



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022  
2023

# Message from the Board Chair

Last year was a momentous one, marked by growth and expansion. It was a year that echoed back to us the extent to which we have impacted communities in Alberta and how loudly we are being cheered on in the actualization of our mandate to create opportunities for access and full participation of people of African descent within Alberta's communal life.

We proudly accomplished the long-term goal of moving to a new operating space - a service delivery hub that fosters a sense of rootedness. This is the first time we have our name "Africa Centre" on a building and we are grateful for the support we have received from all parts of the community.

We advanced our scope of service delivery, operational processes and governance capacity. I am delighted to state that Africa Centre has extended its services to Calgary and Winnipeg through the Entrepreneurship Empowerment and Enhancing Gender Equity programs. By collaborating with partners who provide training, mentorship and resources to support Black entrepreneurs outside Edmonton, the Black business ecosystem in western Canada is being strengthened. Through capacity-building initiatives and advocacy, we are also addressing issues of the intersectionality of race, gender, religion and social status that prevent women of African descent communities from accessing employment opportunities, leadership roles, education and other social resources that make for a more equitable society that serves us all.

A comprehensive Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Human Resource policy evaluation was carried out. This is the basis for the ongoing implementation of structures to ensure that we maintain universal best practices for non-profit operations and position us for robust and sustainable development.

Our governance capacity during the year also experienced some changes. We gladly welcomed Andrew Owusu, Joseph Luri and Tony Agbonkhese as board members and look forward to harnessing their wealth of knowledge to build upon our achievements. We sadly bade farewell to Sibangukuhle Khumalo and Micheal Lawal. We appreciate their dedication; they are true believers in building strong communities and their contributions are invaluable.

The year ended on a high note with promises mixed with pressure to keep on making progress and we intend to draw from the wellspring of support from all levels of the society.

We acknowledge the contributions from the Government of Canada, Government of Alberta, City of Edmonton, sponsorships, private donations, volunteers, community members, board members and staff.

**Thank you,**

**Kemoh Mansaray**



# Message from the Executive Director

As we emerged from the COVID pandemic last year, Africa Centre worked diligently to strengthen our organization by creating sound policies and expanding our funding sources and programs to match our community's challenges.

As a result, this led to Africa Centre emerging as the largest black organization with a federal mandate to act as the intermediary support system for black-led organizations in western Canada through the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative (SBCCI). The mandate included training entrepreneurs in black communities and supporting non-profits in Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia through capacity-building efforts. In turn, our organization was able to expand our physical presence this year to provide programming and services in Edmonton, Calgary and now Winnipeg.

Additionally, we have seen a consistent influx of youth who are driven toward entrepreneurial development, mental health improvement and civil leadership. Our seniors and other community programs in our organization have also had exponential growth this past year.

Through Africa Centre's expansion, we continued to promote and advocate for the human rights and freedoms of people of African descent year-round, while celebrating the lives, accomplishments and history of Black Albertans and Canadians year-round, while celebrating the lives, accomplishments and history of Black Albertans and Canadians during Black History Month (BHM).

Through our efforts, Africa Centre has embodied the United Nations' International Decade of People of African Descent (2015-2024) through recognition, justice and development. Through our programs, services and community engagement activities, including the annual Africa Day Gala and the annual Soccer Tournament, awareness was created about the declaration that resonated deeply with communities in Alberta. Through a series of thought-provoking and reflective sessions, educational content, and showcasing culture and heritage, channels for diverse groups to get involved in the messages of the declaration were created.

Another remarkable achievement this past year was moving to our new interactive office space in Edmonton which has been enhancing the ways we deliver our services while truly representing the advancement of people of African descent. In July 2023, Africa Centre established an Innovation, Research and Data Hub – INSPIRE (Innovation Solutions for Progress, Impact, and Resilience) aimed at improving the lives of the Black community across western Canada. The lab will focus on creating innovative solutions that address systemic gaps in areas such as housing, economic participation, technology, and social development while allowing us to be responsive to the evolving needs of our community.

As we look back into a year filled with growth and awareness, we appreciate the ongoing support of all levels of government, organizations, donors and community members who remain committed to making Africa Centre a source of inspiration and empowerment that are accessible to Black communities across western Canada.

**Thank you,**

**Sam Juru**



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## Who we are

We are the largest pan African non-profit organization in western Canada, serving as a community hub that provides programs and services from a place of cultural awareness and competency to the families in our diverse community.

We acknowledge the diversity of our cultural background as a source of the strength that brings capacity and competencies to shape a thriving community in Alberta. We have a strong African indigenous cultural foundation incorporated across our programs and services.

### Our Approach

We strive to create opportunities for full access and participation of all Albertans in all aspects of society including economic, social, cultural, and educational endeavours and contribute to the holistic development and wellness of individuals, family, and community.

