

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH – Week 4**

#BlackHistoryMatters

# Legacies, struggles, and contributions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

TORONTO STAR  
**CLASSROOM  
CONNECTION**

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## WEEK 4: LEGACIES, STRUGGLES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

African Canadians have overcome tremendous obstacles since arriving in what is now called Canada – 200 years of enslavement; legal, economic, institutional, and social discrimination; and prejudices and stereotypes. Throughout history, Black men and women fought against injustice to improve their lives and lives of all Canadians. While laws and practices have changed over time, improving conditions for African Canadians, there are lingering effects of historic racial discrimination that shapes events of today.

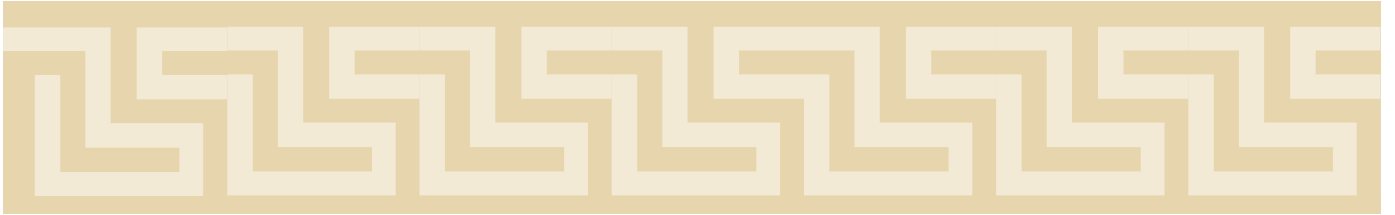
In 2021, African Canadians keep calling for racial equality. Incidents and issues continue to occur which have culminated in new as well as familiar responses from Black communities and repeated appeals for social justice. Today, there is a new generation of individuals from all backgrounds and organizations that are committed to social justice.

Young people are using social media as a protest tool in today's digital age. They use social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to create and connect communities online around specific issues. Youth activists are using social media to encourage demonstrations, to share stories in their own voices without the use of mainstream media, and to stimulate dialogue on social and political issues.

Art in the form of rap, spoken word, graffiti, painting, drawing, and theatrical performances are used as methods of protest and resistance by young people. Various forms of arts are also used to express frustrations and hopes towards social issues.



Street art in Montreal of black panther



## AMANDA PARRIS

Amanda Parris former host of CBC's Arts' Exhibitionists. She is a co-founder of both the Remix Project (formerly Fresh Arts) and Lost Lyrics, organizations that offer arts-based programs for youth and spaces for young people to express themselves. Parris was contributor to "Rhymes to Re-Education: a Hip Hop Curriculum Resource Guide," designed to help educators use Hip Hop to engage young people in their learning.

Read about The Remix Project and its impact on youth here:

[http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/2011/01/30/remixing\\_urban\\_education.html](http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorialopinion/2011/01/30/remixing_urban_education.html)

## ACTIVITES

In your opinion, what is the importance of arts-based programs?

How can creativity be used to help achieve social justice goals?

What is your favourite kind of artistic expression? Why?



NICK KOZAK/FOR THE TORONTO STAR

Amanda Parris outside 10 San Romanoway near Jane Street and Finch Avenue. Toronto, Canada. December 19, 2011.

