

***JAMES R. JOHNSTON CHAIR IN BLACK CANADIAN STUDIES***

**jamesrjohnstonchair.dal.ca**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**May 2005 - April 2006**

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**Professor David Divine**

James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies

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## Introduction

This report is the second Annual Report of Professor David Divine, the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies. The first report covered the period January 2004 – April 2005, inclusive. This report covers the period May 2005 – April 2006, inclusive.

## Strategic Overview

The first report outlined the process whereby the present work programme of the Chair was devised and the first 16 months of its execution. Essentially, it outlined a process of recreation of the James R. Johnston Chair into a national, credible institution. The last twelve months, which is covered in this report, outlines a process of consolidation and considerable advancement at both provincial and national levels. The institution of the James R. Johnston Chair is now in a position to enable it to attract appropriate resources for its further development, particularly in relation to endowment funds on which it depends for survival. It is the view of Professor David Divine, the present James R. Johnston Chair of Black Canadian Studies, that the time is ripe to move forward with a focused and comprehensive fund development initiative, which was created in 2005.

## Overview of Agreed Work Programme From October 2004 to 2010

The following areas of activity are intended to illustrate the areas to be covered over the seven-year tenure of Professor Divine from January, 2004 until January, 2011 (2010-2011 is a sabbatical year). The intention is that each of the areas cited will be covered by the end of this time period.

- Staging a national conference in 2005 on: What is Black Canadian Studies? What is 'the Black Community(ies)? What is a 'Black Canadian identity'? Key issues facing Blacks in Canada and how those issues are being addressed;
- Arrange International conferences over the next six years;
- Development of an International series of seminars and lectures on selected themes commencing 2005;
- An annual series of public seminars and lectures within Canada on selected themes commencing 2005;
- Production of films, documentaries, and videos on aspects of Black Canadian life;
- Coordinating community development initiatives relating to local and national Black Canadian concerns with a view to influencing government policy and practice;
- Participation in projects relating to the spiritual dimension of the lives of Black Canadians;
- Production of papers for academic journals and books;
- Participation in school curriculum and teaching relating to Black Canadian studies;
- Preparation of possible on line teaching programmes on Black Canadian studies in association with partner academic institutions;
- Teaching courses at Dalhousie University at the School of Social Work and guest lecturing on courses provided by other Departments at the University;

- Coordinating the first national exhibition on the Black Presence in Canada;
- Increasing the endowment of the James R. Johnston Chair by 1,000,000 Canadian dollars during the tenure of Professor David Divine

The following sections of the report cover activities undertaken by the Chair during the period May, 2005 – April, 2006 inclusive, which relate to the above areas.

## Presentations

One of the strategic decisions taken by Professor Divine in increasing the profile and provincial and national relevance and credibility of the James R. Johnston Chair, was to deliver presentations on identified key themes across Canada. This was in addition to specific visits across Canada which primarily revolved around introductions, networking and possible joint work initiatives.

### 2007 (Scheduled)

11th -14th April - International Conference: **The Politics of Inclusion - Engagement on whose terms?**

*There is a presumption that "inclusion" is a wholesome activity, and that somehow both those being received in the countries identified and those countries open to immigration, are mutually benefiting from this transaction. This is highly questionable, in the context of individuals and communities who identify themselves as being marginalised and disenfranchised. The conference will explore the costs and alleged benefits of "inclusion" and whether there is a right to remain excluded. Venue: Library & Archives Auditorium, Ottawa (tentative).*

### 2006 (Scheduled)

13th-18th August 2006 - XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto, Canada.

17th-20th June - Keynote Speaker, Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Social Workers. Theme: "Transformation: Charting Our Course" - Westin Hotel, Halifax.

#### **"Transformative Change in Social Work: Who are we kidding?"**

*Through whose lens do we delimit the potential of social work to engage in any practice, with any pretence of radically addressing the conditions which help shape so many of the issues social workers routinely deal with? What potential is there for any credible social work claim to relevance in this context?*

## Presentations - 2006

### 5th April 2006

"Race Matters" - Keynote plus seminar, Alumni Hall, First Floor, King's New Academic Building. University of King's College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 2A1. 9:35am-11:25am.

### 8th March 2006

Keynote: "The Politics of Inclusion in University Teaching: What's in it for me?"  
Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT), Dalhousie University. 3:00pm-4:30pm.  
Dalhousie University. University Hall, MacDonald Building.

### 28th February 2006

Keynote Panelist / Organizer  
"Diversity in the workplace has an overall benefit to the Canadian economy.",  
African Heritage Month Event - Canada Revenue Agency, Ralston Building,  
1557 Hollis St., Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2T5

### 24th & 25th February 2006

Keynote Speaker - Black History Month presentations. Mississauga campus, University of Toronto, ON.

### 11th February 2006

Keynote Speaker - IdeaLaw Conference (website) "Inclusion and the Role of Law, With Specific Reference to Black Male Sexuality", Session: 10:45-12:00 - Law and Sexuality Dalhousie University Law School, 10-11 February 2006.