#### ***We use the following five pillars in carrying out our mission:***

**Cultural Identity:** promoting and maintaining the unique cultural identity of African heritage, intergenerational cultural preservation and a sense of belonging.

**Advancement and Empowerment:** reduce inequality by improving the quality of lives of communities through the empowerment of the diverse demographics and cultural heritages.

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**Integration:** improving the economic and social participation of the African descent population into Canadian society and culture.

**Resource Diversification and Organizational Sustainability:** prioritize the development and integration of a detailed sustainability vision into long-term strategic plan in a way that will create lasting value while creating public trust.

**Leadership:** embedding leadership excellence as a foundational value across all organizational functions through commitment to actively develop leaders and support their growth. We intend to be known for the leaders who work with us and the leaders we empower and send out into the community.





## Our Impact

### Highlights

Released **The State of Black Entrepreneurs in Alberta** - a first of its kind comprehensive report that attempts to capture and contextualize the entrepreneurial experiences of Black Canadians in Alberta.

**20** Seniors Graduated from Digital Skills Training.

**100** Black-focused organizations received a total of **\$4.086 million** towards operational capacity, and governance excellence and fiscal management.

**5558** youth were served through a variety of developmental platforms; music, art sports, and academics.

Several **1000** high school students embraced diversity through participation in arts, music, culture and history.

Counseling clinic served **305** clients in Alberta, mostly in Edmonton and Calgary with over **1083** sessions.

**65** youth secured full time employment through BOOST - Pathways to Success.

### Introducing in 2023



A research, collaboration, and innovation lab aimed at improving the lives of the African decent communities across western Canada. The lab will focus on key areas such as housing, economic participation, technology, and social development to create innovative solutions that address systemic gaps while meeting the evolving needs of the community.

The goal is to co-create solutions that deliver a transformational and sustainable impact by bringing together experts from diverse fields, including policy makers, sector leaders, and end-users.

# Program Updates



## Youth Resilience Building

We believe that the capabilities of youth will shape our future, that is why we continuously nurture their talents and open opportunities for participation.

Our direction in the past year was to equip youth with skills and competencies through recreation, mentorship, professional skills and leadership experiences in a manner that enables them make impact in the society and set them up for a robust development.

### List of Programs

- Mentorship and Leadership
- Out of School Time
- Promoting Alternative Restorative School Supports for Youth (PARSSY)
- Scholarship
- Ujima Fellowship
- YEGTheComeUp

### Out of School Time

The Out of School Time program ensured that there was no learning loss during the summer break while improving the resilience of children and youth and the well-being of families.

This was achieved through a community collaborative approach and a wide variety of activities to promote physical fitness, mental alertness, social connections, learning about cultural, historical facts and current affairs.

Our goal was to ensure that families experienced minimal changes to their schedules by providing stability for children in ways that were engaging and exciting.

### Impact

Social and emotional and physical learning built on trust



## Mentorship and Leadership

2022 saw more collaborations with other programs within Africa Centre and external organizations, thereby increasing channels to get involved and the increase in the total number of youth served; 5558.

### Key partnerships

- Alberta Basketball Association and a speed mentoring opportunity with former NBA players; Carlos Boozer, a two-time NBA All-Star and Marcus Camby, a four-time member of the NBA All-Defensive team.
- Edmonton Ultimate Players Association (EUPA) and Strathcona Wilderness Centre, who introduced our program participants to new sport activities.
- Edmonton Public School and The Melisizwe Brothers on a musical school tour that promoted culture, history and talents during the Black History Month.

We also paired youth with mentors within the community who provided academic guidance that suit individual and family needs.

### Impact

Positive changes, especially in academics were reported by parents through surveys and testimonials. 99% of survey feedback reflected confidence and positive identity.

### What we heard

*My son has a mentor that he looks up to. He gets help with math and school work.*

*Sofia*

# Promoting Alternative Restorative School Supports for Youth (PARSSY)

As our society becomes more diverse, issues of stereotyping and prejudice are becoming prevalent and so are the attendant effects on youth development and adaptation to society. PARSSY met youths right where they were; in high schools, with programs that focus on interaction between diverse backgrounds and techniques to build supportive relationships with youths and social systems while guiding them towards attitudinal change, empathy and self-esteem.

Our programs were integrated into their daily schedule in order to ensure consistency and steer them away from high risk behaviors. We worked closely with Black Students Associations (BSAs), other groups and administrators in high schools to create a sense of ownership, respect and connection.

To maintain a commitment to lasting social change, mental health and resilience building was addressed through referrals to Africa Centre's counseling clinic and other relevant resources to equip youth with coping mechanisms to navigate day-to-day challenges.

## Impact

Over 1000 high school students embraced diversity through participation in arts, music, culture and history.

