

Leadership

*“Leadership should be born out of the understanding of the needs of those who would be affected by it.
~Marian Anderson.”*

Returning Board of Directors 2014 – 2015

Dalon Taylor	Interim President
J.R. Dash	Treasurer
Yvette Leander	Secretary
Nakia Lee-Foon	Board Member

Non Returning Board of Directors

Veronica Paquette	Board Member
Suzanne Craig	Board Member
Lillie Johnson	Board Member

New Candidates to Board of Directors 2014 – 2015

LeRoy Evans
Lanre Timothy Tunji-Ajavi
Ngozi Faith Iroanyah
Dwight Townsend
Donna Alexander
Dr. Christopher Morgan

Thank you to Fellow Community Organizations

*“If we cross the river together, the alligators won’t bother us”
~ African Proverb*

The Black Health Alliance would like to thank our fellow community organizations that shared a cooperative spirit and worked alongside us throughout the year.

We look forward to the coming year filled with challenges and opportunities. We are confident that working in partnership we will advance the health and well-being of the Black community.



Black Health Alliance 2013-2014 Annual Report: Looking Ahead



Working in Partnership to Advance the Health and Well-Being of the Black Community



People from the diverse Black communities in Canada experience optimal health and well-being.



To reduce the racial disparities in health outcomes and promote health and well-being for people from the diverse Black communities in Canada with emphasis on the broad determinants of health, including racism.

Greetings From the Board of Directors

This past year the Black Health Alliance (BHA) engaged in a few new initiatives such as the Board led Walk Good Walk-A-Thon, the BHA Member Organization and Community Survey (BHA Survey) and of course the Inaugural Black Health Alliance Awards.

The 2014, provincial election provided an opportunity to revise the Black Health Alliance *Excellence in Health Care for All* and the associated *State of Health Fact Sheet* as we strived to remind the public and health policy makers of the needed changes to better address health disparities and inequities. Looking forward, this will be an ongoing effort by BHA along with our community partners to ensure any proposed changes to our health care system do not weaken but enhance our capacity to effectively serve the Black community.

Further, the Board recognizes that the strength of the Alliance is directly related to our capacity to build and sustain strong communication and collaboration amongst our members. We will continue the BHA Survey which will help identify and direct focus on key areas from which consensus and engagement can emerge. In addition, you can expect a new revitalized and energized BHA website and social media presence that will support our communication and engagement efforts.

We look forward to the future with excitement and optimism. We welcome your ideas, passion and service as we remain committed to:

Working in Partnership to Advance the Health and Well-Being of the Black Community

Financial Well Being

Summarized Financial Statement as of March 31, 2014
Balance Sheet (Unaudited)

ASSETS	\$ 2014	\$ 2013
Current Assets		
Cash and Bank	183	-
TOTAL ASSETS	183	-
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Bank	-	89
Accounts Payable	-	4
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	93
NET ASSETS - General Fund Balance	183	(93)

Income Statement (Unaudited)

REVENUE	\$ 2014	\$ 2013
Donation	295	-
Fundraising	-	-
Membership	175	575
TOTAL REVENUE	470	575
EXPENSES		
Telephone	162	619
Bank Charges	35	147
TOTAL EXPENSES	197	766
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	273	(191)
Net Assets – at beginning of year	(89)	98
Net Assets – at end of year	184	(93)

The above financial statements were prepared and approved by the Board of Directors. Complete financial statements are available upon request.

The Black Health Alliance is a registered Charitable organization Reg# 81517 5674 RR0001. All Canada Revenue Agency reporting requirements and the issuance of tax receipts have been met.

Community Engagement

Walk Good Fundraiser

BHA Board Members slipped on their running shoes, stretched their legs, and joined nine other community organizations as we walked 5km or 10 km (naturally BHA participants completed the 10km route) as a community organization fundraiser. The Walk Good Fundraiser is organized by the Jamaican Canadian Association. BHA would like to thank all those who pledged in support of the mission and vision of the organization. We look forward to this physically active fundraiser in the years ahead.



Diversity Expo

The Diversity Expo, organized by Planet Africa Group, showcases immigrant and ethnic population participation in corporate, public, private business, education and health sectors. BHA provided important health information to Expo participants.



Community Engagement

First Friday's Health and Fitness Edition 2014

Black Health Alliance board members were among presenters at this annual event which features businesses and organizations with a health and/or fitness focus, including the Toronto 2015 PanAM ParaPan Community Initiatives Group. BHA made participants and audience members aware of health disparities being faced in the Black community. BHA plans to continue participating in this annual event.



5th Annual Black Diabetes Expo

The Black Health Alliance has been a supporter and member of the Advisory Committee for the Black Diabetes Expo since its inception. The Expo is lead by the Caribbean Chapter of the Canadian Diabetes, a BHA member organization. This community expo attracts 600-800 participants each year and addresses the signs and symptoms of diabetes, its complications and treatment, with an emphasis on prevention and healthy lifestyle modifications. BHA promotes the Expo through community media, SHARE magazine and provides a information table display at the event.



Excellence in Health Care for ALL

*When we treat people EQUALLY we ignore differences
When we treat people EQUITABLY we respect differences and
Work to remove barriers to the provision of equitable treatment and care*

In the lead up to the 2011 Ontario elections BHA developed an information toolkit: *Excellence in Health Care for ALL Ontarians; State of Health Fact Sheet; and Repartee with Party Leaders and MPP Candidates*. The toolkit is a resources to help communicate to MPP hopefuls and the community the challenges and solutions to the health crisis being faced by people of African descent in Ontario. Below are excerpts from the toolkit:

Black Canadians (people of African descent) are the third largest visible minority community in Canada. The largest population of which, nearly half a million, live in Ontario comprising close to 20% of all visible minority people in the province.



Black Canadians experience worse health outcomes and are less likely to use services than many other groups. Social factors including poverty, unemployment, racism and discrimination increases the risk of illness and interferes with timely and equitable treatment. As a result, Black Canadians experience a high and disproportionate level of chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, HIV and AIDS, some common cancers, mental health problems and sickle cell disease. These lead to a significant burden on the community and the health and social care budget.

Why do we need an Ontario Health Equity and Black Health Strategy?

An Ontario Health Equity Strategy and Black Health Strategy recognizes the existence of health disparities and seeks to eliminate those disparities through efforts in comprehensive health data collection (with a focus on data that identifies racial factors and issues), and culturally competent health promotion, clinical care, education and training.

Investing in the health of the Black population of Ontario is investing in the economy.

Ontario Vote 2014

In June 2014, Ontarians were asked to return to the polls and elect a provincial government. The Black Health Alliance revised its *Excellence in Health Care for All* toolkit and used it to inform the public and challenge MPP Candidates regarding recommendations towards improving how the Ontario Health Care System addresses growing health disparities and inequities.

National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada Members of the BHA Board of Directors were invited to attend the National Ethnic Press and Media Council of Canada meeting and presentations by the three main party leaders. Unfortunately, only Andrea Horwath, leader of Ontario New Democratic Party participated in the event. Board members also attended their Canada USA dinner with guest Hon. Jean Augustine, PC, CM Ontario's Fairness Commissioner.



First Friday's & BHA Meet the Candidates

Featuring MPP Candidates from the community, like Mitzie Hunter (Liberal) and Nigel Barriffe (NDP) BHA asked questions regarding the collection of racial factors tied to health data collection (OHIP card) and their commitment to the development of an Ontario Health Equity and Black Health Strategy.