### 6th February 2006

Keynote Speaker - "The Place of Black Spirituality in the Canadian Mosaic." Cathedral Arts Dinner Lecture, Cathedral Hall, Christchurch Cathedral, 420 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON. ([website](#)) 6:00pm Contact: (613) 567-1787.

## Presentations - 2005

### 7th December 2005

Panel Keynote - "Thinking More Creatively About Racism and How to Tackle It?" *Three examples will be identified of racism / discrimination against Black communities. Three possible solutions are given for exploration. Five key messages will be shared with participants.* National Multiculturalism Program Officers Meeting, Ottawa, ON.

### 2nd November 2005 (Wednesday)

Keynote Speaker - Seminar: "Partnering to Improve Education for the African Nova Scotia Learner," Cobequid Educational Centre, Truro, Nova Scotia. Presented by Chignecto-Central Regional School Board.

- Visit: Willow Street Elementary School.
- Visit: Truro Junior High School
- Visit: Historic sites, School Board Central Office, Cobequid Educational Centre
- Presentation to school staff & partners
- Presentation to the School Board

**26th-28th October 2005**

Keynote Speaker - Conference: Multiple Lenses: Voices from the Diaspora located in Canada. Organized and Chaired by the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies - Halifax.

**11th September 2005**

Panel Keynote Speaker - Conference: ["Maintaining Civil Discourse in Times of International Instability,"](#) Delta Halifax Hotel, 1990 Barrington Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. [1:00pm-7:30pm]. Conference organized by Canadian Jewish Congress - Atlantic Region

**25th July 2005**

Keynote Presentation, Invited audience re: the Research Programme of the James R. Johnston Chair and the Chair's vision for Black Canadian Studies. Harbour Centre, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC.

**8th July 2005**

Keynote Speaker, North Preston Graduates' Banquet 2005. Venue: North Preston Community Centre, North Preston, Nova Scotia.

**15th June 2005**

Keynote Speaker - ["Why we need to document history – Celebrating the Voices of Pioneer Women,"](#) Reception in Honour Of the 50th Anniversary of The Signing of an Agreement between Jamaica and Canada to set up the first Labour Market Caribbean Domestic Workers Scheme, (with Mme Raymonde Folco, MP Laval-Les Îles, Minister of Labour; Honourable Joe Volpe, Minister of Citizenship & Immigration; Honourable Joe Fontana, Minister of Labour & Housing; Mrs. Estuko Anderson, Counsellor, High Commission for Barbados; His Excellency Carl O'Neal Marshall, High Commissioner for Jamaica in Canada; Mrs. Thelma Johnson, (Nurse & Businesswoman); Ms. Sealen Chang (Retired Teacher); Jacqueline Lawrence, Ottawa Poet; Khai Lewis-Welsh, (Ms. Teen Canada 2004 - Soprano); Voices of The Pioneer Women Singers). Salle de Railway Committee, Centre Block, Ottawa, ON

**10th May 2005**

Keynote Speaker, ["OK, Do You Want to Include Everybody? If So, How Do We Go About It? If We Don't Want to Include Everybody, What Might Be The Consequences for Those Excluded and for The Organization Itself?"](#) - Metro Non-Profit Housing Association. Annual General Meeting & Fund-Raising Luncheon. St. David's Church, 1537 Brunswick Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 12-1:00pm.

**6th May 2005**

Keynote Speaker, ["Salad Bowl, Melting Pot and the Canadian Mosaic: Reflections on Diversity"](#) - Diversity Conference, Faculty of Health Professions, Dalhousie University, Halifax.

**5th & 6th May 2005**

Keynote Speaker, ["Challenges for an Inclusive Social Work Practice: An Exploration of Whether An Inclusive Social Work Practice is Viable."](#) - Annual Conference of the Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers. (Theme: "Social Work for Social Justice: An Africentric Approach."). University of King's College, 6350 Coburg Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia. (website)

**7th April 2005**

Keynote Speaker - Multicultural Education Council of Nova Scotia. Annual Conference.

**1st & 2nd April 2005**

Conference [Racial Violence and the Colour Line of the New World Order](#) - Co-Chaired & Co-Organized by the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies. (Halifax)

## Conferences Organized by the James R. Johnston Chair

### In Development: 2007

Preparation is underway in respect of the international conference proposed for the 11-14 April 2007, to be held at the Library & Archives Auditorium, Ottawa, titled:

#### “The Politics of Inclusion - Engagement on whose terms?”

The idea, at present, is to seek involvement from key Black academics and community activists from Canada, the U.S., France, UK, Latin America, Haiti, and South Africa. This may be narrowed down, subject to funding. Envisaged as a two-day conference, essentially on the costs and benefits of engagement and on whose terms. Essentially, it explores the positions of largely disenfranchised communities in particular settings, and how they have engaged with / accommodated to / challenged / etc. the wider societies of which they are and have been a fundamental part. It is anticipated that a number of key academics and community activists from each of the countries cited will be invited, who have had and currently still have credibility in this area, to speak on their work in their particular contexts, and what resonance it has for the wider diaspora.