## What we heard

*I was referred to Africa Centre's counseling clinic where I was able to talk to a counselor and it felt really good.*

Rahwa

**Liyu Makonnen, PARSSY Program Coordinator received a service recognition from Edmonton Public Schools for the work she does with high school youth through Africa Centre's PARSSY.**





## Scholarships

In partnership with Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) and Canadian Western Bank (CWB) a total of \$77,000 was awarded in scholarships to 38 students in higher institutions from Refugee and Emerging Communities in Edmonton.

The Edmonton Refugee & Emerging Community (EREC) scholarship fund was established at Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) to enhance the quality of life for refugees and members of Emerging Communities living in the greater Edmonton area. In this context, **Emerging Community** is defined as a group of people who are immigrants, refugees, or part of a family that includes immigrants or refugees from a particular cultural, national, or ethnic background where a significant number of the members of that community face barriers to full participation in education and employment.

**\$52,000 from ECF was awarded to 22 students. Awards ranged from \$1,000 - \$5,000 per awardee.**

**\$25,000 from CWB was awarded to 16 students. Awards ranged from \$1,000 - \$2,000 per awardee.**

### Impact

Enhanced the quality of life for refugees and members of emerging communities by supporting their educational aspirations.

### What we heard

*“I received the CWB scholarship in 2022. This scholarship has been a tremendous help in easing the burden of my student loan and allowed me to invest in crucial lab kits and textbooks required for my nursing school journey.”*

*Adefunke Omotosho*

# Ujima Fellowship

Ujima Fellowship program's focus last year was to harness the potentials of emerging young leaders of African descent in Edmonton and guide them through the process of navigating structural racism and inequity by creating opportunities for diverse representation within advisory or decision-making entities.

Our approach aimed to enhance emerging leaders' understanding of provincial and federal public policy direction, highlighting contributions of outstanding young talents, while facilitating forums to promote skills development, networking, and high self-esteem.

Our goal was to shape experiences and perspectives through relatable learning experiences from mentors in a manner that builds trust, encourages critical thinking and deep reflections that enrich diversity and community cohesion.

## Impact

- 31 participants completed fundamental leadership training, engaged with the community through volunteering, and participated in the processes of civic decision-making.
- We engaged organizations from across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, and parts of the United States to improve their tool-kit for addressing racism in the workplace with critical cultural considerations. These discussions were pivotal for fostering healthy and enlightening perspectives.
- The program witnessed an expansion as people beyond the initial age restriction of 30 years old indicated interest. The age restriction was thereby extended from 30 to 35 years old, which resulted in a 5% increase in the number of applicants for the 3rd and 4th cohorts.

## What we heard

*"I like that people of my race have stepped up to encourage us on how to connect and grow our community. I also liked the facilitator's explanations on better practices for effective networking which includes the importance of dressing appropriately and preparing our minds to introduce ourselves without being shy or feeling inferior."*

*Program participant [Youth]*





## YEGTheComeUp

Youth are often encouraged to become better, be more active in societal development. What is often not emphasized, is that youth are able to achieve this goal through learning from each other and shared experiences. We find this style of youth-driven learning particularly impactful and long-lasting. Through implementing a youth-focused and community-based framework, Africa Centre's YEG TheComeUp (TCU) aims to provide a learning and development experience that is different from conventional methods. Our methods encourage self governance in a way that sparks creativity, relevance and sustainable growth.

YEG TCU is a program where ideas and talents are nurtured and expressed through arts, music, civic engagement and mindfulness practices in a manner that promotes societal cohesion and leadership development.

**YEG TCU is dedicated to encouraging both personal and community empowerment from within.**

### Impact

**Expanded reach:** introduction of new participants (two-thirds of YEG TCU members are new to the collective). Additionally, the demographics now comprise younger participants (minimum 15 years old) and youth from non-academic backgrounds.

### What we heard

*"The Mindfulness and Meditation Workshop on self care, emotional management, and healthy coping mechanisms for stress, sadness and anxiety, was really great! I look forward to coming out to more stuff like this in the future."*

*Attendee from Mindfulness and Meditation Workshop\*



# Black Business Ecosystem

In our operations at Africa Centre, we have acquired first-hand understanding of peculiar factors that affect the Black business ecosystem, through research findings and anecdotal sources. We further interrogate these factors alongside other key variables and ultimately put forward a standard to measure outcomes that could serve as a springboard for growth.

**Our goal is aimed at a balanced business ecosystem, and to ensure that the potential of entrepreneurs of African descent are harnessed.**

While the general classification “Black Business Ecosystem” is relatable to the larger population, the Black business ecosystem comprises various categories of people and businesses that are in different phases, therefore require varying resources.

**What this means is that there is no one-size-fits-all.**

While some degree of an overarching categorization is necessary to obtain a wide perspective and a starting point of action, a more targeted approach is expedient. That way, opportunities for growth are extended to more people, as businesses access resources that meet specific needs.

