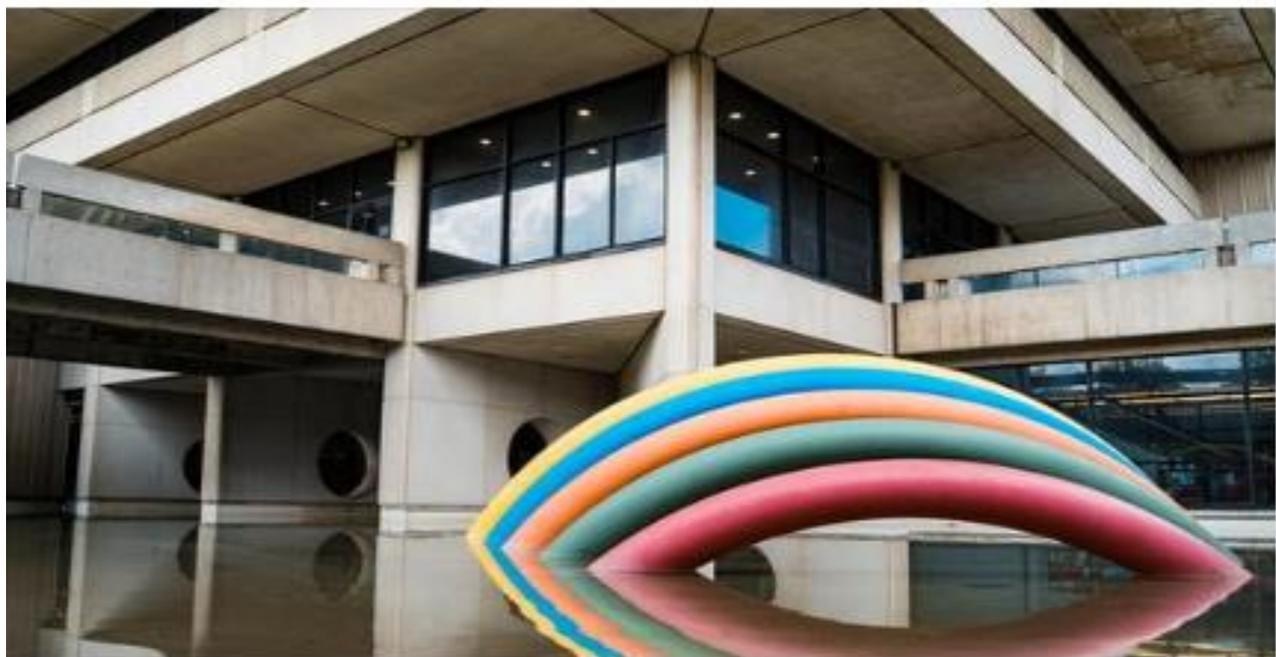


YORKU-TD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTRE



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2014



Year In Review

We are pleased to offer this snap-shot of activities of the CEC this past year. It has been exciting to get our staff complement in place, and to welcome workstudy and placement students to work with us and learn from being part of the life of the Centre. This has allowed us to get more involved in local initiatives and build ways for the University and the local community to work together in mutually beneficial ways. We would like to thank the many residents and community leaders for their ideas and energy as we together imagine what is possible. We thank the TD Bank for their financial support and our University colleagues for their commitment to the success of the York-TD Community Engagement Centre. Please take a moment to peruse this report. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Lorna Schwartzentruber, Manager

BCFAN

The Black Creek Financial Action Network is a network of 20 organizations working in strengthening Financial Literacy. The network meets 6 times per year. This year the Network shared our ideas with the Provincial Government on regulating fringe financial services such as Pay Day Loans. We met with the Literacy Leader of Canada to discuss the importance of sustainable financial empowerment programs in low –income communities, we presented at the ABLE Conference and the FLAG Roundtable. Many of our organizations participated in Credit Week activities and BCFAN organized a community information table in the local Mall. The BCFAN is co-chaired by Lorna Schwartzentruber of the CEC, and Elena Jara of Credit Canada. The CEC with the support of Professor Joanne Magee hosted 5 Income Tax clinics in 2015 serving 86 individuals.

Newcomer Education Attainment and Training – N.E.A.T.

We are making it easier for Newcomers to find the information they need to act on their educational aspirations. A pilot project in 2014-15 supported 19 people who were interested in making an educational plan through an information session, and one-on-one sessions with both a TESS worker and an academic pathways planner. Of those, 12 people went on to improve their English (2), enrolled in academic upgrading (4), enrolled in post-secondary (2), planned to enroll in post-secondary (1), obtained employment (3). We learned that these supports made a difference in people taking the next steps to pursuing educational and employment goals.

Continuing to work with our valued partners – Seneca College, Toronto Employment and Social Services, Council of Educators Toronto, and Humber College, together we hosted over 100 participants in a Newcomer Event at York in October that included panels of educators, employers, and students and also

included networking opportunity and a marketplace of resources and programs. It was such a success we look forward to another event in 2016.

FYN – First Year Network

Nathan

Inuit Stone Carving

Nathan

Connect the Dots

15 students came together over 18 hours throughout the Winter Term to participate in an orientation to working in the community. The sessions were taught by the “Connect the Dots” Coalition (a training coalition of residents and community workers), and the topics covered included looking at the issue of stigma and how it is perpetuated, power and privilege, media bias and in particular anti-black bias, historical and present day issues in the community, thinking about ally-ship, and an interactive community tour. Through this training, we hope that students can contribute better and faster in placements or other projects that they may be working on for their course work that take place in the local community.

Catalyst Grants

5 Catalyst Grants totaling \$30,000 were distributed for partnership projects between a York and Community Partner. These grants enabled a neighbourhood response to the Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy, a video for resident engagement in the Black Creek Community Farm, a tool for introducing infant mental health supports, an art component to an Environmental Justice Conference, and

Experiential Education Support

Pan Am