

## Museum Committee Report

The Museum Committee continues to make progress. Board members Natasha Henry, Dorothy Abbott, and Paul Evans undertook several steps to formalize this new committee and advance planning for the museum.

The committee formalized its legal structure as a committee of the OBHS board. The committee comprises of board members and non-board members. Natasha, Dorothy, and Paul interviewed a number of candidates who bring tremendous knowledge and experience to the committee. Terms of reference have been established. In July, the committee held a town hall with approximately 20 history, heritage, and community organizations as well as individual from across Canada to solidify their support for this initiative and to gather feedback. They have all given their endorsement and will provide ongoing feedback. Some of the organizations include the Buxton Museum, the Jamaican Canadian Association, the Amherstburg Freedom Museum, Fort McMurray, the Rehoboth Alliance, the British Columbia Black Cultural Awareness Society, and the Nunavut Black History Society.

As our planning advances, we have begun to receive support from several Toronto city councillors. We look forward to ongoing discussions. This fall, we started to look at a few potential city-owned properties to assess their suitability as one of the possible means of securing a site. The Committee will be finalizing the strategic project plan, creating sub-committees, and commencing a number of initiatives including architectural designing and launching the fundraising campaign in the upcoming months. We will need your support at the various stages of realizing the vision of a museum and cultural centre. Together we can make it happen.

We are excited to introduce our Museum Committee members to date - the Honourable Dr. Jean Augustine; Chris Campbell - the Carpenter's Union and Toronto Community Benefits Network; Janice Gairey - retired human rights director of the Ontario Federation of Labour and a descendant of freedom seekers; Sandra Smith - retired educator; Kabu Asante chair of the African Canadian Social Development Council (represents 80 agencies); Rich Ternieden - of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Fiqir Worku - Masters student in Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation at the University of Toronto.