## List of Programs

- BOOST - Pathways to Success
- Entrepreneurship Empowerment



## BOOST - Pathways to Success

This is a free initiative that helps youth of African descent between 18 – 30 years old to develop and improve the skills and knowledge to address various social, institutional, and systemic barriers in the pursuit of employment. Upon completion of employability and life skills training, participants are linked with employers who give them opportunities to put their skills to practice, broaden their horizons, make contributions to the economy and be on their way to self-reliance.

**This process ensures that there is a continuous feed of skilled members of the Black community in the economic sector by equipping our youth with the tools that enable them access opportunities for economic growth.**

### Impact

65 participants secured employment. 6 youth have returned to school for further education to enhance their long-term prospects.

### What we heard

*I faced challenges with finding work in Canada's construction industry due to a lack of Canadian work experience. However, through the Boost project's partnerships with private and public sector employers, I was connected with an opportunity in the construction industry that aligned with my expertise.*

*With the project's support and guidance, I secured employment with a construction company.*

*Micheal, an engineering graduate from Eritrea*



## Entrepreneurship Empowerment

Africa Centre in alliance with Pan African Collaboration for Excellence (PACE), University of Alberta released **The State of Black Entrepreneurs in Alberta - a first of its kind comprehensive report that attempts to capture and contextualize the entrepreneurial experiences of Black Canadians in Alberta.**

This study explored the current challenges of Black entrepreneurs in Alberta and how the findings will inform economic opportunities and address entrepreneurial inequities. While a few similar studies have been conducted in the eastern provinces of Canada. No work of this kind has ever been done in Alberta.

Given the limited research on Black entrepreneurship, especially in the context of Alberta, Africa Centre required evidence-based data on which to inform its initiatives. This study was therefore commissioned to fill the knowledge gap that exists in understanding Black entrepreneurship in Alberta.

This project is a starting point towards generating the relevant data and insights that will enable Africa Centre to develop evidence-based strategies for optimizing Black Albertans' entrepreneurial knowledge and skills as it pertains to the Black business ecosystem.

The study highlighted major gaps in training and education required to start and manage a business as well as financial awareness. Entrepreneurs reported lack of availability of credit and or loans as their most common challenge. Entrepreneurs also underscored personal savings as the most common financial resource used to start their businesses.

### Impact

The findings from this research informed our program and service delivery throughout the year. Our initiatives were more insightful and relatable to the communities we serve.

# Community Empowerment

To maintain the standard we set in the previous years, leadership excellence as a fundamental construct was embedded within our service delivery. We encouraged creativity and supported incubation of ideas within our operational methods and opened channels for knowledge and skills transfer with academic institutions and research initiatives as well as establishing a platform to prepare the community we serve for sustainable growth.

We are developing a band of women in leadership within the community and channeling resources through grassroots organizations that address the intersectionality of gender, race, religion, and class which form part of the challenges affecting racialized people and newcomers to Canada who experience difficulties with accessing essential services due to social, cultural, economic educational and language barriers.

## List of Programs

- Community Engagement
- Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative (SBCCI)
- Enhancing Gender Equity



