What is CACE?

The Council on African Canadian Education (CACE) is the updated, elevated version of the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC). Formed in 1985, the BLAC was the response to the ongoing struggle to rectify the educational inadequacy among African Nova Scotian learners. In order to fulfill its mandate, the BLAC released a comprehensive study in December 1994. Encouraging its recommendations and three volumes, the report was entitled BLAC Report on Education – Addressing the Learning and Developmental Needs of African Nova Scotians. The BLAC’s recommendations stated that the BLAC have its status upgraded to a Council on African Canadian Education (CACE). Consequently, the discussion and debate on the issue of educational inequity in the African Nova Scotian community.

• CACE’s inception was an indirect consequence of political action surrounding educational issues. The mandates of its predecessor (BLAC) were the existing racial tensions between Black and White students at Cape Breton University. In addition to several planning meetings, two series of consultations were held with members of the Black Learner Advisory Committee final report is to promote the establishment of an Africentric Learning Institute.

• In January 1999, CACE convened the first meeting of a committee (ALI Proposal Development Committee) to look at developing a proposal to establish an Africentric Learning Institute. The committee, which meets on a bi-weekly basis to look at what program components would be included in the Africentric Learning Institute, was presented with the following

• BLAC Report on Education – Addressing the Learning and Developmental Needs of African Nova Scotians

• Of enslavement, colonialism and racism.

• Accidents of birth concept which has a variety of definitions, yet all share a common concern for promoting an aboriginal understanding of our world. Some of the key points of the Africentric method:

• The validation of African experiences and histories in that Africentric seeks to retain the cultural foundation and interpretation of African knowledge among educational textbooks, and continue to develop an Africentric Learning Institute can be established, however, it is necessary for us to establish an Africentric Learning Institute to assist in curriculum development, research as one possible solution to move the ALI initiative toward implementation, four key issues will be addressed in the pre-

• Community input is necessary in making the Africentric Learning Institute a success. Since the very inception of the Africentric Learning Institute initiative CACE has sought participation and cooperation from a variety of community partners in an effort to enhance the talent, goals, and relevance of the Africentric Learning Institute.

• In January 1998, CACE held a panel presentation on the Africentric Learning Institute at a provincial conference of African Nova Scotians held in Halifax.

What is an Africentric Learning Institute?

Based on the values of Africentric, the philosophy of the Africentric Learning Institute being proposed by CACE will entail several features

• The Africentric Learning Institute will relate to the African Nova Scotia experience – social, cultural, political, economic, psychological and spiritual, in both its structure and design.

• The Africentric Learning Institute will assist African Nova Scotians to forge a positive identity, and to value their unique and distinct culture and history.

• The Africentric Learning Institute proposals to be a first-class facility with staff and resources engaged in research, curriculum development, teacher education, community development, policy analysis and publishing.

The Africentric Learning Institute Proposal Development Committee

• In January 1999, CACE convened the first meeting of a committee (ALI Proposal Development Committee) to look at developing a proposal to establish an Africentric Learning Institute. The committee, which meets on a bi-weekly basis to look at what program components

• Within a six-month time frame, develop a comprehensive proposal including funding options for the establishment of an Africentric Learning Institute in Nova Scotia.

• The Africentric Learning Institute will be dedicated to excellence in educational research and practice.

• The Africentric Learning Institute will assist African Nova Scotians to forge a positive identity, and to value their unique and distinct culture and history.

• The Africentric Learning Institute will work towards the development of an Africentric Learning Institute for African Canadians in the Atlantic Region.

Accomplishments to date:

In addition to several planning meetings, two series of consultations were held with members of the Black Learner Advisory Committee. Among the initiatives, members of CACE and key African Nova Scotia educational stakeholders:

• On March 1986, Dr. Helmut Seydel, former head of the Department of African American Studies at Temple University assisted ALI Proposal Development Committee members to fully understand the constructs of Africentricity as they relate to the development of an educational institute.

• On March 26 and July 16, 1999, a consultation was held with Dr. Joseph Archbishop, Director of the House of Learning, University of British Columbia, Dr. Vincent O'Dell, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia, Mr. Charles Murray, President and Managing Director, Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, Fairfax, Virginia, and Dr. Ran Murphy, Associate Vice-President (Strategic Academic Affairs), York University. These meetings focused on various aspects of learning institutes, such as: research, governance, funding, and resources requirements to establish and sustain an institute.

• Both consultations were a huge success in advancing the development of the Africentric Learning Institute.

• The ALI Proposal Development Committee has identified and examined the following potential programs in regards to the ALI:

• Research:
  - Curriculum development
  - Teacher education
  - Community education
  - Publishing
  - Policy Analysis

Community involvement

Community input is necessary in making the Africentric Learning Institute a success. Since the very inception of the Africentric Learning Institute initiative CACE has sought participation and cooperation from a variety of community partners in an effort to enhance the talent, goals, and relevance of the Africentric Learning Institute.

• In January 1998, CACE held a panel presentation on the Africentric Learning Institute at a provincial conference of African Nova Scotians held in Halifax.

• In November 1998, CACE held a panel presentation on the Africentric Learning Institute.

• In September 1997, CACE passed a motion to form a province wide committee to develop the Africentric Learning Institute proposal.

The Way Forward

To move the ALI initiative toward implementation, four key issues will be addressed in the proposed development phase of the ALI project. These are:

• Governance

- Development and implementation of governing structure
- Establishment of the Council on African Canadian Education
- Development of a governance mandate
- Establishment of the Africentric Learning Institute

• Funding

- Development and implementation of a comprehensive funding strategy
- Establishment of the Africentric Learning Institute
- Development of the Africentric Learning Institute

• Partnerships

- Development of partnerships with other organizations
- Establishment of the Africentric Learning Institute
- Development of the Africentric Learning Institute

• Location

- Development and implementation of a comprehensive location strategy
- Establishment of the Council on African Canadian Education
- Development of the Africentric Learning Institute

The information contained in this information brochure is part of a DRAFT document that will result in the final Africentric Learning Institute proposal. We would like to invite you to a discussion of the concepts contained in this brochure and to have your input in the final Africentric Learning Institute. To this end, we have enclosed a survey, which we would appreciate your taking the time to fill out and return to us. If you have any questions about the Africentric Learning Institute project, please send them to the Council on African Canadian Education.

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