ✿ **Responsibility:** We have an obligation to call upon each other if an individual chooses not to follow our values.

2016-2020 Strategic and Business Plans

At the end of 2014-15, the Board of Directors finalized the first phase of its strategic plan. Acknowledging the need to evolve, yet to define its fundamental goals more clearly, it established four pillars that will serve as focal points to orient programs, events and services in a manner that will distinguish them from what appear to be similar activities in other city organizations. Each pillar supports its own goals.

Advancement and Empowerment

Goal One: Deliver a youth leadership program aimed at fostering the core values of leadership and citizenship: community participation, leadership, political participation, self-reflection and empowerment.

Goal Two: Develop and implement a comprehensive program to support the advancement and empowerment of African Canadians of all ages (youth, adults, etc.). It will focus on mentorship that is aimed at employment, intercultural competence and building business and community connections.

Goal Three: Deliver a series of programs to support early learning and academic advancement in children and youth as means to enhance their chances of success in school and in life.

Cultural Identity

Goal One: Expand program offerings to include ones that promote cultural exploration, belonging and pride for children, youth and families. This includes efforts to examine what African culture and identity is and provide opportunities on a regular and ongoing basis to express that identity.

Goal Two: Celebrate the unique and diverse African heritage through a series of festivals/events that engage the African community and Edmontonians alike.

Goal Three: Advocate and promote the inclusion of African history in our education system's social studies curriculum.

Integration

Goal One: Influence and improve the “settlement system,” process, experience and outcomes for African Canadians through the development of partnerships to support a richer, deeper and broader integration, as well as the development of intercultural competence.

Goal Two: Promote political and civic engagement amongst African Canadians.

Goal Three: Support immigrants and refugees in the settlement process through the creation of a formalized referral system. This goal is about intentionally leveraging the assets in our community to the benefit of our community.

Engagement and Unification

Goal One: Strengthen the entire African community by working with community/cultural associations to develop and achieve their own goals.

Goal Two: Utilize relevant communication tools and regular two-way communication, support community engagement and celebrate successes.

Message from the Chair



John Gaye

As Chairman of the Africa Centre Board, it is my privilege to present the Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Annual Report. I am humbled and honored to work alongside a group of dedicated Board members, volunteers and staff to serve the interest of the Africa community in Edmonton through the programs and services we provide.

At the Africa Centre, we strive to be the hub of the African community in Edmonton by delivering culturally appropriate programs and services that are aligned to our overarching goals which are: Advancement and Empowerment; Identity; Integration and Engagement and Unification.

No year is without its challenges, and this one certainly had its share. Relocating to a new location after almost 10 years at the Wellington Site where all our programs were housed under one roof impacted our operations and the clients we serve. Nonetheless, we have been through difficult times before and, have learned the importance of remaining disciplined and focused on our ensuring philosophy. We remain absolutely committed to delivering on our mandate.

Despite challenges experienced during the year, we have made tremendous progress in many areas. In our effort to make the Africa Centre a Pan African organization, we have enshrined in our new Bylaws the status of Voting Member for each African Community organization. This is in recognition of the distinct role that African Community organizations play to serve the unique and diverse needs of our people here in Edmonton.

We are grateful to the City of Edmonton for the strategic partnership which has enabled us to keep our doors open to provide programs and services to the Africa community and other emerging communities in Edmonton. I would like to use this platform to express our thanks and appreciation to our funders, partners, and friends for their support and collaboration. As we continue to seek opportunities for the empowerment of the African community, we look forward to working more closely with our funders and partners to accomplish this goal.



John T. Gaye
Board Chair

Message from the Executive Director

2016-17 has been another successful year and an extraordinary one at that! There has been increasing demand for programs, a big move and two new youth programs (mentorship and employment). African community leaders called on us to offer more support for our youth and we are thrilled that some of our funders responded. The mentorship program will be recruiting professionals and community leaders to act as mentors for young adults in the coming year, so spread the word!

Program attendance was virtually the same as in 2015-16 with the community accessing programs and events over 11,000 times during both years. What's remarkable about this similarity is that programs were closed for three months this year because of the move.