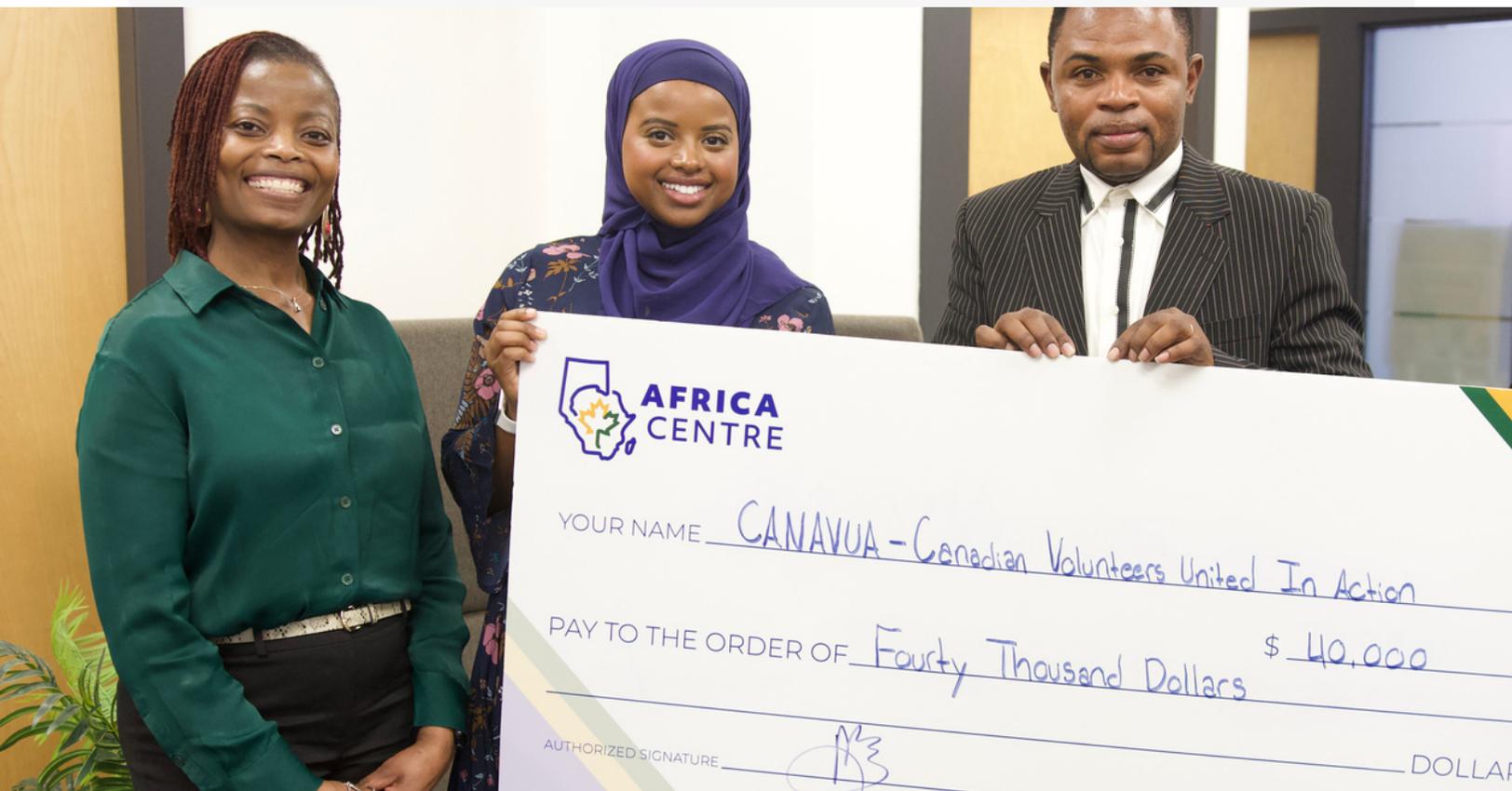
# Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative (SBCCI)

In the second year of our role as an SBCCI intermediary, an additional 100 organizations received a total of \$4.086 million towards operational and governance capacity as well as fiscal management. This brings the total amount disbursed to over \$6 million in two years for a total of 168 projects in the following areas:

- Economic initiatives that address poverty and wealth creation
- Arts and Culture
- Youth Development
- Outreach and Inclusion
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Entrepreneurship Support
- Job creation
- Justice
- Education, Employment and Settlement Service

## Impact

100 Black-led non-profit organizations received a total of \$4.086 million towards operational and governance capacity as well as fiscal management.





## Enhancing Gender Equity

Our Enhancing Gender Equity program, which is relatively new, was created to address the issues of intersectionality of race, gender, religion and social status that prevent women in Africa descent communities from accessing employment opportunities, leadership roles, education and other social resources.

### Our Approach

- Capacity building initiatives | Advocacy | Building coalitions of partnerships to promote women's empowerment | Collaborating with academics in exploring initiatives that address gender issues among women of African descent | Creating support systems that promote women in leadership.
- To integrate the communities which we serve into the society, we kicked off a comprehensive campaign on preventing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in African communities - This project seeks to serve the needs of vulnerable women and girls from a culturally relevant perspective in order to foster a feeling of safety and trust. With the support of community leaders, educators, researchers, faith leaders, frontline workers, mainstream services and individuals with lived experience we are informing the direction of community engagement in a manner that translates to policy insights that resonate with African, Black and Caribbean communities.

**Africa Centre views advancing gender equity and the empowerment of women and girls as a priority. We believe that gender equity plays a key role in building stronger and prosperous communities.**

### Impact

#### We've got women talking!

- More female participation in programs; sharing ideas and lived experiences in focus groups while offering mentorship and guidance to other women.
- Openness to connect to social resources and partner organizations.



## Community Well-being

Community well-being took a more practical approach to addressing issues of isolation, burnout and mental wellness through recreation, learning and intergenerational activities that strengthen bonds.

We embarked on an exploration of Edmonton's beautiful tourist attractions and local gems and made life-long memories. It was particularly heartwarming to see the joy in the faces of our program participants who would otherwise not be able to afford such field trips to galleries, museums, botanical gardens and all the other family-friendly outings and free outdoor experiences.

We also leveraged on our partnership with Alberta Black Therapist Network through our Counseling Clinic on a sensitization campaign to reach out to specific demographics of our community; in groups and in their comfort zones. Our goal was to break cultural stereotypes and stigma and help them embrace the use of professional services for mental health management.

