



Take AAME

The Newsletter of the Alberta Association for Multicultural Education

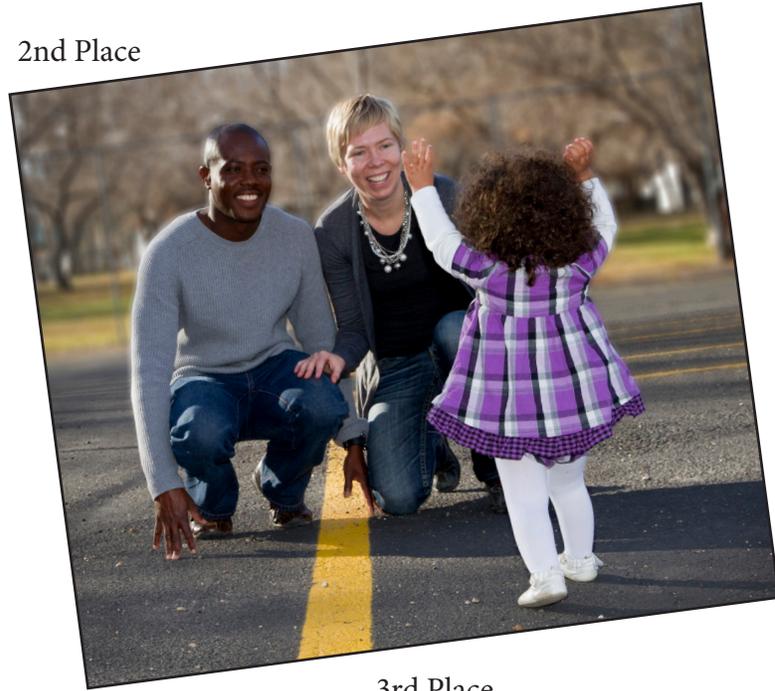
December 2012

Harmony Brunch Photo Contest

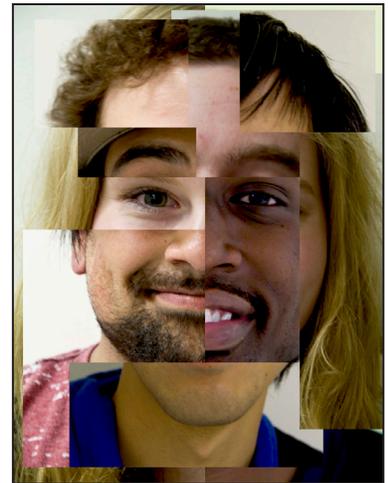


This photo won first prize in the NAIT student photography contest sponsored by the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation as part of the 2010 Harmony Brunch. The photo contest was made possible by a \$2000 grant from AAME.

2nd Place



3rd Place



Runners-Up



Harmony Brunch 2010

On Sunday, March 21, 2010, the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation (CMEF) hosted the 13th annual Harmony Brunch at the Ramada Conference Centre in Edmonton.

The Harmony Brunch brought together approximately 300 people from diverse cultural background to celebrate diversity and harmony and to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The CMEF involved youth in all aspects of the Harmony Brunch, to help raise their awareness of issues related to racism and discrimination. A number of university students were on the Harmony Brunch planning committee. Each year, young performance artists from different cultural backgrounds are invited to share their music and/or dance. Youth volunteers from high school and post secondary institutions assist with designing the printed program, and helping before, during and after the event.



The Alberta Association for Multicultural Association (AAME) contributed funds to offset some of the expenses and to sponsor the youth who attend this annual event.



Alberta Lieutenant-Governor Tommy Kwong, with AAME Board member Nicholas Spillios at the 2010 Harmony Brunch.



International Mother Language Day 2011

The International and Heritage Languages Association (IHLA) welcomes everyone back to the new school year. The summer rest has brought new ideas and new activities planned for our organization and its members. This year we will focus on integration of technologies in our language classrooms, for planning, implementing and delivering creative projects with our students of all ages.