Tesfaye Ayalew



Employee Artwork in Early Learning classroom

We want to thank our employees, volunteers, patrons, funders, partners, performers, caterers, exhibitors, stakeholders and everyone else who help make all of this possible.

In the coming year, we are looking forward to learning more about the unique issues facing each of the city's different African cultural communities, their organizations, leaders, and most important of all, the people they serve. Join us for an exciting year in 2017-18!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tesfaye'.

Tesfaye Ayalew
Executive Director

2016-17 Board of Directors

Chair	2016	Beatrice Ghattuba
	2017	John Gaye
Secretary		Edith Sam
Treasurer		Ireen Changamire
Director		Barnabas Kiliwa
Director		Bukola Oladunni
Director		Hassan Mohammed
Director		Idowu Ohioze Salami
Director		Ismail Osman Hachi
Director		Jean-Louis Zopke
Director		Nermin Allam

Full-, Part-time & Casual Employees at March 31 2017

Executive Director		Tesfaye Ayalew
Administrative Assistant		Eve Uwamahoro
Senior Program Manager		Diane Conway
Accountant/Book-keeper:		Proscovia Nabafu
Rotary Early Learning/Family Programs Manager		Juliette Auger
Mentorship Co-ordinator & WrapED Supervisor		Dunia Nur*
WrapED Facilitators		Léonce Rushubirwa, Emmanuel Onah*
Boost Program Co-ordinator & Facilitator		Funke Smith,* Blen Kusmu*
TheComeUp Co-ordinator		Belen Samuel
Seniors' Co-ordinator		Steller Lokonga
Early Learning Assistants	Andrea-Lee Fowles*	Angel Rushubirwa*
Beyene Muluembet	Bronica Deng	Genet Tiruneh
Hannah Tekleab	Irene Mwangi	Kelemua Kassahun*
Ruqia Towfiq	Sandra Johanson	Violet Mrema

* New Employees in 2016-17

Languages spoken by one or more employees at March 31 2017

Amharic	Arabic & Sudanese Arabic	Cidrinia
French	Hausa	Ibo
Igbo	Kikuyu	Kinyarwanda
Kissi	Luganda	Lugisu
Lugwere	Ogoni	Rukiga
Runyankole	Rutooro	Somali
Sudanese	Swahili & Kiswahili	Tigrinia
	Turkish	

2016-17 Africa Centre Partners & Partnership Representatives

BGCBigs' Africa Centre OST Site Co-ordinator: Rita Rwigamba

City of Edmonton Multicultural Relations Liaison: Tim O'Donnell

Sage Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton

WrapED partners

- Africa Centre (wraparound service delivery)
- Edmonton Police Service (partnership support)
- Edmonton John Howard Society (wraparound service delivery)
- Native Counselling Services of Alberta (wraparound service delivery)
- REACH Edmonton (partnership co-ordination)
- YOU CAN Youth Services (wraparound service delivery)

Program Statistics

Program Participant Attendance	2016-17
Program name	Total
Early Learning Program	1,393
Early Learning Summer Camp	959
Women's Active Healthy Living (WAHL)*	643
Out of School Time (OST)	2,043
OST Summer Camp	1,891
TheComeUp	216
Boost: Pathways to Success	299
Mentorship*	*
WrapED* Average Active Caseload = 16	*
Cooking & Learning Together	32
Conversational English	150
Seniors Program at Africa Centre	389
Subtotal	8,015
Events	3,182
Grand Total	11,186

This table presents a summary of attendance figures, i.e., number of individuals multiplied by the number of days they attended the program since the beginning of the fiscal year. Statistics for attendance show the intensity of program activity over a given month. Statistics for program names marked with an asterisk are calculated a little differently than the others.

WAHL figures include participants *and* their children in drop-in.

Mentorship and WrapED program activities are different than most other programs where attendance figures can be captured, they are not included in attendance figures. Due to extensive mentor and mentee recruitment needs as well as mentor training requirements, matching mentors to mentees began only in March 2017.

