



Finding Your Stride, Finding Your Passion

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Director, Capacity Building and Strategic Initiatives-African
Nova Scotian Communities
Halifax Partnership

Short Work History

Halifax Partnership- 2006-Present

Restorative Inquiry- Coordinating Director (Secondment)

North Community Health Centre- Executive Director-1994

Women's Health In Women's Hands- Health Outreach Worker-1991- Toronto- Part of the founding staff group

Interval House-Shelter for Battered Women-Child Advocate -1989- Toronto

Weekend Drop In Coordinator- Central Neighborhood House-1987

Community Activity

Ran for Mayor of Toronto- 1988- Peoples Antipoverty campaign.

Ran for MPP with NDP Ontario- 1991

Regional Rep for National Action Committee on the Status of Women-



Background

- I have a have a academic background in economics and business, along with certificates in program management, project management and leadership development.
- I have lectured and taught courses and worked projects in Toronto, South Africa, Ghana and of course here in Nova Scotia

CED Practitioner

- Knowledge of Economic Trends in Business and Employment
- Knowledge of research development and analysis
- Knowledge of how the Economy works (without being an economist)
- Background in Strategic and Community Planning
- Knowledge of Policies, practices and regulations related to community and business at all levels of government.





Historical Context

- I am a person whose life was and is contextually defined by a historical narrative. Similar to those who identify as First Nations and Acadian the historical narrative which impacts our existence plays a large part on how we move in broader societal framework.
- The way in which we experience career and life success depends on family life and community support. This notion becomes vital on a global, national and local scale.
- I am the second oldest in a family of nine. Born and raised in the community of Beechville. Beechville is one of 30 historical black communities in the province of Nova Scotia. The Beechville Community was settled in 1812
- I am a descendant and Black Refugees; also known as Freedom Fighters-They were former slaves who were freed by the British to fight on their side in the war against the United States(war of 1812).



Historical Context cont....

- I am part of the last generation of folks, who were part of the Separate School System, which was implemented as a result of the Canadian Separate School Act of 1942, and last until 1954.
- I attended Dalhousie University through the Transition Year Program after High School and went on to continue my studies in Toronto.
- My informal education on leadership started in community at 9. The church and community activities centred on leadership and self esteem building. This is were the passion community began. To be able to continue this work today in a honour and a blessing.

The Passion

The passion for this work has shown up in all the jobs that I have had the pleasure to do.

The satisfaction is seeing the collective success of communities accomplishing the things that they value, and allow for a healthy and prosperous life.

The ability to support communities with skills you have actually acquired from them is the thing that keeps your stride, motivation and focus.

The privilege is being able to follow in the footsteps of the many powerful people who did this work before you.

