

## IN MEMORIAM

### Genevieve Balogun, R.I.P.

On Friday April 24, 2009 Calgary lost one of its most outstanding citizens in a tragic road accident. Recognized as a Woman of Vision in 2004 for her many contributions to youth, families and community, Genevieve Balogun will be sorely missed by her mother, sister, sons, granddaughter, nephews, niece, friends and colleagues. She lived fully and joyfully, regardless of difficulties encountered on the way. She touched many lives and all attest to her laughter, her smile, her generosity, her many kindnesses, her skills, diplomacy, vision, leadership and commitment to building a better world.

Genevieve was a gifted teacher who worked for the Calgary Board of Education for over 30 years. She dedicated her life to assisting all students in achieving their full potential, both academically and as global citizens. She worked endlessly to build bridges between the schools she worked in, the families of her students, and the community at large. During her last two years at Terry Fox Junior High, Genevieve was a Learning Leader-UNESCO ASPnet, a Community Liaison for the Resiliency Project, and an English As A Second Language Teacher. She had only recently retired from the Calgary Board to take on a new position as Manager of the Mosaic Youth and Family Centre operated by Immigrant Services Calgary. Genevieve's active participation in a wide range of community and professional organizations exemplifies the spirit of diversity, and commitment to equity, social justice and civic participation that she encouraged among her students. Over the years she worked on committees, served on boards, held office, raised funds, facilitated group processes, planned and dreamed with others in dozens of community groups.

Genevieve also helped plan and participated in innumerable conferences and public forums organized by professional associations, schools and community groups. In recognition of her work she was nominated for and won many awards including the 2004 Global / YWCA Woman of Vision Award, a 2003 Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, and a 2006 Alumni Honour Award from the University of Alberta. In both 1989 and 1999 she was nominated for an Excellence in Teaching Award from the ATA. As one community member has stated Genevieve "has left us a legacy to be carried on".



**Genevieve Balogun**  
1950-2009

True peace is not merely the absence of tension:  
it is the presence of justice.  
~ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ~

Welcome to "Take AAME", the  
newsletter of the Alberta Association  
for Multicultural Education.

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# Harmony Brunch 2009

*By Karen Gall,*

*Director of the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation*

The 2009 Harmony Brunch commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, was held on Sunday, March 15, 2009 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre. In attendance were over 400 individuals from business, academic organizations, government departments, various religious and cultural groups including aboriginal groups, women's groups, representatives from local communities-at-large, the media and, of course youth.

Our Keynote Speaker was Edmonton Chief of Police, Mike Boyd. There was a presentation by Edmonton Poet Laureate, Professor E.D. Blodgett who wrote a poem for this event and read it during the program. The 2009 Harmony Brunch served as the launch of the newly published biography of CMEF Founding President, Robinson Koilpillai. The event was covered by various local media outlets, including Omni, CTV, CITY TV, Global, and Asia Times. Two media clips can be viewed on our website - [www.cmf.ca](http://www.cmf.ca).

The Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation (CMEF) had a particular emphasis on involving youth in the Harmony Brunch this year. Youth members of the CMEF Board were on the Harmony Brunch planning committee. A University of Alberta student assisted in designing the beautiful Harmony Brunch program. Youth volunteers/attendees were from the 533 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, St. Albert, City of Edmonton Youth Council, Students from the Edmonton Public Schools District Mandarin Bilingual Program (Ross Sheppard High, M.E. Lazerte, McNally), University of Alberta. These young people were enthusiastic volunteers before