### List of Programs

- Early Learning and Childcare
- Seniors Well-being and Engagement
- Counselling Clinic



## Early Learning and Childcare

In line with our overarching goal of promoting overall community well-being, we put family engagement in action by getting families involved in activities, check-ins and encouraging information sharing through a feedback system to help families strengthen bonds and deepen their understanding of early childhood learning.

With increased parental involvement in activities in the facility and on field trips, children were happier, better regulated and adapted, consequently improving the experience for families.

**We maintained a stable number of enrolment, a high standards of service delivery and our educators received professional training relevant to the Canadian childcare system.**

### Impact

Well adapted children and happy families.

### What we heard

*“When we relocated to the north side, I was concerned about finding a suitable daycare for my child. However, my worries quickly dissipated after discovering Africa Centre Daycare.*

*Thank you to the dedicated staff for the care and support you have offered to my son Jehddon since 2020.*

*Shauna Taylor*



# Seniors Well-being and Engagement

Facilitating opportunities for seniors to live their best lives through creating memorable experiences as well as giving them the tools and education to optimize contemporary trends in ways that improve their wellbeing was our focus last year.

## Impact

### Skills Building

A one-on-one teaching model of basic to intermediary digital skills with Edmonton Community Adult Learning (ECALA). Participants can now use social communication applications and attend virtual meetings and workshops from the comfort of their homes.

### Social Participation and Engagement

- Promoting independence through education in collaboration with New Horizon Senior Program (NHSP), on how to address issues that affect seniors, such as; finance, elder abuse, physical and mental health matters.
- Promoting social connections through the Explore Edmonton Initiative which opened up access for seniors to appreciate Edmonton's landmarks such as; Royal Alberta Museum, Muttart Conservatory, University of Alberta Botanical Gardens and more.

### Advocacy, and Round Table Participation

Facilitated avenues of participation for seniors in social development matters in ways that meaningfully reflect their opinions. We are members of forums such as: CORE: Alberta Health Ageing Network, Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council's Coordinated Seniors Outreach Initiative, Edmonton Social Planning Council's Senior Inclusion Project and Sage.

## What we heard

“My family had a member of our Eritrean community over for dinner and he saw me using my laptop in my armchair. He said he was amazed that I had become more modern and savvy in my seventies. I was so happy

Sofia



## Counselling Clinic

The Counseling Clinic recorded significant progress over the last year; serving 305 clients in Alberta, mostly in Edmonton and Calgary with over 1083 sessions. Most of the clients who access this service fall within the low income bracket and reported making less than \$30,000 annually. This underscores the motivation for the work we do to provide equitable access to professional mental health services.

In addition to providing mental health services, we are investing in knowledge transfer and collaborations that translate to growth. The clinic offered internship opportunities for practicum students to get hands-on experience with serving niche communities. In addition to this, the therapists who work in the clinic have become a resource point for other organizations to obtain perspectives on mental health as it pertains to African descent communities.

We intend to leverage on more collaborations that create awareness of professional mental health from a culturally relevant perspective.

### Impact

- Directly challenged harmful stereotypes and stigma surrounding trauma and mental health issues within African descent communities by encouraging open discussions and lowering barriers to seeking help.
- Served 305 clients in Alberta, mostly in Edmonton and Calgary with over 1083 sessions.

### What we heard

*This is probably the only option some people have to access any form of therapy. It should be available across Canada*

*Anonymous*



## Advocacy and Engagement

### Legal Clinic

Last year, we partnered with The Oak Law Firm to bring together lawyers from various law firms in Alberta to provide free legal services to community members. This first of its kind initiative to be organized by Africa Centre was geared towards improving the knowledge and awareness of legal rights and responsibilities among members of the community we serve.

The legal clinic was an avenue for the participating lawyers to give back to the community and promote pro bono services from a culturally relevant perspective. While most of the volunteer lawyers are culturally competent members of the Black Canadian community, the opportunity was open to lawyers from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

With the help of volunteers from the community, clients were assigned to lawyers according to their specified legal needs. Language translation services as well as childcare services will be available.

Here is the scope of legal services provided: **Criminal Law, Family Law, Child Welfare Law, Immigration Law, Business Law, Personal Injury, Employment/Labour Law, Landlord and Tenant Disputes, Professional Conduct Matters, Human Rights Violations, Real Estate Law and Wills and Estates.**

### Budget Round Table

In collaboration with Michael Coteau, MP - Don Valley East, Ontario and Africa Centre, Alberta's Black community members and stakeholders had an opportunity to participate in a consultative round table discussion on the 2023 national budget.

The consultation meeting was an opportunity for Alberta's Black community to make direct input, share thoughts, ideas and priorities to inform the areas of focus for the national budget in a way that reflects the community's needs, support Canadians and ensure representation for all.



