

MONTREAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN – LE CONSEIL DES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL

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Bulletin Editor and
Layout: S. Gyles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MCW had the privilege of listening to Rachel Zellars at the February meeting recounting her success story about certain natural places in Quebec whose names have now been decommissioned and her striving to have the renaming done by persons connected to the sites original names.

The 60th Commission on the Status of Women meetings are being held at the UN headquarters in New York from 14-24 March 2016. The priority theme for this year's meeting is 'Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development'. This topic follows well from the twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the recent adoption in July 2015 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the United Nations Third International Conference on Financing for Development, where 193 countries reached an agreement to generate financing for the sustainable development agenda.

NCWC will have a delegation of 9 women attending CSW60 and ICW will hold a Parallel Session on "Lessons from the Heart of Canada: Indigenous Women bringing our Children Home".

NCWC will hold their AGM in Saskatoon this year from June 9-12, 2016. Those of you who were able to participate in the AGM last year in Montreal will no doubt consider attending the upcoming AGM.

I encourage those of you who do not yet have a copy of the MCW 120th Anniversary book to get a copy of this beautiful souvenir book. Information is available elsewhere in this Bulletin and on the website.

I look forward to another insightful talk in March and to seeing you all there.

– Dr. Chitra Chopra, President

**SHARON HACKETT – VICE PRESIDENT
CONSEIL DES MONTRÉALAISES
MARCH 3rd MEETING – GUEST SPEAKER**

Our March 3rd meeting, which will also be our Resolutions meeting, promises to be another very interesting topic as the guest speaker will be **Mrs. Sharon Hackett**, who is Vice President of the Conseil des Montréalaises.

Mrs. Hackett has worked for a long time providing information and knowledge as a service to individuals. Upon her arrival in Montreal, she became involved in organizations devoted to the sharing and development of knowledge, notably a feminist centre in Media Arts, an organization promoting free software and various citizen networks. She is the Documentary Resources Coordinator for le centre de documentation sur l'éducation des adultes et la condition féminine (CDEACF), where she is responsible for collection development. Among her other tasks she has to assess and acquire the 1000 works that annually enrich the Center's catalog.

A librarian by profession, Sharon holds diplomas in Political Science, Literature and in Strategic Knowledge Management. Her work at CDEACF led her to collaborate with partner organizations in the women's movement and in literacy circles of adult education in school and/or



community and also the library community, both domestically and internationally. Her participation in Conseil des Montréalaises has afforded her the opportunity to involve herself locally and also to enjoy an enriching experience of sharing her knowledge with women from a variety of backgrounds.

We look forward to hearing from Mrs. Hackett on March 3rd.

- Joan Macklin, Program Convener

MCW MARCH 3rd MEETING LUNCHEON

Lunch will be served at 12 noon. The cost is \$10.00 per person payable at the door. The hostess group will be announced later.

For catering purposes, please advise us if you wish to have lunch. Telephone Frances Gregory at (514) 935-1674 or by e-mail: frances.gregory@videotron.ca.

CHARLOTTE BOUIE

MEETING LIFE'S CHALLENGES WITH STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION



On any given MCW meeting day or any special MCW event, more than likely you will see in attendance a finely dressed, lively lady, full of enthusiasm and a perpetual smile. You may not know her name Charlotte Bouie, but you surely see and sense her presence.

Charlotte Bouie was born in Montreal eighty-eight years ago, where she grew up in various parts of town including St. Henri, and Outremont, and where she has made her home on Bernard Street for the past forty-eight years. Her family included her father, an American who moved to Canada from the United States, her mother who came from Bermuda, three brothers, two of whom were twins and two sisters.

Born with limited vision, Charlotte always coped with her handicap. She was never given any preferential or special treatment or special aids while attending school. In fact, according to her, her teachers were unaware that there was a visual problem despite the fact that she wore heavy coke bottle glasses and would always sit in the very front of the room in class, as she could not see the board. However, her student peers did not miss her particular situation and Charlotte was teased and bullied constantly. She attended Royal Arthur and Lewis Evans public schools and also Montreal High School for Girls; then her father took her out of school at the age of fifteen. Of course there were no televisions when Charlotte was growing up and so she did a lot of reading.