We celebrated our 8th Annual International Mother Language Day on Saturday, February 19, 2011 at the Italian Cultural Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. This day is a celebration of all mother tongues spoken in the world and specifically the ones spoken in Alberta, by students of our schools and the community at large.

AAME is an annual sponsor and supporter of this event as it celebrates cultural diversity and promotes understanding and collaboration amongst citizens of different heritage backgrounds.

Keep an eye on our website. It can guide you through many resources and activity ideas, sharing professional development tools via our You-Tube channel. You can give us a call if you have any question about heritage and international language learning at the community level. Our schools have been teaching for the past 60 years and we can find someone who has information and useful knowledge on practically everything you may think of!

Our website is: www.ihla.ca. Feel free to contact us at: edmontonihla@gmail.com.

Happy School year to Everyone!

The IHLA Board.

X-Press Yourself! An Art Competition

To commemorate Calgary Catholic Immigration Society's (CCIS) 30th Anniversary, a school youth art competition under the Calgary Board of Education and Catholic School Board was created to engage students throughout Calgary to think about the diversity that exists in our communities.

The competition was open to all students and focused on using art to exhibit their thoughts on diversity and culture in Calgary.

Pieces submitted were available for viewing at CCIS' 30th Anniversary Opening Ceremony held on April 13, 2011 at the Margaret Chisholm Resettlement Centre. Guests of the event were asked to vote for their favorite and the winning piece would serve as the cover of CCIS' 2010 – 2011 annual report. 27 pieces were submitted and each was created under the theme "What Does Diversity Mean to You?"

The winner of the competition is Soobin Song, a Grade 12 student in Calgary, who explains her piece: "I drew a Canada flag in the middle and put eyes on the corners, because Canada is the democracy country. I think this artwork is related to diversity. Diversity is the difference or variety".



The contest was separated into four categories: elementary school submissions, junior high submissions, high school submissions and a special class submission, with each category winning a prize, based on the highest number of votes. A special thank you to AAME for their donation of the prizes for contest winners. Their generous donations were a real treat to the winners and will surely be put to good use!

TRIBUTE TO JULIENNE HENDRICKSON

"CALLED TO SERVE"

On Nov. 2, 2008 Julienne Hendrickson was ordained to the Vocational Diaconate at the Anglican Cathedral Church of the Redeemer in Calgary. It is my pleasure to give an account of her many years of service to her community in Calgary and at large.

Julienne was born in St. Kitts, West Indies and attended the Basseterre Girls' High School. The motto of the school, "Ready to serve" stayed with her as is evident in her life journey to date, which has been one of service in both her religious and secular life.

She has been an educator and an advocate for social justice since she and her family migrated to Canada and settled in Calgary in 1981.

She is a member of AAME (Alberta Association for Multicultural Education) and has contributed much to that organization for over 20 years.

She was a member of CARE (Committee for Anti-racist Education), and the Congress of Black Women. She supports The Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth, Inn from the Cold, and Feed the Hungry. She is also a strong support for Caribbean and Dinka (Sudanese) groups. As an employee of the Calgary Board of Education, she has made a valuable contribution to parent, multicultural and ESL programs

Her strength lies in the belief of "practice" which means working towards attaining respect and dignity for every human being. In fact, the role of deacon is just that: one of servant hood.

Julienne is possibly the first woman of Afro-Caribbean descent to be ordained to ministry in the Anglican Diocese of Calgary. I personally attended the ordination, which was a solemn and beautiful ceremony. Every attendant was filled with pride and admiration for this dedicated woman.

The AAME Board extends sincere and hearty congratulations and wishes Julienne continued joy in her service to others.

Fran Zaborniak (AAME Board Director).

Racial Profiling – Identification or Discrimination?

By Linda McKay-Panos

Coward v. Alberta (Human Rights and Citizenship Commission, Chief Commissioner) 2008 ABQB 455
<http://www.albertacourts.ab.ca/jdb/2003-/qb/civil/2008/2008abqb0455.pdf>

This case was an application for judicial review of a decision of the Chief Commissioner of the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission (“Commission”). It addresses some very interesting issues, including the jurisdiction of the Commission to deal with Charter of Rights and Freedoms (“Charter”) issues and which police behaviour will amount to racial discrimination.