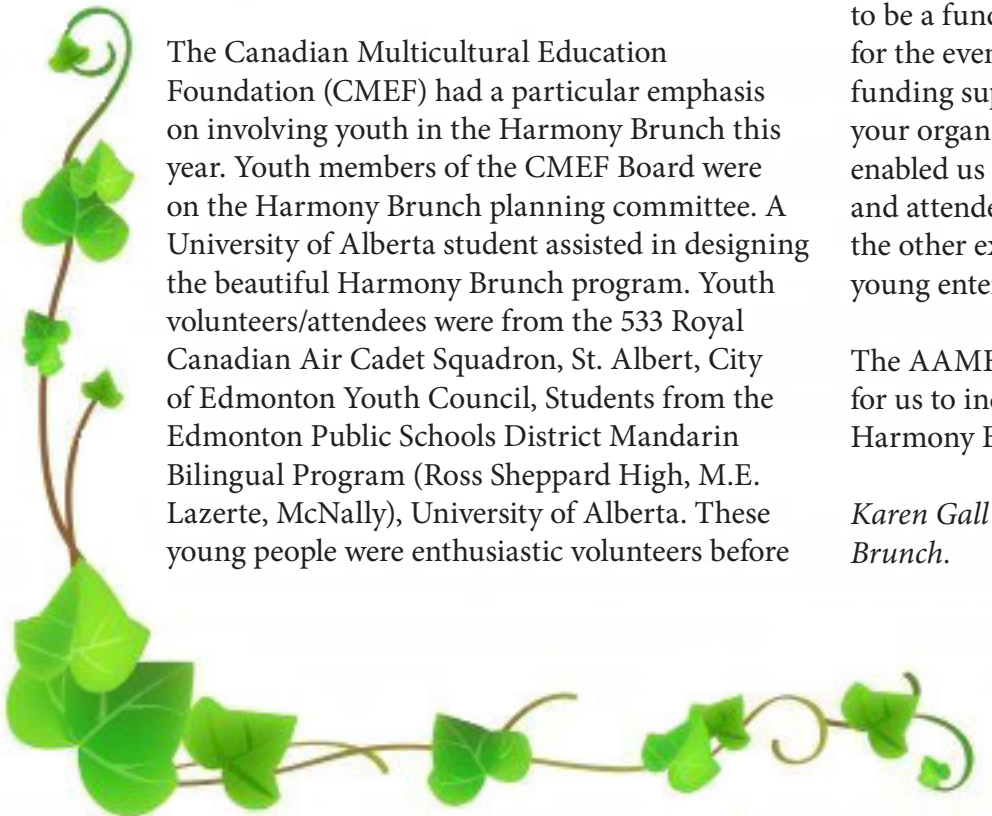
and during the Harmony Brunch. They worked together to set up displays and distribute the various items (programs, candles, matches, UN Declarations, etc. to the tables. They assisted with the door prizes and with the collection of the completed evaluation forms. At the end of the event, they all pitched in to collect and pack everything up. The Air Cadet also arrived early and assisted with setting up the room. During the program, they provided a colour party and marched to the front of the room and saluted the flags during O Canada. Their commanding officer reported that the cadets were proud to be part of such a community event and to have such a prominent role in the program.

This year, the Frankie Hidalgo Trio (also young adults) presented music from the Latin American culture. This Latin jazz combo played before, during and at the end of the Harmony Brunch, setting a relaxed, rich atmosphere at the event.

As the Harmony Brunch is not specifically designed to be a fund-raiser, CMEF does subsidize all tickets for the event. This is only possible with the help of funding supporters such as AAME. The money that your organization donated to the Harmony Brunch enabled us to sponsor the various youth who assisted and attended the Harmony Brunch and assist with the other expenses, such as the honourarium for the young entertainers.

The AAME's financial assistance made it possible for us to increase the youth participation in the 2009 Harmony Brunch. Thank you for your support.

*Karen Gall is the Chair of the CMEF Harmony Brunch.*



# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY<sup>and</sup>

## Community Caring Recognition event

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Calgary, Alberta

On Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009, over 130 people came together to celebrate International Human Rights Day. Members of over 40 diverse organizations were invited to participate in an evening of networking, entertainment and celebration of their own unique contributions to human rights and a more caring community. The purpose of the event was to recognize community volunteers whose work connects with The City of Calgary Community & Neighbourhood Services (CNS) East Division, and to also highlight the importance of safeguarding human rights in our society. A number of information booths were set up so that guests could learn more about resources available to volunteer groups in the Calgary community.

In commemoration of International Human Rights Day, guests received a booklet showcasing each organization's mandate. The booklet also serves as a networking and resource tool for everyone who participated in the event.