Funding is currently being explored, and the author is hopeful that this will be achieved.

### Multiple Lenses: Voices from the Diaspora located in Canada

*26-28 October 2005*

#### Summary

The following outline is part of a report submitted to Heritage Canada relating to the successful national conference held in Halifax at the World Trade and Convention Centre. There were five funders for the conference: Heritage Canada (\$95,000), Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs (\$6,000), Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (\$5,000) and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation (\$3,000).

Heritage Canada provided a major opportunity to stage, for the first time in nearly 30 years, a major national conference featuring highlights of Black Canadian scholarship covering a 400-year period. The conference attracted 429 delegates over a three-day period and was regarded as a major success by the participants and by the media. The gathering provided unheard-of opportunities for networking, sharing of the latest research and community activities of pivotal importance to the development of Black Canadians, and in bringing to a wider audience greater awareness of the contribution of Black Canadians to the Canadian mosaic.

## **Project Activities and Outputs**

The national conference, “**Multiple Lenses: Voices from the Diaspora located in Canada,**” held over three days, October 26-28, 2005 at the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, provided a platform for eminent contributors from across Canada, to share ideas and research both past and present, about what it means to be Black and Canadian. This conference, the first of its kind, included contributions from scholars, public servants, community representatives, film makers, musicians, artists, politicians, spiritual leaders, youth, and members of the public. The purpose of the conference was to explore the complexity of being identified as Black and Canadian and how this related to the notion of 'citizenship'.

Through the lenses of History, Law, Literature, Film, Music, Black community organizations, Media, Sports, Black spirituality, Party politics, Labour markets, Education and Lived experience, the conference was an exploration through Canadian eyes of how Black people in Canada identified themselves, and have been identified, over a 400-year period. Factors influencing that process were discussed. This conference was timed to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the first recorded presence of a Black person on Canadian soil in 1605, Mathew Da Costa.

The event was organized and managed by the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, Professor David Divine.

## **Immediate Results**

Senator Donald Oliver summed up the event in one of his contributions at the conference, which attracted over 429 delegates from across Canada, by saying the event “provided a unique opportunity for academics and community members to get together and discuss critical issues affecting Black communities in Canada.” Dr. James Walker stated at the event, that “this was the first time in 26 years that such an event had even been attempted.” The Deputy Speaker of the House, the Honourable Jean Augustine, stated in Parliament on 1 November 2005:

*Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I had the pleasure of attending a major three day national conference entitled, Multiple Lenses: Voices from the Diaspora located in Canada.*

*I was pleased to witness the engagement of eminent Black Canadians in the field of academia, business, film, law, politics, media, art, literature, education and spirituality. This conference was organized by the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies. The forum provided 400 participants with an opportunity to discuss and explore the complexities of being identified as Black and Canadian. Presentations will be collated in a book form.*

*I would like to congratulate Professor David Divine of the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies at Dalhousie University for his efforts in organizing and overseeing such a successful conference. Kudos to all involved.*

There is a permanent website featuring the conference and developments since the event, which is found at:

[http://jamesrjohnstonchair.dal.ca/johnston\\_6402.html](http://jamesrjohnstonchair.dal.ca/johnston_6402.html)

The conference significantly raised the profile of Black Canadian Studies as a discipline.

## **Indicators and Outcomes**

The conference evaluations and the general publicity relating to the success of this national conference, have contributed to a resurgence of interest in Black Canadian Studies, and a number of universities have found the conference useful in this respect, and have contacted the organizer to explore development opportunities. In addition, a book contract has been secured featuring twelve chapters and 450 pages of text, exploring themes discussed at the conference. The book is due to be published in the Fall of 2006. The publishing house is *Cambridge Scholar's Press*.

In addition, work is proceeding on the production of a DVD highlighting selected extracts from the conference which will accompany the publication in the Fall of 2006. Media interest is continuing, relating to the outcome of the conference.

The evidence for the indicators and outcomes are: conference evaluation feedback; book contract; DVD production; Federal Parliament congratulations on the conference; and Provincial government (Nova Scotia) positive feedback.

## **Long-term Impact**

The anticipated publication will be a major contribution to the literature on Black Canadian scholarship. The conference also significantly enhanced networking amongst Black scholars and community members interested in exploring issues relating to Black communities in Canada. The James R. Johnston Chair is currently exploring how the positive outcome of the conference could be utilized in setting up a National Centre of Excellence in Black Canadian Studies at Dalhousie University, which would have core professorial staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and a viable budget for major research in this area.