There has been a heightened awareness in Canada that police and other law enforcement officials engage and have engaged in racial profiling. For example, various reports have indicated that there is racial profiling by police services in Ontario and at Canadian Ports of Entry. See, for example:

- Bias-Free Policing: Kingston Data Collection Project (2005) Online: <http://www.police.kingston.on.ca/Professor%20Wortley%20Report.Kingston.pdf>
- Ontario Human Rights Commission, *Paying the Price: The Human Cost of Racial Profiling* online: http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/resources/discussion_consultation/RacialProfileReportEN/pdf

These reports found that residents of African/Black communities receive harsher treatment than white residents and that persons of colour are overrepresented in police statistics of arrests and charges.

The issue in the Coward case is: When a person is approached and questioned by police because his race and some other factors match the description of a person of interest, and is subsequently arrested and searched, is that racial discrimination?

Mr. Coward, a black man, was walking indowntown Calgary at 5:30 pm when a police car blocked his further movement. A

police officer approached him, stating that Mr. Coward matched the description of a person seen waving a big knife in a public place. Mr. Coward stated that he did not have a knife. The police officer asked if he could search Coward, and Coward asked some questions about the alleged offender. Then, Coward refused to consent to a search of his person. The police officer detained, handcuffed and searched Mr. Coward in public. When no knife was found, Mr. Coward was released.

Mr. Coward complained to the Commission that the police had discriminated against him in the area of goods, services and accommodation on the ground of race contrary to s. 4 of the Human Rights Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act (“HRCMA”).

The complaint was investigated by one person and then dismissed by the Commission’s Director. Mr. Coward asked the Chief Commissioner to review the Director’s decision and the Chief Commissioner declined to send the complaint to the Human Rights Panel for adjudication. Mr. Coward then applied to the Court of Queen’s Bench (per Justice S. Martin) for judicial review of the Chief Commissioner’s decision.

The investigator’s report indicated that a transit driver called the LRT train dispatch reporting that he/she had seen a black man with a large bag of knives selling a knife to another black man (there was no transcript available of this call). The LRT dispatch called 911 and a transcript of that call indicated a black male dressed in all black with a red Flames hat near a mountain bike was holding out a big hunting knife in his hand and that he was intimidating people in the area (para. 7).

Although there were discrepancies between what the transit driver told the LRT dispatch and what was relayed to the police in the 911 call, the investigator proceeded on the basis that the police could act on information they received. As a result of the 911 call, the Calgary Police Service was dispatched on both radio and computer with the following information: “male on the S/E corner of A/A, is waving around a really big knife, off is blk male, dressed all in blk with Flames hat, called in by train driver, looks like a hunting knife.”



The arresting officer testified that he heard that the suspect was a black man in dark clothing. He did not hear about a Flames baseball hat or a bicycle.

As noted earlier, Mr. Coward refused to be searched and told the police constable that the description of the subject was vague and that he did not wish to be searched because of his colour. The constable claims at this point Mr. Coward stepped back and put his hands in his pockets, leading the constable to think that perhaps Coward did have a knife on him. Coward claims that he stepped back, but did not put his hands in his pockets. It was then that he was handcuffed and patted down.

In the investigator's report, the constable agreed that he stopped the complainant because he was a black male, but not for the purpose of racial profiling. Coward was black, was in the vicinity and wore a long 3/4 black jacket that covered most of his pants. The weapons suspect was a black male wearing dark clothing and waving a knife.

Mr. Coward alleged that the actions of the police violated his Charter rights. However, Justice Martin ruled that any comments made by the Commission with regard to the legality of the police search were outside of the jurisdiction of the Commission, by virtue of the Designation of Constitutional Decision Makers Regulation (Alta. Reg. 69/2006), which indicates that the Commission is not a body authorized to decide Charter issues. Further, she declined to rule on the matter, because Mr. Coward had initiated a separate civil action alleging various breaches of his Charter rights.