Mentorship statistics will be available in the 2017-18 program year.

Two WrapED Facilitators each carry a caseload of eight youth over a period of 18 months. In 2016-17, approximately 65 % of the 16 youth the Centre's Facilitators work with were of African origin.

Events included:

Youth Conversation Café final (Apr)
 Fort McMurray Wildfire Benefit (May)
 Africa Day Gala (June)
 All-Africa Games (July)
 Dr. Catherine Odora Hoppers' Talk (July)
 Curriculum Review (Oct)
 Active/Healthy Living Conference (Nov)
 Bylaw Meeting (Dec)
 Melanin Narratives II (Mar)

Programs 2016-17

Early Learning and Preschool



Storytime under the proverbial African tree

The program saw more changes in 2016-17 than it has probably seen since it started. There were four main focal points. Firstly, in April, Africa Centre started limiting participation to once a week to accommodate a very large increase in demand. The program was still offered twice weekly, but space was made available for all the new registrations.

Secondly, the program began offering all new children a developmental assessment on the day they registered. The tool used is called the ASQ and by going through the assessment with a staff member and their child, parents found that they

had a better understanding of the purpose of the program and how they could assist their children to reach developmental goals. The Centre plans to continue with the ASQ in whatever forms the Early Learning program takes as it continues to evolve.

Thirdly, because of the increase in demand, summer camp hours were changed. The six-hour camp was turned into two 3-hour camps and a whole different group of children came in for the afternoon. Because they came for fewer hours, children were more focused and less tired so they actually made more progress than they did in the longer program.

Finally, CAAC's move to St Francis Centre in was an ideal time to regroup and consider getting a child care license. Intense work in the first three months of 2017 led to a preschool license dated April 1.



Police visit during Preschool Summer Camp

ACOST Out of School Time & Summer Camp 2016

In addition to the after school program at the Centre's main site, Africa Centre is now partnered with BGCBiggs to offer a similar program on the city's south side in the Duggan Community Centre on 37 Avenue & 105 st. Tuesdays are specifically set aside for "African activities."

One hundred fifty children registered in ACOST's six-week summer camp (125 in 2015) with an average of 79 children participating each day (average 88 in 2015).

Among the visitors were the Edmonton Police Service, Edmonton Fire and Rescue Services, and Science FUNDamentals. The *Smart Choices: Problem Gambling Program* based at ASSIST Community Services Centre also brought in professional actors who put on a play that dealt with issues of problem gambling and addiction in age appropriate ways. Field trips included Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch and the Devonian Botanical Gardens. Nine of the older campers even took home a handheld "Raspberry" computer after spending two days at Intuit, a large, local software company learning basic coding techniques.



When asked what they enjoyed the most about the camp, field trips and gym/sports were mentioned most frequently but making friends and one or another academic topic were also mentioned repeatedly.

One youth tended to be ostracised by the rest of the boys. Staff working with him decided to put him in charge of tasks such as handing out snacks or explaining the rules of games. Giving him this opportunity built his confidence and eventually he was able to make some friends. This taught the young adult staff that there are subtle ways to tease out an individual child's strengths which, with enough staff support, can ultimately be recognized by other youth as well.

TheComeUp

(formerly YEG or Youth Empowerment Group)

After non-stop projects, programs and coming together regularly for three years, Africa Centre's Youth Empowerment Group (YEG) reviewed its accomplishments and established strategies to move forward. This led to the:

- Development of YEG Terms of Reference
- Creation of taskforces that oversee the efforts of thematic YEG groups
- Creation of specific positions for YEG Members
- Development of a 2017 workplan

The Terms of Reference changed YEG's name to *TheComeUp* (TCU) and articulated the role of an executive team and of each of its members. TCU's work is now focused on two themes, community development and community activities.

In the *Community Development stream*, an Education Taskforce articulates community-based strategies to change Alberta's education system from within, to truly represent the provinces' peoples, histories and developments. Growing out of the group's engagement meetings with the Edmonton Police Service in 2015 and 2016, a Justice Taskforce has also been formed to serve as a voice for African and Caribbean youth to address injustice and barriers faced with local police.