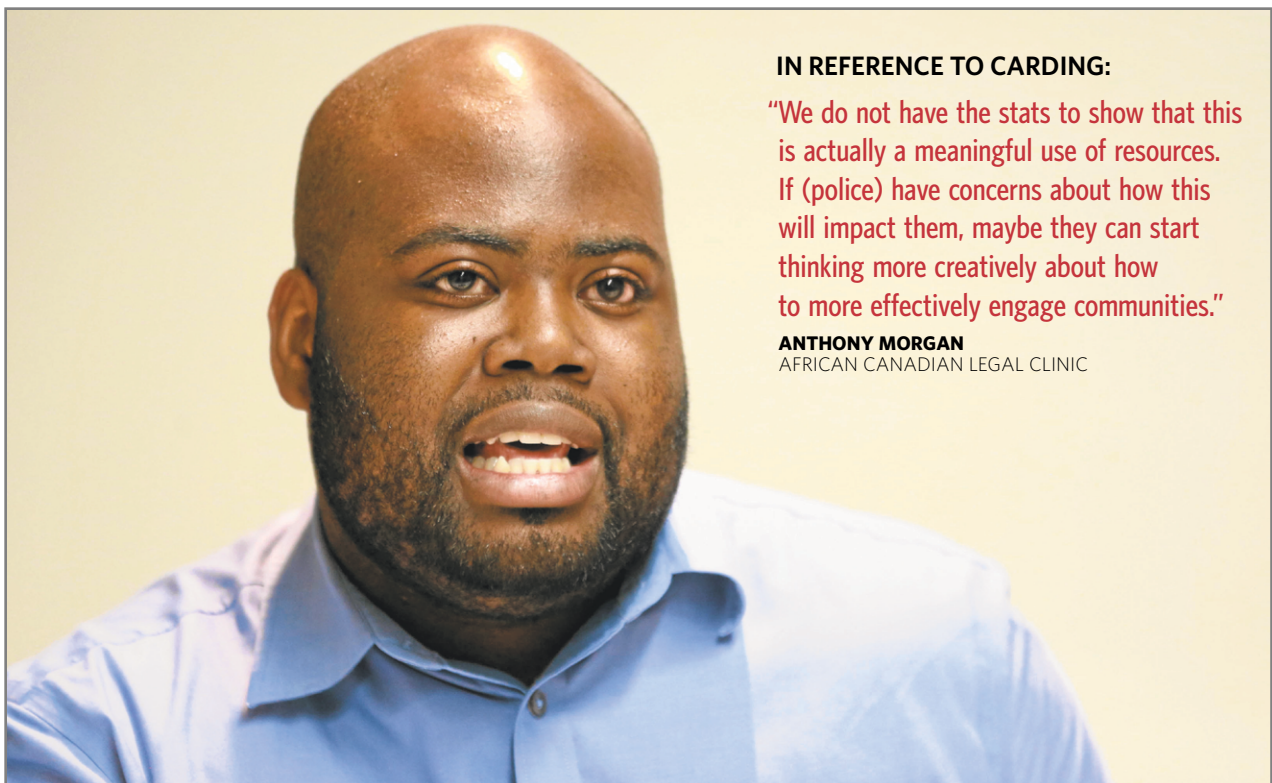
## ANTHONY MORGAN

Anthony is a lawyer and the Manager of the City of Toronto's Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) Unit. The CABR Unit is responsible for the implementation of the Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism. He frequently offers commentary on social and public affairs issues concerning race and racism, critical multiculturalism and critical race theory in Canada in articles for major Canadian newspapers including the Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, Huffington Post Canada, and on television news programs. In addition to holding a Bachelor of Law and a Bachelor of Civil Law from McGill University, Faculty of Law, he holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in Ethics, Society & Law.

## ACTIVITIES

Visit the Ontario Human Rights website: <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en>

List the human rights issues under the "code grounds."



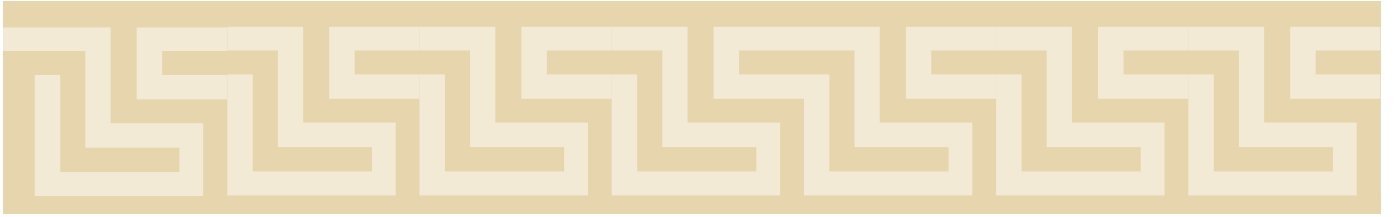
### IN REFERENCE TO CARDING:

"We do not have the stats to show that this is actually a meaningful use of resources. If (police) have concerns about how this will impact them, maybe they can start thinking more creatively about how to more effectively engage communities."

**ANTHONY MORGAN**  
AFRICAN CANADIAN LEGAL CLINIC

ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORONTO STAR FILE PHOTO

Article from Toronto Star, November 7, 2015



Give a description of the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC).

Compare the OHRC with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

<http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

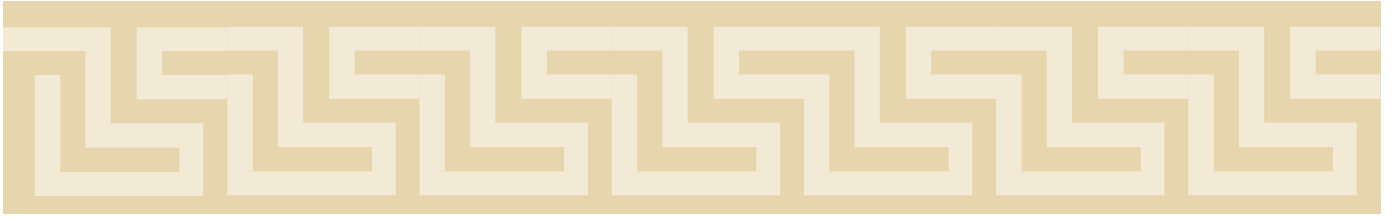
What similarities and differences did you notice?

Does the OHRC include more or fewer rights than the UDHR?

Did the writers of these two documents seem to have the same concept of what “rights” mean?

Do the documents contain responsibilities?

Should any of the rights listed be guaranteed by all governments?



## THE UN INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT (2015 - 2024)

The United Nations has declared the decade 2015-2024 as the UN International Decade for People of African Descent: Recognition, Justice and Development (IDPAD). It is a global initiative that was created to bring awareness to the experiences and contributions of Blacks in the Diaspora and to encourage member countries to “propose concrete measures to promote the full inclusion of people of African descent and to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.” The Decade planning committee created a programme of activities to encourage governments around the world to join together with people of African descent and take effective measures “promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African Descent.”