The main event of the evening was guest speaker Marichu Antonio who spoke of her personal experiences as a human rights activist that resulted in imprisonment in the Philippines during the 1980's.

Entertainment included local youth whose talents were highlighted through a number of performances.



Genevieve Balogun, a teacher, mentor and human rights activist, was remembered for her tireless dedication to the community. A memorial display was also created to honour her life.

The organizers wish to thank all partners involved in this event included the Calgary Public Library, the Alberta Human Rights Commission, the Calgary Branch of the United Nations Association in Canada, The Calgary Foundation, the Alberta Association for Multicultural Education (AAME), and Calgary Centre for Culture, Equity and Diversity.

Joan Farkas, Community Social Worker, City of Calgary, CNS, East Division Liza Lorenzetti, Community Social Worker, City of Calgary, CNS, East Division.



# IMMIGRANTS OF DISTINCTION

January 21, 2010

Linda McKay-Panos  
Chair, Funding Committee  
Alberta Association for  
Multicultural Education

Dear Ms. McKay-Panos:

RE: 2009 IMMIGRANTS OF  
DISTINCTION AWARDS

Thank you on behalf of Immigrant Services Calgary and the Immigrants of Distinction Awards' youth scholarships recipients. We appreciate the work of the Alberta Association for Multicultural Education and particularly for your partnership with us to fund a Youth Scholarship at the 2009 Immigrants of Distinction Awards.

Every year, Immigrant Services Calgary awards Youth Scholarships to five immigrant and refugee youth in the Calgary community. Through AAME's generous donation, we were able to recognize the outstanding contributions of immigrant youth in our community and help them to continue their growth through furthering their education.

The Immigrants of Distinction Awards is attended by hundreds of attendees and dignitaries each year in celebration and recognition of the success of first generation Canadians and their contributions to Canada. Since introducing the Youth Scholarships, 55 immigrant and refugee youth have received both recognition and financial support to further their education and fulfill their dreams.

In recognition of your generous donation, Alberta Association for Multicultural Education was listed in the event PowerPoint, the program, verbally recognized by the event emcees as well as being published in our annual report.

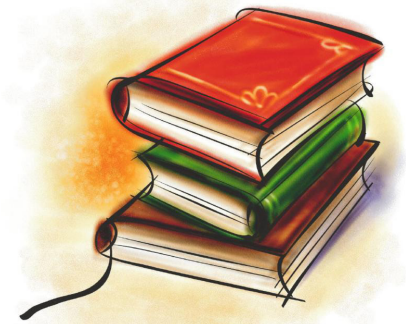
Thank you for your support again for AAME's support.

Sincerely,  
Din Ladak, B.Sc., BSW, MSW  
Chief Executive Officer  
Immigrant Services Calgary

## The Edmonton Public Library

# *Changing Lives*

Every day lives are changed at the Edmonton Public Library - a child meets a new friend at the TD Summer Reading Club; a newcomer to Canada drops in to practise their English skills; a teen uses a computer to apply for summer jobs. Edmontonians know that anything is possible when they enter EPL. It is because of you that EPL is able to make those possibilities a reality.



Thank you for supporting Edmonton Public Library in 2009. Your gift has already affected the lives of many Edmontonians. Your contributions ensure that the people of Edmonton will continue to discover something new each time they visit EPL. Without your support we would not be able to make EPL the amazing place that it is today.

We are currently developing a new website that will feature all of the exciting things happening at EPL and the many ways that you can get involved and support your community. I hope you will visit [www.epl.ca/donate](http://www.epl.ca/donate) in the coming months to discover what the future holds for EPL and how you can become part of an amazing legacy. In order to receive the latest EPL information first, I also encourage you to sign up at [www.epl.ca/eplnewsletter](http://www.epl.ca/eplnewsletter) to receive our monthly e-newsletter. It is with great pride that I also get to share with you a copy of our 2009

Annual Report, Spread the words. This document showcases the truly essential role the Library plays in our vibrant city and our passionate commitment to share with everyone!

In 2009, total visits to the library exceeded 14 million for the very first time, borrowing increased 23% to over 12 million items and program attendance increased by over 15%. These achievements are a testament to the enthusiasm, creativity, hard work and dedication of library staff who continue to position EPL as a leader in public library service.