As a child, she did all the normal things that kids do however she did some unusual things too. Her mother taught her to crochet and to knit at the age of three and as a young girl she made her own clothes and even made her high school uniform, and this she did all by hand! She took piano lessons from the age of seven and knew the late Oscar Peterson as a personal friend. She was also an upstairs neighbour of Oliver Jones. Some of her other talents and hobbies included ballet and acrobatic classes (known today as gymnastics) and Girl Guides.

After Charlotte left school at the age of fifteen, being self-sufficient and independent from an early age she did what was known at the time as general work because of her eyesight (myopia).

In 1950, at the age of twenty-three, Charlotte married and in 1951 she and her husband went overseas to live in Liverpool England. While there she worked in the garment industry and took music lessons, then she moved back to Montreal.

The mother of a son and a daughter, in 1975 when her children decided not to go to college Charlotte decided to return to school at night, attending the Continuing Education

Program at Vanier College. While attending there she started music with a private teacher connected with the Royal Conservatory in Toronto; she also taught music privately. She enrolled at Vanier, in Music Appreciation thinking that it would lead to a continuous course in music; no music program was offered at night. Subsequently she took one undergraduate course at a time until 1989 when she went full time into the music program until her graduation in 1991.

During her very interesting life and career, Charlotte has been a figure skating coach and a judge in figures and ice dancing. A church goer, she has always volunteered. She joined MCW twenty years ago as an independent member because of an invitation that she received from Cheryl Braganza, to attend a Woman of the Year Award Luncheon. From that time, Charlotte has been a permanent fixture at MCW's monthly meetings. She comes by bus and Metro.

Charlotte enjoys doing volunteer work and helping others. She continues to live at the same 5 ½ room apartment with her twelve year old Calico cat. She still does her own shopping and prepares her own meals.

She is certainly an inspiration to us all. – S. Gyles

THANK YOU GINGER PETTY

Saint Michael's Mission was treated to a wonderful gift last November 19, 2015. Our own Ginger Petty hosted a special matinee Musical at 11:00 a.m. before the lunch hour.

She delivered trays of doughnuts and muffins with her cheery smile, then welcomed her talented guests, Stephine Manias and Ellen Wescu, sopranos, and Jonathan Oldengarm, pianist. These noted Montreal artists played eight selections from Classical to Jazz, as varied as "Summer Time" by George Gershwin, "Barcarolle" (Contes d'Hoffman), Jacques Offenbach, to "Sous le dome - epais". (Lakme) by Leo Delibes.

This musical event was hugely appreciated by the staff, member-clients and volunteers at the Mission; and Ginger Petty indeed lives out the goal of MCW-CFM by donating her energy, planning skills and generosity freely. This enhanced quality-time unique cultural sharing among some of Montreal's citizens most in need of this special gift of a type of advocacy = FREE MUSIC offered by very talented young artists.

The Executive Director of St. Michael's Mission, Mr. George W. Greene was most thankful to Ginger Petty and her stars for such a lovely matinee musicale. This is not the first time that the Mission was so fortunate and hope fully not the last, but as a volunteer at the Red Room/Le Toit Rouge at 137 President Kennedy, at Metro Place des Arts, it was a treat!!! - Mary Lennon

Me RACHEL ZELLARS



Me Rachel Zellars, our guest speaker for the month of February, Black History Month, gave an interesting and riveting discourse on, Place Names Symbols and Anti-Blackness in Quebec."

Rachel Zellars is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Integrated

Studies in Education at McGill. Her research focuses on children in slavery in Canada, institutional racism in public schooling, and critical race theory. She founded the first university wide course on critical race theory in education, a course she moderates every winter term in her department. She is also a single mother to three daughters. Six years ago Rachel founded a private French Montessori preschool for her children, focused on anti-racist and environmental education. She is currently working on a project to expand her school, The Green School, to a private elementary school focused anti-racist and anti-colonial education. In another life, she worked as a litigator. Before law school, she obtained a Master's degree from Cornell University and studied philosophy at Howard University and Georgetown University, in Washington, DC.