With or without the development of a National Centre of Excellence in Black Canadian Studies, the James R. Johnston Chair will develop and sustain major work in Black Canadian scholarship. This would be considerably augmented if there was a major national centre of excellence in Black Canadian Scholarship.

## **Lessons Learned**

There is no doubt about it: the organization and staging of such a conference was a critical ingredient in raising awareness of Black Canadian Studies, the profiling of its importance, and the contribution it can make to the general understanding of the development of Canada as a nation.

We believe that a major lesson confirmed is that partnership is vital. In order to pool scholars and community organizers together, there needs to be significant networking, which the James R. Johnston Chair undertook prior to the conference, and this resulted in a far better outcome than would have occurred, had such networking not taken place.



Such a gathering could not have taken place without the generous financial and supplemental expert advice, guidance and support from Canadian Heritage. There was an important press conference convened a few weeks prior to the conference, announcing the financial contribution of Canadian Heritage. This attracted national and provincial media attention, which was extremely helpful in highlighting the upcoming event. The press conference is available to view online:

[http://jamesjohnstonchair.dal.ca/files/Multiple\\_Lenses\\_Final\\_Bband.mov](http://jamesjohnstonchair.dal.ca/files/Multiple_Lenses_Final_Bband.mov)

One of the major lessons learned in organizing such a unique conference, including national and internationally-renowned scholars, and members of the community with an interest in Black Canadian Studies, was providing opportunities for lay-people and organizations with limited budgets to participate. Through the financial contribution of Canadian Heritage, the provincial government of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, the conference organizer was able to subsidize community members and organizations from across Canada to attend.

### **Dissemination**

The outcome of the conference is essentially being disseminated in four ways: (i) the website of the James R. Johnston Chair has a special section on the conference, and this will be a permanent feature of the site over the next five years. This will be regularly updated. (ii) there will be a major publication based on the presentations at the conference and there may even be a second publication. The first publication is scheduled to be available in the Fall of 2006. (iii) a DVD is in production featuring the edited highlights of the conference. This is likely to be ready by the Fall of 2006. (iv) the circulation of regular updates through the extensive network database of the James R. Johnston Chair, which currently has some 1000 individuals / organizations listed.

### **Conference Participant Evaluation**

#### **Dr. Dorothy Wills**

Chair of the National Advisory Board  
of the James R. Johnston Chair  
in Black Canadian Studies

**Reflections on**

***Multiple Lenses:  
Voices from the Diaspora  
Located in Canada.***



Finally, I have arrived in Florida after a very hectic month.

First, there was the speaking engagement at Westminster United Church in Mississauga, followed quickly by the conference in Halifax, and the departure the next morning, after

arriving from Halifax the previous night, for Fort Washington, Maryland, where we remained five days before leaving for Florida.

But let me tell you about the outstanding conference which was held in Nova Scotia, organized by **Professor David Divine**, the current holder of the **James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies**. This was an unprecedented conference regarding various aspects of Black Life in Canada. The topics ranged from the very highly academic to practical aspects of Black Life in all of Canada, and all of Canada was represented.

The participants ranged from some Black Pioneers to very youthful, and one of the most gratifying aspects of the entire conference was to see the number of confident young Black people, with doctorates, making their presentations as scholars in their field of study. Those Old Black Pioneers like myself can rest assured that our future is in exceptionally good hands -- hands like: **Dr. Adelle Blackett** (Law) Montreal; **Professor Michelle Williams** (Law) Dalhousie; **Dr. Carol Duncan**, (Religious Studies) Ontario; **Dr. Afua Cooper**, (History) Ontario; **Dr. Andrea Davis**, (Humanities) Ontario; **Dr. George Elliott Clarke**, (Literature), Ontario; **Dr. Avis Glaze**, (Education), Ontario, **Dr. Michael AbdurRashid Taylor**, (Addiction and Mental Health), Ont. The list here only includes the very young who have several decades of contribution to make to the betterment of our people.

Then there were the old stalwarts like **Professor Clarence Bayne**, (Business), Montreal, **Dr. James Walker**, (History), Ontario, **Justice Corinne Sparks** (Law) Nova Scotia and **Justice Selwyn Romilly** (Law) British Columbia, **Dr. Peter Paris** (Religious Studies) Princeton; **Dr. Nigel Thomas**, (Literature), Quebec; **Dr. Yvonne Brown**, (Media), British Columbia; **Dr. Cecil Foster**, (Education) Ontario; **Dr. Henry Bishop**, Education (Nova Scotia); and **Senator Donald Oliver** and **The Honourable Jean Augustine**.

Additionally, there were several new faces who also made a great contribution to the workshops, the plenary and the conference in general.

There were over **55 presenters, over 400 participants**, and many visitors. Another outstanding feature of the conference was the intermingling of the races -- something rarely seen in the past. There were several white presenters who had been doing research on various aspects of Black Life - and who's research was exceptionally well received as was their presence at the conference -- a sign, in my opinion that we have come of age, and did not mind one little bit, having them with us at our conference. Everyone received them with grace and dignity.

