

African to head legal clinic for Blacks

By LINCOLN DEPRADINE

A former Dalhousie Law School associate professor, who made a name for himself in Halifax fighting immigration and racism cases, has been appointed the first executive director of the soon-to-be-opened African-Canadian Legal Clinic.

Davies Bagambiire arrived in Halifax as a Ugandan refugee in 1976, completed his Master of Laws degree pro-

gram, and started his own practice in 1979.

He had previously studied at the University of Dar-es-

Salaam in Tanzania, and was an assistant professor at Uganda's Makerere University, where he taught Constitutional Law, Human Rights, Commercial Law, Evidence and Civil Procedure.

Since his arrival in Canada, Bagambiire has become well-known for his activism as a lawyer, his involvement in grassroot community organizations, and for his candid views on Canada's immigration and refugee policies, and the criminal justice system.

Bagambiire was the lawyer for a Black man in one of the most high-profile race discrimination cases in Nova Scotia.

Kevin Downey had alleged that the Metro Transit Commission had refused to hire him as a bus driver because he is Black.

Bagambiire, on behalf of Downey, took the matter to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission.

The Transit Commission was found guilty of racial discrimination, and in 1991 Downey was awarded \$29,369 in lost wages, plus interest, and \$5,000 in general damages. It was the largest

amount ever awarded in a Nova Scotia human rights case.

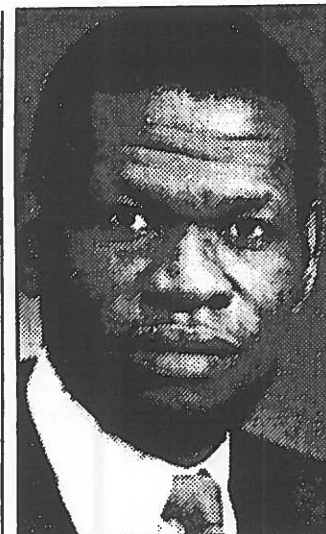
Much of Bagambiire's work in Nova Scotia prepares him well for his assignment in Toronto as head of the African-Canadian Legal Clinic.

He is a former director of Dalhousie's Law Program for Indigenous Blacks and Micmacs.

As director, Bagambiire was in charge of all aspects of the administration and operation of the program.

This included fundraising, student recruitment, public relations, student services, tutorials and pre-law courses offered to new students joining the program.

Bagambiire, speaking about his new job in Toronto, said that what he brings to the position are "skills in combatting



DAVIES BAGANBIIRE

racism through the legal system."

"Once you have worked in the court system for as long as I have, and have taught law, you get an appreciation of what it is that has to be done," he

told *Share*.

The African-Canadian Legal Clinic is expected to focus on anti-Black racism, undertake race-based test case litigation, and provide specialized advocacy in the area of racial discrimination.

It will also act as a resource for other clinics in the area of community advocacy and legal issues related to race.

Located in Suite 306 at 330 Bay Street, the Clinic will open to the public on October 23.

An open-house will be held every day from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., from October 24-to-27.

The opening of the Clinic, which is supported by the Ontario Government, follows several months of community consultation by a steering committee.

For further information, call (416) 214-4747.

ANTI-RACISM RESPONSE NETWORK (ARRN) JOB OPENING ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Under the aegis of the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, the Anti-Racism Response Network (ARRN) was established in 1992, to provide coordination and resources to community organizations in Metropolitan Toronto in combatting direct and indirect forms of racism. The ARRN is presently comprised of over 140 community-based organizations reflecting the ethno-racial diversity of Metro.

RESPONSIBILITIES

To assist in the effective and efficient day-to-day operation of the ARRN and to participate in the planning, implementation and execution of projects.

- Maintenance of data base;
- Coordination of special events;
- Liaising with members of the ARRN;
- Writing reports and replying to correspondence;
- Outreach to potential members.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Commitment to and understanding of human rights and anti-racism;
- Ability to work flexible hours;
- Knowledge of Windows and Excel would be an asset;
- Strong organizational and administrative skills;
- Good interpersonal skills, experience with and understanding of working with individuals from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds.

As required by jobsOntario Community Action, candidates must be 24 years of age or younger.

Salary: \$20,000 per annum, six-month contract position.

Apply in writing by October 5, 1994 to:

Anti-Racism Response Network
675 King Street West, Suite 202
Toronto, ON M5V 1M9

Concern over at-risk patients

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1
records on how many transfusions were done at the facility during the period.

She attributed it to the fact that patient records at the

hospital were not computerized then.

Additionally, she said, transfusions were not always recorded properly, so to even guess at a figure "would be in-

accurate." There is not even a "ball park figure," she added.

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) says in a report that approximately 600,000 transfusions were administered during the period in question — many of them repeat transfusions to the same