We are well on our way to another exceptional year and I look forward to continuing our momentum.

Ryan Drury Manager,  
Fund Development

# Immigrant Students Visit Hutterite Colony

We are teachers of ESL (English as a Second Language) at Forest Lawn High School in southeast Calgary. We teach immigrant students from all over the world. Many of our students are independent or family class immigrants, while others are refugees from war-torn countries. Our school is a potpourri of cultures, abilities and experiences which makes FLHS such a fascinating place!

This project has been an exciting journey for all of us! We first thought of the idea of going on a field trip to a Hutterite colony while we were doing a novel student of the book, *The Giver*, which is a story about a highly-structured society. We thought it would enrich the students' learning of this novel by showing them a living example of a culture like this in Canada, because what they often find here is a bewildering and sometimes chaotic modern society. Most of our students come from traditional, structured societies themselves.

What was meant to be an enrichment study of our novel and a nice outing in the country turned out to be a profoundly meaningful experience for everyone, not only for students and teachers, but also for multi-generations of the colony. Our students, who sometimes feel marginalized and excluded by mainstream Canadian culture felt embraced and heartily welcomed from this group of people of European descent. This first trip allowed cultural sharing on both sides. The Hutterites proudly and generously displayed their fascinating culture, but our immigrant students were also able to present their cultural items. We were surprised by the openness and interest that the Hutterites showed us. One elderly woman who had come to the school to watch our presentations rapturously commented, "I could stay and watch this all day long".

The excitement of this first experience inspired us to organize another trip to the same colony. This time, food was an addition to our cultural exchange, with our students providing a variety of ethnic dishes for the Hutterites to sample while we enjoyed homemade bread, French fries and chicken so graciously provided for us by the colony. The second trip was, again, very memorable and meaningful.

Another different feature of this trip was the pairing of each our Level 2 ESL students with a pen pal from the colony school or ex-students. This writing exchange both before and after the trip enriched our experience tremendously and allowed for deeper learning to take place in both settings.



In closing, we would like to express our deep appreciation to the Alberta Association for Multicultural Education for their generous financial sponsorship of this project. In addition, we would also like to thank Sheila Morgan, the teacher at the Ridge Land Colony, for liaising, organizing and supporting us in this endeavour. Any finally, our deepest thanks to all of the wonderful new friends we made at the Ridge Land Hutterite colony, without whom this experience would never have been possible.

Laura, Tina and Joan

Dear Linda and friends at AAME,

Thank you most sincerely for stepping in to close the shortfall in the bursary fund for Writing Across Borders, the 2009 Get Publishing event in Edmonton. The response from writers who attended on full or partial bursaries has been uniformly positive, and we all benefited from the rich range of cultures and experiences present. Please pass along our most sincere appreciation. Best wishes in your work,

Cheryl Mahaffy

Get Publishing Communications Society



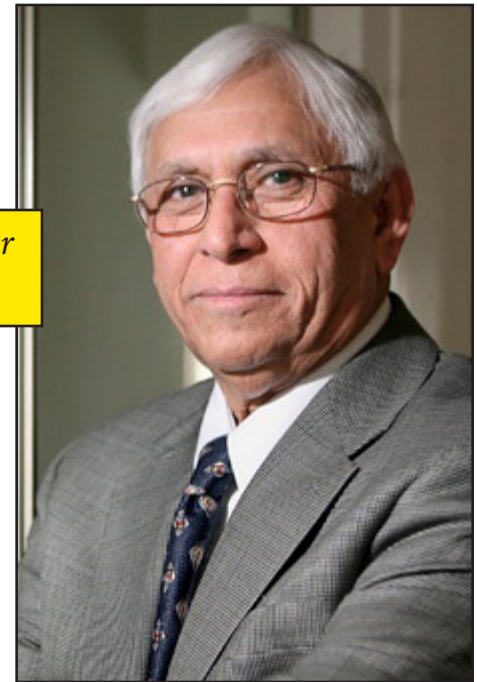
# Letter to the Prime Minister

Dr. Chander Grover Support Coalition  
c/o Louis Paul Hebert, 38 Hamilton Island Road, Summertown, ON K0C 2E0  
Tel: 613-362-4379, E-mail: lphebert@runbox.com

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November 28, 2010  
The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

*Dr. Chandler  
Grover*



In association with several human rights activists and organizations, we have assumed the mantle to speak out against the human rights abuses perpetrated against Dr. Chander P. Grover by his employer, the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), an agency of the government of Canada. Dr. Grover, a Canadian citizen of South Asian descent, has been fighting against discrimination, exclusion, oppression and torture for 24 years.