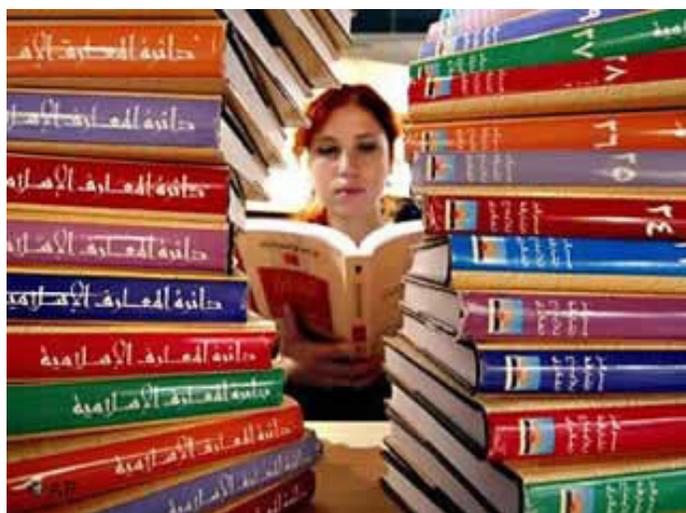
The Court determined that reasonableness is the appropriate standard of review to use in reviewing the Chief Commissioner's finding there was no discrimination. Justice Martin noted that the question is whether race was a factor in how Mr. Coward was treated and the threshold is low because there are ingrained patterns of discrimination against certain persons or groups in society (see: *Troy v. Kemir Enterprises Inc.*, 2003 BCSC 1947 ("Troy")). Justice Martin noted at para. 61 that the line of analysis in the Chief Commissioner's decision is: While race is a prohibited ground of discrimination, it may also operate as a relevant descriptor. She held that it was reasonable for the Chief Commissioner to determine that there was no generalized heightened suspicion of Mr. Coward on the grounds he was black. Further, this was not a situation like that in the Troy case where a person interpreted and reported the equivocal acts of a particular black person as suspicious and the Court held that the Commissioner ought to have probed whether her beliefs were shaped by unfounded racist assumptions.

The Court of Queen's Bench held that the Commissioner's decision was not unreasonable and the Court would not intervene.

The police must then be very intentional when approaching persons of colour for arrest. It would not be considered illegal racial discrimination if the person's colour is part of a description, which includes other factors, as opposed to the circumstances where people's beliefs and then behaviours (i.e., arrest) are based on unfounded racist assumptions.

Alberta Multilingual Book Consortium (AMBC) Culls Outdated Collection, Adds Books in Arabic

At the Alberta Multilingual Books Consortium, we undertook a project this summer to weed the oldest materials from the world-language books, dating from the 1980s and earlier. Just imagine if you visited your public library and the only reading material they had for you was published 30 or 40 years ago! So, we now have a collection that is smaller but that is more modern and relevant to today's readers. Once again, your generous donation is important to residents across Alberta in maintaining access to culturally relevant reading material.



This year, your donation was put towards improving the Arabic collection, one of the languages that has experienced increasing demand over the past couple of years. The books were received in August and have all been processed and added to the circulating collection.

The AAME's support is acknowledged on our website in order provide maximum visibility.

Colleen Schalm Mares

Manager, AMBC Collection

www.prl.ab.ca/ambe

MULTICULTURALISM RULES AT TIFF

by Nicholas Spillios

The 37th TIFF festival unspooled a number of films which contribute to better understanding of some of the major issues facing multiculturalism in today's society.

As a member of the press, the privilege of viewing these films among more than 300 films was appreciated.

ENGLISH VINGLISH

(India)

Sashi lives a contented domestic life in India until she travels to New York to help her niece prepare for her upcoming wedding to a non-Indian. She enrolls in an ESL class and becomes proficient in the English language which she uses in her speech at the wedding to underline the values of her culture and to subtly explain her romantic friendship with a fellow student who she discouraged due to family commitments.

EMPEROR

(U.S.)

Explores the devastating effect of Emperor Hirohito's surrender in 1945, his surrender of any claim of divinity, and the impact on Japanese values and beliefs. General Douglas MacArthur calls on General Fellers to make a decision on whether to try Hirohito. The General in his research discovers the clash between U.S. and Japanese values.