## Africa Day Gala

After two years of hiatus, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the 14th Annual Africa Day Gala was celebrated. It was an evening to recognize the **United Nations declaration of the International Decade for People of African Descent**.

The gala promoted human rights and freedoms of people of African descent, while celebrating and deepening the knowledge of the diverse heritage, culture, and contributions of people of African descent around the world.

Africa Centre hosted over 500 people at the Edmonton Expo Centre in glamour and palpable camaraderie. It was a unique experience that blended soul searching thoughts and ideas with various festivities that promoted culture and heritage.

## Black History Month

The engagement at the gala set the tone for collaborations to commemorate Black History Month (BHM).

In partnership with Edmonton Public Schools (EPS) and The Melisizwe Brothers

(An Edmonton-born Black international music group), Africa Centre presented a social responsibility initiative musical school tour across high schools in Edmonton. The United Nations declaration of the International Decade for People of African Descent was adopted as the theme for BHM through which the message was reinforced.

## Soccer Tournament

The 13th annual All Africa Soccer Tournament was hosted on July 1st – July 3rd 2022 at M.E. Lazerte and the Taurus field in Edmonton. Under the Africa Centre's community capacity building initiatives, the event drew soccer teams from across Edmonton and neighboring cities, relaunching an annual tradition since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

The tournament had seven adult teams representing African countries competing for a grand prize and fostering the spirit of unity and sportsmanship. The tournament also included Kids' teams and Master's team consisting of players 35 years and older. There was also entertainment for children and food stalls making it a fun event for the whole family.



## Volunteer and Emergency Response Fund

We facilitated volunteer engagement through in-person gatherings that increased visibility while connecting more community members to our programs.

Under our Emergency Response Fund initiative, we supported individuals in crisis with a total of \$20,000 through funds received from Multicultural Family Resource Society (MFRS). In addition to this, we supported grassroots and ethnocultural groups with promoting culture and heritage through our Community Engagement Funds.

### Board Members

Kemoh B. Mansaray - Board chair  
 Philomena Okeke-Ihejirika - Vice-chair  
 Cedric Naoussi - Treasurer  
 Firmin Guéladé - Director  
 Micheal Lawal - Director  
 Imad Satti - Director  
 Noora Badr - Secretary  
 Edna Wakene - Director  
 Sibangukhle Khumalo - Director  
 Bumo Mgabe - Director  
 Tony Agbonkhese - Director  
 Joseph Luri Kichere - Director  
 Andrew Owusu - Director

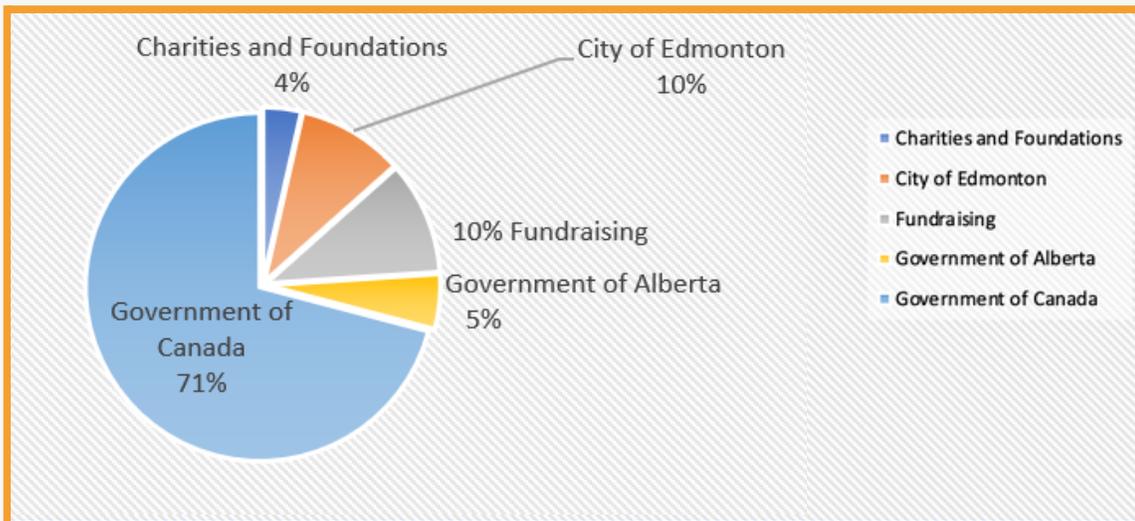
### Staff

Aissatou Bah	Liyu Makonnen
Akorfa Mawutor	Mamie Kamara
Ann Maina	Mariam Mersha
Aurelia Uarsama	Odion Welch
Ayodele Ajila	Olubukola Adewumi
Belinda Abudu	Ofodile Onah
Benard Serunyigo	Proscovia T Nabafu
Berlise Youmegni	Rahma Dalmar
Bernadette Karabani	Richard Furama
Daqo Abdulle	Riyah Lakhani
Ehis Nzewuji	Robyn Taylor
Eleonore Tchayam	Safia Moke
Eve Uwamahoro	Sandra Muchekeza
Fadumo Osman	Senait Araya
Firdos Yesuf	Shamim Malik
Halimo Mohamud	Sharif Haji
Irene Ngoy	Susan Dut
Jean D'Arc Tcheuffa	Tawa Nzekwu
Kaiha Marah	Tereza Dhour
Kojo Otoo	Yar Anyieth
	Yawa Idi



