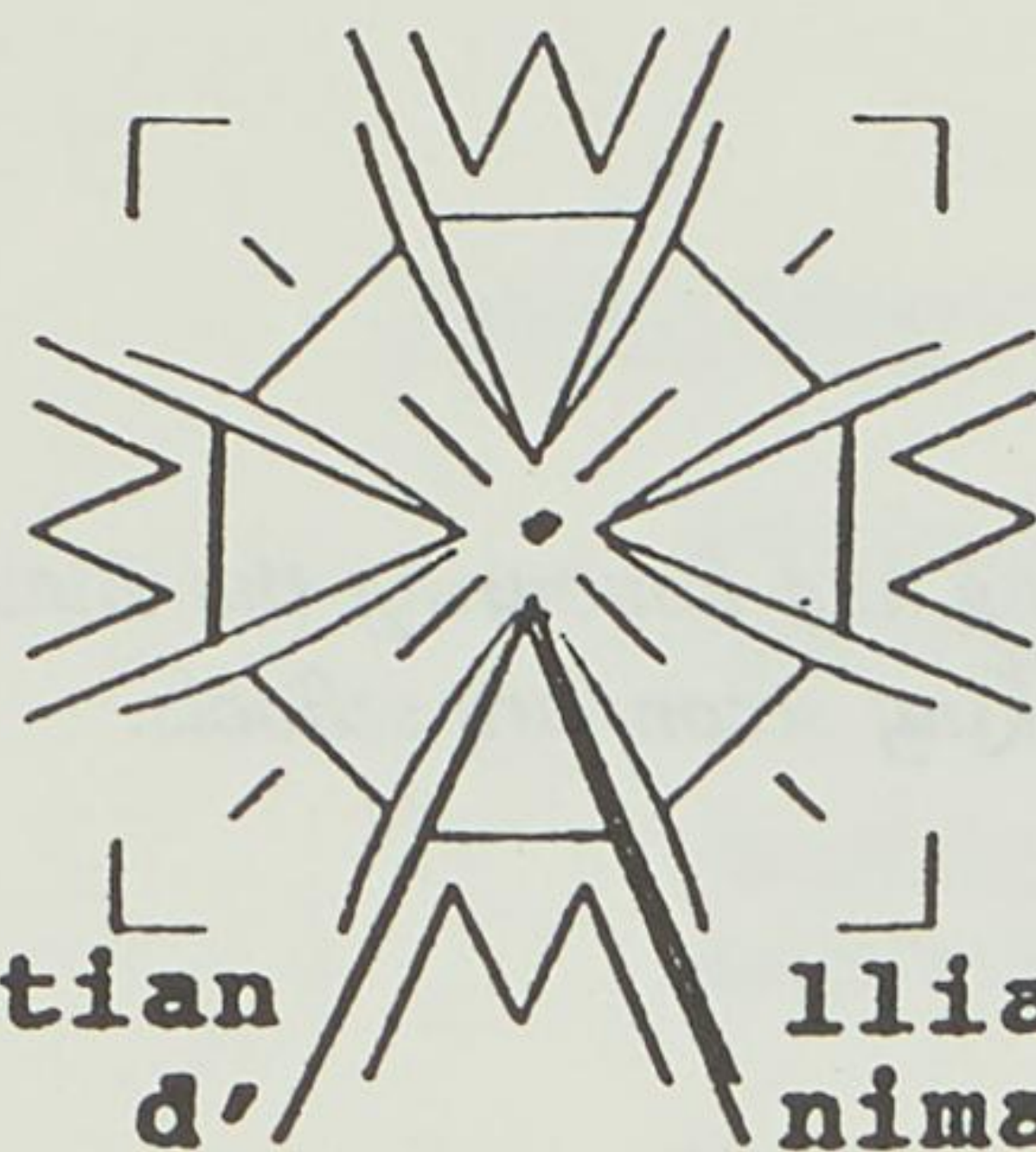


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Haitian
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nimation et d'intervention sociale

23, Avenue Gwyn
Toronto, Ontario
Canada
M6K 2
536-79

Ceremony Planned for Francophone Black Graduates

Toronto — Black students graduating from French-language secondary schools in Metro Toronto will soon be recognized for their achievements. The Olivier Lejeune Certificate, or Le certificat Olivier Lejeune in French, will be awarded to those graduates of the three French language schools located in Metro, with a tentative date for the ceremony set for late September. *November*

Pierre-Eddy Toussaint, president of the Haitian Alliance for Social Intervention, started to share the idea of a certificate and ceremony earlier this year. "I felt that these Black students, who are double minorities -- French and Black -- or even triple minorities in the case of female graduates, deserved to be recognized for their achievements," said Toussaint. "Most of these students have never seen Black teachers and all of them have been under-exposed to Black culture, history and achievements."