HANNAH ARENDT

(Germany)

Explores the controversial views of the German-Jewish philosopher Hannah Arendt who covered the trial of Adolph Eichman and in turn the bypassing of the consequences of one's actions. Her view that ordinary, normal people and not monsters are responsible for crimes in society is questioned.

INESCAPABLE

(Canada)

A Syrian-Canadian businessman returns to Damascus after an absence of many years. It is then becomes evident that he was formerly involved in the Syrian resistance movement and he must now face obstacles which separate him from his daughter.

MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN

(Canada/S.Africa)

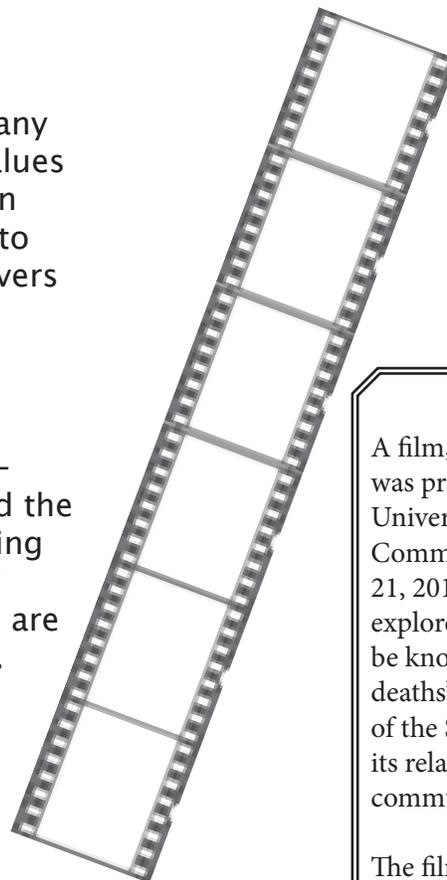
An adaptation of Salman Rushdie's novel on the switching at birth during India's independence of two children who are forced to live out the other's fate with their country's development as a world player. Their lives take on a closely knit connection during the historical events unfolding.

THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST

(India/Pakistan/U.S.)

A Pakistani finds success on Wall Street until he becomes a scapegoat after the 9/11 attack. His pull to his roots prove unrelentless. Explores the conflict between Islamic radicalism and American capitalism.

The above films will be released in the fall and spring.



Films to See

A film, "Two Worlds Colliding" was presented by AAME and the University of Calgary Stop Racism Committee at the U. of C. on March 21, 2011. This NFB documentary explores the story of what came to be known as Saskatoon's "freezing deaths". It highlights the relationship of the Saskatoon police force and its relationship with the Aboriginal community.

The film was followed by a question and answer session with the film's director, Tasha Hubbard, a very talented educator who has done considerable research on this event.

Writing Across Borders

“GET PUBLISHING”

I want to take this opportunity to properly thanking your association for the generous donation of \$1,100 for bursary recipients who attended Writing Across Borders, the Get Publishing event in early May.

This donation to the Get Publishing Communications Society was the largest single donation provided to the fund, and enabled four multilingual writers to attend Writing Across Borders, on May 1 -2 in Edmonton. In all, the fund covered the registration fees for 17 writers in whole or in part.

Writing Across Borders put writers in touch with publishers and publishing ideas across various mediums, genres and cultures, helping to break through the barriers that so easily keep newcomers to Canada from publishing success.

Unsolicited notes notes of thanks rolled in from bursary recipients immediately after the event. Tu McAmmond of Calgary termed the experience *“fantastic, beyond my expectation.”* She added, *“My first time in Edmonton, and my first time to meet with other writers.”*



An aboriginal participant wrote, *“It was good to meet other struggling writers who are going through the same frustrations.”*

The bursary fund also supported low-income writers of any background. Poet and fantasy writer Michelle Earl expressed many recipients’ thoughts in the following note, which she specifically requested be sent to donors:

“I just wanted to thank you for helping me attend the Get Publishing Conference. I really appreciate your kindness for paying for my bursary.

