

From: African Arts & Cultural Society <vaccsociety@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:33 AM

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Calling all Municipalities of BC to support of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024)

Dear Mayor & Council,

My name is Pulcherie Mboussi and I am the founder of the African-Caribbean Arts & Cultural Society. Our mission is to advance awareness and understanding of the richness and diversity of African and Caribbean culture and traditions through the promotion of a broad range of cultural, educational and artistic activities, events and programs.

I am writing today to urge you to recognize & support International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). The United Nations has declared 2015-2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent. Its theme is "**Recognition, Justice and Development**".

On Monday, June 22 2020, we co-hosted a town hall meeting on this topic. The discussion was a huge success, with 93 attending on Zoom and 185 watching on Facebook Live. Our online petition now has over 3000 signatures. We know that community members want to see governments take action on this. MLA Sonia Furstenau attended Monday's town hall, and we were pleased to hear her statement of support at the BC Legislature on June 23rd.

According to the federal government, this Decade "is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the important contributions people of African descent have made to Canadian society. It also provides a framework for **Recognition, Justice, and Development** to fight racism, discrimination, and the ongoing inequalities that Canadians of African descent face."

The UN states "Studies and findings by international and national bodies demonstrate that people of African descent still have limited access to quality education, health services, housing and social security." The UN calls on governments to mark the UN Decade and to adopt "a national action plan to combat discrimination against persons of African descent in consultation with communities of African descent".

On January 30 2018, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada will officially recognize the Decade. The British Columbia government has not officially recognized the Decade, but I am asking your municipality To do so. As the city continues to grow in size, the sense of shared pride and cultural diversity in the community is evident everywhere.

Recognize the UN decade would be a historic showcase of your city commitment to fighting racism and discrimination. I believe that 'your municipality, where it all happens' should also mean a strong signal to residents that your municipality is welcoming and inclusive.

Thank you for your time.

Pulcherie Mboussi

www.issambacentre.ca



Pulchérie Mboussi

Working Together, Celebrating African Heritage Arts & Cultures in Canada's Mosaic

Managing Artistic Director of AfriCa Fest & ISSAMBA- Founder of the African Arts & Cultural Society

Victoria BC V8X 4S4

Sponsorship/Promotional Opportunities -

www.africafest.ca

www.vaccsociety.blogspot.com

<http://www.vicnews.com/entertainment/207950181>.

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