During her presentation Me Zellars spoke about Quebec's anti-Blackness history and how it had deeply affected her and had started to impact on her life and the lives of her children. "The history of anti-Black racism in Canada has followed two general patterns. First, like France, it simply buries its most shameful bits — instead, presenting public school students with historical texts of void and whiteness; feigning innocence and privacy rights when a fear of Black ancestry in a family tree threatens one's self-designation as pure laine; and in Quebec, uniquely, insisting that its historical tradition does not, could not, possibly support anti-Black racism. In also brazenly labelling themselves the real nègres of this country, Quebecers have decidedly erased the histories of Black Quebecers and in true form, further concealed the province's brutal historical relationship with its Black population." — R. Zellars (Source: Web: <http://fycanadianpolitics.tumblr.com/post/127132558393/canadas-long-history-of-racism>)

Born on a farm in upstate New York, Zellars spoke about her childhood and survival and connection to the land and freedom. She spoke about taking her children hiking and camping throughout the province, enjoying the outdoors, in part to get away from pervasive racism. She does not want to encounter one of those N-word places one day with them. She teaches them, "That the land is not ours but it is used by us and we have a responsibility to it." "How can I teach this when Nigger Rapids exists? What kind of

respect can I instill when the very term that debases Black life, is named after the thing I am asking them to respect?

There are eleven sites in Quebec whose names contain pejorative or racist connotations. During a panel discussion last year, held at McGill by the university's Black Student' Network, Dr. Charmaine Nelson, Associate Professor of art history stated, "I have yet to encounter the Canadian student who comes into that class, knowing that slavery happened in Canada." She further went on to say, "Much of Canada's Black history is not in education curriculums before university. And even at the postsecondary level, there is little space taken in Canadian academia on the subject. In Canada, there are no university programs that deal directly with African heritage.....and that lack is represented in university' faculties as well," pointing out that she is the only Black art historian in Canada.

In early August of last year, Rachel disturbed by the number of sites in Quebec with names that contain pejorative or racist connotations and hearing a media report that included the statement that no official complaints had been lodged against the names, she started a petition to present to the Toponymy (*naming of places*) Commission. After collecting close to two thousand names from people across the province of Quebec and the rest of Canada, she submitted the petition to the provincial commission in September.

In a news release, the commission announced that it had de-officialised the place names, all of which contain the word "nigger" or the French word "negre." They claimed that, "Some of the place names, over time, testify to historical events, however, even if the words are of ancient usage, they can violate the dignity of the embers of the Black community." "The N-word," the commission said, "has a highly offensive connotation."

Zellars said the next challenge is to ensure history is not erased in the renaming of the sites, many of which are historically important to the Black community. According to the commission's website, the places to be renamed include a section of rapids in the Gatineau river named in memory of a Black couple who drowned there in 1912 and a site in Saint-Armand, of which most Black Quebecers are aware, called 'Nigger Rock', where former Black slaves are believed to have been buried between 1794 and 1833.

"The replacement names should respect the history of the places and remember the presence of Quebec's Black community whenever possible." (Toponymy Commission) They did not give a timeline for the renaming, stating that it could take months to a few years. While changes in toponymy tend to take time, in Quebec the pace has been glacial.

In an interview in September of last year, Zellars stated, "Right now everything hinges on what the Toponymy Commission plans to do next, and what I have consistently

(Continued page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

asked them to do is involve Black historians, Researchers and long-term community members who have ancestry in Quebec." She does not believe the Toponymy Commission, comprised of an all-white group of people of whom, only one historian is involved and who has no experience or knowledge of Quebec Black history, can be trusted to properly acknowledge Black heritage as new names are chosen. "We have to be mindful that this initiative is not just about changing names simply because they hurt feelings or are insulting. They are that, the more important issue is one of history – the invisibility of Black history in this province – and the shameful relationship Quebec has with its Black population, which has been here for over 300 years." "It is essential that Black community members in Quebec, after many years of inhabiting a landscape marked with names that are offensive to them, be given the authority to decide whether a new place name does, or does not, respectfully commemorate 'the presence of the Black community.'"

In a letter sent to the commission 14 geography professors at four Montreal universities echoed Zellars' demand that Black scholars play a central role in choosing the new place names. The Federal database of geographical names shows that Quebec is the last province to deal with places names containing the N-word.

