

## **2021 A YEAR IN REVIEW**

As the holiday season is upon us and we start to look ahead to the New Year, we invite you to take a moment to reflect with us.

The Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton has weathered a challenging year and we are fortunate to have come out stronger and more focused on our four pillars of Education, Culture, Community and Harmony as we prepare for the upcoming year.

We started the year off strong by delivering our first ever virtual Black History Month Kickoff and our event was rebroadcast on COGECO TV throughout February. We ran our first Instagram contest, participated in 15 speaking engagements, hosted 12 in-person or virtual community initiatives, and had 52 Halton schools engage in our school programs.

In March, we concluded our meal service program after serving over 14,500 free meals to our community members facing food insecurities. We started our CCAH Reading Corner in partnership with the Milton Public Library to highlight Black authors of children's book. We ran 6 sessions throughout the year and had 60 families participate.

Our summer was busy with delivering three 4-hour virtual sessions for our Youth Leadership Summer Program where each session was attended by over 200 students. We offered our first-ever Oakville Black history bike and walking tours for Emancipation Day. We served over 300 free meals between Milton and Oakville and partnered with three other Black-led organizations in Halton to celebrate the newly declared National Day of August 1. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we successfully raised \$5,000. Also, the summer marked a milestone with the CCAH welcoming permanent staff.

Our *Sizzlin' Halton* cooking series was in demand at the Halton school boards with our Chefs providing 30 engagement opportunities to learn about Caribbean cooking. By late Fall, we wrapped up filming two more episodes.

In October, we piloted a beginner financial literacy series for secondary students that we are now prepared to rollout as part of our program offering. We also hosted an evening event for families to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in Ontario. And we were able to offer an in-person experience with our Steelpan program for Culture Days.

We managed to return to our core music program offering and ran our Parang and Steelpan classes in-person in Oakville for the Fall. The session ended with our Holiday Concert in December whereby 140 community members joined our celebration.

Although 2021 is winding down, the team is hard at work planning for Black History Month 2022 and are excited about the events we are going to host.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported our vision including our community partners, funders, and dedicated volunteers. We look forward to another year of continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton



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