Another outstanding feature of this conference was the presence of a group of twelve **high school students** and their teacher who registered and participated in the entire conference. We know that they will benefit from all that they heard.

Well, for those of you who were not able to attend, you missed a very special event in the History of Blacks in Canada. We can only wish Professor David Divine every success as he continues his tenure as Chair. We know that he has promised to edit **a book on the conference which will be available in early 2006** -- and we can hardly wait to get a copy. With my memory, my pictures and the book, I will be able to relive the conference any time I feel like it.

A great big thank-you to all of the presenters, and all who made the conference such an elegant, gracious and worthy event.

Now, I'm in Florida and must get my Newsletter for the month of April in the hands of the 240 condo owners who apparently look forward to receiving Lakeside News. Then I will be able to relax at the pool.

Until soon again, this is your friend Dorothy attempting to give you the highlights of the Conference in Halifax.

## **Organizer's Postscript**

31 October 2005

*I have enormous pleasure in writing to you about the great success of the Multiple Lenses conference, judging from feedback I have received from a variety of sources. There were over 428 registered delegates at this historic event who came from across Canada and whose ages spanned 13 years of age to individuals in their early 90's.*

*There was an excitement and sheer pleasure to be in a conference hall with over 50 of the most celebrated writers, scholars, lawyers, community representatives, political leaders, historians, film makers, artists, media icons, religious leaders, sports personalities, educators, business leaders and public officials. They were given an opportunity to share thoughts, experiences and aspirations for the future with an audience which was at times amazed at the extent of such talent within Black communities in Canada.*

*There was a sizeable group of young high school students who of their own initiative contacted me prior to the conference to ask whether they could come. I was delighted by their interest. They stayed for the entire 3 days of the conference and they graciously commented from the podium as to how positive and inspirational the conference was to them as young people. They closed the conference to a standing ovation. What better way to end an historic conference than with inspired young people applauded by such an influential and celebrated audience.*

*To the conference keynotes, I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations for excellent presentations. To the more than 400 delegates, I ask you to hold in your minds and your hearts the inspiring words from our speakers and fellow conference attendees, including those of the high-school students.*

*We are now preparing the manuscript arising from the conference presentations, which will result in a book to be published in 2006.*

*We have demonstrated, yet again, what we can achieve when we work collectively. We need to build upon this shared experience. Our accomplishment, as James Baldwin stated in "The Fire Next Time" (1963), "...testifies to nothing less than the perpetual achievement of the impossible."*

***Professor David Divine, James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies***



## *Comments from conference delegates:*

"...thank you again for the amazing experience.... My classmates and I had such a great time and we are really excited about putting something together for February (Black History Month)..."

"The conference for me was like drinking water after a long drought."

"Senator Oliver summed it up well when he said that the Conference was serving to bring Black communities from across the nation together as the Chair was conceived."

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate in an amazing conference. I was very honoured to be there and proud of your achievements as James R. Johnston Chair."

"There are no words to express my gratitude and appreciation for all that you did to make the conference the tremendous success that it was..."

"...the effects of this conference will linger for years to come..."

"...You have no idea how reassuring it is to know that there are so many bright young minds around - hundreds more than before, so the struggle is in good hands."

"Congratulations to Professor David Divine for staging the most successful African-Canadian Conference ever in Halifax, Nova Scotia..."

"I just wanted to send you a line letting you know how enriching, well organized, and inspiring the conference was for me..."

"...we have been talking about it ever since we returned to our various cities..."

"I truly appreciate the energy and work that is emanating out of the James R. Johnston Chair."

"I wanted...to express my gratitude for all of the work that your staff... and all of the volunteers put into organizing a wonderful conference."

"...the networking and sharing of ideas was immeasurable. Everywhere you looked you had scenes of individuals who knew of each other and their work, but have never had the time to get together..."

"I write to congratulate your team, staff and colleagues and, in particular, yourself on a most successful conference which, from observations made and comments gleaned, fulfilled its mandate splendidly."

"Gus Wedderburn smiled and laughed with me about the wonderful memories that the patois evoked for him."

"I have never in my life been surrounded by so many Black / African Doctors (Ph.D.'s). Wow, what a visual for all to see!"

"...KUDOS to you,.... what a marvellous treat that conference was!"

## Research Priorities of the James R. Johnston Chair 2005 / 2007

The research priorities of the Chair during the tenure of Professor Divine revolve around critical issues identified by Black people of African descent, in the diaspora and with specific relevance to Canada.