The Olivier Lejeune Certificate is named after the first Black student of the Catholic Order of Jesuit Priests. The Certificate will be awarded to those students who have received the grade 12 or 13 secondary school diplomas. The ceremony is expected to include a banquet at which their parents will have the opportunity to see the graduates receive their certificates. In addition, francophone Black teachers in elementary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities will be invited to meet the graduates. A keynote speech will be given by a key figure in the community.

The steering committee planning this event, called CREDIRNECS due to its French name, is still looking for volunteers. Bilingual individuals interested in contributing and those interested in further information are encouraged to call 536-7975.

the organization: **CREDIRNECS**

An organization planning and sponsoring a ceremony recognizing and honouring the Black graduates of Metro Toronto's Public and Catholic French-speaking secondary schools.

the award: **Le Certificat Olivier Lejeune**

Who was Olivier Lejeune? One of the first two students, the other being a member of a First Nation, with whom the Catholic Order of Jesuit Priests started the education school system during the French colonial era of New France in the 17th century, more than 200 years before Confederation (see "Etudes afro-canadiennes", a French adaption of "Black Studies", both Ontario Ministry of Education resource books, 1983, 1988).

The Certificate, to be awarded for the first time in late September 1991, is a symbol of recognition of the successful achievement of secondary school studies and honours the pioneering spirit exhibited by both Olivier Lejeune and the graduates.

Goals and Objectives of CREDIRNECS/Le Certificat Olivier Lejeune:

1. Recognize the role of Black students, whether Canadians by choice or Canadians by birth, who have been educated in the French-speaking school system.
2. Underline the fact that throughout their elementary and secondary school years very few if any of these students have been given the opportunity, through unrepresentative curriculum and social-cultural activities, to be exposed to, or to explore the positive aspects, of Black culture, history and achievements.
3. Celebrate the racial identity of participants through the ceremony as a means of promoting and conserving the French-speaking Black heritage in Ontario (PROCHENEFO).
4. Raise the awareness of society to the upcoming generation of young professional, intellectual and working class urban citizens who are double minorities by virtue of language and race yet are still eager and forcefully determined to take advantage of government policies such as official bilingualism, equal opportunity, employment equity and multiculturalism and all possessing, unlike some of their parents, "Canadian experience".

Networking - Who is involved? (D.E.P.O.):

1. Graduates (**D**iplomes-es) of the three Metro Toronto French Language Secondary Schools; 24 graduates are eligible in 1991.
2. Teachers (**E**nseignants-es), francophone schools, French as a second language classes or instructors or professors in higher education institutions.
3. Parents (**P**arents) of the graduates.
4. Organizations (**O**rganismes), nine in total, representing the French speaking Black community in Metro Toronto.

Steering Committee

An ethnocultural cross-section of the global Black community including francophones and anglophones; African, Caribbean and Canadian Blacks; Women and Youth:

Pierre-Eddy Toussaint (Haitian), Project Co-ordinator
Henri Pierre-Jérôme (Haitian), Treasurer
Thierry Joseph (Haitian), Secretary
Nadia Anthony (Haitian), Research Director
Wayne Burnett (Canadian), Protocol/VIP Director
Edyne Plancy (Martinique), DEPO Networking Director
Marguerite Martindale (Guyanese), Afrocentric Orientation Director
Bougha-na N'Ziku Sassa (Zairian), Public Relations Director
Luce-Yole Toussaint (Canadian), Youth Liaison Director
Grégory Gabriel (Somalian), Member
Mohammud Yussuf (Somalian), Member

Supporting Organizations

The Alliance haïtienne d'animation et d'intervention sociale/Haitian Alliance for Social Intervention is the main sponsoring organization for this ceremony. CREDIRNECS has received the support of the Metropolitan Toronto French Language School Council (CEFCUT) and awaits the support of 26 other community and governmental groups.

Your support is welcome! We need bilingual volunteers (students, teachers and other community-minded individuals)!

Greetings! CREDIRNECS and the Haitian Alliance salutes Caribana 1991: Salut! Chapeau bas! Bonne fête! Vive le Carnaval Caribana de Toronto!

For Information: 536-7975.

*P.S. - Une lettre d'appui de l'A.N.C. serait bienvenue
merci, P.F.T.*

Pierre-Eddy Toussaint
Responsable
Alliance haïtienne d'animation
et d'intervention sociale
23, Ave. Gwynne, Toronto, Ont
M6K 2C2 - 536-7975(R) 393-5409(B)

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Right Wing