In the *Community Activity stream*, TheComeUp has been exploring several opportunities. The most well-known one was *Melanin Narratives II*. TCU Members had noticed that most films advocating for justice for black people deal with the African-American experience. Furthermore, there is a lack of documentation of such injustices as they continue to be experienced in Canada, especially in Alberta. As a result, they created a community-based, community-driven and community-focused documentary which was screened at *Melanin Narratives II* in March. Held at the ATB Arts Barn, the event attracted over 400 people and was a tremendous success.



An admirer at the event's Art Exhibit

WrapED (Wraparound Edmonton)

WrapED's national evaluation team offered a Community Report Back event May 3 that was attended by nearly 120 people. They presented two short videos demonstrating the impact the initiative is having on youth at risk and the organizations who serve them.

"The first video tells the story of how WrapED has helped one youth turn her life around and step away from violence and crime. The teen featured in the video, who has chosen the pseudonym Paige, says the initiative has given her the tools to take control of her own life and reach her full potential.

"WrapED is a program that helps youth who want to be helped. it's opened up so many opportunities for me," said Paige. "It pushed me to succeed." Before becoming involved in WrapED, Paige spent nine months in Edmonton's Young Offenders Centre for a number of charges, some of them violent.

Today, she is finishing school and is working towards her goal of becoming a registered nurse, and spends some of her spare time volunteering with junior high girls, sharing her experiences and urging them to make positive choices. "I definitely did not think that I would be doing this, even six, seven months ago," she said.



The following are key messages from *WrapED Community Report Back* (2016 evaluation).

What does the relationship between youth and their WrapED Facilitator look like?

- Youth have a solid relationship with their Facilitator.
- Focus is on building youth resilience as a way to support positive change.

What successes are starting to happen for youth?

- Youth identify goals with their Facilitator. Some show progress while others do not.
- Some talk about a goal but do not go further, while others make concrete plans (e.g., considering an addictions program versus achieving sobriety).
- Youth have better insight into what a "healthy friend" means and
- They also have more insight into the impact their own "unhealthy friendships" are having on their ability to succeed
- Letting go of "unhealthy friendships" however, is a process that is tentative and fragile.

What do we still need to understand better?

- Why some youth are able to commit to positive changes, while others struggle
- What else would help youth succeed.
- How to support youth through education and employment as well as overcoming addictions and ending criminal behaviours.

Source: *WrapED videos show positive impact of wraparound services in the lives of youth.* Retrieved 2017 09 30

<https://www.reachnews.ca/public/WrapED-videos-show-positive-impact-of-wraparound-services-in-the-lives-of-youth>

Seniors Program @ Africa Centre (SP@C)

Socialization in the seniors' drop-in program has been very important to participants. Some had reported feeling depressed, lost, or isolated prior to their starting with the program. As in so many families with live-in seniors, their son or daughter and grandchildren are often away in school, work or busy lives. English is also a barrier to communication with their grandchildren. Some seniors even expressed anxiety about leaving the house.

"I have more friends now."

"My friends meet me at Starbucks for coffee."

A new partnership with SAGE (Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton) brought a Multicultural Outreach Seniors program to the Centre. A Social Worker helps seniors to access resources and professionals they did not know were available and to communicate their needs more clearly to them. So far, assistance with health, housing and transportation issues are among the services provided. With the availability of both the drop-in and the outreach support, the seniors' words speak for themselves.

"I take better care of myself."

"I can write my name now."

"I can walk better with the use of my new walker."

"I am more relaxed."

"it has improved my life by boosting me mentally and moral."

"I am happier and healthier."

"I learnt many things to improve my life."

"The social interaction helped me to know more about Edmonton."

"It boosts my morale."

"It help me not to feel lonely or strange."

"I get to go from the house more."