### 1. Black Community Archives

*The James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies and Library and Archives Canada (Multicultural Initiatives and Social Archives Section), contracted to undertake a bold initiative relating to the identification and exploration of Black community archives held at a national, provincial and more local level throughout Canada. A 291-page report was delivered to Library & Archives Canada in early 2006. The intent is to make the agreed content widely available. The report is owned by Library & Archives, and therefore, dissemination of the content is at its discretion.*

### 2. AIDS / HIV and the Black Communities

#### i. N.S. Strategy on HIV/AIDS

*A report was prepared by Professor David Divine on some exploratory work undertaken relating to AIDS/HIV awareness within Black communities in Nova Scotia on behalf of the Health Association of African Canadians. The report will be circulated in May, 2006. The terms of reference of the research were as follows: In the context of the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS strategy, Professor David Divine will be undertaking work with the Health Association of African Canadians, on the following objectives: Increase awareness in the African-Nova Scotian communities on issues relating to AIDS/HIV; Increase trust and confidence in the agencies with a specialist remit in AIDS/HIV; Increase in use of anonymous testing services for AIDS/HIV by members of the African-Canadian Nova Scotian communities. At the very least, specific information and advice will be offered regarding what specific measures are needed to facilitate the use of anonymous testing by members of African-Canadian communities; The work commenced in February, 2005 and was commissioned by the Nova Scotia Advisory Commission on AIDS.*

#### ii. 16th International AIDS Conference 2006. Toronto.

*Professor David Divine will be participating at this event.*

#### iii. Black Men and AIDS / HIV International Conference 2007.

*In last year's Annual Report, it was stated that there would be a conference on Black Men and AIDS / HIV in 2007. This is now likely to be in 2008, and may have a broader theme. The event will be organized and Chaired by the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies.*

Professor David Divine is also involved in the following HIV / AIDS initiatives at a national level:

- a) Springboarding a National HIV/AIDS Strategy for Black Canadian, African and Caribbean Communities Project;

*A report was produced and circulated – October, 2005.*

- b) Member of Working Group of the Public Health Agency of Canada, producing the HIV-Endemic Epidemiology Update.

*A report has been produced and is currently with the Federal Department of Health for the Minister's signature.*

- c) Member of the Inter-Agency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD) - Sponsored national working group in association with the African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO), on Spring-boarding a National HIV/AIDS Strategy for Black Canadian, African and Caribbean Communities.

### 3. Black Leadership

Exploration of the nature of leadership in the Black communities over a 400-year presence in what is now known as Canada.

### 4. Black Men and Sexuality

An extensive literature review has been undertaken in respect of this area of research, and this will continue into the next financial year, with a view to it being an essential part of a major research project which will involve fieldwork in Canada, South Africa and the United States of America over the next two to three years.

"The challenge for Black men is that what has been prescribed for us as our sexuality, and accepted by us to varying degrees, does violence to our potentially ever evolving critically conscious selves as Black men. It is a responsibility and a duty of Black men in my argument to counter such violence."

### 5. The contribution of Black women from the Caribbean to the Canadian mosaic: the Caribbean Domestic Scheme 1955-1967.

This proposed research was part of some funding possibilities in the financial year May 2005-April 2006. Due to political changes federally, and the disruption inevitably occasioned by a change in government, this is currently under review.

## 6. Education

Professor David Divine has undertaken some exploratory interviews with a number of education staff within a School Board to prepare the ground for a potential piece of work subject to agreement and appropriate funding. A report has been submitted to the relevant School Board with a proposal.

## 7. Homophobia and Heterosexism in Professional Education.

Research funds have been successfully acquired by a senior colleague of the James R. Johnston Chair in a recent round of research funding and discussions will take place in the current financial year regarding what role the James R. Johnston Chair will play.

## 8. Immigration

It was proposed to hold a mini-conference: “**Atlantic Immigrant Women: Challenges, Contributions and Opportunities**” in March, 2007 at Dalhousie University. After consultations with the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration, N.S. Advisory Council on the Status of Women and the Chair of Gender / Immigrant Women Domain, Atlantic Metropolis Centre of Excellence, it was felt that an earlier roundtable initiative on immigrant women should be completed first, before such an event took place. The conference, therefore, did not take place and the James R. Johnston Chair will organize and host a further initiative relating to immigration in 2007.

## 9. Social Economy (organizations which express the aspirations of people to contribute in their communities.)

A major bid was submitted to SSHRC for \$1.9-million, where the James R. Johnston Chair was a co-investigator. Regrettably, the Dalhousie University consortium which submitted the bid was unsuccessful, but there will be a re-submission in the new financial year.

## Appointments:

- Appointed to the **Network of Assessors for the Canadian Studies Programme**,  
Department of Canadian Heritage. *February 2006.*
- Appointed to the Selection Committee of four, to review nominations for the **Premier's Award of Excellence** and to select the Award winners, by the Premier of Nova Scotia,  
Dr. John Hamm. *November 2005*
- Appointed to the Board of Directors of **The Canadian Race Relations Foundation**.  
*September 2005.*
- Appointed to the **Advisory Board of the Society of North American Hockey Historians and Researchers**.  
*September 2005*
- Recipient of the **2005 Ambassador Club Award**. Destination Halifax. Award presented at a reception and dinner on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006, at the World Trade & Convention Centre,  
Halifax. *May 2006*

## News Coverage

The James R. Johnston Chair has endeavoured to generate positive media awareness regarding the Chair's activities, raising the local and national profile of the institution. An updated record is maintained on the James R. Johnston Chair website.