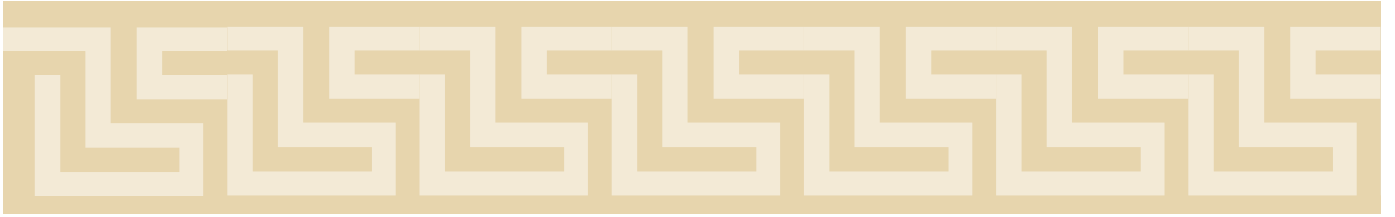
### ACTIVITIES

Logos use symbols and colours to convey a meaning. Examine the IDPAD logo. Describe what you see, what you think it represents, and the message it is trying to convey.

What kinds of activities can your school participate in recognition of the IDPAD? Develop a proposal to submit to your school.

Write a letter to your Member of Parliament to persuade Canada to endorse and participate in the IDPAD.





## **PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER**

What are the commonalities between the abolition movement, the Pan-African movement, and the Black Lives Matter movement?

Research the hashtag “#blacklivesmatter.” How was it transformed from a hashtag into a political activist movement and why? Why has a chapter of the organization been formed in Toronto?

Compose 5 tweets (140 characters) and/ or hashtags tweets based on current social issues and causes you are passionate about below.

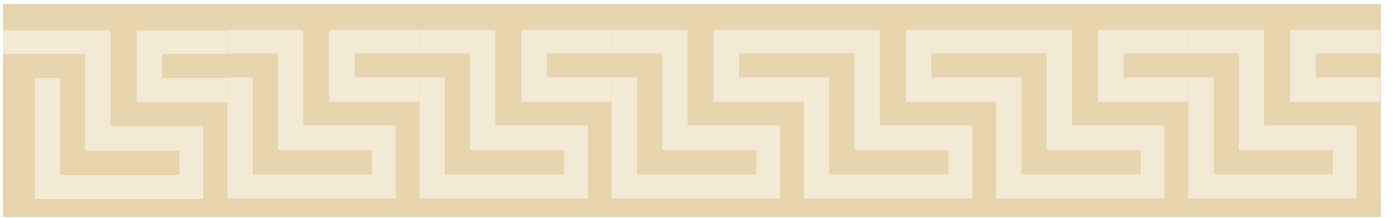
## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

UN International Decade for People of African Descent website  
<http://www.un.org/en/events/africandescentdecade/index.shtml>

Crisis of Distrust: Police and Community in Toronto  
<https://youtu.be/u627BsqA5BM>

Toronto Star series on racial profiling

Do Black Lives Matter in Canada?  
<http://rabble.ca/columnists/2014/12/do-black-lives-matter-canada>



INSTRUCTIONS: Print out the Word Puzzle below. Search the letters to find the words listed on the right hand column of this puzzle. Words can run in all directions – up, down, right, left, backwards even diagonally and can even share common letters. One of these words has already been found.

A H F C S P R O C D E R U O L O C  
 J E I L A N D G R A N T S A E D F  
 D N M K H A I B U N B D E C A D E  
 I I O A M A J L Y E A G A M D X H  
 S S D R N Q N A U E E G Y P T N C  
 C T E C G C Z C T F K R B O D O N  
 R H E H A H I K I W K C U J D I A  
 I G R A E B P P I E R P O I N T I  
 M I F E O C M H A Y R A X H K A D  
 I R Y O T T G A G T R V Q O M G E  
 N N V L K M S R D ~~D~~ I E R Z T E M  
 A A F O R U T A L O J O V U S R L  
 T M J G A P S ~~O~~ R L I T N A G G A  
 I U B Y L Q ~~G~~ H P O R T E R L E I  
 O H M E C I T S U J L A I C O S C  
 N O I L A T T A B Q H E I A J B O  
 W A E B L A C K L O Y A L I S T S

- ARCHAEOLOGY
- ART
- BATTALION
- BLACK LOYALISTS
- BLACK
- PHARAOHS
- COLOURED
- CORPS
- DECADE
- DISCRIMINATION
- EGYPT
- EMANCIPATION
- FREEDOM
- ~~GOLD~~
- HOCKEY
- HUMAN RIGHTS
- IDPAD
- KUSH
- NUBIA
- ORO
- PIERPOINT
- PORTER
- SEGREGATION
- SLAVERY
- SOCIAL JUSTICE
- SOCIAL MEDIA

**UNLISTED CLUE:** For their service, Black Loyalists were offered 100-acre

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 (2 words).