Literacy

Since most seniors that come to the weekly drop-in do not speak English, Africa Centre introduced Conversational English classes to welcome seniors from other cultures and who speak other languages. Existing drop-in participants quickly became very committed, attending every single week. In addition, the size of the group almost doubled. In their first 10-week session, they learned greetings in English but wanted much more. Later in the year, Africa Centre managed to host a second ten-week session that catered specifically to what participants were asking for: to learn the alphabet and to write their names. Unfortunately, the classes are only available in 10-week sessions so efforts continue to be made to find money to make that possible. Their preference would be to have the classes every week all year, preferably twice a week or more.

New Programs

Youth Mentorship

With financial support from the City's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) program and the Stollery Charitable Foundation, TheComeUp's dream of a program matching African 12-17 year-old adolescent mentees with African young adult mentors is finally seeing the light of day. With a half-time employee to market the program, screen applications, interview them and mentees' families, train mentors, match them all up in mentor-mentee pairs, and work with a Council of African Wisdom Keepers, progress was a little slower than anticipated. By the end of March though, there were five matched mentorship pairs and 15 more volunteers waiting for training and/or matches with a mentee. . As new funds become available, a second component will involve African and Caribbean young adults undergoing leadership training and acquiring professional, occupational, leadership and/or cultural mentors to support them as they tackle a leadership project of their own choosing.

Boost: Youth Employment

With support from Service Canada's Skills Link grant, a new employment program for youth "at risk" began in February 2017. In the employment sector, immigrant and refugee youth are considered at risk for lower than average employment outcomes, hence the need for extra support. Africa Centre's first cohort (group of youth) admitted eight young men and four young women aged 19-30 years old of African and Caribbean heritage. Over the course of the subsequent five months, the program provides 10 weeks of classroom training followed by 12 weeks' paid work experience.

More news came in late 2016, when Service Canada agreed to support a 26-week employment pilot project for 12 adolescent and young adult youth at risk. Starting in February, participants began 10 weeks of classroom training followed by 12 weeks of work experience. At year's end, the Centre was eagerly waiting for news about its request for 3-year funding to continue the program after the pilot ends in August 2017.



Events 2016-17

Fort McMurray Benefit



Entertainment at Wildfire Benefit for Fort McMurray residents.

Saturday May 14, the Centre held *African Canadians for Fort Mac*, a benefit to raise funds for residents fleeing the wildfires. About 100 came to show their support and \$5,000 was raised to send to the Canadian Red Cross' Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Wild-fire Recovery campaign.

Gala 2016

Held in its glittering ballroom overlooking the North Saskatchewan River, the 2016 Africa Day Gala attracted over 500 to the Shaw Conference Centre on June 18. Dawit Isaac acted as the keynote speaker and live performances included sax, drumming, spoken word poetry, song and dance. Henri Lemire, the retiring Superintendent of the region's Francophone school Board, was accorded the *African Parents' Award* for his long-standing support for Edmonton's Franco-African community.



CENTRE for GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION and RESEARCH
&
AFRICA CENTRE
present

DR. CATHERINE ODORA HOPPERS

South African Research Chair in Development Education
Fellow: African Academy of Sciences (AAS)
Chair: African Academy of Science Advisory Council
Honorary Doctorate in Philosophy (Orebro University, Sweden)
Honorary Doctorate in Education (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa)
Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Honour (Uganda)
Received the Nelson Mandela Distinguished Africanist Award
Awarded "Woman of the Year" by UNISA



Indigenous knowledge systems, identity and the African diaspora: Towards cultural and cognitive justice

Wednesday, 20 July 2016 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Africa Centre, 13160 – 127 St, Edmonton, T5J 1B2

Contact Thashika Pillay cgcer@ualberta.ca



All-Africa Games 2016



Sweet Victory!

In a round-off with South Africa, South Sudan emerged as Champion in the 9th annual All Africa Games, while Ghana took 3rd place. Held July 1st and 2nd at the M. E. Lazerte and Londonderry Sports Fields, the Games included a Ladies net ball event and 6 children's teams, U8, U10 & U12 from the Ethiopian, Zambian, and Eritrean communities. Particularly appreciated were a few community lead-

ers who were highly instrumental in ensuring compliance with tournament regulations.