- **Celebrating contributions to the community**  
- *Raissa Tetanish*, [Amherst Daily News](#) [Monday, April 17, 2006]
- **"Don't Use Racism as an Excuse - Prof"**  
- *Ron Fanfair*, [Share Newspaper](#) [9 March 2006]
- **"Face Up To Responsibilities" and "Work Actively for Change" Professor Tells Audience**  
- *Colin Rickards*, Contributing Writer, [Pride Magazine](#) [March 2006]
- **"BHM SPEAKER TALKS CHANGE, ACTION"**  
- *Daniel Felipe Martins*, [The Medium Online](#) - The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga. [27 February 2006]
- **An Astounding and Well-Deserved Success**  
*Senator Donald Oliver's Update from the senate* [February 2006]
- **Black History Month is a Time for Reflection**  
*Baha Abushaqra* - NovaNet News ([website](#)) [30 January 2006]
- **Multiple Successes**  
- *Elysse Cragg* - Dalhousie News ([website](#)) [19 December 2005]



- **Message from the Chief Executive Officer**  
- S.I. Rustum Southwell, *Black Business Initiative*, *Black to Business*. [Fall/Winter 2005]
- **More health information needed in Black communities**  
- Dr. Wayne Adams, *Halifax Daily News* [13 December 2005]
- **Multiple Lenses Conference Highlights Black Talent**  
- *TouchBase*. Page 7. [December 2005]
- **Tackling the toxic mix: Dal prof aims to spark dialogue on HIV/AIDS in black NS communities:**  
- *Dalhousie Gazette* by Jess McDiarmid, Assistant News Editor. [24 Nov.- 1 Dec. 2005]
- **The "Multiple Lenses" of the Black Experience in Canada:**  
- *PRIDE News Magazine*: by Colin Rickards, Contributing Writer. [November 2005]
- **EDUCATION: Report**  
- *CKCL-AM NEWS*. Reporter Dave Guy covers **Professor David Divine's** seminar: "**Partnering to Improve Education for the African Nova Scotia Learner**," Cobequid Educational Centre, Truro, Nova Scotia. (Presented by Chignecto-Central Regional School Board.) [3 November 2005]
- **"Multiple Lenses" conference congratulated in Parliament**  
- *Hon. Jean Augustine* rose in the House to congratulate the James R. Johnston Chair for a very successful event. ([link](#)) [1 November 2005]
- **"Multiple Lenses" conference explores issues in Black identity**  
- *TouchBase* Page 5. [November 2005]
- **Interview: ATV Evening News** with Steve Murphy. *Topic: Multiple Lenses conference*. 6:00pm newscast. [27 October 2005]
- **Interview: CBC Information Morning** with Don Connelly. *Topic: Multiple Lenses conference*. 6:10am broadcast. [26 October 2005]
- **Black students struggle for representation**  
- Ben Saifer, *Dalhousie Gazette* Page 5. [20-27 October 2005]
- **Viewing the World Through Multiple Lenses**  
- Charles Crosby, *Dalhousie News* [20 October 2005]
- **Celebrating 400 years of Blacks in Canada**  
- *Barbados Weekend Nation: Canada Edition* Page 25. [14 October 2005]
- **Government of Canada supports conference on Black Canadian identity**  
- *TouchBase* ([website](#)) [October 2005]
- **Conference will examine the Black experience in Canada**  
- *Share News*, Vol. 29 #176. ([website](#)) Toronto. [October 2005]
- **Professor David Divine Attends Swearing-In Ceremony for Michaëlle Jean** as Canada's 27th Governor General, succeeding Adrienne Clarkson. Senate Chamber, Parliament Hill, Ottawa. [27 September 2005]