This conference has encouraged me to continue to develop my online presence as well as continue to hone my craft. I also feel encouraged to get my manuscript out to the markets around me. You have helped me to move forward and I appreciate your generosity.”

– Michelle Earl

A most sincere thank you to AAME for helping struggling writers move ahead in their publishing careers. Thanks to you, Get Publishing was able to build new bridges to writers who were feeling isolated and alone.

We are acknowledging AAME’s support in an upcoming thank-you ad in Legacy and in various communications with the writing community. For example, we included the following paragraph in an email to all attendees:

Late-breaking bursary donor

Shortly after Writing Across Borders, we received a generous donation to cover several previously unfunded bursaries. Hearty thanks to the Alberta Association for Multicultural Education for a \$1,100 donation. Equal thanks to other bursary donors, including the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation (\$1,000) and several writers and friends of writers.

If we can provide any further information, do let us know! And again thank you from grateful hearts.

Cheryl Mahaffy
Chair, Writing Across Borders

An Experience of a Lifetime

Little did I know when I applied for a volunteer job in June 2010 that five months later I would be walking into a Hindu Residential School in the state of Maharashtra, India. Tucked away in a valley surrounded by the Anjaneri Hills, this school serves 300 students and 50 teachers plus a large administrative staff.

The setting is beautiful. The grounds are groomed on a daily basis and resemble any Mexican Riviera resort. Tropical flora is abundant and provides employment for the multitude workers who live in the surrounding hills.

The school population is K to 12 and most of the staff and students live in residence although some do commute from the nearest town which is Nasik. I lived in staff residence which consisted of a two-bedroom apartment

with most of the amenities I am used to at home with the exception of a few unwelcome visitors which are commonly found in hot, humid climates. My job was to mentor teachers primarily in the English department although throughout my stay I worked with other subject area teachers as well.



The students are a delight to work with. They are beautiful kids and were extremely attentive. They called me “Frances Ma’am” and I was often greeted with a big hug when they came running down the halls. The teachers were much more reserved but still very receptive and eager to learn. After two attempts to provide them with theoretical background to Teaching English as a Second Language I realized that the best method was to demonstrate theory in the classrooms. This was much more effective.

Indian English is difficult to work with. Teachers and students come from different vernacular backgrounds and it takes some time to become acquainted with so many different accents and grammatical backgrounds. Pronunciation took up a considerable amount of time. It is difficult to say how much difference I made but after two and a half months I could see that many of them were working to inculcate the methods I demonstrated and presented in workshops. Some teachers worked very hard to improve their pronunciation.

I would not try to hide the fact that there is plenty of culture shock involved in such an undertaking. The climate is hot although during the time I spent there, it was winter and I found it very invigorating and for the most part, pleasant. The food is primarily vegetarian and I did get tired of eating eggs and cheese as a substitute for meat. I did cheat with weekly trips to Nasik to fill up on cookies, chocolate, and ice-cream. These goodies are frowned upon at the school. The technical aspect was disappointing. Although India probably leads the world in technical advancement, sadly there was not a functioning language lab, compact disk portables did not work most of the time and the internet was not available to students. I had to improvise a great deal and most of my teaching was just plain white board, markers and visual aids from any available source. Thirty years of experience helped immensely. On the positive side, the saris were beautiful (men wear western clothing) and the students in their uniforms a delight for me to see.

I travelled for the last two weeks of my stay and was able to visit amazing heritage sites and of course the incredible Taj Mahal. I also spent some time in Kerala in southern India where fresh fish is abundant and tea and herb plantations present a diverse environment from northern India. I had my exciting elephant ride there as well.



There is still so much more of India I would like to see but that will have to wait for another time. I gained a great deal from this experience. I have a new respect for Indian culture, both the traditional and the new emerging India. I felt a special kind of caring when I was there and, of course, as a volunteer I received respect and a great deal of attention. If you want to feel like a famous person for a time, try volunteering in a developing country. You won't be sorry.



Fran Zaborniak

AAME Board Director