2016-17 Soccer Tournament Results

No.	Competing teams		Winner
1	Ghana	Liberia	Ghana
2	South Africa	Nigeria	South Africa
3	South Sudan	Cameroon	South Sudan
4	Uganda	DR. Congo	DR. Congo
5	Namibia	Zimbabwe	Namibia
6	Kenya	Eritrea	Eritrea
7	Ghana	Nigeria	Ghana
8	South Africa	Liberia	Draw!
9	South Sudan	DR. Congo	South Sudan
10	Uganda	Cameroon	Cameroon
11	Namibia	Eritrea	Namibia
12	Zimbabwe	Kenya	Zimbabwe
13	Ghana	South Africa	South Africa
14	Liberia	Nigeria	Liberia
15	Uganda	South Sudan	South Sudan
16	Cameroon	DR. Congo	DR. Congo
17	Namibia	Kenya	Namibia
18	Eritrea	Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe
Quarter final (Saturday July 2)			
19	South Sudan	Cameroon	South Sudan
20	Ghana	Zimbabwe	Ghana
21	Namibia	Liberia	Namibia
22	South Africa	DR. Congo	South Africa
Semi final (Saturday July 2)			
23	South Africa	Ghana	South Africa
24	South Sudan	Namibia	South Sudan
25	Namibia	Ghana	Ghana
Final (Saturday July 2)			
26	South Africa	South Sudan	South Sudan

The Move

The City made arrangements for a standard engineering assessment of the Wellington School building to be completed during the 2016 summer months. The assessment report revealed that there was a structural fault under one of the pilings that supports the north end of the building. Although it represented no immediate danger, the City decided to vacate the building to protect facility user safety for all. CAAC moved everything to storage during the first week of December, out of storage to the new Northeast Edmonton space at St. Francis Centre in late January, and reopened programs in early March.

The move to *St Francis Centre* has represented both advantages and disadvantages over the original site. Among the advantages are:



- More attractive building is more welcoming to African community
- Accessibility to transit station & LRT
- Significant local population of African immigrants and refugees
- Excellent suite of nine offices contributing significantly to more effective internal communication, better access to resources, stronger wireless network and access to printers, and especially staff morale and teamwork
- Access to shared spaces: commercial kitchen next to a community hall, several mid-sized meeting rooms and kitchenettes on each floor
- With a school on the same block, the after-school program has collaborated with the school to establish a “walking school bus” for participants from there to St. Francis.

Disadvantages include:

- Loss of “African community hub” envisioned in CAAC’s Vision
- Reduction in program, event, office and storage space (from 27K to 7K sq. ft.)
- Limited program space means reducing the number of program participants, just when demand was beginning to exceed available space at the original larger site.
- Must incur additional costs for new program space (e.g., *Boost*, the new youth employment program is renting its own program and office space in a building in the downtown McCauley neighbourhood).

Until the new multicultural centre opens though, Africa Centre will make it work!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2016-17

Boys and Girls Club Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton and Area	
City of Edmonton	Government of Alberta
ECALA	Government of Canada
Edmonton Community Foundation	REACH Edmonton
Telus	Sage Seniors Association

AFRICA CENTRE CONTACT INFORMATION*

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 64072
11528 107 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5H 4K7

Street Addresses for Main and Satellite locations

Main Site*

106-6770 129 Avenue

St John's Institute Satellite

11024 82 Avenue

Edmonton Intercultural Centre Satellite

9538 107 Avenue

Boost (Youth Employment program) *

11305 95 Street

Duggan Community Centre (After School program)*

5-3724 105 Street

Voice and Electronic Communications

Reception: (780) 455 5423 ext. 200*

Fax: (587) 773-3531*

95 Street site: (780) 471-1027*

E-mail: info@afRICACentre.ca

Webpage: www.afRICACentre.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Africa-Centre/418275331601442>

Twitter: @AfricaCentreYEG

* Additions & changes from last year's contact information are marked with an asterisk

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN ALBERTA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017
AND
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



YAREMCHUK & ANNICCHIARICO LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of **Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta**:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta** which consist of the statement of financial position at March 31, 2017, the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many charitable organizations, the Council derives revenue from donations and fundraising events, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of this revenue was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Council and we were not able to determine whether any adjustment might be necessary to revenue, excess of revenue, assets and net assets.

Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta** as at March 31, 2017, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

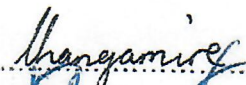

Edmonton, Alberta
June 30, 2017

Yaremchuk & Annicchiarico LLP
Chartered Accountants

**COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN
ALBERTA**
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash	\$232,495	\$251,111
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	33,459	53,620
Prepaid expenses	<u>19,750</u>	<u>8,017</u>
Total current assets	285,704	312,748
EQUIPMENT (Note 4)	<u>16,141</u>	<u>20,055</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$301,845</u>	<u>\$332,803</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 30,187	\$ 54,507
Deferred revenue (Note 5)	<u>248,440</u>	<u>263,333</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>278,627</u>	<u>317,840</u>
LEASE COMMITMENTS (Note 6)		
NET ASSETS:		
Invested in equipment	16,141	20,055
Unrestricted	<u>7,077</u>	<u>(5,092)</u>
Total net assets	<u>23,218</u>	<u>14,963</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$301,845</u>	<u>\$332,803</u>

Approved by the Board:

Director
Director

**COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN
ALBERTA**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

	Invested in <u>Equipment</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	
			<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Balance at beginning of the year	\$20,055	\$ (5,092)	\$14,963	\$ 192,566
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	(4,518)	12,773	8,255	(177,603)
Purchase of equipment	<u>604</u>	<u>(604)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of the year	<u>\$16,141</u>	<u>\$ 7,077</u>	<u>\$23,218</u>	<u>\$ 14,963</u>

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN ALBERTA

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
UNRESTRICTED REVENUE:		
Rental	\$ 50,205	\$ 67,781
Fundraising and other	<u>46,047</u>	<u>29,041</u>
Total unrestricted revenue	<u>96,252</u>	<u>96,822</u>
RESTRICTED REVENUE:		
Grants - Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area Society	11,307	17,000
- City of Edmonton	262,994	252,856
- Community Initiatives Program	40,000	-
- Edmonton Community Foundation	48,884	82,500
- Family and Community Support Services	173,603	68,722
- Government of Canada	34,583	40,522
- Human Rights Education Fund	32,456	12,606
- Reach Edmonton Council	181,317	148,909
- Region 6	55,028	55,028
- Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton	23,865	-
- Service Canada	51,209	-
- Stollery Foundation	7,637	-
- Telus	-	20,000
- Westend Seniors	-	13,287
- Other	2,918	1,000
Casino	<u>69,633</u>	<u>77,287</u>
Total restricted revenue	<u>995,434</u>	<u>789,717</u>
Total revenue	<u>1,091,686</u>	<u>886,539</u>
EXPENSES:		
Advertising	3,690	4,391
Amortization	4,518	5,833
Bad debts (recovered)	27,403	(1,345)
Bank charges and interest	1,419	2,855
Board	5,828	5,953
Fiscal agent fees	9,000	12,000
Insurance	3,742	3,624
Office	24,643	26,526
Moving	11,139	-
Professional fees	13,502	18,954
Program costs	126,363	138,143
Rent and security	142,463	177,729
Repairs and maintenance	31,097	44,085
Salaries and benefits	654,073	604,473
Telephone	8,627	6,157
Travel	<u>15,924</u>	<u>14,764</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,083,431</u>	<u>1,064,142</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE (EXPENSES) FOR THE YEAR	\$ <u>8,255</u>	\$ <u>(177,603)</u>