During her discourse, Zellars also outlined her goals for this very important mission and the lessons she has learned by this experience. She concluded by acknowledging that the real struggle was now beginning and it would more than likely be a long fight. She also recognized the fact that there might be some resistance on the part of a few older community members. – S. Gyles

Sources: Web

(Toponymy Commission Website

<http://www.toponymie.gouv.qc.ca/ct/english.aspx>)

"Quebec Rapids Will no Longer be Named With Racist Slur After Province Drops Place Names With N-Word"

<http://news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/quebec-rapids-will-no-longer-be-named-with-racist-slur-after-province-drops-place-names-with-n-word>)

("Canada's Long History of Racism"

<http://fycanadianpolitics.tumblr.com/post/127132558393/canadas-long-history-of-racism>)

("Nigger" Name to be Changed in 11 Quebec Locations"

<http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2015/09/28/nigger-name-to-be-changed-in-11-quebec-locations/>)

Opinion: Canada's Long History of Racism, Rachel Zellars, Special to the Montreal Gazette

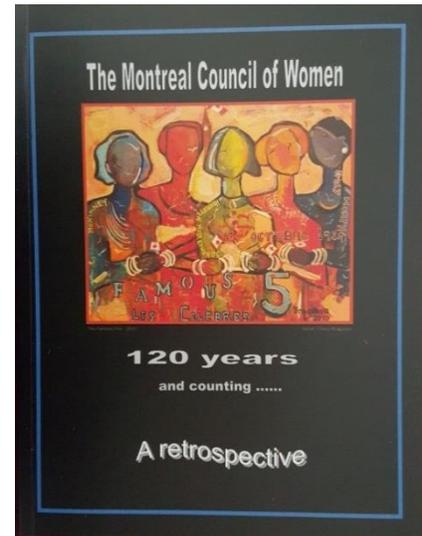
<http://montrealgazette.com/author/rachel-zellars-special-to-montreal-gazette>

("The N-word on maps in Quebec: a petition for change"

<http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/the-n-word-on-maps-in-quebec-a-petition-for-change-1.2515273>)

("Rachel Zellars: "Identifying and Responding to Racism in Schools" (DISE)

<https://www.mcgill.ca/education/channels/event/rachel-zellars-identifying-and-responding-racism-schools-dise-243637>)



MCW BOOK LAUNCH

The MCW book, "**The Montreal Council of Women, 120 Years and Counting... A Retrospective**", is a kaleidoscope of the various women's organizations that have been formed in Montreal over the past 120 years. The cover, beautifully designed by well-known, accomplished artist, **Cheryl Braganza** offers a panoramic view of some of the city's oldest groups, a treasure trove of information relating to these women. Copies are \$20 each. This treasure chest of information can be purchased by sending an email to info@montrealcouncilwomen.ca, or contacting B. Destounis email: bdestounis@videotron.ca or S. Gyles, email: sagyles@sympatico.ca.

NOTICE

The proposed amendments to the By-laws have been distributed to members. Please note that April 4, 2016 is the deadline for comments to be sent to mdwindeler@bell.net (Marjorie's e-mail) as well as vote at the AGM in May. Any questions can also be answered at our next

MCW Article and Announcement Submissions

The next issue of The Bulletin will be in February. Please submit your articles, announcements and photos by the 10th day of March via email to:

SENIORS ACTION QUEBEC

Seniors Action Quebec was pleased to be invited to submit a brief presentation at the consultation that Mr. Marc Miller MP held on January 20th at McGill. We submitted our concerns to the online process that went directly to the Minister of Finance. I feel so strongly about the items listed in our presentation, the submission has been sent to Quebec Liberal MPs, our partners, individuals and the media.

As our Federal Government meets to work on its first budget, Seniors Action Quebec wanted to be sure that seniors were not forgotten and neglected. Seniors have many challenges and the needs are only going to increase as the number of seniors will steadily increase. Perhaps you think "oh I am not old enough to worry about these things"! I urge you to stop and reconsider, time stops for no one.

Perhaps you have a parent, a relative or friend you worry about, then we hope you will take the time to read about the concerns we have listed. Any gains that are made for seniors will be a benefit for all of society and in the future will benefit each of us as we become seniors. Will be less costly to every tax payer in the long run.

As a provincial organization we wish to highlight that the challenges that need to be addressed, can differ based on the available local resources and demographics. There is no "one" solution for any one topic as we are dealing with rural & remote, urban and small communities.