- **Dr. David Divine: Working & Addressing Community Issues**  
-Tokunbo McArthur, *The Afro News*, Page 22. [22 September 2005]
- **A Detailed Look At the Black Diaspora**, Dr. Wayne Adams,  
Halifax Daily News. [20 September 2005]
- **"Government of Canada Supports National Conference on Black Canadian Identity,"** The Honourable Geoff Regan, MP for Halifax West, on behalf of the Honourable Raymond Chan - Minister of State (Multiculturalism) announced \$95,000 in funding for the conference, [Multiple Lenses: Voices from the Diaspora located in Canada. PRESS RELEASE](#) [20 September 2005]
- **"Appointment to the Canadian Race Relations Foundation Announced"** - Professor David Divine joins the Board of Directors of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. [Press Release](#) [9 September 2005]
- **"More money, more questions,"** Professor David Divine is quoted. Halifax Daily News [Editorial](#), [Thursday, July 21, 2005]
- **"The Victim Mentality of Blacks is Unhelpful - need to engage with the wider society"** - [TouchBase](#). [July 2005]
- Touch Base: *"Dal Professor asks why Black youth are still at bottom of pile,"* [May 2005].
- CBC The Current: Discussion - *"Leadership and Violence Within Black Communities,"* George Elliot Clarke. [Listen to the programme!](#) [29 April 2005] (8:15am)
- [CBC Mainstreet](#): Discussion - Some Identified Research Priorities of the James R. Johnston Chair. *"Leadership, Black Men and Black Community Archives"*. Conrad Lutz [21 April 2005] (4:20pm)
- [CBC Mainstreet](#): *"Education and Black Achievement,"* Conrad Lutz [20 April 2005] (4:20pm)
- Halifax Daily News: *"Educators Need More Diversity Training, Report Says."* - Robin Arthur Saturday, [16 April 2005], Pg. 14.

## Website

In the period covered by this report, the online presence of the James R. Johnston Chair was enhanced considerably. The office of the James R. Johnston Chair has received significant favourable comment regarding the excellence of its website.

A full record of the Chair's public activities (keynote presentations, events and conferences attended), the research plan, scholarship opportunities for students, and a profile of the Chair were augmented. In addition, a well-developed website was created to promote the October conference, **Multiple Lenses: Voices from the Diaspora Located in Canada**. This website was further developed with a photo gallery, delegate comments and media coverage in the months that followed the event.

The James R. Johnston Chair brochure and Annual Report 2005 were made available for download. Significant effort has gone into providing multimedia components arising from the

Chair's activities, including video clips, audio streams and photos, to supplement linked news coverage provided at both the provincial and national levels.

Traffic to the website of the James R. Johnston Chair peaked during the October conference at 3,659 visitors in the month, with an average monthly visitor rate of approximately 1,200 visitors.

## Scholarship Programme

The James Robinson Johnston Graduate Scholarship is supported by the Endowment for the James Robinson Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, which was established in July 1996 "...to bring Black culture, reality, perspectives, experiences and concerns into the Academy". In the spirit of James Robinson Johnston, who believed that the best interests of African Canadians would be served through education, Dalhousie University each year offers a renewable graduate level scholarship to a promising African Canadian student, providing him/her the opportunity to pursue studies at the graduate level in the arts, sciences, health professions and management, as well as the professions of law, dentistry and medicine.

### Purpose of the Fund

The intent of the scholarship fund is to support the development of Black Canadian scholars through graduate studies. This scholarship is intended to provide an opportunity for promising Black Canadian students to pursue their work at the graduate level. We acknowledge the generous support of RBC for providing the seed funding for this endowed scholarship fund.

The James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies is pleased to recognize the successful applicants for the Graduate Scholarship programme.

### 2006/07

Lahoma Thomas	MA	International Development Studies	(New)
Bryan Daniels	PhD	Anatomy and Neurobiology	(New)
Kristin James	MARCH	Architecture	(Renewal)

## Fundraising Strategy to Enhance Endowment Funds

The goal of the James R. Johnston Chair, over the seven-year tenure of Professor Divine, is to increase the endowment funds by \$1-million. The strategy is to focus on a select number of key donors to contribute sums between \$50- and \$250-thousand. A confidential list has been compiled and over the 12-month period from May, 2006, to May, 2007, each of the identified prospective donors will be visited with a view to seeking support in achieving the goal.

## Conclusion

The report outlines, in summary form, the twelve month's of activities of the Chair, from May 2005 through April 2006. This was a particularly busy period, in that in addition to the organization and management of a very successful national conference, the Chair managed to secure some \$175-thousand to facilitate activities of the Chair, undertook research, made 16 keynote presentations, significantly developed an international conference for early 2007, undertook teaching engagements, extensively networked across Canada in support of raising the profile of the institution of the James R. Johnston Chair, thereby facilitating the acquisition of further endowment funds in due course, and attracted significant positive national and provincial media coverage for the institution. This is not to exclude the management of an increasingly busy office and the real prospects of a significant breakthrough in creating a National Centre of Excellence in Black Canadian scholarship.

Due to the successful negotiation of research and conference funds, the Chair was exceptionally lucky to be able to employ the services, full-time, of a PhD candidate, Mr. Mark Rushton, throughout this period. The Chair was also extremely fortunate, as a result of the funding success, to augment the half-time position of the Administrative Secretary to the James R. Johnston Chair, Mrs. Jacqueline St. Aubin, to full-time for 50% of the period covered by this report. Such resources will not be available in the new financial year. This will, undoubtedly, have implications for what can be achieved in the present financial year.

In the next twelve months, the focus will be on publications, research and further consolidation of the James R. Johnston Chair with a view to making a major impact on achieving our goal of \$1-million being added to the endowment funds of the James R. Johnston Chair by 2010.

*Professor David Divine*