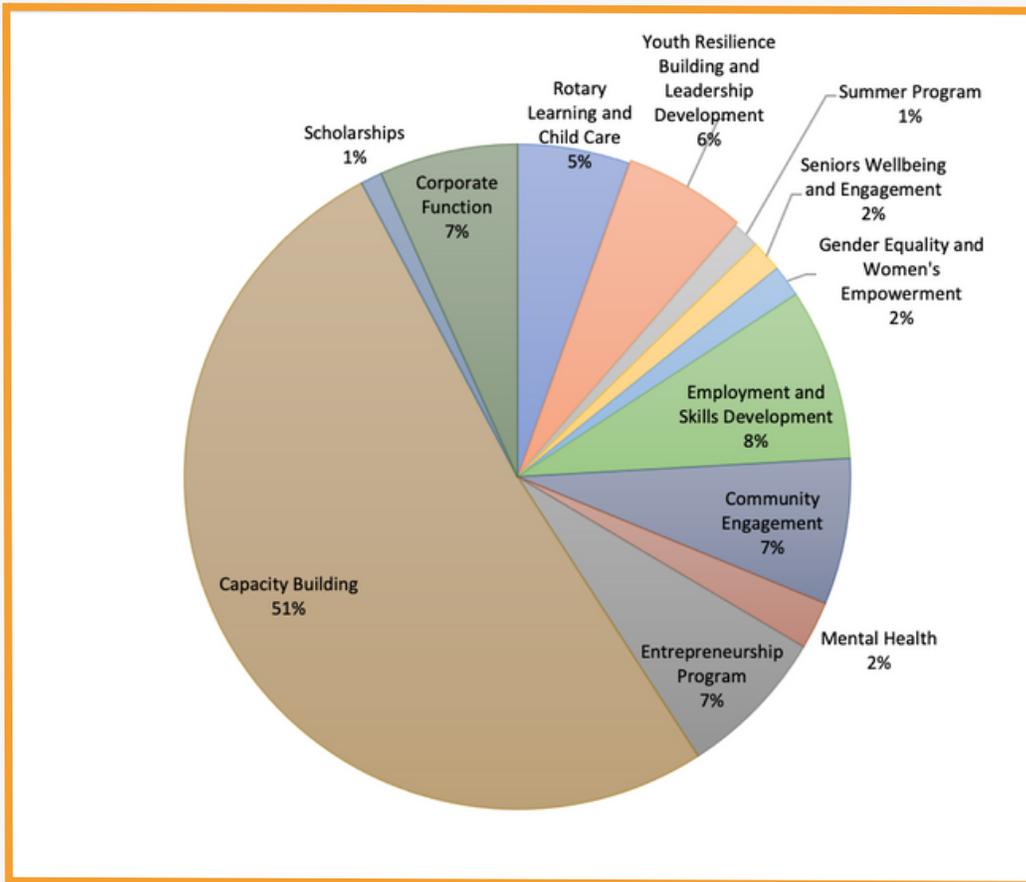
# Financial Statements

Revenue	Amount
Charities and Foundations	262,180.00
City of Edmonton	729,078.00
Fundraising	778,397.00
Government of Alberta	378,633.00
Government of Canada	5,237,637.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>7,385,925.00</b>



# Financial Statements

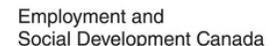
Expenditure	Amount
Rotary Learning and Child Care	400,110.49
Youth Resilience Building and Leadership Development	435,269.52
Summer Program	98,281.19
Seniors Wellbeing and Engagement	111,777.76
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	113,443.38
Employment and Skills Development	614,414.53
Community Engagement	522,851.20
Mental Health	170,542.68
Entrepreneurship Program	539,089.76
Capacity Building	3,776,577.81
Scholarships	76,639.00
Corporate Function	493,489.68
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>7,352,487.00</b>



# Funders, Partners, and Community Support

The work we do in Africa Centre is possible only because of the generosity of our funders, partners, donors and volunteers. We are grateful that you believe in our cause and that you invest in it.

With the plethora of good causes to support, you chose to donate to us. This inspires us greatly. With your support we are making remarkable impact in our community in ways that serve us all as society.



Thank You



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022 2023



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