If you agree with us, that funds need to be "designated for the Senior dossier and to address serious issues" please let your local MP know. If they don't know how you feel, then things will remain as they are. Currently there are 269,000 English - speaking seniors in Québec but these numbers are only going to increase.

Views on measures to be included in the 2016 Federal budget, provided to Member of Parliament Mark Miller's consultations on the Federal Budget, January 20th 2016.

Housing

A variety of different budget measures are needed to make appropriate housing more accessible to seniors:

- Support those who wish to and are capable of living in their own home to do so;
- Support those who want to explore coop-type arrangements to do so;
- Support those who need subsidized housing to access it;
- Support those who need housing with care to access it.

Caregivers

Provide budget measures that recognize sustain the efforts of family members and others who are caregivers (eg: tax credits, leaves from employment to give care, availability to respite care)

Health Care

Budget measures should arrest the development of two-tiered medical care which negatively affects the poor and the elderly;

Budget measures should support adequate end-of-life care;

Mental Health

Canada's mental health strategy and the federal budget should address specifically the mental issues of seniors, including English –speaking seniors in Quebec (whose family members have often moved elsewhere and who must access mental health services which are less available in English than in French)

Income/Poverty

Budget measures must arrest the erosion of retirement incomes by a rising Cost of Living index (caused by the costs of housing, food transportation, pharmaceuticals, medical care fees etc.)

Infrastructure spending and seniors

Budget measures regarding investment in infrastructure should incorporate a seniors-friendly dimension. Various health and age related conditions require additional adaptations to public transport systems and public buildings to facilitate seniors' continued use and access, contributing to the extension of their independence. These measures should take account of the fact that seniors live in a variety of urban and rural contexts. Such measures will have a secondary benefit to other age groups dealing with similar limitations

Minority Language community support

Federal financial support of minority language communities in Quebec is lower per capita than that outside Quebec. Budget measures are needed:

- To support Seniors' access to health and social services in English Quebec;
- To address the absence of specific funding support for advocacy on behalf of English – speaking Seniors in Quebec.

Seniors Action Quebec is a provincial, non-profit volunteer organization acting on behalf of English Speaking seniors in Quebec. For further details: www.seniorsactionquebec.ca, Contact Ruth Pelletier, President 438-386-1944 (O) or 450-455-5982 (R)

UWCM DINNER MEETING**Name of Event:** UWCM Dinner Meeting

Description of Event: Stephen Lewis Foundation campaign: Grandmothers helping African grandmothers to raise their AIDs-orphaned grandchildren. The campaign is unusual among philanthropic organizations in that it supports grassroots organizations and offers a flexible and less bureaucratic relationship between donor and recipient. African expertise is sought out and respected. This talk will highlight these differences and give insight both into the situation in Africa and the role and contribution of Canadian grandmothers.

Date: Wednesday, February 17th, 2016, Reserve by February 11th.

Place: Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave, Montreal

Speaker: Dolores Meade, M.Ed, Psychotherapist

Tickets: \$31.04 Members, \$50 non-members (glass of wine included)

Contact: Atwater Club reception or UWCM 514 934 1362.

Email: uwcm@uwcm.com

Telephone: 514 935 2431

UWCM DINNER MEETING**Name of Event:** UWCM Dinner Meeting**Description of Event:****Celebrity Science: From Suzanne Somers to Dr. Oz.**

Is it sound science or quackery? When it comes to health advice dispensed by celebrities it may be hard to tell. Suzanne Somers offers opinions on cancer treatment, Jenny McCarthy rails against vaccinations, celebrity chef Jamie Oliver serves up nutritional advice, and then there is the enigma of Dr. Oz! What we have here is a fascinating blend of sense and nonsense. Time to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016, Reserve by March 10th

Place: Atwater Club, 3505 Atwater Ave. Montreal H3H 1YZ

Speaker: Dr. Joe Schwarcz, McGill science professor, author, radio-show host

Tickets: \$31.04 Members, \$50 non-members (glass of wine included)

Contact: Atwater Club reception or UWCM 514-934-1362.