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN ALBERTA

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash used in operations:		
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	\$ 8,255	\$(177,603)
Item not involving cash for operations - amortization	<u>4,518</u>	<u>5,833</u>
	12,773	(171,770)
Increase (decrease) in non-cash working capital balances related to operations:		
Accounts receivable	20,161	(27,913)
Prepaid expenses.....	(11,733)	(5,000)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities.....	(24,320)	(74,237)
Deferred revenue	<u>(14,893)</u>	<u>(5,479)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities.....	(18,012)	(284,399)
INVESTING ACTIVITY - purchase of equipment	<u>(604)</u>	<u>(576)</u>
DECREASE IN CASH FOR THE YEAR.....	(18,616)	(284,975)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.....	<u>251,111</u>	<u>536,086</u>
CASH AT END OF THE YEAR	\$ <u>232,495</u>	\$ <u>251,111</u>

**COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN
ALBERTA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

1. PURPOSE OF COUNCIL:

The Council's primary purpose is to provide opportunities and enrichment programs for members of the African community. The Council is incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta as a registered charity and is exempt from income taxes.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Significant accounting policies are as follows:

Revenue recognition:

The Council follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Donations are recorded as revenue when received. Amounts received from grants and donations which must be expended for specific purposes are recognized as revenue to the extent of the related expenses incurred.

Equipment:

Equipment is stated at cost. Amortization is provided using the declining balance method at the following annual rates:

Computer	30%
Office and furniture.....	20%

Donation of services:

The work of the Council is dependent on the voluntary service of many individuals. Since these services are not normally purchased by the Council and because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, donated services are not recognized in these financial statements.

Financial instruments:

The Council initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value.

The Council subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost.

**COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN
ALBERTA**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued):

Financial instruments (continued):

The Council's financial instruments measured at amortized cost consists of cash, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in net income. Any previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount of impairment recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in the excess of revenue over expenses.

Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents consist of balances with banks and short-term investments that can be converted readily to cash.

Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. These estimates are reviewed annually and adjustments are made to excess of revenue as appropriate in the year they become known.

3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE:

Accounts receivable is comprised of:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Accounts receivable.....	\$33,459	\$60,531
Less - allowance for doubtful accounts.....	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,911)</u>
	<u>\$33,459</u>	<u>\$53,620</u>

COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN ALBERTA

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

4. EQUIPMENT:

The major categories of equipment and related accumulated amortization are as follows:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	
			<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Computer	\$10,073	\$ 6,578	\$ 3,495	\$ 4,993
Office and furniture	<u>25,769</u>	<u>13,123</u>	<u>12,646</u>	<u>15,062</u>
	<u>\$35,842</u>	<u>\$19,701</u>	<u>\$16,141</u>	<u>\$20,055</u>

5. DEFERRED REVENUE:

Details of deferred revenue are as follows:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General	\$ 59,700	\$ -
Casino	<u>15,523</u>	85,156
City of Edmonton	-	20,793
Community Initiatives Program	-	40,000
East Kootenay	<u>3,143</u>	-
Edmonton Arts Council	<u>10,000</u>	-
Edmonton Community Foundation	<u>20,000</u>	-
Family and Community Support Services	<u>39,398</u>	-
Human Rights Education Fund	-	32,395
Kalham	<u>1,500</u>	-
National Black Coalition	<u>2,002</u>	-
Reach Edmonton Council	<u>38,258</u>	84,989
Service Canada	<u>13,170</u>	-
Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton Area	<u>3,444</u>	-
Stollery Foundation	<u>42,302</u>	-
	<u>\$248,440</u>	<u>\$263,333</u>

6. LEASE COMMITMENTS:

- a) The Council is committed to the rental of office premises under a lease agreement which expires December, 2022. The minimum rent payable is \$5,997 per month.
- b) The Council is committed to the rental of office premises under a lease agreement which expires January, 2018. The minimum rent payable is \$2,000 per month.
- c) The Council is committed to the rental of office premises under a lease agreement which expires August, 2019. The minimum rent payable is \$1 per annum plus the council's proportionate share of common area costs of \$1,835 per month.

**COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AFRICAN CANADIANS IN
ALBERTA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS:

The Council is exposed to risk on certain financial instruments as follows:

Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Council is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of its accounts payable and accrued liabilities.