*The Right Hon. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada*

On the occasion of the 2010 International Human Rights day, to be celebrated on December 10th, we are appealing for your direct intervention to end the discrimination against Dr. Grover.

A Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (1992) has found that the discrimination against Dr. Grover, based on his race, colour and ethnic or national origin, was “flagrant and calculated to humiliate and demean,” that the actions of the NRC “were contrived and calculated to further humiliate Dr. Grover, and bring to an end his career at NRC,” and that all this was part of a “preconceived and well planned strategy.” More recently, the Public Service Labour Relations Board (2005), the Federal Court (2007) and the Federal Court of Appeal (2008) have attributed Dr. Grover’s mistreatment to “the overall context and attitude of the employer (NRC).”

Dr. Grover has won several times before various judicial bodies, but the NRC ignored the court rulings and has continued its acts of discrimination and harassment. The NRC is assisted by other central government agencies, including the Privy Council Office, the Treasury Board, Industry Canada and the Department of Justice, as well as the Auditor General of Canada. The NRC approach has been focused on “terminating Dr. Grover’s employment” and to prolong the matter until “he dies.” For two decades, Dr. Grover has been denied a hearing before courts or tribunals where evidence regarding his continuing human rights violations could be presented. The NRC has unilaterally cancelled negotiations with Dr. Grover despite the fact that an agreement in principle had been reached and has used mindless legal and other manipulative tactics to stall the matter.

*(Continued next page)*

# Letter to the Prime Minister (Continued)

It is obvious the NRC and its allies are abusing power and public funds. Their actions are calculated to defeat the human rights laws and to intimidate Dr. Grover for speaking up against violation of his human rights and his continuing struggle for dignity. The estimated cost to taxpayers in this matter has been over 60 million dollars.

The 2010 International Human Rights Day is dedicated to human rights defenders who act to end discrimination and to inspire them to continue to advocate justice, end discrimination and seek to protect the victims of human rights violations.

Canada is perceived as a leader of human rights, and you, Mr. Prime Minister, as its leading human rights defender. We seek your intercession to end the discrimination against Dr. Grover.

We appeal to you to help achieve an amicable resolution to this blatant case of systemic discrimination. We ask that you order the National Research Council to resume settlement negotiations with Dr. Grover, which stand cancelled since the direct involvement of the Minister of Industry, the Auditor General of Canada and other central agencies of the government in this matter. We also ask that you take necessary steps to set up a public inquiry to address accountability of perpetrators and the transparency of their actions. We assure you that the Grover case will serve as the roadmap to human rights violations in the federal public service.

We thank you for your kind attention into this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Louis Paul Hebert, Human Rights Activist, Summertown, ON  
Paul A. Winn, The Canadian People's Forum, Vancouver, BC  
Bob Hughes, Saskatchewan Coalition Against Racism – SCAR, Regina, SK  
Madhu Verma, NICC and AHSNB, Fredericton, NB  
Dr. John Samuel, Human Rights Activist, Ottawa

Cc: Hon. Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Official Opposition, Liberal Party

Hon. Jack Layton, Leader, New Democratic Party

Hon. Gilles Duceppe, Leader, Bloc Quebecois

Hon. Marjory LeBreton, Senate Government Leader

Hon. Jim Cowan, Senate Leader of the Opposition



“Take AAME” is a publication of the Alberta Association for Multicultural Education.



Alberta Association for  
**Multicultural** Education

Please visit AAME's website:

**aamed.ca**

Send an e-mail: [info@aamed.ca](mailto:info@aamed.ca)