Email: uwcm@uwcm.com

Telephone: 514 935 2431

**Quebec**

Presents

**SYLVIE BASTIEN DOSS**

www.bastien-doss.com

**“CREATE THE MOST POSITIVE
WORKPLACE EVER IN YOUR SCHOOL”**

**Date: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016**

**Place: E.M.S.B
6000 Fielding Avenue
Montreal, H3X 1T4**

**Time: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. light supper
Check with security for Room
7:00 p.m. Speaker**

COST: For DKG members: 15.00\$ **
For non-members: 20.00\$
Students:10:00\$ ******

****** Please note that there will be a charge for materials ******

R.S.V.P: Members RSVP to your Chapter Presidents by phone or e--mail. Non-members - RSVP to Erika Sebaldt **514-489-2760** or email erika.sebaldt@bell.net

The **McGill students** who applied for a **DKG World Fellowship** will be our guests for the evening. This is an opportunity to meet with young women from foreign countries who are attending McGill. Last year one of our applicants was awarded a fellowship.

**PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT WOMEN & CHILDREN
& OUR DKG EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS**



Presents

Linda Bond



Research on Reading and Spelling Development

Date: Thursday, March 17, 2016

Place: Elizabeth Ballentyne Elementary School
314 Northview St. (off Westminister)
Montreal-West, H4X 1E2

Time: 5:30 – 6:30 PM **light supper:**
7:00 p.m. **Speaker**

COST: For DKG members: 15.00\$
For non-members: 20.00\$
For students: 10.00\$

R.S.V.P: Members RSVP to your Chapter Presidents by phone or email.
Non-members – RSVP to Erika Sebaldt or Tel. 514-489-2760
or email erika.sebaldt@bell.net

PLEASE JOIN US TO SUPPORT WOMEN & CHILDREN
& OUR DKG EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

*******Bio on the net**

www.gammaque.weebly.com



Presents

EVADNE ANDERSON



**Speaks on “BUDDISM”
“Buddhism meets the goal of Global Awareness”**

Date: Monday, April 11, 2016

Place: E.M.S.B
6000 Fielding Avenue, Montreal
H3X 1T4

Time: 5:30 – 6:30 PM **light supper:**
Check with security for Room
7:00 p.m. **Speaker**

COST: For DKG members: 15.00\$
For non-members: 20.00\$
For students: 10.00\$

R.S.V.P: Members RSVP to your Chapter Presidents by phone or email.
Non-members – RSVP to Erika Sebaldt or Tel. 514-489-2760
or email erika.sebaldt@bell.net

www.gammaque.weebly.com

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016

Time: 11:30 am – 3:00 pm

ZONTA CLUB OF MONTREAL

cordially invites you to our

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCHEON

GUEST SPEAKER

Sue Ann Cunliffe

District 2 Parliamentarian

Zonta International



“What if? How we Change the World each Day”

- Location:** **Marriott Montreal Airport In-Terminal Hotel**
Bijou Resto | Bar
 800 Place Leigh Capreol, Dorval, QC H4Y 0A4
 (with your pass, take Bus 747 directly to the door)
- Tickets** \$60.00 – meal, glass of wine, door prizes
- Parking** **FREE parking for 4 hours**
- Cash Bar:** 11:30 am — 12:00 pm
- RSVP:** Reservations of tickets a must by **Tuesday, March 8, 2016**
- Email:** zcmcommunications@gmail.com and by online registration
- Phone:** Mickey Wernecke 513-630-0138 or Yvonne Quintyn 514-683-4213



SPONSORS



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Montreal@ZontaDistrict



The Coloured Women's Club

Founded 1902 • Member of the Montreal Council of Women

Presents a

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SOIRÉE

HAIR-WE-ARE

An evening of entertainment, fashion, history, poetry and friendship, Saturday, February 27, 2016, 6:00 PM

Admission: \$10.00

The Coloured Women's Club of Montreal invites all ladies of all ages, cultures and backgrounds to a Black History Month Soirée, **HAIR-WE-ARE** on Saturday, February 27th at 6:00 PM, at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, in Montreal.



Admission is \$10.00 and a light evening buffet will be served.

For tickets or more information:

Salon Rayshell Tel. 514-481-2635, S. Gyles Tel. 450-672-7081 or
B. Simmons Tel. 514-488-3284. **Everyone is welcome!!**